

Le Bon Mot

Newsletter for the John R Mott Chapter of YMCA Retirees of Iowa and Nebraska

THE PRESIDENTS DESK

Newsletter November/December 2026

Thanks to everyone who attended the Mott Chapter meeting in West Des Moines, IA. It was a great gathering. Our speakers: General Charles Causey, United States Army Chaplain, Wade Redinger, State Alliance Director (Iowa/Nebraska), and Cameron Nicholson, President/CEO YMCA Greater Des Moines.

After our break on Friday, Vernon Delpesce shared about his book "Seasoned and Sent"; Retirement is not God's finish line. Vernon challenges the common narrative that retirement is about slowing down, fading out, or simply "taking it easy." Instead, he presents a powerful, hope filled vision of retirement as one of meaningful and impactful seasons of a man's life. This book came about with him meeting with a small group of retired men here at Valley Community Center and expanded to his other church in Union, Iowa. As he stated the content of this book would also be applicable to women too. He brought copies of the book for our group. If you are interested, I am sure he would be glad to get a copy to you.

On Friday Jim Weaton gave the opening thought and shared his booklet titled "Mission Moments in Retirement." Why were these parables written in retirement? Jim shared that he discovered that it can be a season when we finally step back far enough to understand what our work-and our lives-have truly meant. I would encourage those who could not attend to contact Jim and ask for copy of this amazing booklet.

A very special thank you to Vernon Delpesce for arranging and hosting our Mott Chapter at the Valley Community Center, securing our speakers, and for making the hotel arrangements, and selecting Urban Cellar for our dinner gathering.

It was agreed that we will cancel our Spring 2027 Mott Chapter so that everyone will register and attend the National YMCA Alumni Conference in Kansas City, MO June 16,17,18 2027.

Membership renewal packets will be coming soon. Don't delay. Sign Up Today!! Louie



MOTT COMMITTEES

NATIONAL ALUMNI
REUNION by Dave Rogers

June 16,17,18, 2027
in Kansas City, MO Wednesday-Saturday filled with activities and learning opportunities. Registration will open Sept. 2, 2026. Look for information in the Connection.

Embassy Suites Hotel by Hilton, just 4 miles from the airport, with a free 24-hour shuttle has been selected as our hotel location. Some sites to see are:
..National World War I Museum
..Harry S Truman Presidential Library and Museum in Independence, MO.
..Nigro Baseball League Museum
..Hallmark Museum

Many of the activities will be held near the Hallmark Crown Center.

The Mott Chapter will be using this venue for their Spring meeting. Register today. Guests are welcome.

Dave Rogers (Central Vice President.)
daverogers317@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Louie wanted to remind everyone that membership renewal is approaching with packets being sent out in early November. Y Alumni can renew online (I believe the tab is connect not renew) or by mail between November and February. Mail to: YMCA Alumni Lowell Nees, PO BOX 133, Bowling Green, OH 43402

Also, Dave Patterson will be stepping down as National Membership Chair. If any of our Mott members are interested, they should contact Phil Morgan, Alumni President. Contact: phillmrgn1@att.net



EAF by Rich Schoffelman
(Jill, Rich, Louie, Shirley)

The Emergency Assistance Fund brings gifts of hope, relief, and reassurance to fellow YMCA colleagues facing difficult moments of financial need. Remember, this is personal. The Mott Chapter gave an additional $100.00

Go online to ymcaeaf.org or send a check mailed to;

YMCA EAF
c/o YMCA of USA
PO Box 7411037
Chicago, IL 60674-11037

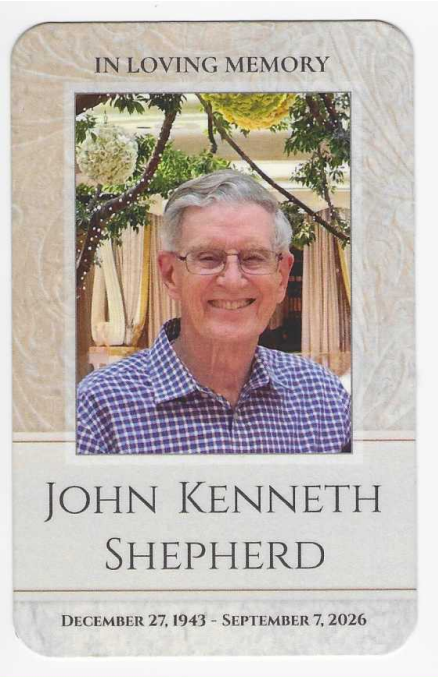
Be sure to identify your Chapter.
Thank you for your generous support!

Farewell to John Shepherd

Marv and I and Bruce and Karron Wands attended John Shepherds funeral on Saturday, September 19, 2026 at the Floral Hills Funeral Home in Kansas City, MO.

Marv and John were classmates at George Williams College. They both loved the game of volleyball instilled in them by a common mentor Tom Myers. Although their Y careers separated them, they found themselves back in the Midwest during retirement and reconnected. This reunion turned bittersweet when we heard of John's diagnosis.

The funeral home was filled with guests and welcoming family members. Their openness toward us was part of the testament that John had demonstrated the value of connection. The one thing I did not expect was to hear John singing as recordings from church and performance events were played back during the visitation. Rest in Peace Brother.



Monthly Celebrations



Birthdays for November

Mary Carol Fish	11/30

Birthdays for December

Nancy Zimmer	12/10

Anniversaries for November

Joe and Scottie Soczek	11/23

Anniversaries for December

Jack and Mary Carol Fish	12/27

From Care Officer Marv Zimmermann

I am not sure that I have everyone's Birthdays and Anniversaries. If you have not seen your name come up this year, please submit this information so I can celebrate with you.

Our next cluster lunch gathering will be in Charles City, Dec 16 at Dave's Restaurant 11:30am. Hope the weather holds. See You There!

Marv

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Pictures from the Fall meeting



Lobby of Homewood Suites



Group photo left to right: V Delpsce, K Wands, B Wands, C Zimmermann, N Zimmer, M Zimmermann, R Schoftelman, L Warren, J Weaton, H Coates, Joe Soczek, S Soczek, M Rogers, D Rogers, M Coates



Vernon Delpesce, Nick Zimmer

CHECK OUT THE YMCA ALUMNI WEBSITE FOR ALL UPDATES!!
www.ymcaalumni.org

How to Donate/Renew

MEMBERSHIP Mail to:
YMCA Alumni Lowell Nees
PO Box 133
Bowling Green, OH 43402

EAF: Mail to YMCA USA EAF
Po Box 7411037
Chicago, IL 60674-11037
Memo line: designate chapter

NATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT
Mail to YMCA Alumni Treasurer
PO Box 725
West Chester, OH 45071
Memo line: designate chapter

WORLD SERVICE
Mail to: Y-USA World Service
Po box 7411037
Chicago, IL 60606
Memo line: designate chapter

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Our Mott Chapter goal is 100 % participation in all Alumni organizations. Thank you for your support!