



PEER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

UPPER MIDWEST ALLIANCE OF YMCAs YMCA PROFESSIONAL NETWORK | Chapter 41 & 42

AQUATICS

Second Thursday monthly at 1:00 pm CST
Vito Ward, vward@kmymca.org
Cheryl Podtburg, cpodtburg@duluthymca.org

ARTS & HUMANITIES

Bi-monthly Thursday's at 1:00 pm
Maeghan Johnson, mjohanson@ymcafoxcities.org
Angela Larsen, alarsen@ymcafoxcities.org
Open Minnesota position!

BRANCH DIRECTORS

2:00 pm CST on 2/20, 4/17, 6/19, 8/21, 10/16, 12/19/2025
Erin Hess, hess@swcymca.org
Chris Kost, chris.kost@ymcamn.org

BUSINESS & FINANCE

B-monthly 3rd Tuesday at 2:30 pm CST
Emily Anton, eanton@fdlymca.org
Jon Lang, jonathan.lang@scymca.org

CHILD CARE & CHILD WATCH

Bi-monthly 3rd Wednesday at 1:30 pm CST
Heather Gordon, hgordon@kmymca.org
Emily Marshall, emarshall@duluthymca.org

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Bi-monthly 3rd Wednesday at 12:00 pm CST
Jennie Melde, jmelde@laxymca.org
Anna Stindt, astindt@laxymca.org
Open Minnesota position!

DAY CAMP & SCHOOL AGE

First Thursday monthly at 10:30 am CST
(no meeting Jun, Aug, Sept 2025)
Jason Heuer, jheuer@kmymca.org
Open Minnesota position!

FACILITIES

11:00 am CST on 3/20, 6/26, 9/25/25
Todd Stammer, tstammer@glcymca.org
Open Minnesota position!

FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Bi-monthly 2nd Thursday at 10:30 am
Kirk Fishel, kfishel@ymcafoxcities.org
Jenna Kingsley, jenna.kingsley@scymca.org

FOREVERWELL/ACTIVE OLDER ADULTS

Bi-monthly 2nd Wednesday at 1:00 pm CST
Kate Yates, kyates@ymcafoxcities.org
Open Minnesota position!
Katelyn Whittenburg, kwhittenburg@ymcanorthernsky.org

GYMNASTICS

TBD
Lydia Thompson, lthompson@fdlymca.org (starting 6/1)
Hayden Schulte, hschulte@duluthymca.org

HEALTHY LIVING & GROUP EX

Third Thursday monthly at 1:00 pm CST
Kayla Heimerman, kheimerman@kmymca.org
Trista Jacobs, trista.jacobs@ymcaworthington.org

HUMAN RESOURCES

Second Thursday every 3 month at 11:00 am CST starting 2/13/25
Danielle Marx, dmarx@statelinyemca.org
Lindsay Youngquist, lindsay.youngquist@ymcamn.org

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Feb 19 at 12:00 pm, then TBD
Open Wisconsin position!
Vincent Blocker, vincent.blocker@ymcamn.org

MARKETING

Bi-monthly 1st Wednesday at 9:30 am
Spring Rank, srank@ymcafoxcities.org
Heather Drangin, hdrangin@duluthymca.org

MEMBERSHIP

2:00 pm CST on 1/9, 3/13, 5/8, 9/11, 11/13/25
Laura Ferree, lferree@glcymca.org
Suzanne Donkers, suzanne@northfieldymca.org

RESIDENT CAMP

Feb 13, Apr 17, Oct 16, 2025 at 10:00 am CST
Danielle Pickering-Polzin, dpolzin@ymcafoxcities.org
Ben Hoffman, ben.hoffman@ymcamn.org

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, TEENS & YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Second Wednesday monthly at 12:00 pm CST
Tammy Zellmer, tzellmer@ymcanw.org
Cassie Athorp, cassie.athorp@ymcamn.org

YOUTH SPORTS

Bi-monthly 2nd Wednesday at 11:00 am (starting 2/12/25)
Jimmy Reed, jreed@gwycymca.org
Todd Foster, todd.foster@scymca.org

For call calendar invites email Julia Wohlt:
jwohlt@uppermidwestymcas.org



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



LEADERS ARE MADE HERE

YMCA PROFESSIONAL NETWORK UPPER MIDWEST ALLIANCE OF YMCAs

WHAT ARE PEER COMMUNITIES (PC)?

Peer Communities is a network designed for staff to:

- share knowledge, learn, and innovate together.
- find or become a mentor to newly hired leaders.
- work together on program-specific projects or ideas.

WHY SHOULD I GET INVOLVED?

Engaging with your Peer Community has enormous benefits to both you and your fellow Y staffers.

- Gain a network of people who do the same work as you (in MN, WI and MI).
- Share resources. Chances are, you aren't alone when you have a question
- Acquire leadership opportunities - think resume building!
- This is where you meet your lifelong Y friends!

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

- Attend Peer Community virtual calls and in-person meetings.
- Reach out to your PC Leader and ask how you can be of additional support or email Julia at jwohlt@uppermidwestymcas.org.



Peer Communities
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