

Peter D. Ziegler is one of two volunteers being inducted in the class of 2013, the first official recognition of volunteers within the history of the YMCA Hall of Fame. While being an active and passionate volunteer for his home YMCA, the Kettle Moraine YMCA in West Bend, Wis., Ziegler will be remembered for his tireless work as a volunteer with the board of trustees of the YMCA Retirement Fund. Joining the board at time of the 9/11 attack on New York City, Ziegler provided prudent counsel and support during recovery as financial markets responded in unprecedented ways. What he will be remembered for the most will be his leadership of the YMCA Retirement Fund when, during his tenure as chairman, new regulations proposed in Washington threatened the unique status of the YMCA Retirement Plan.



Under Ziegler's leadership, with full support of all of the trustees, in partnership with Fund CEO John Preis, a national public policy campaign was initiated that resulted in one of the largest engagement of local YCMA leadership to mobilize support in every Congressional Office on the Hill in support of special legislation to preserve the historical status of the fund. Ziegler's credibility before Congress was strengthened immeasurably not only as volunteer chair of the YMCA Retirement Fund board, but also for being active on his local board of directors as chair of the Kettle Moraine YMCA. Ziegler's national leadership as chair of the YMCA Retirement Fund enabled them to secure the full value of the fund in perpetuity by the unanimous vote of Congress.

The initiative resulted in the signed approval by the President of the United States of America, George W. Bush. Perseverance and continuity of investment policy with Ziegler's influence helped the fund to recover from the impact of the Great Recession. Lessons learned from 9/11 helped the fund improve off site redundancy systems resulting in absolute seamless operations despite the devastation and power losses caused by Hurricane Sandy, during Ziegler's final year of service on the board of trustees.

On another front, as vice chair of the National YMCA Fund, Inc., Ziegler initiated and oversaw the recasting of the governance of the fund. Finally, Ziegler has assisted a number of local YMCAs in the establishment of investment policies for their endowments, including the YMCA of the Rockies, where he has served on the investment committee since 2009.

Ziegler's impact on the YMCA movement, and his work in leading the retirement fund through a serious challenge, is what will live on in perpetuity with thanks from all who participate in the fund, both in the present and in the future. His leadership roles at, and commitment to, the YMCA was further evidenced by his willingness to step up as chair of the Kettle Moraine YMCA when the previous chair passed away during his term. Ziegler models what true leadership and commitment is to the YMCA movement for others to learn from for generations to come.

