



IP e-NEWSLETTER

Y's Men International January 2020



Dear Club Member,

Welcome to the first e-letter for 2020. The IP e-letter is designed to keep you as YMI members informed through the articles and updates each month with a variety of contributors throughout the year. In this edition, there is an article from AP Europe Ulrik Lauridsen. You can also read about the EF programme and the annual IP visit to California.

2020—the New Year Ahead!

We are well into the first month of January 2020 and with every New Year comes a whole collection of hopes and dreams and along with those, thoughts of uncertainty too.

There is a tradition in the Pacific South West Region of the USA, to invite the International President to attend the Rose Parade always held on New Year's Day in Pasadena, Los Angeles. "The Power of Hope" was the theme for this year, stemming from the US having served as a beacon of hope for immigrants over many years. Hope brings us peace, dignity and respect as we set about achieving our goals and dreams. When people have hope, endurance and patience is developed and it is easier to stay in for the long haul and everything looks like it can become possible.

In Hebrews chapter 11 we read, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see". By stepping up, lending a hand and helping others, you as club members and volunteers offer the gift of hope and empowerment. It may be as simple as handing out sandwiches and socks to those in need in your community or maybe providing funds for health care or vocational programmes. It is good to read about all the different activities on Facebook and in club bulletins that have been circulated.

Hope is being expressed through the many actions of leaders and clubs around the world. New clubs have been chartered, bringing in new club members to experience the joy of belonging to an international organisation. It is with hope that new work is continually being planned in unexplored countries for YMI. Papua New Guinea and Greece currently fall into this category with efforts to establish clubs in Italy once again too. Thanks to those of you who dream big and then bring those dreams into reality through much hard work. This is how YMI can achieve those bigger goals set and move into the next 100 years in a state of health and expectancy.

Russell and I enjoyed this recent visit to California with events centring around the Rose Parade. Home stay was provided in five locations which was such a treat. PAP Tibor Foki and Charl showed us the Christmas lights of Naples, a canal area near Seal Beach. We were taken by PAT Gene Koester and Patty to

the Rose Parade breakfast hosted by the Lions Club. Here I had the opportunity to meet the Lions IP, Dr Jung-Yul Choi who was visiting USA. We were also taken to see some of the Rose Parade floats which had just been judged. Lovely to see how many flowers – roses, orchids, gerberas, leaves and more – were used in decorating the floats. The flower industry worldwide must be very pleased to supply produce regularly for this event. Arrangements for the parade on the following day meant travelling early to Pasadena. CP Hank Walther accompanied us to the parade, and we enjoyed it very much, admiring a wide variety of decorated floats and marching bands which travelled over a distance of five miles.

An International President Dinner is also a regular part of the Region's planning and was held at Long Beach this year with 60 club members coming along. After a lovely meal and good entertainment, I had the opportunity to speak to the group about YMI matters, including the recent RDE Summit, membership and the Legacy Project. Breakfast at the Santa Monica Club was another good chance to meet more members, including some from the Korean club. A stay for us was planned



at Clovis, a three-hour drive north of Los Angeles, where RDE Danny Eberly and Arlene took good care of us, visiting Yosemite and attending their local club event – more members to meet and get to know. At all club meetings, including another informal gathering at Torrance, I was given time to speak about Challenge 22 and some of the new directions being taken for YMI and efforts being taken to strengthen and re-energise our organisation.

A great way to start a NEW YEAR!!

IP Jennifer Jones

January Emphasis!

Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund is a key international programme of YMI which provides financial stability for the present and future purposes, objectives, programs and expansion of YMI through an investment portfolio.

The fund was created in 1958 and is an international investment account managed by a five-member Board of Trustees. It is supported by Y's Men's Clubs and individuals, holding gifts, donations or bequests in the form of cash or other property for the exclusive benefit of YMI. Donations are directed into an interest-bearing portfolio at the direction the Board of Trustees and overseen by an appointed bank in Geneva. The income on the investments may be made available and provide a source of funding for exceptional programmes and projects such as Special Development Support (SDS).

The EF Promotion programme was created in 1967 to encourage capital contributions to the fund by establishing a system of personalised recognitions for donations of CHF 50 or more. A record of these special contributions is maintained by IHQ staff in Geneva, in what is known as the "Golden Book". The YMI website can be utilised for these contributions and can be accessed by clicking the "Donation" link, followed by "Endowment Fund" link. Some examples are:

Endowment Friend	CHF 50
Golden Book Tribute	CHF 120
Paul William Alexander Fellow	CHF 120
Honour Roll Member	CHF 1000

The current International Service Director for this program is **C.R. Raghunadhan**, who has served ably in this position for several years. Area India leads the world in their enthusiasm and support of this fund and for this we are very thankful. **Please consider what support you or your club might give to this important fund so that the legacy of YMI may continue on with strength and vibrancy.**

WELCOME to new staff member, **Prapinorn Phongtudsirikul**, known as **Tong**, who will be the **Youth Program Assistant** located in the Satellite Office at the **YMCA** in Chiang Mai, Thailand. We look forward to working with you very much.



2019 was the year when.....

- the International RDE Summit was held in the hometown of the organisation's founder Paul William Alexander
- coming leaders left the RDE Summit event with a new group of friends. Their leadership potential boosted efforts to bring the movement into a new era.
- we had global fellowship in an atmosphere of mutual learning.
- we took part in the Legacy Project by visiting the Cemetery in Toledo and seeing the new headstone for the grave of PWA
- we all placed a rose on his grave
- we met Alan, the grandson of our founder PWA
- we had a service in the church where PWA attended
- we took part in the renaming of a park in Toledo in PWA's name



Thoughts from IPE Jacob Kristensen



Founder's grandson Alan and wife Sandy at gravesite in Toledo

Meet one of our leaders on the International Council:
AREA PRESIDENT—EUROPE, Ulrik Lauridsen



I was born in 1946 and became a member of the Danish Boys Brigade (FDF) in 1955. Here I was drawn closer to the Christian faith, but my parents were very humanistic and did not attend church. My father owned a furniture factory but passed away when I was 16 years old. My mother became Director for the factory and I helped in between my studies.

I attended the military in 1965 as a volunteer for three years where I received education as a teacher. I was married in 1970 and four children were born in the following 10 years. I started teaching in 1974 in Ringkøbing and this is where I learned about Y's Men. I then became a member of the Y's Men's Club. We were chartered in 1978 and two years later, we chartered a new club close to our city. I served as District Governor and was granted a trip to India as a BF-delegate. This experience started my vision for working more intensely for the Y's Men's movement. In 1986 I became the inspector at a sports high school in Vejle and immediately I began attending the local Y's Men's Club in Vejle. I worked at the high school for eight years. Then I moved to a large sports-conference centre where my role was to take care of events for all the groups coming for conferences. In 2012 I retired and now receive my pension but I am still active in a freelance role at the sports centre. Pia has also retired recently which means that we can spend more time travelling and being with family and friends.

In my Y's Men's life I have been President and DG several times, Secretary for the RD, and for five years, RSD for training. As a Y's Man, your duty is to be active and I have had many ideas and visions for the club in Vejle. We became a mother club for a new club in Romania and I was glad that our members became more open-minded for the world outside our own club.

COMING UP!!

- Election results for IPE, ITE, ICMs
- MYM Bendigo, Australia 26-29 February

In 2017 I was asked to be a candidate for International Council Member. I accepted and was elected - also as Area President Elect for Europe. My theme for my period as AP is **"SMILE AND FELLOWSHIP WALK HAND IN HAND"**. With that theme my purpose is that the club life means so much for a club. Many clubs in Area Europe do not have regular meetings so I'm trying to implement that especially for clubs in Central East Europe and Russia to understand the importance of having meetings and being together. Here they can use body language – the smile and the gestures – to find out how they are feeling and responding and will learn about each other much better than just using the computer or the mobile. It is hard work, but I hope the clubs will make a yearly programme and meet more often. If you don't experience the fellowship, then your chances of dying out as a club is closer.

My hope for club life, especially in Scandinavia, is that we can survive and flourish. After many years as Y's Men, we have grown older and are not as active as we used to be. We need to think in another way and not always follow the traditional way of club life. We feel that the younger members don't want to be a member on these conditions. So, in fact, we need to follow IPIP Moon Sang-bong's theme from last year **"YES, WE CAN CHANGE!"** and that will give us a better tomorrow in the future!



AP Ulrik Lauridsen

BUSHFIRES in Australia

Australia has suffered its worst bushfire season this summer, with some fires burning since November and earlier. The unprecedented number of hot days over 40°C hasn't helped, but at the moment, progress is being made and

some rains have fallen in the right places. Thanks for all the enquiries and for your prayers, especially for those who have lost their homes and some family members. The communities are rallying together and the best is being brought out of people as they focus on the pressing needs of others.



It is an exciting and interesting journey that we are on together. I have found this verse helpful at times of testing and struggle: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12:9. Be "on the move" in all that you dream and do!!

Regards and blessings, **IP Jennifer Jones**

I can be reached using the contact form on our website - www.ysmen.org

PHOTO on front page: Banner from Clovis Japanese Church, California

Some Photos from IP Visit to California

