



Le Bon Mot



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

January-February Newsletter 2026

Love is in the Air

Thank you for all the submissions from our members. This is a great way to tell more of your story.

The question asked was, “How did you meet your spouse or significant other.”

Barb Sturms responded:

My story of Jim and I.

I was teaching school in Newton, IA and I was the advisor to the YMCA Live-Wire Girls group. We had a mixer (dance) with the High Y boys group at the Marshalltown Y. Jim was the program director back in 1958. I met Jim at the dance.

Barb told us that their first Valentine’s Day she gave Jim a card and he gave her a box of candy. That became their tradition. Barb said she reused the same card each year. Their children found the item when cleaning out the house and decided to keep these memories alive.

John Blomstedt responded:

My wife Debra and I met while attending Midland Lutheran College (now Midland University) in Fremont, NE. I was a junior and she was a sophomore. We were in the same math class and she let me become her study partner. We dated over 2 years before I asked her to marry me over Thanksgiving break her senior year. We decided to get married over the Christmas break to help her save money on her room and board. On Dec 23, we celebrated our 44th anniversary.



Scottie Soczek responded:

We met at a weekly mixer in Washington D.C.