The Fund’s Board of Trustees held its quarterly meeting in Naples, FL on Feb. 21-22, 2019. February Board meetings are usually held in warmer climates alternating between east and west coasts for two reasons: 1) Because YRF has a national constituency and Trustees come from different areas of the country, the east-west locations enable Board members an opportunity to meet in more friendly time zones, rather than always traveling to New York; and 2) Locales with milder weather generally allow Trustees to arrive and depart unrestrained by weather at this time of year.

Strategy Sessions
For the past several years, YRF Trustees and staff have allocated a significant amount of the February meeting to strategic thinking.

To begin the Strategy Session, John Preis reminded the Trustees of the fundamental mission of the Fund: *To empower YMCA employees to achieve economic security, resulting in loyalty to the YMCA Movement.*

He also emphasized that the desired outcome of the Strategy Sessions was not to make major decisions, “but rather to better inform future decisions so that these future decisions are consistent with certain agreed upon principles, guidelines and long-term objectives of the Fund.”

Brief Management presentations were followed by fully engaged and animated discussions among Trustees and staff. Each discussion topic helped frame a clearer view of the Fund’s mission, along with the ways and means of how to achieve it.

No single answer emerged from these discussions, but there were several consensus-driven outcomes that will lay the groundwork for future decision-making.

As the Y Retiree Liaison to the Board of Trustees, I continue to marvel at the thoughtful and robust discussions of these strategy sessions.

Investment Performance
The Fund’s investment performance is updated quarterly on its website: [www.yretirement.org/how-the-fund-works/investments--performance](http://www.yretirement.org/how-the-fund-works/investments--performance)

The YMCA Retirement Fund’s Board appointed Reid S. Thebault to the position of Retiree Liaison in 2018.

A Trustee of the Fund from 2002 - 2013, Mr. Thebault was Vice Chairman of the Board and served on the Audit, Benefits & Operations and Compensation Committees. He was president and CEO of the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit, and over a 45-year YMCA career, Mr. Thebault also worked for Ys in Dayton, Houston, Oklahoma City and St. Louis.

If you would like to share a few words regarding what the Fund’s benefit has meant to you in retirement, please send me an email at retiree-liaison@ymcare.org. I’ll share some of these wise words in future newsletters.

The TRADITION CONTINUES...

Over the years, several local retirees and their spouses (if available) attend the Board of Trustee’s dinner. YRF Trustees thoroughly enjoy hearing about the post retirement lives of these Y retirees and the role that Y retirement benefits play in helping make their post retirement lives fulfilling and enjoyable.

In attendance of the February 21st dinner were John Flynn and his spouse, Ellen; Jay Schaeffer and his spouse, Ellen Hauze; Priscilla Salvatore and her spouse, Aldo Angelo; and Steven Erickson.

Each retiree spoke about the importance of the YRF annuity in helping make their retirement years a time for travel, spending time with children and grandchildren, and when possible, volunteering to serve their communities. In each of their comments, the retirees thanked the YRF Trustees for their great work as volunteer Board members and for making their retirement years secure, and a very special time in each of their lives.

THE LEGACY OF MY CAREER WEBSITE

The YMCA Retirement Fund recently launched a new website, The Legacy of My Career, which captures the outstanding accomplishments of women and men who dedicated a career of service to the YMCA Movement.

The website features the personal accounts of well-known YMCA professionals through interviews, photos, and career biographies. The powerful stories highlighted on this website are an inspiration to current and future generations of YMCA professionals.

Visit The Legacy of My Career website today at [www.ylegacy.org](http://www.ylegacy.org).