



Y Buckeye Bulletin

A Newsletter for the Ohio Alliance of YMCAs

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If you attended the Leadership Conference and did not take the follow-up survey, we'd love your feedback. Please [click here](#) to complete the survey.



[Click here](#) to download presentations and handouts from the conference sessions.

2022 OHIO YMCAS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

REUNITED—TOGETHER AGAIN!

236 YMCA employees from around the state gathered in Columbus on Wednesday, March 30th and Thursday, March 31st for this year's Ohio YMCAs Leadership Conference. Dale Brunner served as MC for the event. Wednesday's workshops focused on Professional and Personal development and Thursday's workshops focused on Program Development and Innovation. Peer groups also met each day.

Here are some highlights from the conference:



Y USA CEO Suzanne McCormick was our keynote speaker on Wednesday. She also participated in the CEO Peer Group session.

2022 ANNUAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS

In 2018, the Ohio Alliance of YMCAs implemented the annual Leadership Awards to recognize YMCA staff and volunteers who display exceptional leadership, commitment, and attributes of being cause driven leaders. This year, we received 20 nominations in 7 different categories from Ys of all sizes and areas of the state. Here are this year's winners:

CEO OF THE YEAR



Our **CEO of the Year** is **Cristen Gilbert** from the YMCA of North Central Ohio!

Highlights from her nomination include: In 2014 Cristin became the first female CEO in the 152-year history of the organization. In her first two years of becoming CEO, she restructured the board and worked tirelessly to retire a 3.95-million-dollar debt that was hindering the Y for the previous twelve years. She followed this up by creating a successful campaign strategy that increase annual campaign donations by 700%!

Cristen also collaborated with two local school districts to bring before and after school programming to six of their elementary school buildings and provide care for over 250 families. Next, she collaborated with local business and organizations to bring the first inclusive sensory splash pad to our county so children of all abilities can enjoy the water recreation. She followed this up with Y on the Fly which allowed the Y to take programming outside the facility and meet the needs of our community.

As important as all these accomplishments are, her greatest achievement is leading a merger of two YMCAs. She was the acting CEO from 2014-2015 for one YMCA, mentored their CEO from 2015-2019 2019 and then acting CEO from 2019 until the merger in November of 2021. She has been nothing short of spectacular in her first decade as CEO, she is our leader, mentor, and friend and we would not be who we are today without her guidance and willingness to push us and better us every day!

2022 ANNUAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS

PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Jamie Crippin of the Sidney-Shelby County YMCA was named **Program Director of the Year for Youth Development**. Her nomination form read: *Before Jamie started at our Y nearly 3 years ago as the Membership Director, it was clear that she had a heart for helping children to develop their full potential. She owned her own cheer gym for many years and later worked for the Girl Scouts, and she remains involved as a volunteer. With her passion for making a difference through the Y and a*

tenacious work ethic, she earned a promotion to also lead the Aquatics, Gymnastics, and Youth departments as the Membership and Program Director. Under her leadership, while still navigating all the challenges of COVID and the growing staffing shortages, membership and programming has returned to their pre-pandemic levels.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR FOR HEALTHY LIVING



Lydia Linton from the YMCA of Ross County is our **Program Director of the Year for Healthy Living**. Her nominator said: *Over the past five years, this staff member has led our transition to a YMCA growing in those spaces as well as offering multiple Evidence Based Health Programs and creating a new pre-surgical optimization program in conjunction with numerous partners. . As a single branch association, our robust health program offerings have been able to support other Ys in our region in developing*

EBHI's for their sites. Under this person's leadership, we are serving hundreds of people in our small community each year through these lifesaving efforts. In addition, her leadership is a significant part of our partnership with Adena Health System, which provides direct funding for these programs.

2022 ANNUAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS

PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



Kathleen Johnson of the Tuscarawas County YMCA is our **Program Director of the Year for Social Responsibility**. The person who nominated Kathleen wrote: *She has served at the YMCA for many years. Her passion and dedication to our Y and its members are notable, where she extends a warm welcome to new members and staff. She is the first person you go to for help and guidance. She constantly checks in with staff and members to make sure they are doing well. Her quick adaptiveness and inventive ideas are what helped our Y continue to grow and prosper even during a pandemic. She is the MVP of our Y, volunteering and subbing in multiple*

locations. She deserves all the praise and recognition, but is the most modest person and never seeks attention. Her compassionate heart is something I strive to embody every day. She is a problem solver and thinks outside the box. I am thankful and grateful for her leadership at our YMCA, and I think no one is more deserving.

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR



Our **Rookie of the Year** is **Kenny Upthegrove** from the Fayette County YMCA. His nomination reads: *This person joined our YMCA staff team as a part time staff in October of 2020 as youth sports coordinator. He quickly took on many roles as we continued to emerge from the pandemic. He became a vital member of our customer service team at the front desk and helps to maintain a clean facility. He became a full-time program director in May of 2021. In addition to growing our youth sports programs, he now serves as aquatics*

coordinator and regularly assists with our licensed school age childcare program when called upon. This has required him to acquire new trainings and certifications that he has been quick to embrace. He never could have imagined that he would be teaching Silver Splash twice a week. He took on the task of reimagining our youth game room area, which has resulted in a variety of new activities for kids ages 8-12.

2022 ANNUAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS

BRANCH EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR



Alan Cecutti (from the Buckeye Valley YMCA) is our **Branch Executive of the Year**. His nomination reads: *has helped lead our YMCA for 25+ years. He serves as our COO, CFO, and Branch Executive of our largest membership facility. Since the end of 2019, he has helped lead our organization through the opening of a renovated branch within our existing region, a merger with another Y, the addition of a new service region, and the transition from a 20+ year tenured retiring CEO to a new CEO coming onboard to learn about the Y and the community. Not to mention ALL the craziness that Covid has brought. Through all these many changes, his*

steady leadership has provided staff with the support they need to be successful and the board with the reassurance they need to continue supporting our work. He knows the details of the personal lives of everyone he comes into contact with. His office is a revolving door, and he is always ready with a quick joke or attentive ear. He has the trust of all the people he comes into contact with, and our Y could not ask for a better leader!

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR



Rick Roby, Court Sturts, Scott Heimann, Theresa Roth, JC Elgin, and Jason Poth served as the task force for the board of the newly formed YMCA of North Central Ohio and are our **Volunteers of the Year**. The nomination reads: *Over the past two years, and throughout the pandemic, this dedicated group of volunteers spent countless hours building relationships and trust with each other, has, and has worked toward the successful joining of two YMCAs and creating a greater impact in their region. From the beginning of their relationship, they never wavered from their dedication and desire to create a stronger organization that serves this county's residents in ways they couldn't do alone. Board task force members met every*

3-4 weeks for six months to discuss and develop a solid plan to bring the two YMCAs together. On January 1, 2022, the two Ys became one, and they are now serving the area with a stronger, healthier organization. YMCA work begins with volunteer leadership - and this YMCA board exemplifies true dedication to creating a strong and vibrant organization.

2022 OHIO YMCAS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

THURSDAY'S KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Jeremy Pietrocini from Gallup was Thursday's Keynote Speaker. Gallup has developed a comprehensive, definitive source of wellbeing measurement. Their scientific survey instrument and reporting experience measures, tracks and reports on the wellbeing of individuals and organizations based on five interrelated and interdependent elements. The five elements of wellbeing are: **PHYSICAL** You have energy to get things done. **CAREER** You like what you do every day. **SOCIAL** You have meaningful friendships in your life. **COMMUNITY** You like where you live. **FINANCIAL** You manage your money well.

Together, these elements provide key insights into whether people find daily life and work experiences fulfilling, have strong and supportive relationships, are financially secure, are physically healthy and making smart choices about their health, and are proud of and actively involved with their community.

STATEHOUSE FAMILY FEUD

The Leadership Conference ended with the opening lunch for the first of two in-person Youth & Government Conferences. During the Lunch, YMCA employees, Youth and Government students, legislators, and sponsors were entertained by the annual Statehouse Family Feud fundraiser which raised nearly \$30,000 for the Youth & Government program. The Ohio House of Representatives won this year's Feud by a score of 837 to 167 and will get to take home the trophy for the next year.

Youth & Government is very excited to return to the statehouse this year. If you are interested in getting your Y involved in Youth & Government or helping connect us to a school please email Zach Zugelder at zzugelder@ohioymcas.org.



CAPITOL BRIEF

LAROSE CALLS FOR BIFURCATED PRIMARY

Secretary of State Frank LaRose sent a letter to legislative leaders and Gov. Mike DeWine saying that a federal court has set in motion a dual primary for the state, barring any action by the General Assembly to move the primary date.

LaRose said the state will have a bifurcated primary, with election for statewide, congressional, and local offices on May 3, while conducting a separate primary election for House and Senate races and political party central committee seats most likely on Tuesday, Aug. 2.

In his letter, LaRose told lawmakers that the law will require him to instruct the 88 county boards of elections to begin sending ballots to military and overseas voters beginning on Saturday, April 2. With this directive, he said the Tuesday, May 3 primary election is officially underway, "and any changes after that point would lead to chaos and confusion for Ohio voters."

"Last week, my office asked the federal district court to make an immediate decision to allow time for ballots to be produced and distributed for the May 3 primary. The federal court declined to do so, making it impossible to proceed with General Assembly contests. At that point, the only lawful option available to me was to instruct the boards to remove the General Assembly from the primary ballot. Leaving invalidated candidates or races on the ballot would not only conflict with Ohio law but also result in unnecessary voting delays and questions to election officials from voters who think their ballot may be incomplete or inaccurate," he said.

He said he has been in daily contact with Senate President Matt Huffman (R-Lima) and House Speaker Bob Cupp (R-Lima) about timelines and deadlines of the upcoming primary, and has explored every option to try to stick to a unified primary election, but said absent an emergency act of the General Assembly, "that simply cannot happen."

"Unfortunately, none of the options available to us can be done without financial impact. Even the prospect of moving the entire May 3 primary election to a later date requires extensive logistical considerations, such as procuring nearly 4,000 polling locations, recruiting and training nearly 56,000 poll workers, and informing voters of changes to election dates and venues, just to name a few," he wrote.

His letter came after a three-judge panel refused to immediately order the implementation of a General Assembly map to be used in the primary election. Instead, the judges set a deadline of Wednesday, April 20, for the state to settle its Ohio House and Senate redistricting battle in order for those races to be on a primary ballot for Aug. 2.

Hannah

OHIO YMCAS UPCOMING MEETINGS

Virtual & In-Person CEO Neighborhood Meetings Northeast & Northwest

In-Person:

NE - April 19 - 10 am -12 pm
(Schalmo YMCA in Canal Fulton)

NW - April 20 - 10 am -12 pm
(Findlay YMCA)

Virtual (Click to join Zoom):

[NE - August 9 - 10 -11 am](#)
[NW - August 9 - 11:30 am -12:30 pm](#)

Virtual (Click to join Zoom):

[NE - December 6 - 10 -11 am](#)
[NW - December 7 - 11:30 am -12:30 pm](#)

Virtual & In Person CEO Neighborhood Meetings Southeast & Southwest

In Person (Location TBD):

- SE - April 26 10 am -12 pm
- SW - April 27 11 am -12 pm

Virtual (Click to join Zoom):

- [SE - December 7 10 -11 am](#)
- [SW - December 7 11:30 am -12:30 pm](#)

Virtual (Click to join Zoom):

- [SE - August 10 10 -11 am](#)
- [SW - August 10 11:30 am -12:30 pm](#)

Statewide CEO Meetings

In Person Meeting

June 17 - 10 am - 2 pm
Cincinnati (In conjunction with the
Regional EMLE Conference)

Annual CEO Conference

September 29 - 30
In Person (Nationwide Conference Center,
Columbus)

CEO/CVO Meetings

In Person Meetings (Location TBD)

Northern Ohio

November 10 - 10 am - 2 pm

Central/Southern Ohio

November 17 - 10 am - 2 pm

OHIO YMCAS UPCOMING MEETINGS (CONTINUED)

Quarterly/Monthly Statewide Peer Community Virtual Meetings

(Click to join Zoom meetings. Schedule subject to change.)

April 20

[Childcare 1-2 pm](#)

[Financial Development 2-3 pm](#)

May 17

[Aquatics/Swim Team 10-11 am](#)

[Resident Camp 11 am-12 pm](#)

[Membership 1-2 pm](#)

[DEI 2-3 pm](#)

[Caregiver Network 3-4 pm](#)

[HR 4-5 pm](#)

May 18

[COOs 10-11 am](#)

[Property/Facility 11 am - 12 pm](#)

[Child Care 1-2 pm](#)

[Financial Development 2-3 pm](#)

[Branch Executives 3-4 pm](#)

June 15

[Childcare 1-2 pm](#)

[Financial Development 2-3 pm](#)

July 19

[Aquatics/Swim Team 10-11 am](#)

[Resident Camp 11 am-12 pm](#)

[Membership 1-2 pm](#)

[DEI 2-3 pm](#)

[Caregiver Network 3-4 pm](#)

[HR 4-5 pm](#)

July 20

[COOs 10-11 am](#)

[Property/Facility 11 am - 12 pm](#)

[Child Care 1-2 pm](#)

[Financial Development 2-3 pm](#)

[Branch Executives 3-4 pm](#)

August 17

[Childcare 1-2 pm](#)

[Financial Development 2-3 pm](#)

September 21

[Childcare 1-2 pm](#)

[Financial Development 2-3 pm](#)

OHIO YMCAS UPCOMING MEETINGS (CONTINUED)

Quarterly/Monthly Statewide Peer Community Virtual Meetings (Click to join Zoom meetings. Schedule subject to change.)

October 18[Aquatics/Swim Team 10-11 am](#)[Resident Camp 11 am-12 pm](#)[Membership 1-2 pm](#)[DEI 2-3 pm](#)[Caregiver Network 3-4 pm](#)[HR 4-5 pm](#)**November 16**[Childcare 1-2 pm](#)[Financial Development 2-3 pm](#)**October 19**[COOs 10-11 am](#)[Property/Facility 11 am - 12 pm](#)[Child Care 1-2 pm](#)[Financial Development 2-3 pm](#)[Branch Executives 3-4 pm](#)**December 21**[Childcare 1-2 pm](#)[Financial Development 2-3 pm](#)