



Dear Y's Men

As I write this it is November so we are 4 months into this club year. I sincerely hope that all your activities are running – and running well.

Winter is coming to Denmark now and my garden has to wait for me until next spring. However there are many things that cannot wait. In *Y's Men's World 2006-07 Issue 3* I mentioned some subjects I would like to give a little more space and I think I have the possibility now.

Have you ever thought about the importance of communication? Communication is the nerve of life for us. We can phone, send emails, send sms, talk, cry, send smoke signals, make drawings, even send letters by snail mail, listen to radio, look at TV, read a book - and you could surely mention a lot more examples - but nevertheless - it is communication, all of it. What would our societies have been without it? Have you ever thought what our organisation would have been without communication?

NOTHING! We would have been like Robinson Crusoe on his island before Friday arrived.

As an organisation we can now send out important messages as emails knowing that the receiver can read it a few seconds after we have finished the message. Isn't it marvellous! A few minutes later we can have an answer or another kind of response to this message. I know many people who really like to have a 'real' letter better than emails. I don't know why. It is easier to send an email with a few words than to do the same in a real letter. You feel you have to fill that big white page totally with many words. It can be scary for some.

Surely – communication is the nerve of life for us. Please read your email, or 'real mail' and reply promptly if required.

That makes me think of another matter. The RDE training has started now and different kinds of training will run over the year and I am sure that communication will be one of the subjects on the agenda. So it was at the RDE-training I participated at in Europe. It was emphasised that if you don't ask the right question – you don't get the right answer. Seems to be logic – but sometimes we forget!

I finish with a reminder of my motto '**Service Without Borders**'. This I have chosen because the services we can give should have no borders. We are to be ready to give and help where it is needed and when it is needed. Let us be open minded and do what is expected of us.

Y'sly Yours, Lasse Bergstedt, International President

IP Bulletin and IHQ News

IHQ Update

Since the International Council Meeting 07, which took place in Adelaide, we at IHQ have been involved in many different tasks, which have given us a very positive feeling that many good actions are taking place in our Movement. I wish to share some of them with all of you.

Regional Director Elect Training took place in Aalborg (Europe), Indianapolis (United States, Canada and South Pacific) and Seoul (Asia). The three training sessions were very motivational and informative, with valuable contents, leaving the Regional Directors with new tools and skills to take on their responsibilities and carry out their tasks as is expected. More than that, the training sessions were not only attended by the Regional Directors Elect but also around 20 people, including Area and Regional Leaders, were at each one. One topic presented at each training session was "membership" and it is obvious that the leadership in all Areas and Regions is aware and deeply motivated to continue to make special efforts to increase the Y's Men Membership.

In connection with the Regional Director Elect Training in Indianapolis, I had the pleasure to attend meetings with the CEO of the USA YMCA and with the CEO of the Metropolitan Chicago YMCA.

The meeting with the CEO of the USA YMCA was attended by AP Fred Leonard, PIP Rachele Reeg and IP Lasse Bergstedt. We left the meeting with a strong feeling that we are at the start of a new stage in the cooperation and mutual support between the YMCA and Y's Men in the USA. The readiness of the YMCA to promote the formation of new Clubs in the USA was the most encouraging outcome of this meeting.

The meeting with the CEO of the Metropolitan Chicago YMCA was coordinated and attended by RD Benno Friedrich and here again the commitment of the YMCA to promote the formation of Clubs in their branches is very promising.

It is my hope that this very positive mutual support between the YMCA and Y's Men can be expanded all around the USA Area and that our Movement can start new growth in the country where it was founded.

Meanwhile in Geneva, the International office has been going through some exciting changes. This has included a move from the former first floor offices of the Geneva YMCA to the second floor. The result is an improved office space that offers an enhanced team environment with staff members more centrally located to each other and the office facilities.

The annual transition of the Youth Intern also took place with the recent arrival of Ms Aeree Baik from Korea. She replaced James Olle from Australia. Amongst the many other tasks of the Youth Intern, Aeree will be busy organising and promoting the upcoming International Youth Convocation in Herning, Denmark (28 July – 3 August, 2008). You can find more information regarding the Youth Convocation and other Youth issues in Youth World 41, available on the Y's Men International website.

Although he is no longer the Youth Intern, we have not bid farewell to James. He has taken up a new position at IHQ as a member of staff and is busy learning many new aspects of our organisation. James has taken over some of Carol's responsibilities as she begins to gradually reduce her workload from this month in preparation for her retirement in July 2008. While James is now more involved in the administrative aspects of the office, he remains passionate about Youth Involvement and will utilise his experience to continue its promotion by supporting YI Aeree and the Youth and Y's Men membership.

Pauline, Carol and Andrew continue to be very supportive during this challenging transition period for IHQ staff.

Rolando Dalmás
International Secretary General

Time of Fast Award Patches

At ICM 07, it was decided to remind Regional Directors that we have '**Time of Fast Award Patches**' available for those Clubs who wish to have a recognition for their substantial contributions yearly to Time of Fast. Accordingly, on the confirmation of the RSDs' reporting, once they are informed of their highest contribution, the Regions may order the patches if they wish to award them to the respective clubs.

The Award patches are as follows.

Bronze Award = for clubs contributing per member the equivalent cost of one meal.

Silver Award = for clubs contributing per member the equivalent cost of two meals

Gold Award = for clubs contributing per member the equivalent cost of four meals

As we all know, the motto for Time of Fast 'Skip one meal' stands for the idea that all members make the same 'sacrifice' for this wonderful programme. The contributions come from different countries but many have different costs. To keep the standard of the awards more valuable, based on the cost of a meal at a restaurant rate in different regions, it has been decided to group them in four different costs. The suggested cost of one meal in CHF for the years 2007/09/10, to be eligible for the patches are as follows:

Africa, Sri Lanka, Philippines CHF 3

India, Latin America/Caribbean,
Former East European Countries CHF 8

South East Asia, Taiwan,
Canada, USA CHF 12

Europe, South Pacific, Japan, Korea CHF 16

All clubs should ensure the Regional Director is aware of Time of Fast donations.
Good Luck !

Rita Hettiaracchchi ISD TOF 2007/08

A New Partnership - A New Opportunity

The United Nations granted a special consultative status to Y's Men International in July of 2006. This status is awarded to non-governmental organizations whose purpose, objectives, agenda, and actions are in line with the U.N. agenda.

To receive and retain this status provides our clubs an opportunity to be involved with issues that are parallel with our areas of service to persons around the world. Clubs can observe United Nations Day - October 24 - with a special event to gain information or to perform a local project.

The United Nations website is a wonderful resource and provides links to the service components of its various committees. In addition, the United Nations Association, a civic organization located in many countries and cities, attracts persons interested in the work of the United Nations. Local chapters provide information about the U.N.'s current political issues and humanitarian projects. They sponsor special events, which promote the work of the U.N. Speakers are available for club meetings and opportunities may be there for clubs to join in with special programmes. Check out that website for local access to their activities.

Besides keeping informed, Y's Men International is required to make a report of its activities performed in conjunction with United Nations endeavours. Our Committee on Consultative Status with the United Nations included an action plan in its report accepted by the International Council in 2007. Among the several proposals is one that addresses the universal goal of eliminating the threat of malaria worldwide by the year 2012. At this time, the committee is investigating how our clubs might work in this health field along with the United Nations and will present a specific project for Council approval. Thus, Y's Men International will fulfill the responsibility of acknowledging the duty that accompanies the right of our U.N. status.

Rachelle Reeg, Y's Men's Liaisons to the YMCA

International Convention - Herning 2008

Greetings to members of Y's Men International across the world, from Australia, 'The Great South Land of the Holy Spirit.' !

It's my privilege and honour to have been appointed as Chairman for the 68th International Convention to be held in Herning, Denmark, from July 31st to August 3rd, 2008.

Running in conjunction with the International Convention, is the International Youth Convocation which will be held at Hammerum Agricultural College, just a few kilometres from Herning, from July 29th to August 3rd

In April 2007, I attended a series of meetings in Herning and was impressed by IC and IYC venues and by the thorough preparations already being carried out by the Host Committee under the competent leadership of Chairman, Peter Leer.

Region Denmark, and Y's Men's Clubs of District Stora in particular, have assumed responsibility for all aspects of the Convention and are working extremely hard to ensure that IC '08 and IYC '08 will be successful – AND EVENTS NOT TO BE MISSED !

The 68th International Convention presents a wonderful opportunity for all to visit the Royal Danish Islands, to enjoy a rich and unique culture, and to explore the spectacular natural features of Central and West Jutland.

Herning, the Convention City, still retains its unique village atmosphere, while at the same time successfully integrating more recent developments; thriving businesses, modern shops and restaurants, educational institutions and Art and Cultural Museums.

The IC '08 venue, Herning Kongress Centre, has modern Conference facilities and is situated in the Town Centre, within easy walking distance of most hotels.

Region Denmark, the International Convention Committee and the Host Committee are all committed to providing a fun-filled time of fellowship for all participants, and we extend a very warm invitation to all who are able, to gather in Herning to be part of what will be an exciting and unforgettable International Convention.

Check out details at www.ic2008ysmen.dk
Dale Fotheringham
International Convention Committee
Chairman

YMCA Peace Day

YMCA Peace Day was observed on November 17 across the world of the YMCA. The message on the thought-provoking poster from the World Alliance of YMCA's reads: "Be a peacemaker! YMCA builds community with everyone."

Accompanying this message was this scripture text: "If one member of the body suffers, all the members suffer with it: if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it."
(1 Cor 12 v 26)

Although it is past the day of observance, seeking peace in our own lives and building it in our world is a worthy goal for every day.

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Editor

Alan Wallington

21 Overdale Road, Downend, Bristol BS16 2RU, England

Tel: +44 (117) 9568285 - Skype phone: ysmanwally

email: editor@ysmen.co.uk

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Josey Joseph

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