



Y'S MEN INTERNATIONAL

Serving Communities and Partnering the Mission of the YMCA Worldwide

RD MEMO 2-2019/20

17 September 2019

JV/jo

To: Regional Directors

From: Jose Varghese, International Secretary General

Cc: RDs Elect, Past RDs, ICMs, ICMs Elect, IPICMs, IEOs, ISDs, ASDs, TOFCC, BFECC, PIPs, PISGs, Area and Regional Offices, IAM (India)

It was with the utmost sorrow that we were informed of the unexpected passing away of our International President-Elect, Poul-Henrik Hove Jakobsen at Yerevan, Armenia on 4 September. He was on a Y's Men group trip to Armenia with his home club members from Denmark. Due to some health problems, he was admitted to a hospital in Yerevan and underwent surgery during the previous week. He was recovering at the hospital when suddenly his health deteriorated and he passed away. The unexpected demise of Poul-Henrik is a huge loss for his family and his wider international Y's Men family. In this time of grief, our deepest sympathies are extended to Poul-Henrik's friends and family and especially his wife Birgit, his daughter Kirsten and her husband Bjarke, his son Jonas and his wife Rikke and his four grandchildren.

While coming to terms with the sadness of Poul-Henrik's passing, the IEOs have had the challenging task of arranging the election of a new International President-Elect. The IEOs have met online already to consider the next steps needed to fill this unforeseen vacancy. The Constitution states that in the untimely death of the IPE, the Nominating Committee will provide two to three names to be listed on a ballot which will then be voted on by the Regional Directors within 30 days of the ballot being issued. The Nominating Committee is meeting this week and it is anticipated that the ballot will be issued shortly after. We hope that this process can be completed with reasonable ease as the new candidate will need as much time as possible to prepare for the RDE Summit and next year's IP term.

1. INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Our International Council Meeting 2019 took place in Sendai in Japan from Sunday 14 July to Wednesday 17 July 2019. Discussions on the most relevant issues on the current YMI agenda took place, always looking into the future of our Movement. All discussions took place in a positive and friendly atmosphere. Participants had a positive and constructive attitude so the Council Meeting was another enriching experience, both from the legislative point of view of our Movement and also from the cultural perspective of Japan, particularly for those that attended the 28th Asia Pacific Area Convention.

The Minutes of the International Council Meeting have been emailed to all IEOs, ICMs, RDs, RDEs, PRDs, AOs, ROs, ISDs, ASDs, PIPs, PISGs, and Committee and Task Force members. We are again including as appendices the relevant reports so, when reading the Minutes, you can refer to the reports to find the background information on each topic.

In the Minutes you will read about some of the discussions and the decisions taken during the meeting. Please remember that it is your responsibility to share the most relevant issues of the meeting with all clubs in your Region. In great part, the international interest and involvement of local clubs depends on you. If Regional Directors do not transmit the international aspect of our Movement to local clubs,

most of them will remain isolated from this dimension. Please encourage your clubs to become involved at this international level of YMI. Thanks in advance.

Full details of the discussions and decisions will be found in the [Minutes of the International Council Meeting](#). In the meantime, the following changes will be of immediate interest to Regions:

- Annual awards for outstanding achievements in Community Service are to be established. One award in each Region may be given. The IEOs, ISG and ISD CS shall be responsible for developing all other aspects of the award, such as the application/nomination submission process, assessment criteria and award format.
- Council recommended that YMCA Liaison (YL) Service Directors at all levels be appointed for three-year terms.
- Regions with two or more GOLD graduates within one year are to be recognised by an official commendation from the IP and where possible that this commendation acknowledges, by name, the individuals and/or clubs directly and indirectly responsible for the successful training.
- ASF contributions to IHQ are to be increased over the next two years (2019-21). In 2019-20 there shall be an increase from 10% to 20% and in 2020-21, an increase from 20% to 30%.
- Unspent BF grant money may now be used to support extension work in new countries.
- Extension expenses are to be reimbursed from allocated Area SDS funds directly to those who incurred them where a successful outcome has been achieved (i.e. new club charter).
- TOF projects are to be separated into two categories:
 - YMI club or YMCA projects – maximum CHF 15,000 available per project
 - Joint YMI/YMCA projects of equal partnership and collaboration with enduring impact - maximum CHF 30,000 available per project.
- Amendment of Guideline 411 - Clubs chartered at least 25 years and with 5-14 members may request exemption from the minimum requirement in Guideline 409 to allow voting on International issues.
- A malaria eradication project is to be developed together with the World YMCA and UN Foundation.
- The requirement introduced at ICM 16 that any candidate for an IEO or ICM position be no older than 75 years of age at the time of his/her eventual coming into office was removed.

2. REQUESTS FOR EXEMPTION

As mentioned in the summary above, Guideline 411 was amended at ICM 19 so that clubs that have been chartered at least 25 years can apply for exemption from the minimum requirement to allow voting on International issues.

Clubs which have 5-14 members, have been chartered for at least 25 years (as at 31 December 2019) and which are in good standing may apply to their RD for exemption from the minimum reported membership requirement, with a brief rationale and statistics supporting the request.

The link to the form was previously sent to RDs. Please share it with any clubs requiring exemption. Only clubs at least 25 years old are included on the form and all are listed regardless of the number of members.

<https://www.ysmen.org/exemption-request/>

This form must be completed no later than 30 September 2019.

Regional Directors will be requested to send a list of all requests they endorse to IHQ by 15 October with copies to the Area President. Subject to the decision by the IEOs, the clubs shall vote without awaiting notification of the decision. The Regional Directors shall subsequently be notified of the decision, with explanation if the request is rejected.

3. REGIONAL TEAM LISTS AND REGIONAL GOALS

Lists of ASDs and RSDs for the various service areas will shortly be sent out to ISDs, ASDs, RSDs, IEOs, ICMs and RDs. Each year we continue to experience delays in publishing these lists because Regions send the information late, or in the wrong format. Regions are reminded that team lists are required by IHQ no later than **15 June** each year. You are further encouraged to ensure you have completed the requirements to use Portalbuzz, as this makes it much easier to complete your team lists.

4. 1 AUGUST 2019 REPORTS

The 1 August 2019 Report was due at IHQ on 10 August. If your Region has not yet sent in the report, please do so as soon as possible. Payments for 1st Semester Dues (1 August Report) were required at IHQ on 31 August. If your Region has not yet sent payment, please arrange the transfer using one of the [payment methods provided in the instructions](#).

5. CHALLENGE 22

5.1 100 DAYS MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Regions are reminded of the **100 Days Membership Campaign** currently underway. The campaign began on 1 September and will run until 9 December. The 100 days are reserved for a targeted membership extension drive and each club member is encouraged to recruit one new person into his/her own club and each club is challenged to sponsor at least one new club.

A booklet – ‘**GLOBAL VISION, LOCAL ACTION** - *Frequently Asked Questions about Y's Men International*’ - is available that you may find useful to share with prospective members. For a copy, [visit the website](#).

5.2 ANNUAL CHALLENGE 22 AWARDS

Challenge 22 Awards will be given to:

- Club members who recruit five (5) or more club members
- Clubs which induct the highest number of new members (one award per Region)
- Clubs which sponsor a new club anywhere in the world before 30 January 2020
- District Governors from those Districts with the highest number of new club members (one award per Area)
- Regional Director of the Region with the highest number of new club members (one international award)
- Area President of the Area with the highest number of new club members (one international award)

5.3 CHALLENGE 22 AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

As part of Challenge 22 extension efforts to new countries, a system of **Challenge 22 Ambassadors** has been created, by which travel related to new club formation and support, particularly in remote places/new countries, will be made available from unspent Brotherhood Fund money (Motion 14, ICM 19). Extension work in new countries is a necessary activity but one which most Area budgets cannot sufficiently support. An application process is to be set up providing travel subsidies only. Accommodation and other support shall be provided at the local level. It is hoped that this new initiative will help ensure that a YMI representative is present at the club charter ceremonies.

For more information on the 100 Days Membership Campaign, a copy of the flyer, or general information on Challenge 22, visit <https://www.ysmen.org/challenge22/>.

6. PAUL WILLIAM ALEXANDER LEGACY PROJECT

As we approach the 100-year anniversary of our organisation, we're inviting all club members to be part of the legacy of the Movement and help us develop and strengthen our organisation for 2022 and beyond. A fundraising target of US\$1 million has been set to invest in our future as a strong international movement and strengthen our legacy and honour our founder, Paul William Alexander.

During ICM 19, Area Presidents set the following targets to be reached through specific fund collection plans developed by each Area in cooperation with their Regions:

- Africa: USD 10,000
- Asia Pacific: USD 100,000
- Canada/Caribbean: USD 30,000
- Europe: USD 200,000
- India: USD 350,000
- Korea: USD 250,000
- Latin America: USD 10,000
- United States: USD 50,000

ICM 19 proposed supporting the following initial projects, where feasible:

- Installation of a headstone for our founder and his immediate family at the Woodlawn Cemetery where his ashes are currently buried
- Digitalisation of our important documents stored in the Archives in Minnesota and creation of an online museum and promotion of the YMI story across the world
- Establishment of a Y's Men's Legacy Wall at the YMCA of Greater Toledo
- Purchase of IHQ office space, preferably in a building to be shared with the World Alliance of YMCAs in Geneva in a joint property venture
- Naming of a Toledo public park after Paul William Alexander by the Toledo City Government
- Establishment of a new international service project in the name of the founder

In the coming days, more information will be available at www.ysmen.org/centenary

7. PROCEDURES FOR CHARTER OF NEW CLUBS

To ensure smooth processing of your new club applications, please always use the online submission form accessed through the website (www.ysmen.org/new-clubs). The form is designed to be submitted by either the Regional Director, a Regional Office, or organisers of the new club. If the application does not come directly from the RD or a Regional Office submitting on your behalf, it will be forwarded to you for your endorsement.

To allow IHQ to enter club members of new clubs into the database, the previously-required typed mailing roster must now be completed in a specific form, called the Roster Template. A copy of the Roster Template is included on the [New Clubs](#) webpage. Please read the [Procedures for Charter of New Clubs](#) for full details on chartering.

8. TIME OF FAST - GLOBAL PROJECT FUND PROMOTION

ICM 19 approved eight new TOF-GPF Projects for a total of CHF 185,817:

- Project 17 - India (Irinjalakuda) – CHF 17,607 to equip an educational centre to provide a variety of training to unskilled, poor women
- Project 21 – Cambodia – CHF 15,027 to expand the existing youth empowerment initiative by creating an after-school programme, offering specific skills and leadership training, as well as health education and recreational activities for local, poor teenagers
- Project 16 – Kosovo - CHF 22,460 to fully set up and run a new charity shop in Kosovo, following the success of a similar project in 2014. Money is needed to rent the location, pay utilities and staff and to equip the space properly.
- Project 02 – Senegal – CHF 30,000 to support the construction of an “Incubation (training)” Centre for a “Training of Trainers” programme on agricultural techniques in rural Senegal
- Project 19 – India (Trivandrum) – CHF 21,675 to rent and equip a Therapy Centre for Persons with Multiple Disabilities and engage relative staff
- Project 01 – Jamaica (Mandeville) – CHF 29,048 to build a 120 x 50 ft dormitory for 15-20 adolescents with mental health issues, particularly those at risk of suicide, in association with the New Hope Retreat Centre
- Project 04 – LACA – CHF 20,000 to subsidise the participation of eight future Youth Development Directors at the regional training in six different LACA YMCAs
- Project 20 – USA (Michigan) – CHF 30,000 to establish a summer school (focusing on mathematics) and

[Summaries of these eight projects](#) are attached with this memo and have also been emailed to Service Directors for TOF.

In addition to the eight new projects, TOF 16-01 “Y’s Men Doctor’s Free Medical Service” is to be continued in 2019/20 for an additional CHF 30,000 in TOF funding to partially subsidise the travel of the YMI medical team from Korea.

Since the inception of the TOF-GPF programme in 1973, Y’s Men International has contributed around USD 6,800,000 to various YMCA and community projects and emergencies around the world. Today, eight newly-approved projects and 12 ongoing projects in a total of 9 countries and geographical areas are supported by TOF.

9. PROJECTS APPROVED BY Y’S MENETTES

In addition to the above-mentioned TOF-GPF Projects, for over 30 years the Y’s Menettes have supported International Projects. Last year they approved one project. I thank the Y’s Menettes for their generous support. The ongoing project (2018-20) is:

- Albania: YMCA Tirana, “Coaching for Youth Employment” (CHF 28,630)

10. APPLICATIONS FOR BROTHERHOOD FUND (BF) GRANTS 2020/21

BF ECC Ineta Krumina sent material related to the BF Cultural Exchange and BF International Convention Grants 2020/21 by email on 7 September. This correspondence contained information on the new application process. Only applications submitted in this new format will be considered. This online application form replaces the BF2 and BF3 documents and can be found here: <http://ysmen.org/bf-grants>.

Applications are now being accepted and the deadline is 1 May 2020. Recommendations from the applicants' Club Presidents, which is an eligibility criterion, are required no later than 10 May 2020.

It is your responsibility to ensure that all clubs in your Region are informed regarding the available grants and that they receive all the information they need to take advantage of the BF programme, including applicant criteria. You are encouraged to use email wherever possible for this task. If postal correspondence is necessary, please remember to take delivery delays into consideration. If mail service between your location and the destination is problematic, you may ask IHQ for assistance. It is very important to follow the procedure and timetable as outlined in the material from BF ECC Tor.

11. DISTRIBUTION OF YMI WORLD

Editor Koshy and Distribution Coordinator Babu Oommen will be working hard in 2019/20 to continue to deliver a first-class publication for our service organisation. To continue receiving it regularly, in RD Memo 1-19/20 all RDs, were requested to first submit any outstanding Portalbuzz data to IHQ and then update Club Presidents within the system **by 6 September 2019**. If we do not receive the details, enough copies will be sent to you in bulk for your distribution to clubs and leaders within your Region.

IHQ will continue to work with Regions that are still in the Portalbuzz data collection phase. As you will have noticed, the Portalbuzz information is being used more and more to improve many administrative processes and is important for the smooth functioning of IHQ. Your continued cooperation is appreciated.

12. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2020

The next International Convention will take place in Odense, Denmark from 13-16 August 2020. Please promote this world gathering in your Region and start to make plans to have a good delegation. Denmark is a strong Region with committed Y's Men who are already giving their all to host a memorable International Convention. Odense will be an exciting place, in a country with a strong cultural identity and many tourist attractions. <https://ysmen2020.com/>

13. FORTHCOMING DEADLINES

- 20 September Proposed nominations from clubs for ICMs to be submitted using the online form. (www.ysmen.org/cpmemo)
- 27 September Deadline for Declaration of Acceptance and Bio-data of proposed ICM candidates to be received at IHQ. (www.ysmen.org/elections)
- 30 September Last day for clubs to be in good standing as defined in Guideline 410, have at least fifteen (15) members for the three last semesters and have the required details of its Club President recorded at IHQ. A club failing to meet any of these requirements forfeits its international voting rights for that year (Guideline 409, [International Constitution](#)).
- 30 September Requests for exemption from eligible clubs with 5-14 reported members in order to vote on international issues to be submitted.
- 6 October Nominations for ICMs from APs to be received by IHQ.
- 15 October Requests for exemption which are endorsed by RDs to be received at IHQ from RDs with copies to AP.
- 30 November Material for YMI World 2 to be received by [YMI World](#) Editor

14. CONCLUSION

Thanks in advance for your cooperation on all matters in this Memo.

And remember [JP Jennifer Jones](#)' theme, ***Building Today for a Better Tomorrow***, at the same time as you reflect on the following passage from the Bible:

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

(Galatians 6:9)