The newsletter of the C. B. Willis Chapter of YMCA Alumni founded in 1936

ymca ALUMNI

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Sandpaper

November 2026 Volume 88 Issue 5

RECONNECT is more than just sending in your contribution or dues ... it is sharing your affinity for the friends and colleagues that helped make your Y career so successful!

We have a network of those like you who still want to continue their relationships and contacts with the Y which meant so much to them over the years. RECONNECTING is what we do. It is part of our DNA . It is being with those who share the same values as we do that makes us special. Even if your contact is only through the newsletters, it is that connection that confirms the realization that we are alumni of the greatest social services organization in the world ... that our career made a difference in people's lives. Reconnecting is keeping in touch. It is taking the past and projecting it into the now and future. It is extending relationships, both new and old. It is why there is a YMCA Alumni Association. Reconnect as we continue to CONNECT-TRAVEL-SERVE.

Co-Presidents' Message

Arlinda Quinones/Mike Santos



Winter Greeting friends, what is not to love about this time of the year when the temperature is starting to get cooler making it easier to breathe and enjoy the outdoors without melting from the otherwise extreme humidity.

The holiday season is a wonderful time to gather with love ones and to remember those less fortunate by extending a helping hand. This further reminds us that whether we know someone or not, the connections we make inspires wonderful commitments. Let us rejoice remembering that the gifts we make to this wonderful movement called the Y continues to impact lives worldwide. Make your contributions matter. Each one of us knows why we do what we do. Let inspiration reign!

While we didn't get enough folks for a December gathering in Daytona courtesy of **Bob and Donna Martin ,** they would like to host a dinner party in the spring 2027, stay tuned!

Note to our members in the Palm Beach and Ft. Lauderdale areas, we will be in town from December 20-27 and would love to meet any members for lunch or early dinner, location to be determined.

We want to wish everyone a joyous, prosperous and healthier new year.

Put it in your calendar today!

JUNE 2027 Kansas City YMCA ALUMNI REUNION

We're heading to
Kansas City, MO
for the
YMCA Alumni Reunion '27,
hosted by the
Central Region Chapters.

June 16-19, 2027

Registration will open soon.

Editorial: Kudos

Phil Wortman, Sandpaper Editor, Stahl Award Recipient

Kudos to those who thought of rephrasing the name of the 2026 YMCA Alumni Membership Campaign from "Renew" to "Reconnect"... will that subtle change lead to a paradigm shift for the organization?

Words mean something. The task of a wordsmith is to use words to convey a mindset. Just the subtle change of one word can redirect the mind of the reader.

Renew implies making something fresh and new again ... starting over or returning from some past point of origin.

Reconnect implies restoring and extending an ongoing process that has had a momentary pause but continues to move forward.

Renew focuses on starting over from a stop to initiate a new start; whereas, reconnect focuses on reuniting and continuing to move from the past into the future.

Reconnect is getting back in touch, restoring relationships that once were enjoyed or reestablishing a link that once existed. It's like picking up on the lives of old friends and colleagues, sharing experiences, rebuilding a bond and sharing an affinity for common interests.

Reconnect provides a positive mindset in which to take action. It calls for the organization to expand its scope of membership opportunities and experiences to widen the avenues for inclusion for its potential membership market base.

The organization's task is to design its membership structure and engagement opportunities to respond to the wants and desires of the retiree ... not vise versa.

That will require an organizational paradigm shift. What would make you want to reconnect?

Again, kudos to those who made the change. Though its impact may be subliminal, it may influence some forward thinking.

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ymcaalumni.org

Reconnect on line!

It is so easy to do, just visit the website, check the chart for your chapter dues, fill out the form, hit "submit" and you are reconnected for 2027.

Crazy Captions: Did They Really Say That?

I think I know but I will never tell



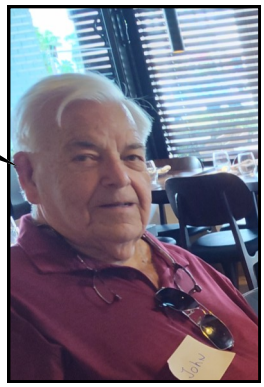


I won't tell, but it was me.



Are these people for real?

J4L



Don't look now, but that guy by my left shoulder has been following me all day.



All is well and this glass of wine will make it better.



(Photos from October 2026 J4L)

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YMCA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MISSION

To provide opportunities for members to Connect, Travel, and Serve while nurturing a worldwide Christian fellowship.

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