



March 2024
Issue 2

Y Alliance **NOTES**

Y Service Clubs International - U.S. Area
One Area. Seven Regions. Connected.



The purpose of **Y Alliance NOTES** is to connect with Y Service Club members, YMCA staff and friends between quarterly **Y Alliance Newsletters**. Here, we are going to shout out announcements by **REGIONS** about club members, events of the past and future, important news about Area and Y's Men's International.



ASSOCIATION OF Y'S MEN INTERNATIONAL U.S. AREA

A Fellowship of Service

**1922 – 2024
101 Years of Service.**

YMCA. Community. Global.

HONORING THE WOMEN OF Y SERVICE.

Fifty years ago, Y's Men International started allowing women to join the clubs around the world. While there are many women that need to be honored, let us take the time to honor some of the ones that made significant progress.

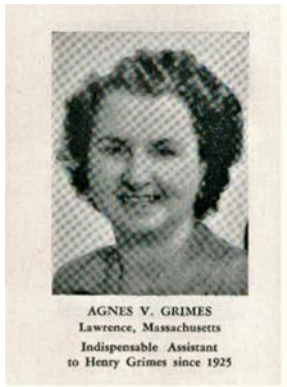


Lorraine Eaton Alexander – a graduate of Wellesley College and a Music Teacher prior to her marriage. Lorraine was well known in and around Ohio for her knowledge of books. Not only did she start a grade school book club for weekly meetings but also spoke at numerous clubs. Known for reading up to 300 books per year, she was supportive of her husband,

Judge Paul William Alexander, in his career as well as his work with Y's Men to include hosting numerous dinners, attending meetings and traveling alongside her husband. She suggested establishing the Alexander Scholarship Fund to support future YMCA employees.



The role of women in the Y's Men organization expanded in importance and service when **Edna Beckett** of Jamaica (Region Caribbean), was appointed to the International Council in 1979 and served as International Vice President in '79 and '80.



Agnes Valentine Grimes – an elementary school teacher prior to her marriage, Agnes took on the role as the assistant to her husband, Henry Grimes, in handling the paperwork for his office of International Secretary/Treasurer. He held that elected position from 1925 until 1955 and

appointed 1955 until his death in 1962. When Y’s Men World came out in 1936, Agnes provided articles for Y’s Menettes. Agnes handled the office as acting International Secretary/Treasurer (only female to hold that position) while Henry was overseas in 1945 for the U.S. Government and again handling the office upon Henry Grimes’ death in December 1962 until September 1963. Agnes was the first female to receive the Harry Ballantyne Award in 1965.



MARCIA CROWE

Marcia Pharr Crowe – Married to Elmer Crowe, Marcia supported her husband, a World War I Veteran. When Elmer became ill in 1937, Marcia was appointed as acting Regional Director for the Pacific Northwest Region (first female Regional Director who was not a registered Y’s Man). Upon Elmer’s death in 1938,

Marcia Crowe donated money to Y’s Men in his memory to establish an award in his name.



Bertha Schwebel Keitel – A clerk/typist that married George Keitel in 1931, the couple became involved in their Y’s Men’s Club. George went on to become International President and wrote

three history books about Y’s Men. Bertha typed the manuscript for those books. As George struggled with Muscular Dystrophy, Bertha was there as his

primary caretaker. She received the Ballantyne Award in 1976.



Ariani Brenner Friedl – When hired as a Spanish interpreter for Y’s Men, Ariani became determined to join the organization. When women were allowed to become members in July, 1974, Ariani became a

member that month. She served as the first female club President (Naperville Y’s Men, Illinois), then served as District Governor and Regional Director. Ariani helped to start 8 clubs in St Louis Missouri YMCAs. She was elected to International Council in 1979 (serving with one other female, Edna Beckett from Jamaica).



Rachelle Ranciglio Reeg – Working her way through a variety of Regional Service Director and Area Service Director positions, Rachelle Reeg was the first female U.S. Area President. She used to say she went from Club President to Area President since she did not

serve as District Governor or Regional Director. From there she became the first female International President. Rachelle also helped to start the Rollback Malaria program, worked as Liaison to the YMCA, and started the first Long Range Plan.



Sylvia Reyes de Croci – International Director for Y’s Menettes, Editor of Y’s Men’s World, Latin America Area President & Chair of the Constitution Review Committee.

Report by: Debbie Redmond, YMI Historian
If I overlooked anyone, please accept my apology.-Bobby Stivers-Apiki, Editor

Y'S MEN INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENTS.



RACHELLE R. REEG

65th International President
 Term: 1990/91
 Carondelet, MO, USA
 THEME:
 "Individual Effort Makes
 The Difference"
 Remembrance: Dec. 15, 2023



JOAN WILSON

95th International President
 Term: 2016/17
 Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
 THEME:
 "Our Future Begins Today"



JENNIFER JONES

98th International President
 Term: 2019/20
 Adelaide, Australia
 THEME:
 "Building Today For a Better
 Tomorrow"

ROLE OF WOMEN. U.S. AREA PRESIDENTS.



RACHELLE R. REEG

1st Woman U.S. Area President
 Term: 1987/88
 St. Louis, MO.
 Mid America Region
 Remembrance: Dec. 15, 2023



KAY LINDNER

2ND Woman U.S. Area
 President
 Term: 2002/03
 Bradley, Il.
 Mid America Region
 Remembrance: Sept. 16, 2023



DONNA WARD

3RD Woman U.S. Area
 President
 Term: 2004/05
 Torrance, CA.
 Pacific Southwest Region



MARY ANN PHILLIPS
4th Woman U.S. Area President
Term: 2011/13
Cupertino, CA
Pacific Southwest Region
Remembrance: June 20, 2021



DEBBIE REDMOND
5th Woman U.S. Area President
Term: 2013/15
St. Louis, MO.
Mid America Region

“Leadership is about making others better as a result of your presence and making sure that impact lasts in your absence.” - Sheryl Sandberg (COO, Facebook)

ROLE OF WOMEN. Y’S MENETTES.



Traditionally, a wife of a Y's Man was called a Y's Menette, and they sometimes formed an auxiliary to the local Y's Men's Club. Today, Y's Menettes are women who have chosen to join a Y's Menettes' Club – and a Y's Menettes' Club today is no longer an auxiliary to a Y's Men's Club but has its own program to support the local Y's Men's Club, YMCA and the community. The U.S. Area has one Y's Menette Club, Fresno-Central Y's Menettes, Connie Claes, Club President.

Y's Menettes Prayer

God bless all Y's Menettes here,
And all whom we hold dear,
As now we pray.



U.S. AREA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.



We know a month is not enough space to acknowledge the remarkable women in our lives.

In talents, responsibilities and care of every spectrum, large and small, notable leaders and otherwise, these ladies and moms have shaped us in every way. Before Y's Menettes, the inception of Y's Men is brought to viability by the direct hands of the founders dedicated wives. (Please see the Y's Men International website – ysmen.org).

My great and grandmothers pioneered by sailing ships and covered wagons to become leaders in the Women's vote, Air Force, Guide Dogs for the Blind and many public education endeavors all while raising children and families. Membership in Men's Clubs of the era did not impede them. They infused in me the rewarding experiences of service. I suspect you all have similar experiences - *Please share them!*

So, here's to our Y's Men first and following women members, presidents, and officers from inception, the 1970s and forward for a remarkable 101 years. We couldn't have achieved that milestone without them! Some of our most courageous International Council members are *young* women.

In Y'sdom,

Douglas R. Jones
US Area President

PS: Thank You Grandma and Mom!

ROLE OF WOMEN. U.S. AREA.



if celebrating Women's History Month was a contest, I would surely nominate **Nancy Libby** as "**YMI's Woman of the Month.**" Nancy has a long association with Y's Men through her parents. Once her children were grown, she joined Y's Men in November 2002 after attending the International Convention in Sydney, Australia with her parents. She was elected Regional Secretary, club Vice President, President, Past President, and club Treasurer. Nancy was recognized for her leadership skills and in 2016, she was elected Area Secretary, a position she currently holds for four consecutive terms.

My association with Nancy began, I believe, in 2018 when I served as APE and AP. We worked together on behalf of the Regional Directors and their members. To say Nancy is well organized, communicates effectively and relates well with people is no understatement. I cannot tell you how many times she corrected my spelling even after triple spell checks. She kept me on task for many, many meetings!

My last Area Council meeting as APE was in Torrance, California and my flight from Hawaii arrived in LA at 7 am. There to greet me, was sunshine Nancy and her traveling office, I believe a '70's Dodge van. Off to our year-end Council meeting and the start of working together for the next two years as Area Executive officers.

In May 2018, representing the Area, Nancy came to my hometown, Hilo to attend the 81st Hawaii Regional Convention was held May 4-6. Her arrival was typical of a guest arriving at night, a lei and food. The next day, Friday, May 4, was a free day until dinner, but a day she and I will remember forever. Nancy went sightseeing and while visiting a local museum at 1:30 pm, a 6.9 earthquake rocked the island and Kilauea eruption for four months. Madam Pele welcomed Nancy in style!!

Please join me in extending our sincere appreciation to Nancy Libby, U.S. Area Corporate Secretary for her outstanding leadership, service and dedication to the U.S. Area and Y's Men International -Reported by: Bobby Stivers-Apiki.

CELEBRATE SOUTH ROWAN Y SERVICE CLUB MEMBER



Gay Roberts and her husband David are charter members of the South Rowan Y Service Club organized in May 1988. Gay served in many leadership roles within the club, including President and Secretary. Gay and David have been the Car Project Coordinators for many years for our major fundraiser for the South Rowan Y Service Club. Within the South Atlantic Region, Gay has served as Regional Secretary, Regional Director Elect, and Regional Director. Gay is a retired School Teacher/Administrator, having spent 39 years in the education of the youth in our area. He is a leader in the First Reformed Church in Landis, NC. Our club and the South Atlantic Region are proud of Gay.

-Reported by: Terry Bradley.

ROLE OF WOMEN. U.S. AREA.



South Atlantic Regional Director **Kim Deal** is shown with Regional Secretary **Debbie Owens** along with Regional Director Elect Philip Belfield at the YMCA General Assembly last year to promote Y Service Clubs. The South Atlantic Region is glad and proud to recognize Kim and Debbie to Celebrate **Women's History Month**.

Kim is the Youth Development Director at the South Rowan YMCA and is Regional Director of the South Atlantic Region, as well as a dedicated member of the South Rowan Y Service Club. Debbie Owens is the Director of Admissions for the Rowan- Cabarrus YMCA Association and is the South Atlantic Regional Secretary and a dedicated member of the John R. Mott Club. Debbie is also

instrumental in getting volunteers for the West Cabarrus YMCA branch and is our Zoom Administrator. The South Atlantic Region celebrates these dedicated ladies.

-Reported by Terry Bradley.

NEWS AROUND THE AREA.



The Y Service Clubs International US Area Podcast

Hello all,

As most of you know, I have been working on a new media (for me) which is the realm of podcasts. I cannot say I am wonderful in this media, but it has been a lot of fun and challenging. My interviewer is Rich Porter (from the Carondelet Y Service Club and U.S. Area webmaster). Rich belongs to Toastmasters International and has been thinking about doing something for

that group. The webpage at this point is the Y Service Clubs USA. He is working to find another podcast group that might accept these recordings. We have done three podcasts. The first one is about the idea of Service Clubs, the second one is about archives, and the third one is about the Y's Men's programs and funds with the history behind them.

I am sending you the link. Once you open the link, scroll down to the bottom to open them.

<https://yserviceclubsusa.org/podcast-1/>

-_Reported by:_Debbie Redmond, International Historian
Past Area President (U.S.)

Hawaii Region

E Komo Mai! Come join us! May 4-5, 2024.



The Hawaii Region Convention Installation-Endowment Dinner will present Golden Book tributes to six (6) individuals on Saturday, May 4. The keynote speaker on “Fraud Prevention” will be Curt Hasegawa, AARP Hawaii Volunteer. He is a retired investigator with the State of Hawaii. His 30-year included investigations



ranging from Consumer Protection to Child Support Enforcement, to Securities Fraud.

South Atlantic Region

South Rowan YMCA Father Daughter Dance-Rowan County, NC

We had a wonderful Father Daughter dance this year on February 10 from 5-7 PM at the South Rowan YMCA. Our theme was Sugar n Spice. We created a giant life-size game of Candyland for the Princesses this year. From Cotton Candy Land to Peppermint Forest to Candy Castle, the girls got to advance to different spots in the game with their dads. They enjoyed refreshments while dancing the night away with a finale of the big balloon drops. We sold over 450 tickets this year. It was a fun time had by all.

(A fantastic job by Regional Director Kim Deal and YMCA Branch Director Aaron Crowe and their staff.

(This is a major YMCA fundraiser, and is very popular in the community of Southern Rowan County, NC)

-Terry Bradley





WEEK-4-WASTE APRIL 2023



YMCA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT

YMCA Alumni in the United States are into the third year of a National Service Project on the Cheyenne Sioux Indian Reservation in South Dakota in partnership with the YMCA of the Seven Council Fires.

Member volunteers, family, and friends head to the site of a small village on the YMCA property in Dupree, South Dakota for work weeks in the spring and fall. Four homes will be ready to welcome single tribal women and their children into much needed transitional homes in 2025. The project also includes two small YMCA program centers made from shipping containers and placed in remote communities on the Reservation.

We appreciate the support of Y's Men International and welcome additional support from individual Y's Men. Visit us online to learn more about this unique project.

Grand Rapids (Michigan) YMCA Service Club.



Contact: gryserviceclub.org