



Le Bon Mot



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

SAVE THE DATES APRIL 23-24, 2026

We had a very successful cluster luncheon in Fairfield, Iowa with Jack and Mary Carol Fish and Jim Weaton who planned our Spring meeting in Fairfield. It was truly amazing to watch the ideas pour out and the itinerary appear. Jim also printed up a detailed flier with all the information which I will attach.

Here are the highlights of the meeting. April 23-24, Thursday/Friday in Fairfield, IA

****Thursday 23****

9am Golf option at the Fairfield Golf and Country Club.

1pm Kickoff/Social Time at the office of Weaton ACT. 300 N 16th Str

2pm Presentation by Nate and Lori Weaton. Family-owned companies of Creative Edge, AGRI Industrial Plastics, and Bovard Studios.

4pm Social time at the Fairfield Country Club. 905 E Harrison Ave.

5pm Dinner at the Fairfield Country Club

7pm Songs of Neil Diamond's I AM HE SAID Concert at the Conventions Center 200 N Main Str.

****Itinerary Continued****

****Friday 24****

8am Breakfast at Weaton ACT LLC

9am Opening Devotional

Chapter meeting

11am Adjourn

****STAY AND PLAY****

AmericInn by Wyndham 641-451-6600

Room block under YMCA Reunion

Cost/Night \$130+ Tax

Reservation deadline: March 22, 2026

Event Registration email:

j.weaton@lisco.com

Generous donors from the Fairfield community are covering all costs except hotel stay. There are no registration fees.



Marv, Jim, Connie, Mary Carol, Jack

CORRESPONDENCE

Jim Weaton shared this devotion.

A few years ago, Nancy and I attended our grandsons' out-of-town game where it went into overtime. It was a chilly and rainy evening, but the game was nail biter and well played by both teams. The best part about the evening, besides watching our grandsons, was winning the game 16-15!! But we were exhausted by the game's end.

As a result of the length of the game, it was quite late when we and other fans embarked on our journey back home. The next day, one of the fans shared a story about their travel home experience, that although humorous, provided yet another of life's quick lessons.

The fan drove up and back with another fan. Being extremely tired and distracted from the excitement of the game, they missed a turn and ended up in another community-about 45 minutes out of their way. The fan realized a bit too late that they should have turned on the GPS (Global Positioning System) for guidance, and pay more attention to the late, dark, and unfamiliar roads they were on to get home safely.

Here is my moral to the story: In life, we often cruise through a day, distracted, and focused only on our own desires and passions. And sometimes, we make a wrong turn in our life that requires a "global positioning system" that heads us back in the right directions. That GPS, friends, happens to be Gods **Plan in Scripture** and God's promise to **'get us home safely'**.

At the end of the day, our Spiritual GPS will put us in the right place at the right time, and we will never get lost! That is, as long as we follow the instructions from the 'owner's manual'! *For with God, nothing shall be impossible.* **Luke 1:37**

Blessings, Jim

During our Charles City cluster lunch in January Judy Thorton shared this story with Hank and Jo Bagelmann, Joe and Scottie Sozcek, Marv and I. Her neighborhood phone line lit up when a doe wandered into town and dropped her twins in Judy's back yard and her neighbor's back yard. So cute!! They spent the summer hiding in the bushes and eating their flowers and other vegetation. The neighbors made sure they had fresh water and kept in constant communication with each other about their movements in the area. They named them Fred and Feebie. By the end of summer they seemed to be orphans, since the doe had not been sighted in awhile. Fred and Feebie hung out in the area and thrived all summer bringing smiles and fellowship to the neighborhood. In the fall, they disappeared as quickly as they had come, called back to the wild.



Mott Chapter News

Rich Schoffelman reported on EAF (Mott Chapter Chair EAF)

A sincere thank you to the Mott Chapter members contributing to EAF 2025 and year end campaign. As many of you are aware, EAF (Emergency Assistance Fund) has helped YMCA staff members weather some of life's tougher moments—from medical emergencies and natural disasters or other unforeseen crisis. EAF is powered by us, YMCA employees past and present.

Every gift regardless of size brings hope, relief, and reassurance to fellow YMCA colleagues facing hardship. Every dollar makes a difference.

In 2025 nine Mott Chapter members contributed. A total of \$18,000 was given by members of the 18 chapters throughout the country.

Again, thank you for your caring and generosity.



Rich Schoffelman

Nick Zimmer is a contributing editor with the new Y online magazine called PERSPECTIVE. In case you missed it the PERSPECTIVE was brought back on FEB 16 and will be published on line quarterly.

His first article is titled “Everybody wants my money”

I found this interesting because several members including Jo Bagelmann addressed this very question at one of the cluster meetings. It is difficult to determine if an agency is legitimate and exactly how your dollars are used. Nick addresses these very questions and lists a number of businesses that rank each charity. His article is attached.



Nick Zimmer

In closing Marv and I and Jim Weaton attended Barb Sturms funeral on Feb 27 It was a lovely tribute to both Jim and Barb.

Monthly Celebrations



Birthdays for March

Judy Thornton	03/23
Nick Zimmer	03/31

Birthdays for April

Lynne Springer	04/05
Connie Zimmermann	04/08
Kathy Shepherd	04/12

CHECK OUT THE YMCA ALUMNI WEBSITE FOR ALL UPDATES!!

www.ymcaalumni.org

How to Donate/Renew

MEMBERSHIP Mail to:

YMCA Alumni Lowell Nees
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EAF: Mail to Y USA EAF
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Chicago, IL 60606
Memo line: designate chapter

NATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT

Mail to YMCA Alumni Treasurer
PO Box 725
West Chester, OH 45071
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WORLD SERVICE

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

Mott Chap. Pres.: Marv Zimmermann

mrzclz@gmail.com

641-792-9518

Incoming Pres. Dave Snow
402-502-3331

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