



The Bulletin Board

Newsletter of the Hawai'i Region of Y Service Clubs International

Special Issue – U.S. Area Convention

Y Service Clubs International - U.S. Area

26th U.S. Area Convention

July 9-12, 2015, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Reported by Bobby Stivers-Apiki, Regional Director, Hawaii.



From left: Charley Redmond, U.S. Area President, convention co-chairs Neil Topliffe and Bob Williams, and Hawaii's Bobby Stivers-Apiki

2015 US Area Convention. This is the second Area convention I have attended and I must say the 8,650 miles and 27 hours in the air was worth it! **Bob Williams** and **Neil Topliffe** of Grand Rapids Y Service Clubs served as co-chairs and designed the convention around youth membership and fundraising workshops, filled with outstanding forums and highly motivated speakers. Some 80 members and guests from all Area Regions attended the convention held at the Double Tree Hilton Hotel where the accommodations, meeting facilities and service were superb.

I felt so honored to represent our Region as so many attendees shared their fond memories and experiences of “Hawaiian” members they met at other Area conventions or at past Region conventions. Everybody asked about **Ray Seto** and **Phil Sammer**, past US Area Presidents! I should ‘fine’ both of them at next year’s convention!! **McKinley (Mac) Johnson** of St. Louis and Past Area President summoned up the special relationship with Hawaii as he represented the US Area at our 2003 Hawaii Region Convention. “I like Hawaii. I felt like a king!” In addition, he ate sashimi (raw fish) for the very first time (and only time) and someone said, “Mac, you’re eating soul food!”

U.S. Area President Charley Redmond

It's the first time at least in the US Area that a couple has taken the executive leadership of Y'sdom. On July 1 **Charley Redmond** became the 2015-2017 U.S. Area President while his lovely wife **Debbie Redmond** became the U.S. Area Immediate Past President of 2013 – 2015. Charley and Debbie work so well together that the transfer of leadership was smooth as butter! Charley introduced himself as a chemist and for over 30 years as a scientist his job has been to solve problems – to get the right and correct answer for other scientists and clients. He's a problem solver and with his leadership team – Area officers, regional directors and council, and service directors — he will find the answers to grow and move the movement forward. For the past ten years the U.S.

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Bobby with Charley Redmond, U.S. Area president, and Debbie Redmond, Area Immediate Past President



Sister Sue Tracy: “Laughter Meets Compassion”

I have attended many conventions, conferences, seminars and workshops in my lifetime but Sister Sue’s lunch presentation touched my soul unlike any session I have ever attended! Sister Sue is a five (5) time cancer survivor—breast cancer twice, Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, skin cancer and in fact she’s going through chemo right now for cancerous mass inside her cheek but don’t feel bad for her because as she says, “... the diagnosis of cancer can be life threatening, it is not a death sentence. One can live, love, laugh, and learn through this experience and discover there is a lot that one CAN do and learn through or despite CAN-cer. This is possible even after hearing the ‘c’ word four times”.

On her website, Sister Sue writes, “**What Cancer Cannot Do . . .**” **It cannot cripple Love. It cannot shatter Hope. It cannot corrode Faith. It cannot destroy Peace. It cannot kill Friendship. It cannot suppress Memories. It cannot silence Courage. It cannot invade the Soul. It cannot steal eternal Life and It cannot conquer the Spirit.** As you see, her message touched my soul! To learn more about this amazing woman, please check her website... <http://toodoolosue.com>

At left, Bobby with Sister Sue

President Charley Redmond

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Area membership has significantly decreased from 9,731 members from 1968 to 1,196 at present. U.S. Area is not alone. Europe, Canada, and Australia membership is also going south; India and Korea must be doing something right, as their membership is growing.

Charley recognizes the need for the Area to increase its membership. It’s vital. The approach is to focus on youth ages 15 to 25 years of age. International Y Service Clubs has made Youth Service Clubs a priority. YSC are intended to facilitate the transition of young people to become Y Service Club members. These clubs have no voting rights and are not included in the membership statistics. They need not complete an application nor pay membership. Charley has appointed **Anne Engert** as Youth Involvement and Activities, Service Director. **Matt Stuckel**, who represented the Area at our Hawaii Convention in Las Vegas, continues to advocate for more inclusion of youth in Y Service Clubs. President Redmond is expecting all nine regions to have Youth Representative Service Directors. He conducted his first Area Council meeting prior to the start of the 26th Area Convention.



A Moment in Time - Micronesian Connection

One morning I joined **Marilyn Colburn**, Muskegon Y’s Club for breakfast and by way of self-introduction, Marilyn shared, “My daughter Sue was a junior at George Williams College (YMCA College in Illinois, Alma of **Del Kinney**, **Bob Masuda**, **Bully Gemeno**) and she went to Micronesia with the YMCA of Honolulu.”

As I almost choked on my spoon full of scrabble eggs, I replied, “I was the YMCA Director that took the GW students to Truk Micronesia (now called Chuuk) in the ‘70’s.” Under the leadership of Bob Masuda, then Executive Director of Central YMCA, there was created a triangle partnership with the YMCA of Honolulu, Federated States of Micronesia and George Williams College to establish a 10 week summer program on the island of Moen, Truk. Truk/Chuuk was a logistic base for the Japanese government during WWII. I recalled taking about nine GW students, many never saw the ocean nor knew what or where Micronesia was. We did two weeks of intensive training at UH Hawaii and at the Y. I could not remember Sue but I did remember the wonderful experiences in Truk.

Marilyn and her husband, **Burril** surprised me when her daughter, **Sue** and her husband joined us at a reception/dinner! Sue and I instantly bonded as we shared the same memories and experiences some 40 years ago. But as we spoke more specifically we realized

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Micronesian Connection

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that although we went to Truk we went at different times. I took the first group and we resided at the hospital nurses dormitory while Sue's group went after and stayed at a three bedroom house.

During a special moment at dinner, we reminisced about the way the only flight into Truk would fly over the coral reef runway to chase off the kids, dogs, pigs, chickens before landing on the second try.

What a special time. "Kinisou" (Kin ni sou) Trukese for "Thank You" **Burril, Marilyn Colburn and Sue Colburn Fiori.**



Left to right: Ariana Friedl, Naperville Y's Men & Women's Club in Illinois, the first woman member of Y's Men only 43 years ago; Kay Lindner, Kankakee Y Service Club and a good friend of Del Kinney; Bobby Stivers-Apiki; and Audrey Bueche, also of the Naperville club.



Grace and Wayne Smith of Yakima Y's Men's Club in Washington State

Women in Y Service

Women were admitted in Y's Men in 1972 and soon began to fulfill senior leadership roles that had been the sole domain of men since Y's Men was founded. In 1972, **Ariana Friedl**, on the left in the picture above, became the first female member in Y'sdom. In 1978 she became the first woman Regional Director. Today, she is the Leadership Training and Organizational Development Service Director. It was amazing to witness the enthusiasm and excitement of the women around providing leadership for Y Service.



Gene Koester, U.S. Area CFO and U.S. Area Representative to 2014 Hawaii Region Convention at Kilauea Military Camp.



U.S. Area Convention attendees took a tour of the David D. Hunting YMCA. Grand Rapids YMCA building, a \$31 million new Y.



Hawaii Winners
 Congratulations! U.S. Area Awards were awarded to our Region's Kaimuki Y's Men's Club and Nuuanu Y's Men's & Women's Service Club for:
 Youth Service, World Service, Community Service, Y Staff Training, and Y Membership.

Sunday Service Reflections



At the Gerald Ford Presidential Museum

We were treated to two tours of Grand Rapids. Frederic Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park well known for its Japanese Garden and Gerald Ford Presidential Museum. I went to the museum (above) and it was honest about Watergate and the resignation of President Nixon. President Ford and Betty Ford are buried at the museum. A must see if you are in Grand Rapids. *Bobby*



The four day convention concluded with Sunday Service. "It feels like we've been in service these past days. What a good feeling" remarked co-chair, **Neil Topcliffe** as he Called to Worship. The Meditation was presented by U.S. Area Christian Service Director, **Lillian Porter**, Lohse/Tucson Y's Men's Club of Arizona, Lillian open her meditation with a provocative questions to the congregation – "What is Your Vision as a member of the Y's Men's International Organization? We just heard the parable of sowing seeds. Are you sowing Your Vision seeds for new members in Good soil? Or are your new member seeds being sowed along a path that is being devoured by other commitments that your new members have!!"

What is good soil for Y'sdom? In my thinking, good nurturing soil is a strong energetic youthful soil. Lillian further reminds the congregation of the four I's as referred in the Officer's Induction Ceremony to engage in youthful members. In short, she remarked:

IDEALISM – The young generation are idealists. It needs to be first in your vision.

INTEREST – The welfare of Y's Men International must rate **FIRST** in your interests.

INITIATIVE – Develop new and exciting ideas, putting them into operation by executing the ideas.

INDUSTRY – to be industrious – No task is too great or too trivial. There is something in every task for everyone to do.

Work untiringly and you will feel exhilarated. Like Jesus and His disciples worked untiringly to spread the new message throughout the world. Does Y's Men have a new meaningful message remembering the 4 I's in Your Vision? That is where those seeds you are sowing will surely flourish!"



Left: Bobby visits with **Billye Vincent**, Regional Director of the Pacific Northwest Region and winner of the Henry Grimes Award for Outstanding Regional Director.



At the U.S. Area Council meeting on the day before the convention,

A Note from Bulletin Editor Russ Lynch –

This is a special bulletin created so Regional Director Bobby Stivers-Apiki can report to you all about his trip to the recent U.S. Area Convention. The normal quarterly production of "The Bulletin Board" will resume very soon with club news and other items from Hawaii and around the world. If you have anything to contribute please send it to russlynch@mac.com