



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.

Matt Ottaviano Outstanding Program Director of the Year Award

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 members.

The Matt Ottaviano award recognizes two program directors. The first award is focused on a director working in the areas of childcare, camp, before and after school, or early learning. The second is focused on a program director in the areas of arts & humanities, youth services, youth sports, gymnastics and teen programming. These candidates display exceptional leadership, commitment and the attributes of being a cause driven leader in their program areas.

Joseph Rognich Award for Outstanding Fitness-Wellness Director of the Year Award

Joseph Rognich was Executive Director at the Irving Park YMCA before becoming the Vice President of Operations for YMCA of Chicago and MRC Director.

The Joseph Rognich 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.

Outstanding Membership-Marketing Director of the Year Award

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.

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

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.

Outstanding Support Services or Admin of the Year Award

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

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 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.

Leadership Legacy Award (formerly Illini Chief 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.

DIG Award

The DIG Award recognizes a leader in the movement whose efforts focus on outreach to diverse and underserved 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.

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 Waubensee 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.

ILLINOIS STATE ALLIANCE OF YMCAS AWARDS 2023

Alliance Impact Partner of the Year Award

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.

Program Excellence Award

The Program Excellence Award celebrates Y programs that are innovative and making a difference in communities across the state of Illinois. Up to 3 awards will be given and each program honored will receive \$250 towards its efforts. Note: You will be required to submit a 1 to 3-minute video of your program. This does NOT have to be professionally done. It is just to have a visual representation of your program.