The Fund’s Board of Trustees held its quarterly meeting at the Fund’s office in New York City on May 16-17, 2018. Key board topics included:

**Client Relationship Management**
The Board heard a comprehensive report on the Fund’s Communications and Education initiatives which integrate the work of staff from Customer Service, YMCA Relations, Marketing and Technology. While the Fund’s surveys show that its retirement benefit is highly valued by staff and their employing YMCAs, many do not fully understand their retirement benefits. So the overall goal is to provide proactive education and target messaging on specific topics of interest to different audience segments. This is coupled with a strategic focus on providing top-shelf customer service, supported by leading edge technology. The bottom line is that the Fund’s efforts continue to result in increased engagement and saving for retirement.

**Appointment of Trustee Candidate**
Christine C. Marcks was appointed by the Board to fill a vacant trustee position. She is a longtime volunteer leader having served as a trustee of the Greater Hartford YMCA and as the Chair of the National Board of Y of the USA. Christine recently retired as the President/CEO of Prudential Retirement. She will bring a wealth of knowledge of the pension world.

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**A WORD FROM YOU...**

One of the highlights of every Board of Trustees meeting is the Wednesday night dinner. In addition to the Trustees, Fund Senior Staff, guests and consultants to the Fund, John Preis invites area Y retirees to attend the dinner and a few are asked to share a story regarding their retirement.

**Attendees**
Attending the May 16th dinner were Bob Hastedt, Kurt Kaboth, Ron Sargent, Vic Raskin, David Landau, Ralph Christian, Nelson Louis and Cathi Duchon.

**Sincere and Deep Appreciation**
After a warm welcome to all and in particular the retirees present, John called on the retirees to share a few thoughts on their retirement experiences. Each retiree expressed the different ways they continue to give back to their communities through a variety of volunteer activities. They expressed the joys of having the time and freedom to spend quality time with their families. The retirees conveyed a sincere and deep appreciation of the Fund and to the Trustees who provide their expertise in governing the Fund’s affairs and to John and his staff team who are diligent in their commitment to wise and prudent management.

*Periodically, I get asked by both active and retired colleagues, "How’s the Fund doing?" The short answer is the Fund is doing well. For the specifics go to the link you’ll find under the section of this newsletter entitled, Investment Performance.*

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**Asset-Liability Study**
The Fund’s independent actuary from Conduent presented a study that compared the future growth of assets to the growth of liabilities. It should be noted the immediate and long-term health of the Fund is positive.

**Investment Performance**
For the first nine months of Fiscal Year 2018 (through March 31st) the Fund’s investment returns net of fees was 8.36%. The Fund’s performance is updated quarterly. [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@ymcaret.org. I’ll share some of these wise words in future newsletters.