



<http://www.ymcaalumni.org>

Pacific Northwest

OLD GUARD NEWS
ALLEN-STONE CHAPTER

You are all invited:

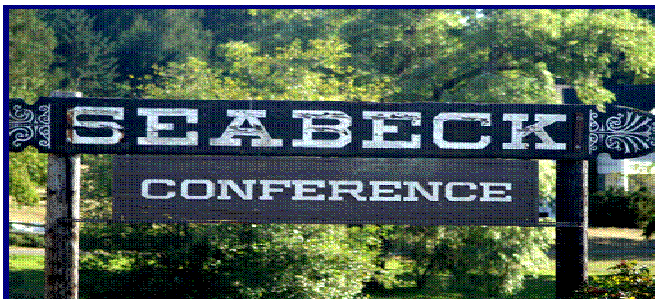
A p r i l 2 0 2 6



Thinking of Seabeck September 21-23, 2026

Seabeck Conference Center provides organizations with the perfect escape from the hectic pace of daily life. The facilities are located on 90 beautiful acres with sweeping views of Hood Canal and the Olympic Mountains. The grounds are reminiscent of a small village, complete with walkways that meander past manicured lawns, wooded trails and resident deer.

The annual event for Allen-Stone is on the horizon. Mark your calendar and plan to join us. If you haven't joined in the past, give this event a nod and plan to come. For over 30 years we have participated with great fellowship for new and old members, informative speakers, and a chance to share and participate.



**Registration and info
coming in the next
Newsletter
Watch for It!**

A Great Big Island Adventure: Gary Huff

We had a wonderful Y-Alumni Adventure on the Big Island of Hawaii, Feb 16-20. John and Debby Ciambone, Y-Alumni who live on the Big Island, served as our hosts and guides. There



were 14 of us visited Hawaii, hiked down to Black Sands Beach, visited Kilauea Volcano, walked thru the Lava Tube, tube in Rainbow Falls, visited Hilo Farmers Market, stopped into a Macadamia Nut center and a Hawaiian



candy factory. We also ate in some iconic restaurants, including the Bamboo Restaurant in Hawaii, the Lava Lava Restaurant in Waikoloa and the

Kilauea Resort Restaurant. At our final dinner we presented John and Debby with our gratitude and agreed that in two years, 2028 we would go to Maui. We want to keep this visit to our Hawaiian friends every two years going. We also agreed that we would invite Y-Alumni from other chapters.

ALLEN-STONE LEADERSHIP

President – Jill Hallin

jillhallin@comcast.net

Vice-President—Sherry Milton

bobandsherry606@msn.com

Treasurer – Jim Leigh

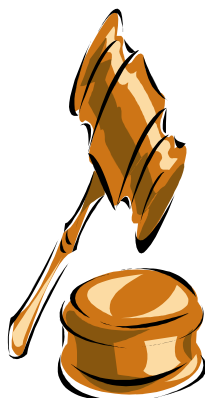
jimfleigh@gmail.com

Incoming President—Rich Wallis

richwallis@comcast.net

Past Presidents – Gary & Lony Huff

glhuff2@olypen.com



Membership—Mike Robinson

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National Service Project

-Gary Huff, National Standing Committee

-Rich Wallis, Boots on the Ground

-Cheri Brennan-Marketing Committee

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President's Message—Jill Halin



Happy Spring to all! I think it is around the corner, at least per the calendar. Where is that yellow orb in the sky that other parts of the county talk about?

Several Allen-Stone and McCoy members were fortunate to enjoy a week in Hawaii in February, and I was among them! I cannot say enough about how well planned and organized everything was and that is due to the hard work of John and Debby Ciambone, Gary Huff and Don and Sue Anderson. Between them, they found fun, interesting and educational places to visit and things to do. They even provided sun and warm wind! The camaraderie and friendship so evident between everyone was heartwarming to witness and be a part of. It was my first time visiting Hawaii and it was a very special week for me. I enjoyed meeting members and catching up with the others!

As you will read in the newsletter, several Allen-Stone activities are also occurring this spring and summer and we have our annual conference in Seabeck September 21-23, 2026. This year is an election year for many positions, so if you are interested in serving in an elected position, or helping on the membership, planning or conference committees, please contact me so we can discuss further. Everyone has talents – because you are Y folks – and sharing your talent can lighten the load for those already involved!

I will close with this saying that I saw on a greeting card and it pertains to us YMCA people: *Great friends are hard to find, difficult to leave and impossible to forget ~*

MANY MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE ANNUAL CAMPAIGN AND MEMBERSHIP IN 2026 WITH ALLEN-STONE & YMCA ALUMNI - Mike Robinson

In 2026 our joint efforts have well surpassed 2025 and it continues to say Allen-Stone always stands tall. We are YMCA retirees living in Hawaii, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana and we continue to live and represent what we all did during our “other lives” when we were working in a variety of communities, states and even world-wide in YMCA work. We total near 600 retirees – all receiving newsletters, notices and events. Overall Allen-Stone is one of the leading chapters across the country –

we are tops in giving to the National Service Project (Tiny Homes & Program Centers for the Sioux YMCA), YMCA World Service, EAF, and disaster responses as well. **ITS NOT TOO LATE!** If you'd like to share with Allen-Stone. Send contribution to Jim Leigh, Treasurer at 7760 Angel Falls Way, Redmond, OR 97756. **YMCA ALUMNI** If you would like to join or if you have overlooked it you can join again in 2026. Check or credit. Go to YMCAAlumni.org/re-connect. Also if this is your first time joining – your membership is **FREE** for the balance of 2026. If you are 90 years of age, membership is free. **YES, YOUR ALLEN-STONE CHAPTER STANDS VERY TALL!**



Dear Fellow Y Alumni retirees,

March 2026

Greetings and sincere thanks to those of you who have contributed generously to the YMCA Emergency Assistance Fund (EAF) as YMCA retirees.

We completed a successful Y Alumni fundraising campaign in 2025, raising in excess of \$20,000 I think. The accounting process for our gifts has been upgraded at the YUSA end and I'm confident that I will be able to give you an exact number for 2026.

As I hope we all know the EAF makes grants to YMCA staff and alumni in times of unexpected need. During my YMCA career I was blessed to nominate and receive EAF grants for two colleagues which I would like to share as examples of the good work that the EAF is able to do thanks to your generosity.

The first was a young program director at a nearby YMCA where my wife Monica happened to work as secretary. Mark was a charismatic guy who drew people to himself as well as to YMCA camp, Youth in Government and other Y youth programs. He was tragically stricken with cancer but worked continuously at the job he loved until he was no longer physically able to do so. Everyone who knew and loved Mark will remember him smiling and saying "it's okay" right until the end. I applied on his behalf and he received an EAF grant to help meet crippling medical expenses as he battled his disease.

Mary was physical director at the YMCA where I worked during the last twelve years of my career. She was the picture of health, a high-energy person as are most physical directors tend to be, and a person of deep faith. While watching TV at home one evening with her family she cried out "Jim my brain is exploding!" She died almost instantly of a brain aneurism. I applied for an EAF grant for her husband Jim to help with costs related to her sudden and tragic death.

These are just two examples from my personal experience of the hundreds of our colleagues and their families who have been lifted up by the EAF in their time of unexpected need.

We as YMCA retirees receive several appeals to give because of our membership in Y Alumni. I hope you will join with Monica and me and include the YMCA Emergency Assistance Fund in your charitable giving for 2026. You may use the attached pledge form and send it in with your check or pledge, or give online at ymcaeaf.org.

Sincerely,

Bob Warnock

Y Alumni EAF Chair

Attention: Want color pictures, clearer pictures, quicker delivery.

Let's go green. We would like to encourage your participation by email. For ease of communications please share your email address with Jane at pattisonjane1@gmail.com or Mike at mikiee.mike@gmail.com. Your address is not shared globally. If you wish to discontinue receiving the newsletter in any format, please email Jane or Mike. Or call Mike at 541.840.8168



YMCA Emergency Assistance Fund –Individual Donation Form

For credit card payments, skip form and go to www.bit.ly/eaf-ymca

For all other EAF Pledges and Donations

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____

Email _____

Y Alumni Member? If yes, list chapter. _____

YPN Member? If yes, list chapter. _____

Please donate today! One-time Donation Amount: _____

Make this a 3-year pledge!

Total gift: _____

Distribution starting year: _____

Year 1 \$ amount: _____ Year 2: _____ Year 3: _____

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Make checks payable to:

YMCA Emergency Assistance Fund

c/o YMCA of the USA

PO Box 7411037

Chicago, IL 60674-11037

For credit card payments, skip form and go to www.bit.ly/eaf-ymca

Check these Websites Out:

YMCA Alumni — <https://www.ymcaalumni.org>

YMCA Retirement Fund — <https://yretirement.org/for-plan-administrators>

Allen-Stone Facebook — www.facebook.com search for Allen-Stone

Sioux Project— <https://wawokiye.org>



Member News:

Craig Frerichs is living in his apartment and is able to get around a little. He has his groceries delivered. Craig has purchased new furniture and had hoped if the chapter had a Portland event, members would be able to visit him.

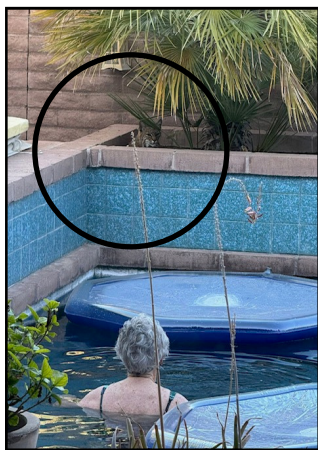


Don Anderson is working on another project in the Philippines. He will write up a report for the next newsletter. Don remains one of our most dedicated YMCA members of Allen-Stone.

Jim & Jan Leigh: Jan was part of humorous Reader's Theater program in their neighborhood clubhouse. Jan was in two of the four skits. In one she was Mary Contrary, the narrator of gardening show called "Dirt". In the other, she was the fairy godmother to Hungarian Cinderella. Costumes for Cinderella were purposefully outrageous. A good time was had by all.



Jim & Jan are heading out on the road through California to Tucson for March to see their son, daughter, brother and lots of friends. They are looking forward to the Shakespeare Festival coming up



Jan Leigh swimming with the Bob Cat while visiting family in Tucson.

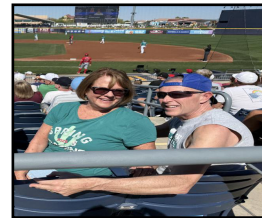
Brave Lady



Mike Robinson has been spending time with a grandson who has a growing interest in Golf. This young 15 year old can hit a sand wedge 140 yards, pitching wedge 165 yards, 7 iron 200 yards. Hoping to get him on the High School Golf team next year.



Tom & Marty Kaufman-Cranney moved to Murano Senior Living on First Hill in Seattle where Tom is engaged in many activities. Mary is reengaged with the Seattle Y and we both are getting lots of support. It's a wonderful place like being on a cruise ship with the City as our port of call. We were able to sneak away to our home Phoenix for March Spring Training and are warming up.



Jane Rosi-Pattison turning 90 does not see that as a reason to turn away from the slopes. Another season.

Keep going Jane!



Dave & Joyce Mercer (Vancouver, WA) "We just got back from an 8 day cruise on the Upper Mississippi. Great time, learned a lot about the early times of Mark Twain. Spent a day at the Field of Dreams site just west of Dubuque Iowa. Brings back a lot of memories of the film. In Spring we will be great grandparents for the second time. Fortunately, the parents live nearby in Seattle. Cruised the lower Mississippi and then Tennessee rivers earlier in the year. Its been a busy time and lots of fun. Had a great time with the Allen-Stone RV group in June. Even though we no longer have an RV. Hotels make a poor substitute, but age does require it."

In January, **George Nichols** and his daughter Kimberly spent two weeks on the Galápagos Islands. The Galápagos Islands, located on the equator, are known for Charles Darwin, giant tortoises, rare birds, and marine life. Highlights included:

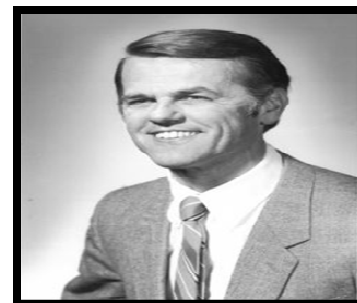
- Walking amongst the giant tortoises
- Seeing the blue-footed boobies
- Seeing the Galápagos penguin
- Swimming in the warm 75-degree Pacific Ocean — not typical of where we usually swim in Puget Sound at 46 degrees!



Perhaps the most unusual and rare sight on the islands was the 83-year-old tourist — George Nichols!

Remembering:**Ralph Drake**

Ralph was born in Toledo, Ohio where he attended school then George Williams College . He received a Master's Degree in Counseling and Guidance from Miami U in Oxford, Ohio in 1961. He and new wife Barbara started his YMCA career together by spending that first summer at Toledo's YMCA Camp Store as Assistant Camp Director.



His first professional job started in 1951 with Dayton, Ohio YMCA as Boys Work Secretary at the Fairborn Branch. Then they moved on to Wilmington, Delaware and served as Program Director at Brandywine Branch. Then it was on to a job as Assistant Camping Services Director for the YMCA of Greater New York. Next he spent several years as Camp Administrator with the Akron, Ohio YMCA, Detroit YMCA and YMCA Camp Sloane in Lakeville CT. In 1984 he left his camping career and became director of the Reno Family YMCA and retired after 34 years in 1995.

During retirement he remained active at the Y for several years before its demise and served in many leadership positions at the Reno First United Methodist Church. He continued his love of racquetball and with several buddies over the years organized annual reunions.

Ralph and Barbara hosted the 2015 "Great Western Round Up" YMCA Reunion in Reno.

Memorials can be made in his name to YMCA World Service or Reno First United Methodist Church (209 West First Street, Reno NV 89501).

RICHARD L "DICK" KNAPP

Dick was born in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and graduated from the U of Idaho in 1965 with a degree in education. His first Y job was in Kellogg, Idaho as PE and Youth Director waiting to find his first teach/coaching job. He did not realize that the "Y" would soon become his passion and career. He and Sandra moved to Seattle in 1970 where he was the PE Director at the Seattle Downtown YMCA. Next was onto the West Seattle Y as Associate Executive. In 1978 they moved to Mount Vernon where he was the Executive Director of the Skagit Valley Family. Even though he changed to real estate for a few years, he always had a special connection to the "Y" and joined the board several years later. His greatest joy was the day the new "Y" opened its doors. He was a member of First Evangelical Lutheran Church.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the YMCA of your favorite charity.

DECEASED

Dec. 2025

Maria Hutchinson

Jan. 2026

Ralph Drake

Richard "L" Dick Knapp

RETIREES

Susan Baumgartner

Billings Family Y - Female Rover 39 years

Susan Bordges

YMCA of Inland NW - Spokane

RSVP Volunteer Board - 4 years

Steven Meng

YMCA Kalamath Falls

Exec. Director - 23 years

Linda Vogt - YMCA of Inland N.W.

Exec. Dir. Of Camp Reed - 16 years

DID YOU KNOW!

National Service Project



A prototype small YMCA branch, called a “Twig,” in the tiny town of La Plant, SD (pop. 167 in the 2020 census) is the second and final phase of the initial YMCA Alumni National Service Project, conducted in partnership with the YMCA of the Seven Council Fires on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation. The Twig will be constructed from large shipping containers used for storage during the first phase of the project and is expected to be built and completed in 2026 and will serve as a headquarters for local YMCA programming.



Be sure to book official **YMCA Alumni Travel Club** Adventures and your own individual, family, and referred friends' travel through *Go Travel's* expert agents. YMCA Alumni's national budget receives a percentage of all sales, and you get the best prices, advice, and a smooth booking experience.

2026 will bring a C.I.E. luxury motor coach visit to **Spain's amazing cities**; cruise **Classic Canada** from Quebec City to Boston in the fall color season, and sail into **Alaska** before the crowds. 2027 includes a **Danube river cruise**, a **round-trip cruise to the Hawaiian Islands**, and an **Atlantic Crossing** with stops in the Canary Islands and Morocco.

YMCA ALUMNI REUNION '27
WE'VE GOT A DATE IN KANSAS CITY



Everybody's got a date in Kansas City. Ours are June 16-19, 2027

We're heading to **Kansas City, Missouri**, for the **YMCA Alumni Reunion '27** hosted by the Central Region chapters. Vice President Dave Rogers and his Reunion Committee are working on all the details. Watch this space, *The Connection*, your chapter newsletter, and our Facebook page for updates. Put **June 16-19, 2027** in your calendar today.

APRIL

- Bill Reed 4/5
- Susan Anderson 4/8
- Eric Nelson 4/14
- Tom Oliva 4/18
- Joyce Laurence 4/19
- Nanci Morris 4/25
- Joyce Leak 4/28

MAY

- Ruth Heathman 5/11
- Fred Stickney 5/25
- Ada Taylor 5/15
- Barbara Drake 5/27

JUNE

- David King 6/1
- Phil Grimm 6/17
- Sheila Tiemans 6/14
- Ellen Elanbass 6/28



NEW CHAPTER PRESIDENTS JOIN 'ONBOARDING' SESSION WITH LEADERS

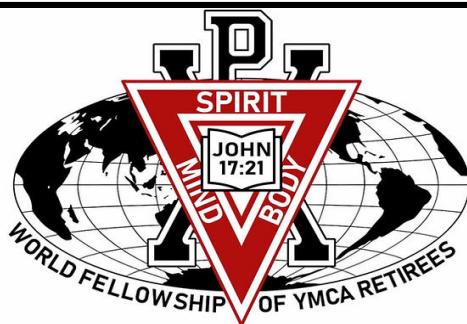


New chapter presidents and/or president-elects are: Top row L-R -- Laura Kampermann (Weatherford); Bob McDowell (Central Atlantic); Lee Muckey (McCoy); Lisa Drouin (New England), and Jim Heiman (Schreiner). Bottom row L-R -- Nels Bagnardi (Greater Ozark); Teresa Hill (Grand Canyon); Dave Phelps (Messer-Brandenburg); Rich Wallis (Allen-Stone), and Dave Snow (Mott).

More than half of our YMCA Alumni chapters either have new presidents in place in 2026 or have named presidents-elect for 2027. Most of them attended a special "onboarding" Zoom session last month to have some of their important questions answered by YMCA Alumni leaders before the full "48 Hours" training event in St. Louis, June 3-5.

DATES TO REMEMBER 2026

- Ashland Shakespeare Festival: May 6-9
- Summer RV event. TBD
- Portland Event: June 2026
- Seabeck: Sept. 21-23
- YMCA Alumni Reunion June 16-19, 2027



World Federation of YMCA Retirees (WFYR)

WFYR is an organization composed of YMCA Retiree chapters worldwide.

The organization holds a conference every four years in conjunction with the World Council of the YMCA. The next event is set for July 2026 in Toronto, Canada. The current WFYR Chair is Kohei Yamada. Chair-elect is Helene Weir.

More info: check out <https://www.YMCAAlumni.org/partners>



Happy Anniversary

- Jerry and Pat James 64-June 1
- Mike and Sharon Robinson 59-June 3
- Ken and Iris Little 73-June 8
- Jerry and Elsie Turner 64-June 26

NEWS DEADLINE

Deadline for articles/news for the Next Chapter newsletter is

June 20th, 2026

Email TO: pattisonjanel@gmail.com

Or Send to: **Jane Rosi-Pattison**
2940 Harris St. Road
Kelso, WA 98626

Please send your Birthday and Anniversary info to be shared with the Allen-Stone Community.

Forward to Jane at pattisonjanel@gmail.com



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