



100 YEARS OF ROLLING UP OUR SLEEVES.

The Y's Men's Club movement began in Toledo, Ohio, growing from a small group of YMCA volunteers into an international service organization built around service, fellowship, study of social issues and needs, and support to the YMCA and its community.



The Y's Men's Club story began at the original Central YMCA branch of the YMCA of Greater Toledo on Michigan Street, in Toledo, Ohio. In 1920, 15 business and YMCA professionals began exploring ways to raise funds for their local YMCA. Led by young lawyer Paul William Alexander, they formed the "Tolymca" luncheon club. By November 1922, the idea had spread to 17 clubs, leading to the formal creation of the International Association of Y's Men's Clubs.



Paul William Alexander was elected the first International President when the International Association of Y's Men's Clubs was formally established in November 1922. As a juvenile-court judge, Alexander advocated rehabilitation and mentorship for young people and saw the YMCA as a place where youth could find guidance and opportunity. His leadership helped shape the movement's close relationship with the YMCA and its growth beyond Toledo.



"TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE DUTY THAT ACCOMPANIES EVERY RIGHT."

— Y's Men International Motto

Today, women are full members of the movement. Since 1995, affiliated clubs have been able to use the names "Y's Men and Women's Club" or "Y Service Club" to reflect that broader membership.

