



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# MISSION ISPOSSIBLE

THE POWER OF YOU

**IL FALL STAFF RALLY**  
2023



**TOP SECRET**



PRESENTED BY

Energy Efficiency  
PROGRAM



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CEO, Decatur YMCA

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CEO, Tri-Town YMCA

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**Alex Carie**

Sports Director  
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**Missy Contri**

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**Stephanie Diehl**

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**Rebecca Graves**

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**Aaron H Greene**

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**Laila Kim**

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**Audrey Kunert**

VP HR & Leadership Development  
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**Jared Maggart**

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**Patrick Mainieri**

COO  
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**Manar Nuaimi**

Chief Engineer  
YMCA Metropolitan Chicago

**Mike Ortiz**

Marketing Manager  
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**Jessica Rangel**

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**Francisco Saravia**

IT Director  
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**Derek Schlager**

Executive Director  
Elmhurst YMCA  
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**Courtney Sargeant-Freeman**

Director of Youth and Family Development  
Mt Sterling Community Center YMCA

**Thomas Sparkman**

Aquatics Director/Maintenance Director  
YMCA of Warren County

**Jill Steiner**

Chief Human Resource Officer  
YMCA of Springfield

**Silas Tag Tockey**

Downtown Membership Director  
YMCA of Springfield

**Megan Vazquez**

Sr. Director of Wellness  
North Suburban YMCA

**Raj Waller**

Senior Program Director  
Pav YMCA

**Will Welsh**

CEO  
Kankakee Area YMCA

**ILState Alliance of YMCAs Staff:****Glenn Haley**

Interim CEO

**Christy Filby**

Executive Director

**Wendy Bonilla**

Coordinator of Alliance Services



# WELCOME TO FALL STAFF RALLY

## Attendees and Colleagues – Light the Fuse!

Thank you for joining us for this incredible opportunity to learn and share at this year's Fall Rally.

The Rally Steering Committee has outdone themselves this year, putting this event together. As Chair, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the Y Staff volunteers from around the state as well Alliance staff for investing so much of their energy and creativity into providing an outstanding event for us to enjoy.



This year's theme is **Mission ISPossible** and the Illinois Mission Force will be here to support you. We want to encourage you to believe that the mission of the YMCA IS achievable! Whether you are new to the movement, a seasoned C-Suite member, or anyone in between, we know that by the end of Fall Rally you will have learned something new, made a new connection, and refueled your passion for our mission work in your home community.

This year's Fall Rally will help you grow by meeting new colleagues, reconnecting with friends, participating in educational sessions, and visiting the vendor exhibition area. Being fully involved in the Fall Rally experience will introduce, reinforce, and engage you in the great things happening in our Ys and our Y movement.

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to learn something new, make a new friend, have a great time and discover **The Power of YOU!**

Sincerely,  
Dominic Santomassimo  
CEO, Decatur Family YMCA  
Chair 2023 Fall Rally Steering Committee

**THE  
POWER  
OF YOU**



## FALL RALLY SPONSORS, VENDORS & PARTNERS

Please join us in thanking our sponsors and vendors for their continued support and generosity. Be sure to stop by our vendor booths during the Rally to learn more about these fantastic companies and enter your raffle ticket for a chance to win a prize.

**Vendor contact information can be found on pages 19 and 20.**

### PRESENTING SPONSORS



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### ACTIVITY SPONSORS



### VENDORS



**KEISER**

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**MATRIX**

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**YRF** YMCA RETIREMENT FUND  
SAVINGS FOR LIFE

# ALL STAFF RALLY SCHEDULE

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

8:30 am – 10:00 am	Registration + Vendor Tables Open
9:30 am – 10:20 am	Workshops Round I
10:20 am – 10:30 am	Transition Break + Vendor Time
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	Opening Session
	Chair Welcome
	Impact Over Intent – Sarah Stevens and Breanne Anderson
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm – 1:15 pm	Transition Break + Vendor time
1:15 pm – 2:15 pm	YPN Peer Community Group Time
2:15 pm – 2:30 pm	Transition Break + Vendor time
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Workshop Round II options
3:30 pm – 3:45 pm	Transition Break + Vendor time
3:45 pm – 4:45 pm	Workshop Round III options
4:45 pm – 5:00 pm	Transition Break + Vendor time
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Vendors' Reception
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	GIT Improv

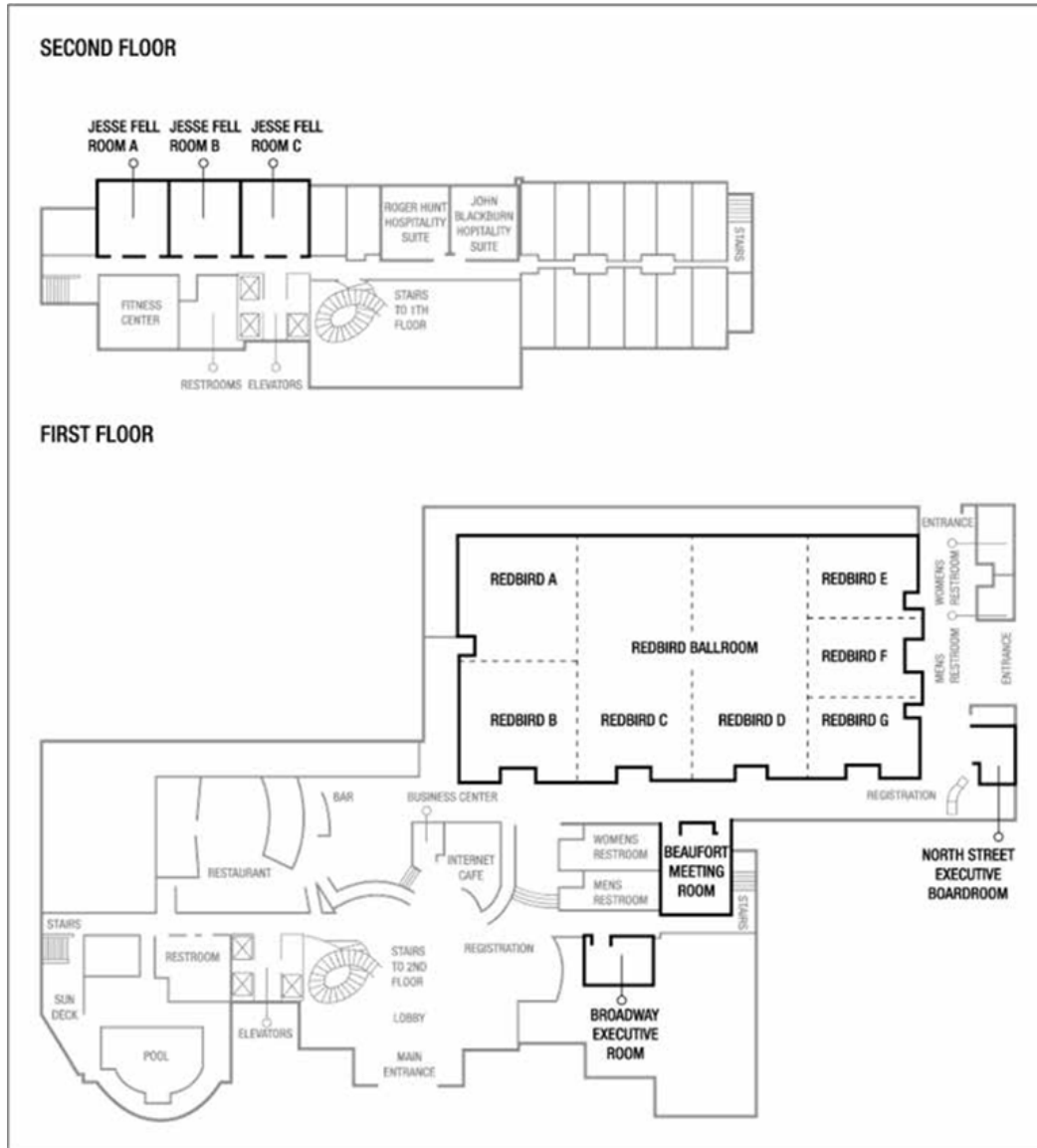
## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

7:30 am – 8:30 am	Breakfast
7:30 am – 9:15 am	CEO Breakfast
8:15 am – 9:15 am	How To's
9:15 am – 9:30 am	Break + Check Out
9:30 am – 11:30 am	Closing Session
	Activating Inclusion – Sara Cole
11:30 am	Closing, Farewell



# HOTEL FLOOR PLAN

The hotel's check-in time is 3 p.m. The hotel's checkout time is noon. Guests will be permitted to check-in earlier or check-out later subject to room availability. Baggage will be stored at no charge for early arrivals and late departures.





## RALLY PERKS & PLUSES

### ONE-ON-ONE RETIREMENT FUND CONSULTATIONS

Are you on-track for retirement? Registered guests will receive an email invitation to schedule one-on-one consultations with a representative of the Y Retirement Fund.

### VENDOR GIVEAWAYS!

Thanks to the generosity of our wonderful vendors, all Rally attendees will have the opportunity to win fantastic prizes. Rally attendees will receive 10 raffle tickets at registration, which can be deposited in the raffle bags at each vendor booth. We will be drawing the winning tickets throughout the Rally. Good luck!

### BONUS MISSION!

Scan the QR code at each vendor table to find the “informant” and receive a clue to unlocking a secret message. When you solve the secret message puzzle, drop your form off at the registration desk. All IMF agents with the correctly decoded message will be entered into a drawing for a bonus prize! Don't cheat! Spies will be ... eliminated.

### MOBILE CREATIVE EXPERIENCE

We talk about experiences for kids and families but often our creative sides often need a little jumpstart. Visit the Mobile Creative Experience provided by Crossroads YMCA (Crown Point, IN) and MixDesign. The set up has many different activities – from lego tables, to jewelry making to educational games to living room seating and more. Come out and play!

### FALL RALLY MEALS

All meals and breaks are included in the conference fee. Those requesting special dietary requirements for meals at the time of registration will be honored. Unfortunately, we will not be able to honor last minute requests.

### FALL RALLY EVALUATION

As a conference participant, you will receive an email shortly after the conference that will direct you to an online conference survey. Thank you in advance for sharing your feedback with the planning committee.



## GET SOCIAL!

Help us capture memories from this year's Rally by posting photos to Facebook, Instagram and X using these hashtags:

- #ILRally2023
- #MissionIsPossible
- #BeCauseY  
(get us on the 'Living Our Cause' feed)
- @illinoisymcas



## GENERAL SESSION PRESENTERS

### WHEN SARAH MET SPANDEX: IMPACT OVER INTENT

Most of us are drawn to the world of wellness because we intend to help people create happy and healthy lives, but what happens when what we intend gets lost in translation? What happens when our impact outweighs our intent and the people we wanted to help are inadvertently harmed in the process?

Join Sarah Stevens, TEDx speaker and founder of The Beautiful Project, and Breanne Anderson, Moline Branch Executive as they use a shared story to explore the ways in which intent and impact can help create a world where every body belongs.



### G.I.T. IMPROV

Improvational comedy served up fresh and fast! G.I.T. Improv began in 1997 and has since become a multi-award-winning comedy institution. They have headlined improv festivals, performed with world renown comedians in legendary venues, and help nurture the joy of improv with Applied Improv, Improv Coaching, and Workshops for a variety of corporate accounts.

Successful improvisers utilize the same skills as those required for effective business leadership and meaningful customer relationships; hyperactive listening, flexibility, trust, and enthusiasm. G.I.T. Improv's lively presentation is driven by anecdotal stories to create humor and long-lasting impressions. They are big proponents of breaking the mold and stepping outside the doldrums of day-to-day activities which dull creativity and passion for our professions. G.I.T. Improv's goals are to help attendees avoid communication pitfalls which commonly occur in a team setting, shine a light on behaviors that stifle creativity, and alter the perception that we are limited in what we can accomplish.



### ACTIVATING INCLUSION: MOVING BEYOND A PASSIVE 'FOR ALL' TO AN ACTIVE 'FOR ALL'

In this session we will discuss some ways in which our Ys can truly live up to the promise of our mission statement to create communities where all people are not only welcomed, but truly celebrated. Join your staff team as we share ideas and best practices to reflect, learn, and grow together.

Sara Cole, President & CEO of the Duluth Area Family YMCA





## WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

### **THURSDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS:**

#### **Overcoming Financial Barriers to Energy Efficiency – Let Financial Incentives do the Heavy Lifting**

Are project costs a barrier to energy efficiency? Speak with representatives from the Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program and learn about financial resources available to lower the cost of energy-saving equipment upgrades for your facility and members.

Presented by: Phil Lopez, Steve Smith and Andrea Evey, Ameren.

#### **Where's Your Y? 10 Tips to Upgrade Your 24/7 Front-Door**

In today's digital age, you have multiple front-doors. But with limited resources, it can be difficult to find and optimize them all. Learn 10 tips you can use today to start upgrading your digital front-door so every community member can find their way.

Presented by: Rob Gilchrist, Sales Manager and Cat Bart, Team Lead Account Management, Daxko

#### **How Illinois YMCAs Can Benefit from Solar**

Non-profits are always looking for ways to save money and use their electricity more efficiently. Join this workshop to learn how Illinois YMCAs are saving money and benefiting from solar energy. Learn which buildings and greenspaces are optimum for solar as well as how state, federal and local programs can financially assist in the solar development and ownership process.

Presented by: Brian Maillet, Renewable Energy Evolution

#### **People expect the Y to be a safe place. YMCAs are at risk. Learn what you need to know to keep your Y a safe place.**

It reflects badly when somebody gets hurt at our Y. We need to take good care of all our Y members, and especially our kids. We compromise our mission when we fail at safety. Learn what you need to look for and be aware of to keep your Y safe. Strong risk management and safety practices help protect our patrons and community, prevent injuries, and reduce the frequency and severity of incidents. The goal of this workshop is to raise awareness of the potential disasters and emergencies Y staff face every day. Learn free resources to aid your efforts in keeping your Y a safe place.

Presented by: Katrina Luetkebuenger, West Bend

#### **Hey, it's my first Rally...a starter session for staff who are new to the Y and the Fall Rally**

If you're new to the Y or your full-time role, then join us for an overview session aimed at understanding the movement known as the Y! You will leave with more information on the LCDC (our training portal), the leadership certifications, the IL Y State Alliance and how you can get involved, and how to make more money for your future self through Y Retirement. Facilitated by: Dominic Santomassimo, Decatur YMCA CEO, Fall Rally 2023 Chair

### **THURSDAY AFTERNOON YPN PEER COMMUNITIES:**

YPN (Y Professional Network) Peer Communities connect professionals from across the state with similar job functions or projects. Members of each peer community will meet to network, brainstorm, troubleshoot and share successes and challenges. Although your work may involve multiple Peer Communities, we ask that you please select ONE to participate in during the Rally.

Aquatics

Early Childhood

Health & Wellness

Property Management/Facilities

Executive Leadership

Finance

Membership & Marketing

Sports

Employee Services (HR/Payroll)

Fund Development

Out of School Time (including teens & camp)



## WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

### **THURSDAY AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS – FIELD AGENT PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**

#### **ACES and Trauma in the Educational Setting**

In this session, participants will gain understanding of trauma in a broad and inclusive way, learn how the brain and body respond to stress and trauma, and recognize the effects of trauma on students, staff, and schools. Presented by: Gail Neely Kolbeck, MEd Coordinator, Springfield Resiliency Initiative

#### **Active Listening/Powerful Questioning**

Cut the drama and reign in those high maintenance employees while building a resilient workforce. The key is to invest your time and energy into active listening and asking powerful questions. In our time together you will reinforce your knowledge of active listening and the techniques involved to fully listen. The program will be interactive and include practice scenarios. This will be combined with a specific list of powerful questions that assist you in guiding the employee to engage, contribute and be part of the solution. Presented by: Jill Steiner, SPHR, SHRM-SCP, Chief Human Resource Officer, YMCA of Springfield

#### **Building Your Personal Brand**

We know companies and celebrities have brands, but what about you and me? Amazon Founder Jeff Bezos says, "Your brand is what people say about you when you're not in the room." Having a brand helps drive your career and is the best way to ensure what is said about you is the message you want sent. We will explore what makes you stand out from the crowd and how you use that to build your own personal brand. Presented by: Michelle Polivka, Chief Marketing Officer, YMCA of Rock River Valley

#### **Career Mapping & Your Resource Compass**

Join Elli Grapp from the Mountain Midwest Hub and Jawanza Barial-Lumumba from the National Multicultural Leadership Development (MLD) team to explore what you are wanting and where you are going in your Y career! You will have a chance to explore the career map resource, hear and share your Y story, engage with your peers, and get connected to resources to advance you even further in the Y! Presented by: Jawanza Barial-Lumumba & Elli Grapp

#### **Conquering the Confidence Gap and Imposter Phenomenon**

This workshop will offer the chance to build insight into the Imposter Phenomenon. Learn about the factors that lead us to feel like imposters. You will develop a better understanding of your own experience of IP and learn how to resist imposter feelings. The workshop ultimately aims to provide skills to combat IP and increase feelings of empowerment. Presented by: Audrey Kunert and Brent Pentenburg, YMCA of Rock River Valley

#### **IL WRLN Launch Vitality Café**

Vitality Cafés provide an opportunity for informal but highly structured small group conversations that promote peer-to-peer learning and deep individual self-reflection. Through Vitality Cafés, participants learn how to use the vitality domains (Physical, Mental & Emotional, Spiritual, Financial, Environmental and Social), to assist them with charting their own path towards holistic wellness. Facilitated by: Jill Doerner, Chief Learning Officer, YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago, and Chair of the National Women's Leadership Resource Network

#### **Introduction to DEI & Understanding Biases**

Get an opportunity to get familiar with our foundational diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) tools and resources and begin your exploration of understanding biases and learning about how your implicit biases show up. This session will be led by Jawanza Barial-Lumumba who is part of Y-USA's Global, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (GDEI) Team. This introductory workshop will connect you to future opportunities to dive deeper into the greater advancing equity strategy. Presented by: Jawanza Barial-Lumumba, Y-USA



## WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

### **We Need to Talk: A Checklist for Difficult Conversations**

Think about a difficult conversation you have been avoiding. It might be a conversation with your boss, a Y member, or a co-worker. You might be waking up in the middle of the night thinking about this conversation. In this workshop you will learn to use your words to connect and be purposeful. Conflict does not have to be a negative thing. This session will provide a checklist of action items to think about before going into the conversation; some useful concepts to practice during the conversation; and some tips and suggestions to help you stay focused and the conversation flowing. Presented by: Katrina Luetkebuenger, West Bend

### **THURSDAY AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS – THE OPP (OPERATIONS RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT)**

#### **Anti Racism and the Wellness Community**

As the Sr. Director of Wellness, Megan Vazquez, has spent her career “helping” others become fitter, lose weight, and prevent chronic disease. After the murder of George Floyd, the COVID-19 pandemic, and making a commitment to creating a YMCA that is multi-cultural and anti-racist, Megan needed to learn and unlearn the harmful effects and exclusionary practices the Wellness Industry has created. In this workshop we will explore the dimensions of wellness and body image to confront racism in the wellness industry and to truly live by the mission of making the YMCA a place for ALL. Presented by: Megan Vazquez, Senior Wellness Director

#### **Building Sustainable Relationships That Support Your Y**

No matter how you look at it the YMCA is a nonprofit community support organization. However, to support your community, the community needs to support your Y. Every year, we look at several fund-raising opportunities but how do you retain continued support over time. Part of doing so is developing partnerships that are mutually beneficial for the YMCA and the partner organizations. To do so there are several factors that need to be accounted for, they include: ethical standards of bidding contracts, developing personal relationships with other businesses within the community. In today’s world sustainable business partnerships focus on ecological responsibility. While this is important we also need to consider unbiased equal opportunity when developing vendor relationships/ partnerships that support our community, with community acceptance. Presented by: Sam Brooks, CEO, YMCA of Warren County

#### **Cultivating a Restorative Workplace: Harnessing SEL Strategies for Professional Growth**

Discover the potential of social-emotional learning (SEL) and restorative practices to transform the way you work and interact with others. In this session, we’ll explore practical techniques and strategies to strengthen connections, resolve conflicts, and foster understanding and empathy in the workplace. Through interactive exercises and practical examples, you’ll discover how these powerful approaches can enhance your effectiveness as a leader, boost team dynamics, and create a harmonious environment that nurtures growth and success. Presented by: Rachel Latham, VP of School-age Programs, YMCA of Rock River Valley

#### **Program Development from the Inside / Out**

Re-aligning our program model to be members first / kids first – A deep dive into revamping the member facing experience through alignment of People, places, pricing and promotion. Presented by: Carl Zurbruggen, Group Vice President, Crossroads YMCA

#### **The What, Why, and How of Land Acknowledgements**

Anywhere you stand in the Americas, you are on Native land, but what are we to do with this legacy and troubled history? This workshop focuses on what land acknowledgement statements are, why they exist, and what they can and should accomplish. You will learn how to create your own and consider actions your organization can take to move beyond merely acknowledging the past and towards active engagement with Native people and communities in the present.

Presented by: Dr. Shannon Epplert, Instructional Assistant Professor, Illinois State University, (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians)



## WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

### **Unlocking the Imagination– Engaging Youth Development Staff**

Youth benefit from a world of possibilities and opportunities to interact, engage and learn through play! This workshop will explore methods to coach and develop staff in ways that get them out of the corners of the room and into imagination. We will discuss active supervision, child-directed activities, and ways to develop impactful relationships with children and their families.

Presented by: Sarah Renicker, Executive Director, Children's Learning Center, YMCA of Rock River Valley

### **Weight-Neutral Wellness**

We've been taught to believe that BMI is central to the conversation around wellness. But as emerging research begins to call this assumption into question, how can we start to consider the changes we need to make inside of our wellness spaces to expand the conversation around health to include something other than what people see on the scales? Join Sarah as she unpacks the concept of weight-neutral wellness and its impact on people in bodies of all shapes and sizes. Presented by: Sarah Stevens, Founder of the Beautiful Project and TEDx Speaker

### **THURSDAY AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS – THE PLAN (GRANTS/MARKETING/HR/FINANCE DEVELOPMENT)**

#### **Developing Major Gifts**

Major gift fundraising involves strategically identifying, cultivating, soliciting, and stewarding gifts from donors. In this session, you will learn how to identify the right potential donors for major gifts, where to spend your time, when you should ask for an upgrade, and how to cultivate relationships with donors. Stewardship is more than just saying thank you, you will learn strategies for recognizing donors and stewarding the donor relationship. Presented by: Bill Stanczykiewicz, Director The Fund Raising School IU Lilly Family School of Philanthropy

#### **Attracting Gen Z as Employees**

This workshop will focus on tips and strategies for recruiting, hiring, and working with Gen Z staff.

Presented by: Debbie Gaughan, Human Resources Director, Edwardsville YMCA

#### **Y Retirement**

The presentation will highlight how much you need to save during your career and how you can get there utilizing both the Fund's 401(a) Retirement Plan and the Savings Plans—403(b) Tax-Deferred, Roth Account and Rollovers—ultimately resulting in Lifetime Income! The Savings Plan's features like loans during your working years will also be discussed.

Presented by: Paulina Lopez, Manager of Retirement Education & Y Relations, YMCA Retirement Fund

#### **Fundamentals of Cyber Insurance and Data Security:**

##### **The simple things we can do to protect our personal and professional life.**

We will review the ways hackers are personalizing attacks to gain access to our data, why they are doing what they do, and the fundamental tools we can use to protect our personal and professional data. We will go over the following topics in detail: New attack vectors and how to protect your digital life. The basic needs of cyber insurance policies, and why this isn't going away.

Presented by: Brian Hatcher, Brick Technology Group



# WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

## **FRIDAY MORNING “HOW-TO” SESSIONS**

### **Creating a Foundation for Welcoming and Belonging**

Participants will learn how welcoming and belonging can be centered in communities. We will discuss ways that we currently create spaces for immigrants to not only feel welcome, but thrive and flourish, and explore additional opportunities of co-creating truly inclusive spaces. Presented by: Akua Forkuo-Sekyere, Director for Student Leadership & Development, University Y New American Welcome Center

### **ESports**

Esports are currently one of the most rapidly growing markets in the world. They provide a way to engage youth that aren't typically served by the traditional programming we offer at the YMCA. In this hour long presentation we'll go over what esports are, the benefits esports can bring to participants, as well as information on how to begin your program, ranging from start-up costs, to providing answers to the common push back you might hear from parents or executives at your Y when it comes to starting your program. Presented by: Melody Kensinger, Association Teen Director, Gateway Region YMCA

### **How to Start an Employee Resource Group at your Y**

Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) have the potential to greatly enhance the professional development of your people, and drive key community outreach initiatives that exceed your DE&I goals. ERG's are a form of employee engagement in which coworkers of a mutual demographic meet to bond over shared experiences. ERGs may connect employees who self identify by ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientations, or more. These affinity groups aim to provide peers with a safe space, enhance employee well-being, and foster a more inclusive work place. This session will provide you with the background, resources and knowledge to take the first steps in developing your own Employee Resource Groups at your Y. Presented by: Jill Doerner, Chief Learning Officer, YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago and Laila Kim, Senior Director of Health and Wellness, YMCA of Springfield

### **How to Start: Youth Government**

Need a leadership program for teens in your community? Learn how to foster valuable collaboration among students, develop leadership skills and encourage civic engagement - all through starting a Youth & Government program at your YMCA. Presented by: Julie Kapsch, Program Director, Illinois YMCA Youth and Government

### **Let's get REEL! Creating Short Videos for Social Media**

Interested in incorporating reels and short videos to your social media channels, but don't have videography experience? Instagram & Canva have resources available to help you put fun and engaging content together recorded right on your phone! In this workshop you will learn tips & tricks to get started! This training is designed for beginners to video and reels production. We ask that you bring your phone as we'll incorporate hands-on training! Presented by: Becca Homb, Executive Director-Marketing, YMCA of Rock River Valley

### **Member Engagement 101/ Retention**

When competition has expanded from neighboring gyms to well developed, online fitness platforms, we will explore how to strengthen the in-person community aspect of what the YMCA has to offer. This session will introduce and provide tools to implement realistic, simple strategies and programs to re-engage members. Presented by: Alex Geisler, Director of Membership & Marketing, Mt. Sterling Community Center YMCA





## FALL RALLY AWARDS

These awards were established to recognize outstanding performances by volunteers and staff in Illinois. Staff and volunteers who receive these awards have exemplified exceptional levels of work performance and displayed high regard and loyalty to the YMCA's mission and work in their communities. Annually, an awards committee determines the recipient in each category.

### STORMY WEBSTER AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING AQUATIC DIRECTOR

Stormy Webster began as a volunteer at the B.R. Ryall YMCA in 1952 teaching swimming and lifesaving at rented facilities as the Y did not have its own building. During her 38 years of commitment to the Y as a volunteer and staff member, Stormy was dedicated to providing training and staff development to improve the quality and safety of aquatics programming for youth in Illinois and Indiana. She was a master in working with volunteers. Under her leadership Stormy recruited more than 100 aquatic volunteers that taught more than 1,500 hours per week. Some of her accolades included Volunteer of the Year at the Ryall Y, SCUBA Commissioner for the Midwest Field and the Midwest Field Physical Director of the year in 1978. Stormy retired from the YMCA in 1990 as the Program Executive of the B.R. Ryall YMCA.

The Stormy Webster award recognizes a Y Aquatics Director who displays exceptional leadership, commitment and the attributes of being a cause driven leader in aquatics at a local, neighborhood or alliance level and is employed by a YMCA in the Illinois Alliance.

#### Stormy Webster Award for Outstanding Aquatics Director Recipients:

2022	Missy Contri	2010	Elaine Buckley	1999	Colleen Dempsey	1989	Nancy Reece
2020	Caitlin (Catie) N. Wallis	2009	Valarie Cahill	1998	Anita Perrotti	1988	Pam Wagner
2019	Deb Mortonson	2007	Joy Thomen	1997	Cheryl Dollinger	1987	Jeanette Bylwerk
2018	Lynnae Touchette	2006	Lori Siegel	1996	Teresa Hill	1986	Kathi Cook
2017	Jenny Rogel	2005	Karen Scott	1995	Pat Burns	1985	Mike Boyer
2016	Danielle Krohn	2004	Mary Lou Pease	1994	Sandy Krol	1984	Jeff Campbell
2015	Lesley Webster	2003	Kathryn L. Borgmann	1993	Kristi Umsted	1983	Karen Bruchan
2014	Sarah Jones	2002	Chris Bertana	1992	Lynn Mikovich	1982	Vicky Blough
2012	Jen Foley	2001	Kathy Dueball	1991	Jill Steiner	1981	Jeff Ottaviano
2011	Julie Potocki	2000	Anne-Marie Buhrmester	1990	Paddy Harrington	1980	Mike Cook
						1979	Stormy Webster

### MATT OTTAVIANO OUTSTANDING PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Matt Ottaviano served as the Executive Director of the Lawson YMCA in Chicago before becoming Vice President of Operations at the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago. During this time Matt also led many MRC services. He exemplified the characteristics of a cause driven leader. He was honest, fair, intelligent, and friendly. His philanthropic spirit and dedication to the movement allowed him to relate to major donors, staff, as well as connect to the everyday Y member.

The Matt Ottaviano award recognizes a program director who displays exceptional leadership, commitment and the attributes of being a cause driven leader in program areas such as resident camp, day camp, child care, arts and humanities, youth services, youth sports, gymnastics, and teen programming. Peer Communities: Overnight (Resident) Camp, Day Camp, Teen, Before and After School, Early Learning

#### Matt Ottaviano Outstanding Program Director Award Recipients:

2022	Rona Rafferty	2011	Melissa Ryan	2002	Rona Roffey	1992	Judy Bucci
2019	Rob Busby	2010	Katrina Luetkebuenger	2001	Jann Martin	1992	Kim Stout
2018	Julie Kapsch	2009	Susan Chansey	2000	Maureen McCarthy	1991	Terry Feldt
2017	Lisa McCully	2007	Amy Johnson	1999	Kimberly George	1990	DAnn Lagerblade
2016	Derek Schlager	2007	Shannon Payton	1998	Kathy Holland	1989	Judy Ellertson
2015	Lisa Parfitt	2006	Debbie Bruce	1997	Claudia Lesser	1988	David Lee
2014	Allison Greenman	2005	Sue DeTaeye	1996	Scott Peterson	1987	Jill Kawulok
2013	Sarita Smith	2004	Mary Pedersen	1995	Jacki Steffen	1986	Nancy Battersby
2012	Cory Harrison	2003	G. Dianne Williams	1994	Scott Clark	1985	Shirley Spears
				1993	Erika Barton-Wood		

## FALL RALLY AWARDS

### JOSEPH ROKNICH AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING FITNESS-WELLNESS DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Joseph Roknich was Executive Director at the Irving Park YMCA before becoming the Vice President of Operations for YMCA of Chicago and MRC Director. The Joseph Roknich award recognizes a Y staff person who displays exceptional leadership, commitment and the attributes of being a cause driven leader in the area of health, fitness/wellness. Peer Communities: Health and Wellness

#### Joseph Roknich Award for Outstanding Fitness/Wellness Director Recipients:

2022	Emily Hayden	2000	Don Quinlan	1984	Dottie Bonnenfant	1967	Jerry Woolley
2020	Kristen Derengowski	1999	Kim Webb	1983	Frank Klipsch	1966	Helen Coryell
2019	Breanne Anderson	1998	Kimberly Stewart	1982	Doug Kohl	1965	Walt Brantley
2018	Angela Foulke	1997	Tim McCoy	1981	Wray Howard	1964	Chuck Donecko
2017	Ian Stewart	1996	Peg Paligraf	1980	Jean Thigpen	1963	Bruce Bromley
2014	Chelsey Bowermaster	1995	Monica Kaminski	1979	Rich Escutia	1962	J. Larry Meyer
2012	Kim Jass Ramirez	1994	Tony White	1978	Stormy Webster	1961	G. Mike Chianakas
2010	Amy Kanzler	1993	Diana Last	1977	Art Michaely	1960	Gordon Peterson
2009	Gretchen Isaac	1992	Vicki Lettow	1976	Marlow B. Garvin	1959	Art Holland
2007	Scott Earl	1991	Gretchen Kelly	1975	Joni Coe	1958	Earl Wilson
2006	Sue Munz	1990	Robin Cagle	1974	Dave Diehr	1957	Merton Kennedy
2005	Cheryl Green	1989	Liz Heller	1973	Cliff Lothery	1956	Joe Roknich
2004	Eddie Papis	1988	Doug Thornton	1972	Nicki Doehler	1955	Jerry Martins
2003	Pam Gall	1987	Linda Dean	1970	Yvonne Rish	1954	Bill Bartley
2002	Connie Laidlaw	1986	Jim Rowland	1969	Bob Day		
2001	Sandi Philippin	1985	Mike Parks	1968	Bob Turner		

### OUTSTANDING MEMBERSHIP-MARKETING DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

The Outstanding Membership/Marketing Director Award recognizes the Membership or Marketing Director who is committed to the member experience, displays leadership, creativity and exceptional customer service. Peer Communities: Membership, Marketing

#### Outstanding Membership/Marketing Director Award Recipients:

2022	Lexie Zebe	2016	Michelle Polivka	2011	Beth Reusch	2005	Marcia Green
2020	Heather Dunker	2015	Margaret Willet	2010	Jean Flider	2004	Michele Chandler
2019	Hannah Robinson	2014	Margie Hennig	2009	Teresa Hoshauer	2003	Jan M. Jann
2018	Abby Helm	2013	Alicia Whitworth	2007	Wendy Bonilla	2002	Rich Haas
2017	Ashlee Heady	2012	Keri Olson	2006	Elizabeth Davin		

### OUTSTANDING FACILITIES, BUILDING, AND/OR PROPERTIES DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

The Outstanding Facilities Director of the Year Award recognizes a full-time Facility Director in the Y movement for outstanding efforts in managing and maintaining a YMCA facility or facilities. Peer Communities: Property Management

#### Outstanding Facilities, Building and/or Properties Director of the Year Award Recipients:

2022	Manar Nuaimi	2017	Tom Verheyen	2014	Gary Weirather	2011	Walter Myers
2019	Jim Trainor	2016	Jeremy Nelson	2013	Don Stolz	2010	Ralph Alvarez
2018	Joe Newingham	2015	Greg Smith	2012	Dave Wassenhove		

# FALL RALLY AWARDS

## OUTSTANDING SUPPORT SERVICES OR ADMIN OF THE YEAR

The Outstanding Admin Award recognizes an administrative or support staff in the YMCA movement who provides exemplary service to his/her YMCA operation or department and is dedicated team member that has demonstrated the core values of the YMCA movement. Peer Communities: Finance, Employee Services

### Outstanding Support Services or Admin of the Year Award Recipients:

2022	Ellen Corbin	2018	Jane Bowers	2014	Charlie Irick	2010	Amy Robbins
2020	Leslee Schueneman	2017	Tom DuBois	2012	Julie Easton		
2019	Nicole Propst	2015	Nancy Witt	2011	Sue Jackson		

## TOM STOLL AWARD

Tom Stoll, who passed away May 1, 2003, spent nearly 40 years in a love affair with the Y. Beginning in 1953 as a part-time volunteer at Oak Park Y Camp Douglas, Tom touched the lives of staff, volunteers, and members with the Oak Park, Aurora, Streator, and Naperville Ys. Tom was well known and respected for both the volunteer and staff leadership that he attracted and nurtured in the movement. As CEO of both the Streator and Naperville Ys, he built boards that were able to take good Ys and make them great. Tom recognized the importance of developing staff outside of his Y through active participation in both APD – now YPN – and as an instructor at Waubesa Valley Community College and George Williams College.

In recognition of Tom Stoll's Y legacy, the Tom Stoll Award has been established as an annual recognition presented to a Y professional on the ascending edge of service and who has developed outstanding executive or operational leadership and loyalty. Peer Communities: Operations, Executive Leadership

### Tom Stoll Award Recipients:

2022	Allison Greenman	2018	Kathy Fielding
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## DIG AWARD

The DIG Award recognizes a leader in the movement whose efforts focus on outreach to diverse and under-served communities and driving program innovation so that everyone, regardless of who they are or where they come from, has an opportunity to reach their full potential. This leader is intentional on integrating inclusion strategies across the diversity wheel. Peer Communities: Diversity, Inclusion, & Global Initiatives

### DIG Award Recipients:

2020	Daisy Moran	2019	Lynsey Wehrenberg	2018	Agneis Koenitz-Hudac
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## LEADERSHIP LEGACY AWARD (FORMERLY ILLINI CHIEF CLUB AWARD)

The Leadership Legacy Award recognizes a current Chief Executive Officer that provides extraordinary leadership to a corporate YMCA in Illinois by exemplifying the YMCA's values and mission. This award recognizes cause-driven leaders in their association, community, and the Y movement and among his or her peers across the State.

### Leadership Legacy Award Recipients:

2020	Mike Wennekamp	2016	Sam Brooks	2011	John Lee Usmial	2000	Wray Howard
2019	Gary Publitz & Howard Schultz	2015	Mark Spiegelhoff	2010	Don Darnell	1999	Martha Rolf
2018	Deborah Allen	2014	Dan Chonowski	2006	Judy Ellertson	1998	Don Heller
2017	B.J. Wilken	2013	Andy Thornton	2004	Jon Robinson	1997	Larry Elliott
		2012	Rob Wilkinson	2002	Dennis Mohrman	1996	Dan Osterman

# FALL RALLY AWARDS

## ALLIANCE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Alliance Rookie Award recognizes a “rookie” (6–24 months of employment) in the YMCA movement for outstanding on the job achievements and for demonstrating the ability to operate and manage successful programs, membership management or fundraising efforts in the YMCA through exceptional leadership.

### Alliance Rookie of the Year Award Recipients:

2022	Keesiya Robertson	2014	Melissa Bryant	2009	Susan Krause	2003	JoAnn Webster
2020	Rachel Latham	2013	Lesley Feyerherm	2009	Brad Cripe	2002	Melanie Brown
2019	Sarah Tunall	2012	Cody Duffie	2007	Kristi Brewer	2001	B.J. Wilken
2018	Sarah Weyer	2011	Lance Moring	2006	Joel Sieplinga	2000	Jan Schacht
2017	Lynn Eck	2011	Johana Voss	2005	Joe Rodts	1999	Lori Oaks
2016	Samuel Phillips	2010	Cari Christoff	2005	Jamie Eager	1998	Sarah McFarlane
2015	Clayton Lott	2010	David Zielinski	2004	Susie Engle	1997	Christopher Seals
						1996	Colleen Dempsey

## ALLIANCE COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD (STAFF AND/OR VOLUNTEER) OF THE YEAR

The Community Impact Award recognizes staff or volunteers who have made extraordinary contributions to the Y in their community and/or through the State Alliance. At the heart of every YMCA there are select staff and volunteers who give incredible amounts of time and energy to advance the Y’s cause. Peer Communities: Community Engagement/Outreach, Fund Development

### Alliance Community Impact Award Staff and/or Volunteer Recipients:

2022	Dori Fugate	2006	Pete Franciskovich	1995	Karma Niemeyer	1983	Evelyn Schum
2020	Eric Hanson	2005	Alice Doyle	1994	The McCartys	1982	Art Swanson
2019	Mike Broski	2004	Mark Woods	1993	Gary King	1981	Carol Argires
2018	Gary Evans	2003	Ray Kimbell	1992	Russell Hartigan	1980	Rich Mueller
2016	Cheryl Settle	2002	Dick Larson	1991	Lee Anderson	1979	Ed Warren
2015	Bill Gavin	2001	John Asan	1990	Jack Greenberg	1978	Kent Arney
2012	Tim Johnson	2000	Allan Adducci	1989	Bill Brock	1977	Ernie McKinnon
2011	Rick Penn	1999	George Kolovos	1988	David Hajek	1976	Jean P. Kaine
2010	Angie Scraedle	1998	Mary Winters	1987	Lew Maulter	1975	Charles Matheny
2009	Rita Trent	1997	Marge Kielgznski	1986	Robert Talitsch	1974	Helen Johnson
2007	Benno Friedrich	1996	Roy Olson	1985	Ray Newman	1973	Elmer Geissler
				1984	Max Zollner		

## PROGRAM EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Program Excellence Award celebrates Y programs that are innovative and making a difference in communities across the state of Illinois.

### Program Excellence Award Recipients:

<u>2022</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Illinois YMCA Youth and Government	Nourish	Camp Power
Saturday Strikers Bowling Program	Two Rivers YMCA	Kishwaukee Family YMCA
YMCA of Springfield	The Matthew Project	Special Olympics Swim Team
JOYNT Program	YMCA of Springfield	North Suburban YMCA
YMCA of the Rock River Valley	2 Seconds 2 Long	Go Blue – Water Safety
	North Suburban YMCA	C.W. Avery YMCA
		Kids Marathon
		Sage YMCA

## FALL RALLY AWARDS

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This NEW award recognizes a community or statewide partner who has supported your YMCA or Alliance over the past year by engaging as a meaningful partner in a program, an initiative or advocacy.

### Alliance Partner Award Recipients:

2022 – Plainfield School District,  
C.W. Avery Family YMCA

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The YPN Peer Community Leadership Award recognizes an active prime Chapter 45 YPN member that has displayed outstanding achievements leading their peer community by taking a proactive approach in bringing people together from across the state to share best practices in their area of focus.

### YPN Peer Community Leadership Award Recipients:

2019    Kaia Dutler

2018    Jill Steiner

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The AYP Outstanding Leadership Award recognizes an active Prime Chapter 45 YPN member for effective leadership. The outstanding leader is a champion of the YPN mission and focused on professional development, leadership development, networking, and innovation.

**YPN Leader of the Year / AYP Outstanding Leadership Award Recipients:**

2020	Lisa Behounek	2017	Carolyn Hamilton	2014	Katrina Luetkebuenger
2019	Jill Doerner	2016	Kaleena Escallier	2013	R.J. Bartels
2018	Darin Williams	2015	Cory Harrison		

## YPN Emerging Leader of the Year Award

2016	Brooke Hall	2014	Marian Slahor
2015	Debbie Madeley		



## VENDORS CONTACT INFORMATION

### Ameren Energy Efficiency Program

Phil Lopez  
plopez2@ameren.com  
309-573-6200  
www.ameren.com/Illinois

### American City Bureau

Fundraising  
302 West Main Street  
West Dundee, IL 60118  
John Biggins  
john@acb-inc.com  
847-867-2359  
www.acb-inc.com

### Church Mutual Insurance Company

Insurance  
3000 Schuster Lane  
Merrill, WI 54452  
Tyler Krombholz  
tkrombholz@churchmutual.com  
715-218-5464  
www.churchmutual.com

### Crown USA/Apparel Store

Y Branded Apparel  
8831 South Greenview Drive  
Middleton, WI 53562  
Tom Hughes  
thughes@toppromotions.com  
608-219-9956  
www.ymcastore.org

### DAXKO

Membership & Program Software  
600 University Park Place, Suite 500  
Birmingham, AL 35226  
Rob Gilchrist  
robert.gilchrist@daxko.com  
812-360-9731  
www.daxko.com

### Efficient Air Systems

Pool and Natatorium Dehumidification Systems  
P.O. Box 405  
Gorham, ME 04038  
Patrick Beaudoin  
207-839-3323  
pbeaudoin@efficientairsys.com  
www.efficientairsys.com

### Gro

Architecture, Real Estate, Design, Procurement  
Rod Grozier  
rgrozier@gro-dev.com  
www.gro-dev.com

### Keiser

Pneumatic Strength and Cardio Equipment  
2470 S. Cherry Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93706  
Dave Lykowski  
davel@keiser.com  
224-766-6310  
www.Keiser.com

### Life Fitness

Commercial Fitness Equipment  
9525 Bryn Mawr Avenue  
Rosemont, IL 60018  
Forrest Cory  
Forrest.Cory@lifefitness.com  
757-876-0159  
www.LifeFitness.com

### Matrix

Fitness Equipment  
1600 Landmark Drive  
Cottage Grove, WI 53527  
Kevin Kingston  
kevin.kingston@matrixfitness.com  
773-919-7370  
www.precor.com

### NinjaZone

Payroll and HRIS SAAS Software  
360 E 186th St,  
Westfield, IN 46074  
Erica Barnes  
erica@theninjazone.com  
773-851-1546  
www.theninjazone.com

### Paycom

Payroll and HRIS SAAS Software  
7501 W. Memorial Road  
Oklahoma City, OK 73142  
Kirsten Lentz  
kirsten.lentz@paycomonline.com  
815-600-6491  
www.Paycom.com

## VENDORS CONTACT INFORMATION

### **Precor**

Commercial Fitness Equipment  
20031 142nd Avenue NE  
Woodinville, WA 98072  
Steve "Grizz" Grzeszkiewicz  
steve.grzeszkiewicz@onepeloton.com  
262-909-4159  
www.precor.com

### **Renewable Energy Evolution**

Solar Energy Company  
110 Saunders Rd Suite 150  
Lake Forest, IL 60045  
Brian Maillet  
Steve "Grizz" Grzeszkiewicz  
bmaillet@renewableenergyevolution.com  
414-499-0799  
www.renewableenergyevolution.com

### **SPEAR Corporation**

Commercial Swimming Pool Sales / Service  
12966 N. County Road  
Roachdale, IN 46172  
Bryce Jones  
bjones@Spearcorp.com  
756-721-6010  
www.spearcorp.com

### **The Fund Raising School**

IU Lilly Family School of Philanthropy  
University Hall, Suite 3000, 301 University Boulevard  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
Andrea Miller  
amm55@iu.edu  
317-590-0713  
www.philanthropy.iupui.edu

### **TechnoGym**

Fitness & Technology  
700 US 46 East  
Fairfield, NJ 07004  
Mark Bentwitch  
mbentwitch@technogym.com  
609-204-4639  
www.technogym.com

### **TRUE Fitness/Octane**

Commercial Fitness Equipment  
865 Hoff Road  
St. Louis, MO 63366  
John Waggoner  
jwaggoner@truefitness.com  
217-590-6677  
www.TRUEFITNESS.com

### **West Bend Mutual Insurance Company**

Insurance and Safety Programs for YMCAs  
1900 South 18th Avenue  
West Bend, WI 53095  
Katrina Luetkebuenger  
Loss Control Consultant | Specialty Lines  
KLuetkebuenger@wbmi.com  
800-760-9250 x3572  
Mobile: 815-519-7706  
www.thesilverlining.com

### **Y Retirement Fund Retirement Planning**

120 Broadway  
New York, NY 10271  
Andrea Allison-Putman  
putman@ymcaret.org  
800-RET-YMCA  
www.yretirement.org

### **OUR PARTNERS**

#### **Illinois Youth & Government**

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#### **Mountain Midwest Service Delivery Hub**

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## WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

The Illinois State Alliance of YMCAs offers unique opportunities and benefits to Illinois YMCAs. Get involved today and experience the benefits of Alliance membership:

- Scholarship fund for Y professionals
- Public policy on critical issues affecting Ys
- Events, webinars and other educational conferences
- Joint negotiations and group purchasing, which results in better prices for all Ys
- Opportunity to access statewide grant funding
- Statewide initiatives

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Regional EMLE - November 2-3, 2023  
Springfield, IL

Annual Meeting - December 6, 2023  
Location TBD

**SAVE  
THE DATE  
for the next**

**FALL STAFF RALLY  
September 26-27  
2024**



### CONTACT US:

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