

You know us. For 150 years, the Akron Area YMCA has always come together to strengthen our community.

You trust us. As a member of our Y, you are confident that we are here to serve you, even though that service has been challenged in the last few weeks. But, you have stood with us. For that, we cannot thank you enough.

As you've been informed, we will not be drafting any Membership Dues for the entire month of April. We hope this helps as you navigate your personal situations at this time.

We are also doing some navigating. We are looking for ways to assure that our nearly 1,000 employees, our facilities and our outreach to the community, through programs like *Safety Around Water*, *Y-Strong* and *Early Care & Education* don't miss a beat, when the crisis has ceased. We are also operating four *Pandemic Child Care Centers* to assist parents who are working in the critical fields, outlined by Governor DeWine. In addition, our staff is personally reaching out to our members who are in the most vulnerable populations affected by COVID-19.

For these reasons, we plan to resume the draft of membership fees beginning May 1.

At this point, we do not know when our doors will open. We've cleaned, disinfected and planned for business to resume, but like you, we are not privy to the future. That is why, we are requesting that your May dues be considered a donation and treated as such by the Akron Area YMCA. *If you'd like to make other arrangements for your Membership, including putting it on HOLD, please contact your home branch, listed below.*

We need you. Members who continue to pay their monthly Membership Dues allow us to be resilient during this chaotic time. We again ask you to be one of those sustaining members.

As you know, this is a milestone year for our Akron Area YMCA. When we began it, our thoughts were about celebrations. But, today, our thoughts are about survival – continuing the history that is based on community and caring.

Join us by not only looking back but also in looking forward, as together we demonstrate the Y's work in standing strong for the good of all.

With gratitude and hope,

Jill Kolesar, President & CEO
AKRON AREA YMCA

Brian Bidlingmyer, CDO
AKRON AREA YMCA

Firestone Park

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