



# THE OLD GUARD NEWS

Volume 77, Number 6

June 2006

## INTERNATIONAL SENIOR SERVICE CORPS . . .

### Beijing YMCA elementary school new gym set

The ISSC is still looking for volunteers to spend 6 months learning the culture of a foreign country while having a guaranteed experience of a lifetime.

Your necessary shots and round trip flight are all paid for by NAFYR. Your room and board are also paid for by the hosting country. If you can get a better offer, we'll match it.

There are returned NAFYR volunteers who would be more than willing to talk with you and get you up to date on what to expect and share their teaching plans. We would like to have volunteers, single or married, be ready to go to Beijing and also ChengDu, China in October of 2006. If

you are interested but unsure of what you should know before committing, contact **Peg Andrews** at [pandrews1@cox.net](mailto:pandrews1@cox.net) or by phone at 623-546-9514.

**Ray and Muriel Jacoby** will return May 4<sup>th</sup> from their 2<sup>nd</sup> 6-month experience in Beijing after extensive travel through other parts of China. **Larry and Carole Lieving** returned mid-March from ChengDu and are busy catching up on their grandchildren's events and getting their photos in order for the relative reunions and many friends who would like a second hand experience.

Our NAFYR chapters have also become interested in showing their support of not only the volunteers

but also the visiting country. The Grand Canyon Chapter, the Weidensall Chapter, and the Jacobys joined forces to give the children of the Beijing YMCA School a new extensive gym-set to play on daily. This gets NAFYR recognition that will last in China. Photos of the children playing on the gym set are accompanying.

We should be very proud of this involvement in our international work with YMCAs around the world.



Peg Andrews, Chair ISSC

#### Special points of interest:

- Cover story: *International Senior Service Corps.*
- Health Hints: *Outwitting your appetite.*
- A YMCA Legend: *"Lope" Loper of Arizona.*

#### Inside this issue:

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Above: Children play on the gym set provided by NAFYR members.

Left: The commemorative plaque honoring the Grand Canyon and Weidensall Chapters for their gift.





Len and Audrey Covello

### Outwitting Your Appetite

Trying to keep your diet and waistline in check? A few simple tips can help you outsmart your appetite.

**Take Control:** Avoid stress eating — stress can trigger emotional eating.

Know your triggers—many people turn to food when coping with sadness or boredom.

**Don't Go Hungry:** Don't skip meals—eat smaller meals throughout the day to maintain your energy level.

**Eat Well-Balanced Meals:** Try to eat at about the same time every day.

Include foods from all the food groups.

**Snack Smarter:** If you need to snack between meals, reach for fresh

fruit, celery sticks or a few whole wheat crackers with peanut butter.

**Devise Supermarket Strategies:** Avoid falling into the trap of buying unhealthy snacks because they on sale.

Controlling your appetite can help you manage your weight, have more energy and look and feel your best.

After the conference, he shared some encouraging facts about the employment

*"A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education."*

-Theodore Roosevelt

### My Mentor, "Boots" . . . Malcolm S. Peters

It was the summer of 1946 that the Southern Area Council of YMCAs sponsored a Leadership Conference for local YMCA Leaders Club members. The New Orleans Y sent three to Biloxi, Mississippi where it was held. I was one of the three. The Area staff Secretary related to the Program was B. P. "Boots" Faubion. He became my Mentor.

After the conference, he shared some encouraging facts about the employment opportunities YMCAs have to offer. He suggested that I go back to Tulane University; making use of the GI Bill for courses required for staff positions; adding, I should consider pursuing a graduate degree.

Later the same summer, I re-enrolled for two semesters at

Tulane (in May '43, I had graduated with a Degree in Health & Physical Education) and completed four credit courses needed for my "goal". In May 1948, Columbia University conferred a Master of Arts Degree in Health and Physical Education.

During Spring Break, I traveled to Houston Y's newly occupied Central Branch where I accepted the staff position, Boys Physical Director, starting June 1. After serving my two year apprenticeship I was certified, YMCA Secretary Fall 1950 and was promoted to Membership director. The office secretary had been B. P. "Boots" Faubion's secretary when he was on the Houston Y's staff!

It was October 1954 that I

joined the staff of the North Central Area Council YMCA in Milwaukee with primary relationship to the field of Health and Physical Education. Subsequently, Industrial Program Services was added to my responsibilities.

From Milwaukee, I went to Louisville in 1959 as Executive Director of the Downtown Branch; from there in 1961, I moved to New Orleans to be Associate Director for ten years; and General Director for seven years. I retired May 1, 1979.

"Boots" had this same impact on many lives and careers.

*Send us your story of the person who influenced your Y career.*

-The Editor



Malcolm S. Peters, retired in 1979 as General Secretary of the New Orleans YMCA . He now lives in Clemson, SC.

## From the President . . .

About the time you are receiving the edition *The Old Guard News*, the Membership Task Force will be wrapping up their meeting to take a fresh look at the question of NAFYR and its members. Past President Jim Lipscomb has been giving leadership to the work of the task force for the past six months. As an interim report was presented at the April Board meeting.

Last month, I asked the recipients of the *Brunch Bunch* for their thoughts regarding the benefits of membership in NAFYR. Here is a sampling of their responses:

- *The Old Guard News*
- The North American Reunions
- The opportunities for leadership
- The opportunity to continue life long friendships and fellowship with our colleagues

- Joint regional chapter gatherings, such as the Midwest Reunion
- Eligibility for the assistance from the Emergency Assistance Fund
- The opportunity to fulfill a personal commitment to helping others
- Participation in Chapter activities with colleagues within a close proximity
- Maintaining your network established while working
- Keeping in touch—NAFYR is a natural answer to this problem
- Keeping updated on the organization that we spent many years serving
- Continual updating at NAFYR meetings on the YMCA Retirement Fund
- Fellowship, fellowship and more fellowship

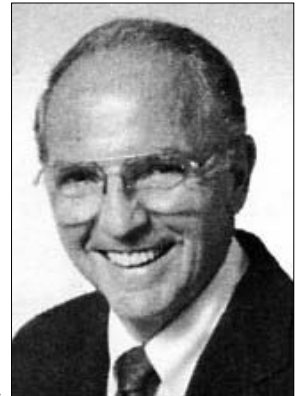
The sampling is in no particular order and represents the thoughts of individuals who care about NAFYR. No doubt, there are many more benefits we could think of that make our investment of time and resources worthwhile.

I'm looking forward to the recommendations of the Task Force. You can look forward to a complete report in a future issue of *The Old Guard News*.

World Service time is upon us. A special thanks to Walt Jacoby for his continuing leadership in getting the word out to NAFYR members. Please consider a generous response to the YMCA World Service appeal.

Live the spirit of 17:21 . . .

*Hank*



**Hank Bagelmann**  
NAFYR President



## Have you joined a Chapter yet?

### CANADA

Copeland Budge: All of Canada (1937)

### WESTERN UNITED STATES

Allen-Stone: Washington, Oregon, Montana, Alaska and dual memberships with British Columbia (1940)

Henry J. McCoy: Northern California and Nevada (except Las Vegas) (1928)

D. Willard Lyon: Southern California from an east-west line south of Santa Ana, south to the Mexican border. (1961)

Hawaii: Hawaiian Islands. (1996)

Grand Canyon: Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. (1987)

Sam Schreiner: Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. (1973)

Greater Ozark: Missouri, northern Arkansas and Kansas from a north-south line through Wichita going east. (1976)

John R. Mott: Iowa and eastern Nebraska from US 81 E. (1977)

Upper Midwest: Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota (1970)

Robert Weidensall: Wyoming, Colorado, northern half of New Mexico, western Kansas,

western Nebraska. (1952)

### EASTERN UNITED STATES

Earl W. Brandenburg: Wisconsin. (1982)

I. Wilbur Messer: Illinois. (1931)

Hoosier—Buell: Indiana and Michigan including the upper peninsula. (1999)

William S. Chambers: Ohio and West Virginia. (1963)

Ralph W. Harbison: Western Pennsylvania and western Maryland. (1961)

Central Atlantic: Eastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey.

*Continued on Page 8*

## We Remember . . .

Arthur P. Bruemmer, Executive, RR YMCA, East Syracuse NY, 33 Christian Avenue, Apt. 88, Concord, NH 03303.

George C. Stevens, Executive, Vero Beach FL, 621 NW 92nd Avenue, Pembroke Pines, FL, 33024

Gilbert Mosher, 79, 482 South Street, Apt. B, Rockport, NY 14094

Fredrick H. O. Cords, Centinela Valley YMCA, 1710 Timingo Way, Oceanside, CA 92054

## We Welcome . . .

*. . . the following members into the fellowship of YMCA retirees, linked together by our common heritage and our service to humanity.*

Shirley and Phillip Frost, Office Manager, Mt. Vernon YMCA, 101 Pearl Ave. Mt. Vernon, OH 43050 740-392-5978 [Pmfrost@netscape.com](mailto:Pmfrost@netscape.com)

Idalia Stricklin, Business Manager, Ottawa YMCA, 1208 Bergen Ave., Ottawa,

IL 61350, 815-434-3268 [Yspim95\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:Yspim95_99@yahoo.com)

Kathleen Palmer, Administrative Asst., St. Paul YMCA MN, 11790 Xeon St. NW #1600, Conn Rapids, MN 55448, 763-772-0380 [Kathieopalmer@msn.com](mailto:Kathieopalmer@msn.com)

Phyllis and Jim Murphy, CEO, Pomona Valley YMCA, CA, 1612 N. First Ave, Upland, CA 91784, 909-

982-2887, [Phyllisamurphy@yahoo.com](mailto:Phyllisamurphy@yahoo.com)

Ann and Dan Nischke, VP Financial Dev., Milwaukee YMCA WI, 202 W. College Ave., Waukesha WI 53186 262-227-3084 [Anischke@aol.com](mailto:Anischke@aol.com)

Phil and Pat Grimm, CEO Butte Family YMCA, 300 S. Emmett, Butte MT 59701 406-782-9662 [Pgrimm1003@aol.com](mailto:Pgrimm1003@aol.com)

“Be thankful we’re not getting all the government we’re paying for.”

- Will Rogers

## World Service Report . . . By Mary Tikalsky

### Financial Report (January – December, 2005)

In 2005, our goal was \$1.3 million. With your support, \$1,500,589 was raised for our global YMCA movement. Special thanks to local YMCAs, YUSA national staff, Y retirees, individuals and organizations.

Approximately \$700,000 in YMCA World Service Grants comes directly from local U.S. YMCAs each year. In 2005, that number was over \$900,000, which includes many special events and contributions made to support our YMCA family in South Asia after the Tsunami, especially in the country of Sri Lanka. We could not do this without you. You are YMCA World Service and you are truly changing communities worldwide with your caring, respect, honesty and responsibility. Thank you so much!

YMCA World Service has a strong history of support since 1889. These funds are also important today because support from the YMCA family is critical in order to obtain external grants from the Federal Government and other foundations.

Special thanks to more than 100 volunteer campaigners nationwide who assist each year in reaching out to every YMCA. We are deeply appreciative and very blessed to be able to work with them. All letters and materials have now been sent to YMCA Retirees. If you would like more information or materials for your chapter, please call Mary Tikalsky at 1 800 872 9622, ext. 8371 or email: [mary.tikalsky@ymca.net](mailto:mary.tikalsky@ymca.net)

Walt Jacoby attended the Weatherford NAFYR Meeting in North Carolina in May to represent and recognize the great support for World Service.

Local YMCA pledges are now coming in as well with a goal to finish by June 15<sup>th</sup>.

As of 5/8/06, the 2006 World Service Campaign is at \$600,000.

### Goals for 2006 World Service

- We continue to concentrate on increasing education, special events, participation and giving in all divisions.
- The YMCA of the USA National Staff has personally pledged more than \$135,000 for 2006 and is on their way to achieving our \$150,000 goal.
- We need to raise \$200,000 more, nationally, in 2006 in order to be able to offer more assistance for YMCA grant proposals that we are receiving for programs that have need and merit.
- Total goal for 2006 is \$1.3 million, with

\$900,000 from local YMCAs.

- For more information or materials, please contact Mary Tikalsky at 1 800 872 9622, extension 8371 or directly at 312 419 8371.
- Email: [mary.tikalsky@ymca.net](mailto:mary.tikalsky@ymca.net)
- THANK YOU!

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## Keeping In Touch . . .

Matt Johnson has been elected chairman of the Westport-Weston Foundation Distribution Committee. The Westport-Weston Foundation is a trust for assisting charitable and educational institutions for Westport and Weston residents. Matt was CEO of the Westport-Weston Connecticut YMCA for nineteen years.



**Central Atlantic Chapter:** 30 members attended the Spring Reunion. NAFYR members (above) had their own NASCAR race at Longwood Gardens as **Wini Reuschle, Tom Moore and Jim Brouse** rev up their scooters while **Sandy, Anne Moore, JoAnn Millet, Tom Hargrave, Joe Millet and Chris Brouse** were "Pit Crew" members. *(photo by Maurice Hight)*

The **Ozark Chapter** held its spring meeting at Kimberling City, Mo on April 25, 26 and 27th. Twenty-eight members were in attendance this spring and were treated to some cool weather. Many of the members attended two shows in Branson during the three days. The group was honored to have as speakers, John Preis, President of the YMCA Retirement Fund, Jerry Prado-Shaw, Director

of International Services, YMCA of the USA and his guest, Julian Vilhelm Eltvir, Secretary General of European Alliances of YMCA, Doug McNeel, VP NAFYR (East) and Dave Bast, Midwest Reunion Coordinator.

Officers this year are: President- **Dave Snow**, Vice President- **Phil Hellwege**, Treasurer- **Harland Johnson**, Secretary- **Jim Knight**

**Ken Landro** was elected President of the **Upper Midwest Chapter** for a two-year term at the spring meeting of the Chapter held in April. Landro succeeds **Duane Cedarblade**. He will officially take office October 1. Also elected Chapter officers, for two-year terms were **Vickie Hennessey**, vice-president, and **Jerry Neseth**, treasurer. The position of Chapter Secretary remains open and will be filled at a later date. The spring meeting was held at the Old Log Theatre

in Excelsior, MN. After lunch, the 42 members that attended the meeting viewed the delightful play, "Don't Dress for Dinner".

Hosted by **Messer and Brandenburg Chapters**, the 2006 Midwest Reunion will be held September 25-28 in Springfield, IL. Participants from Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Minnesota, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, North and South Dakota will be there. Mark your calendars now and make your plans.



## New Beasley Campus Center at GWC . . .

A generous gift from the late **Ted Beasley**, a longtime friend and supporter of George Williams College and Aurora University, will be recognized in the renovation of the Education Center Building to form the Beasley Campus Center.

This fall, the Aurora University Board of Trustees voted in favor of the renovation. As enrollment grows at the George Williams College of Aurora University, the buildings on campus must be renovated to meet the needs of the individuals who come to learn. This new facility will provide dining services for the entire campus commu-

nity, as well as meeting rooms, a bookstore and outdoor gathering spaces. In addition, the George Williams Room and YMCA Museum will be relocated to the new Campus Center.

Additional support of \$250,000 from the Beasley Foundation toward the relocation of the George Williams Room will increase the awareness for students and guests of the legacy of George Williams and his impact on the YMCA movement. The facility honors the legacy of the Beasley family name. Ted Beasley helped fund the Beasley Student Center on the Aurora Univer-

sity Downers Grove campus and provided an endowment for the future support of the Beasley Center.

"The conversion of the Education Center will provide better and more accessible dining and kitchen facilities for our students and staff," said William B. Duncan, Vice President and Chief Academic Officer for the George Williams College of Aurora University. "We are very much in need of a new space such as this to accommodate our growing academic community."

The existing dining areas and kitchen in the historic Lewis Dining Hall will continue op-

eration while work is completed on the Education Center. When the Beasley Campus Center dining facilities are ready, the existing dining services and kitchens will be moved to the new location. This arrangement will route large delivery and other service vehicles away from the center of campus to provide an easier entrance for other vehicles. The two dining rooms in Lewis will be converted to meeting rooms, while the kitchen will be removed to create a more attractive entrance to campus.

June really is the month for weddings. Just look at all these Golden Treasures! . . .

## June Golden Treasurers

### 70 Years

Gladys and Wilfred Pearson, Chelmsford, MA, June 29

### 66 Years

Arline and Harold Ward, Ft. Myers, FL, June 16

### 64 Years

Mary and Ed Torrence, Black Mountain, NC, June 6

### 63 Years

Doris and Daniel Kitchen, Westfield, MA, June 23  
Beverly and Harold Xavier, Gloucester, MA, June 19

### 62 Years

Mae and Jim Kinsman, Catonsville, MD, June 2  
Marie and Bob Looby, Bloomfield, NJ, June 24  
Theda and Joseph Thompson, Mooresville, NC, June 25,

### 61 Years

Dee and Frank Kiehne, Reading, PA, June 17  
Mary Lou and Ray Overmire, Waverly, OH, June 27

### 60 Years

Mary and Murray Shantz, Unionville, ON, June 1  
Doris and Jack Nantz, Matthews, N.C, June 7  
Norma and Chuck Law, Keuadin, MI, June 14  
Liz and Ed Ewen, Hanover, PA, June 15  
Carolyn and Dick Ortmeyer, Davis, CA, June 15  
Genevieve and Vern Hathaway, Lacey, WA, June 16  
Norma and Lewis Barger, Walkertown, NC, June 21  
Helen and John McCaslin, Renfrew, PA, June 28

### 59 Years

Connie and Dan Norte, Cortland, NY, June 21  
Ebbie and Joe Tharpe, Florissant, MO, June 21  
Mary and Neal Schreiner, Longview, TX, June 28

### 58 Years

Marvel and Walt Carstenbrock, Austin, MN, June 4  
Virginia and Harold Buckner, Beaver Dam, AZ, June 6  
Jean and Andy Brethauer, Columbus, OH, June 8  
Edna and E.Paul Emery, Middleton, NY June 12  
Doris and Ted Hawkins, St. Louis, MO, June 12  
Jay and LaForest Smith, Eastham, MA, June 12  
Mary and Sam Chollar, Rochester, MN, June 13  
Helen and Bill Georges, Dover, DE, June 13  
Jane and Hal Wright, Simsbury, CT, June 19  
Carol and Dick Sisler, Minneapolis, MN, June 25  
Marion and John Malinowski, South Amboy, NJ, June 26,  
Gloria and Nicholas Patinos, Wheaton, IL, June 27

### 57 Years

Hilda and Ernie Glenesk, Santa Maria, CA, June 4  
Jean and Bob O'Melia, Dover, NJ, June 8  
Ann and Ollie Nelson, Yakima, WA, June 11  
Barbara and Andy Balerud, Visalia, CA, June 12  
Norma and Keith Latter, Woodstock, ON, June 18

### 56 Years

Carolyn and Vernon Bradley, Peace Dale, RI, June 3  
Mary and Bill McAllister, St. Louis, MO, June 4  
Barb and Bob Schmidt, San Diego, CA, June 11  
Shirley and Charles Pead, Bradenton, FL, June 17  
Mary and Nolan Younkman, Summerville, SC, June 18,  
Marion and Al Grasso, Asheville, NC, June 24

### 55 Years

Faye and Glen Weaner, Duncanville, TX, June 2  
Marilyn and Chuck Wise, Menomonee Falls WI, June 2  
Fran and Matt Johnson, Weston, CT, June 5  
Zan and George Edmiston, Covington, KY, June 12  
Rachel and Art Eckenrode, Jacobus, PA, June 16

### 54 Years

Gini and Dave Potts, Haddonfield, NJ, June 7  
Sue and Bob Denzer, Mount Vernon, OH, June 8  
Iris and Ken Little, Grapeview, WA, June 8  
Barbara and Bob Miller, Columbus, OH, June 9  
Stella and Phil Thorn, Okmulgee, OK, June 9  
Margie and Don Dome, Bradenton, FL, June 14  
Joan and Walt Jacoby, Penney Farms, FL, June 14  
Ginny and Gord Ramsay, Markham ON, June 14  
Betsy and Dick Stoll, Kirkwood, MO, June 14  
Bernie and Bill Taylor, Watertown, NY, June 14

### 53 Years

Judy and Harold Rudolph, Corvallis, OR, June 4  
Dona and Cliff Lothery, Mount Prospect, IL, June 6  
Beverly and Clayton Plepkorn, Roseville, MN June 21

### 52 Years

Barbara and George Williams, Meadow Ridge, WV, June 5  
Peg and Walt Price, Syracuse, NY, June 13  
Marion and Peter Whitaker, Richmond, VT, June 13  
Wanda and Wayne Farrar, Burlington, KY, June 19  
Ruth and Don Idecker, Coraopolis, PA, June 19  
Betty and Al Lekan, Strongsville, OH, June 26

### 51 Years

Halle and Dave Widner, Sunrise Beach, TX, June 11

### 50 Years

Betty and Don Hardesty, Noblesville, IN, June 16  
Barbara and Fred Baxter, Clifton Park, NY, May 19

## Legends . . .



Clermont Loper (L) with Doug Dunipace

He doesn't look his age . . . he'll be 96 next month. "I can't see, and I can't hear, but I eat good," laughs Clermont "Lope" Loper.

Lope is a legend in Tucson, Arizona where

he was the General Director for 30 years. Lope's first job in the Y was in his hometown of Charles City, Iowa where he would clean the restrooms in the residence (3 floors) for 35¢. He was 12.

After graduating from Iowa State Teachers College in 1933, he went to the Des Moines Y and worked the Boy's Desk for \$5/week and a room.

His first professional position was in Beatrice, Nebraska in 1935. He later served YMCAs in Honolulu, San Jose and Berkley before landing in Tucson.

He told us an interesting story about Honolulu. He and his wife, Ardith boarded a ship to come to the mainland on December 5, 1941. How's that for timing?

Recently your editor had lunch with Lope at the senior home where he has lived for the past 16 years. We were joined by **Doug Dunipace**, a Y volunteer and son of one of Lope's board members in Tucson. Doug grew up in Lope's Y. Last year, the Tucson Y dedicated "Loper Lodge" in his honor at Triangle Y Camp in Oracle, AZ.

At the senior home, Lope is often called on to counsel newcomers who are having trouble adjusting to their new lifestyle. Asked what he tells them, Lope responded, "I'm a good listener. They usually can solve their own problems after they talk them out."

What changes does he see in the Y? "I see more outreach now than when I was active. There is more decentralization. I'm impressed with the Y!"

## A true story . . .

Can you imagine the panic and inner turmoil of waking up in a hospital bed finding yourself blind in one eye and deaf?

This happened to a YMCA Director, a single mother of three, following an unexpected stroke.

Since that occurred, four months ago, she has regained her sight but not her hearing. Without that she cannot return to her job, plus her balance and comprehension skills are not back to normal.

She may never return to work and have

to rely on long term disability. Needless to say her finances are non-existent and she is heavily in debt.

Your Emergency Assistance Fund came to her rescue immediately ~ as always.

The months of May, August and November are the suggested dates to make your Pledge payment to EAF.

If you "missed" last month send it in today to Association of YMCA Professionals 12 Broad Street, Suite 2-1 Westerly, RI 02891 Thanks!



Dale Ventres, Chairman

## Retirement Fund Annuity Roll Book available . . .

The YMCA Retirement Fund's 2006-07 Annuity Roll book will be available to YMCA retirees in November 2006, announced **Shirley Jalosky**, Director of Communications for the Fund.

Retirees wanting a book must contact the Fund **no later** than July 1, 2006 to receive a copy. Requests can be made by phone (800-RET-YMCA) or by email at: [info@mycaret.org](mailto:info@mycaret.org).

Shirley reminds retirees that those who do not want their names and addresses listed should advise the Fund no later than July 1.

The book is free upon request to Y retirees. **Correction: email [info@ymcaret.org](mailto:info@ymcaret.org)**



# North American Fellowship of YMCA



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## Hold the Presses . . .

*Just as we were going to press, we received the following news release . . .*

Dear Y-USA Colleagues,

I am very pleased to announce that the YMCA of the USA Board of Directors has hired Neil Nicoll as the new CEO of Y-USA. This hiring marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for Y-USA and brings to conclusion a successful, gratifying national search process.

A 38-year YMCA professional, Neil currently is the president and CEO of the YMCA of the Greater Seattle, a position he has held since 1992. He previously was the president and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Worcester (Mass.) for 12 years. From 1975-80, he was the executive director of the Prince Georges County branch of the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington, D.C., and from 1973-75 he was the executive director the Dorchester branch of the YMCA of Greater Boston. Neil got his start in the YMCA movement as a program director at the Howard County branch of the YMCA of Greater Baltimore.

Nationally, Neil is chair of the YMCA Activate America Steering Committee. He has served two terms on the Y-USA board (1988-92

and 2004-present) and was president of the North American Urban Group from 2003-05. He also has been a strong advocate for the YMCA National Diversity Initiative and the Abundant Assets Alliance.

When the CEO search process began last fall, I asked the movement for input about what experience and characteristics the next CEO of Y-USA should possess. Hundreds of volunteers and staff shared their thoughts. Based on the movement's feedback, and the criteria established by the board, Neil stood above the other candidates throughout the process. He is one of the most highly respected leaders in our movement, and he has proven experience directing one of the country's largest, most successful YMCAs. Moreover, Neil's YMCA career has been characterized by a devotion to the mission and an unwavering commitment to our core values.

Over the next month or so, Neil will assist the Seattle YMCA with its leadership transition. However, he also will be working closely with the board and the Leadership Team during this period. He expects to take over full time at Y-USA on June 26.

On behalf of the board, I'd

like to thank Sam Evans and the Leadership Team for capably guiding Y-USA's operations for the past few months. Their steadying influence has been invaluable, and it will continue to be throughout this transition and beyond.

I'd also like to thank all of you for your patience and understanding during the search process. I realize that it's not always easy to stay focused on your work when an executive search is taking place, particularly when the integrity of the process demands confidentiality. Please know that the board greatly appreciates and admires your ongoing dedication to Y-USA and our service to YMCAs.

All along, the board hoped that the search process would produce someone with Neil's experience and character, and we couldn't be happier that it did. After spending time with Neil, we know you'll come to the same conclusion we did: He is the right person for the job. Please join us in welcoming him to Y-USA.

Regards,

**Dan Casey**  
Chair, YMCA of the USA  
Board of Directors

## Chapters . . . (continued from Page 3)

**James Lee Ellenwood:** Western, central and northeast New York State. (1971)

**McBurney—Morse:** Northern New Jersey, New York City, Long Island, Lower Hudson Counties and Fairfield County in Connecticut. (1930)

**New England:** All New England states. (1930)

**W. D. Weatherford:** Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, eastern Louisiana and the Florida panhandle. (1950)

**C. B. Willis:** Florida, except the panhandle. (1936)

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