



Le Bon Mot



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

HOP ON THE BUS, GUS

Newsletter May/June 2026



Jim Weaton, Debra Blomstedt, John Blomstedt, Marv Zimmermann, Jack Fish, Marty Rogers, Dave Rogers, Nick Zimmer, Nancy Zimmer, Mary Carol Fish, Hank Bagelmann, Jo Bagelmann, Louie Warren, Lynne Springer, Jon Springer

Our Spring meeting in Fairfield was filled with fun, friends, and family. Our hosts Jim Weaton, Jack and Mary Carol Fish planned outings with our Mott friends and business insights with family members of Jim Weaton

Thursday morning some of the young at heart met for a round of golf at the Fairfield Golf and Country Club. This is the oldest golf course west of the Mississippi River and the pride and joy of Fairfield and our own Jim Weaton.

The afternoon was spent learning about local businesses that the Weaton family is involved with. Lori Weaton (President) presented for AGRI Plastics and Nate Weaton (President) presented for Creative Edge & Bovard Studios. Unique businesses putting Fairfield on the map. The town of Fairfield rolled out the welcome matt and funded our activities including the evening Neil Diamond tribute concert. The Weaton business skills are impressive A big thank you to our hosts.



CORRESPONDENCE

JIM WEATON shared this devotion.

It's a beautiful day in the Fairfield Neighborhood!

Before retiring (I call it rewired,) I was national events director for the YMCA. Part of my job was directing major conferences called Y-EXPOS which drew 800-1,000 participants. My job was also to open the conference with an 'icebreaker' activity/take home message highlighting our conference theme. Below is one of my favorites.

After an official welcome, I gave each person a balloon and told them to write their name on it. Then, the balloons were collected and moved to another ballroom next door. The participants were asked to go into the other ballroom quickly and find their balloon in 2 minutes! **It was chaos!!** People were searching frantically for their balloon, running into each other, heads down while grabbing a balloon, and inevitably batting it to the side looking for theirs. At the end of 2 minutes, no one had found their balloon.

Then I asked the participants to pick up one balloon at random, look at the name, and return it to its owner. What happened in the next few minutes was **AWESOME!** Everyone with their heads up yelling out names of people; groups being formed to quickly assist each other; when a person was found, an exchange of names and hellos; and when the person had their own balloon, immediately seeking to help someone else find theirs. I can't claim that everyone found their balloon in two minutes – it was actually eight.

This was my message. This is what it's like when people frantically search for their own happiness in life. People push others aside to get to the things that they want NOW that they believe will bring them happiness. However, our happiness lies in helping other people – and along the way building **relationships** and a sense of **community**. You WILL find your happiness if you slow down and help other people find theirs.

Having concern for other people helps us remember that we are all facing similar problems in life. We are social beings that need to have positive connections with other people in order to be happy. Connecting with other people enriches our lives and gives us a sense of fulfillment.

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.”

Phillipians 2:3

Be Blessed Today!

Jim

NEW OFFICERS INSTALLED



Left to right: Treasurer- Mary Carol Fish, President-Louie Warren, Secretary/Editor- Connie Zimmermann

MOTT COMMITTEES

Rich Schoffelman reports 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.

Although, being one of the smaller chapters we were the same average of giving as all other chapters.

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

NSP UPDATE by Nick Zimmer

Check the Connection and review fliers sent from chapter for current volunteer and donation opportunities. The current project started in 2020, led by Lou Faulk, will be completed this year 2026 and is financially secure with future gifts. If you have ideas for a service project, let your voice be heard.

NATIONAL ALUMNI
REUNION by Dave Rogers

June 16,17,18, 2027
in Kansas City, MO Sign up in the fall. Wednesday-Saturday filled with activities and learning opportunities. The committee has been selected and their attendance goal is 200. Please reserve the date now. If you have ideas for presenter topics submit them to Dave Rogers (Central Vice President.)
daverogers317@gmail.com



Monthly Celebrations



Birthdays for May

Jim Weaton	05/11
Hazel Coates	05/14
Marv Zimmermann	05/18
Janis Berry	05/26

Birthdays for June

Jan Lauterbach	06/06
Scottie Soczek	06/13
Joe Soczek	06/19
Connie Snow	06/20

Anniversaries for June

Hank and Jo Bagelmann	06/09
Jon and Lynne Springer	06/10

Louie Warren will be contacting members to set up our fall meeting in October hopefully in central Iowa. If you like to serve on the next meeting contact Louie :
louiewarren19@gmail.com

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 621
Bowling Green, OH 43402

EAF: Mail to Y USA EAF

101 N Wacker Dr 15th Floor
Chicago, IL 60606

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

Mott Chap. Pres.: Louie Warren

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402-598-5235

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