

Your Invitation to Belong

YMCA Global Leadership Network

This Network provides a unique lens on Ys around the world and the vast array of approaches to community service. It is also an excellent and accessible opportunity for essential leadership development for YMCA CEOs and General Secretaries.

Shaun Elliott
 Chief Executive Officer
 Greater Philadelphia YMCA, USA

While Bogota 2024 was my first experience with the Network, it was one of the best professional development conferences I have ever attended. The practical tools that were presented will impact the work I do. I highly recommend this Network to my CEO colleagues.

Anthony (Reinest) de Rose
 Chief Executive Officer
 YMCA Central, New Zealand

As we celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2026, the World Urban Network (WUN) is transforming to become the YMCA Global Leadership Network (GLN). This change is not just about a new name. It's a direct response to a fundamental shift in the world around us.

Since 1976, our Network has worked to empower **leaders from around the world**. The complex issues of our time - systemic inequality, mental health crises, and social fragmentation - requires leaders who can think globally and act locally.

The power of YMCA GLN comes from its diverse membership – bringing leaders together from all over the world, sharing different cultures, different perspectives, and different ways of bringing the Y's mission to life. The Network facilitates insightful and thought-provoking dialogue, promotes mutual and respectful connection, and fosters meaningful relationships based on shared values. GLN enables leaders to gain new, essential perspectives on their work and role. This is your invitation to join a network of passionate, committed YMCA leaders from around the world.

What the Global Leadership Network does:

Addressing What Matters Through Research

Through research, the GLN has gained insight into the changing nature of YMCAs and how leaders are adapting. This insight informs the design of GLN's learning and executive development programs; not to focus on conversations where there is already agreement, but to focus on the real issues facing YMCA leaders that separates what's important from what's essential.

Transforming Leaders

Beginning in 1979 in Tokyo, the annual conference has been central to the GLN experience. The conference – usually over five days - focuses on learning and building perspective, typically through external experts, brought to life by examples from colleagues around the world. The Conference Host shapes the character of each gathering through excursions and opportunities to experience local culture. In keeping with a welcoming, collegial experience, conferences typically include a separate Companions program. The 2027 GLN Conference will be held in Edinburgh, Scotland, hosted by the YMCA of Scotland, from May 30 - June 4, 2027.

Learning Circles

Professional learning – the kind that has a lasting impact – often occurs in settings that enable leaders to engage in critical conversations. Learning Circles are designed for GLN members using a facilitated, in-



I have always found great value in this Network. Our Y is emerging into a very different world, with a wide range of pressures and opportunities. Equally, from a professional perspective, I find the Network is a great place for growth that comes from the support and knowledge of others, as well as from sharing my own journey.

*Martin Hodgson
Chief Executive Officer
YMCA Dulverton Group, UK*

Being part of this Network and attending the recent conferences has provided a fantastic leadership experience and a beautiful way to connect with the global power of the YMCA movement.

*Wendy Bart
Chief Executive Officer
Olympic Peninsula YMCA, USA*

depth “feedforward” approach to discuss specific issues or challenges that have been identified by CEO participants. Learning Circles take place via four small, virtual executive learning sessions per year. Participation is included with your GLN membership.

Coming in 2026/27

The **GLN will be launching a Global Learning Series**, designed to provide emerging YMCA leaders with their first exposure to the global YMCA. This program will help shape an understanding of the changing nature of leadership, understood through a global lens.

How We Work:

Over the years, the GLN’s organizational approach has remained simple. The Network is an independent, non-incorporated, member-centered entity within the global Y. Working in multiple languages, the GLN maintains strong relationships with the World Alliance, Global Area Alliances, and regional YMCA networks. The Network is led by an Executive Committee with a membership of 70+ global YMCAs through direct relationships with local CEOs. Some members have been part of GLN for 50 years; others for 50 weeks. GLN enables global engagement through a graduated fee scheduled based on revenue that ensures everyone can belong.

The 2026 fee schedule is as follows:

- For Ys with annual revenue up to US \$1M revenue, the minimum membership fee is US \$130
- For YMCAs with annual revenue greater than US \$1M and less than US \$20M, fees are based on 2025 annual revenue divided by \$7,690. For example:
 - If revenue is US \$5M, then $\$5M / \$7,690 =$ membership fee of US \$650
 - If revenue is US \$15M, then $\$15M / \$7,690 =$ membership fee of US \$1,950
- For Ys with annual revenue greater than US \$20M, the membership fee is US \$2,600

Membership in the YMCA Global Leadership Network is open to all YMCAs.

A new member registration window will open as of September 2026. Fees will be prorated for the remainder of 2026, with annual dues payable in Q1 2027. Joining is simple: contact Bronwyn Allen, GLN Operations, at ballen@ymcawun.net.

If you would like more information on the GLN and its applicability to you and your YMCA, please contact Stephen Butz, GLN CEO at sbutz@ymcawun.net.

YMCA Global Leadership Network

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