

## **A Message from Our Chair**

**October 2023**

Last month more than 225 leaders gathered in Wilson, Burlington and Hickory for the Alliance's Annual Meeting and Peer Community Meetings to learn and connect. I was just so pleased to be there and see all the people in Burlington where I attended, and on Zoom where our colleagues from the Eastern and Western parts of the state also gathered.

It was also great to see so many of our younger leaders who attended their first Alliance meeting and were benefiting from the networking opportunities during their first year of working at their Y. The number of people who registered (and were on the waiting list to attend) speaks volumes as to how important it is for us to have that opportunity to see each other face to face again. Everyone was so engaged in the afternoon peer community conversations as well, and I'm sure those topics have sparked conversation back at our Ys and will lead to further conversations among our peers. We are a great resource to each other.

We're fortunate to have technology that enables us to be connected throughout the year at Alliance peer meetings, but it's great to be back to networking in person, forming new relationships, and getting reacquainted with our colleagues from around the state.

Thanks to the Alliance staff for organizing the meetings, to our Ys that hosted and provided tours, and to all those who were able to attend—and their supervisors who supported them in taking time away from the Y for this professional development opportunity. Thanks also to those who provided feedback to the Alliance staff team. They value your input to help inform content and structure for meetings they are planning for us for next year.

I also wanted to share this [At Your Service](#) summary, which the Alliance staff team discussed during the Annual Meeting. It illustrates how YUSA, the Regional Service Hub, the Alliance, and the YMCA Professional Network (YPN) all serve to support our Ys. I think it's helpful for veteran Y leaders and those new to the Y to see the layers of our support for local YMCAs and how we can access resources to support our work.

I'm looking forward to our next opportunities to be together in person. Be sure to check out the Save the Date section below for upcoming events where we can come together again.

Lynn Lomax  
CEO, YMCA of High Point  
Chair, NC Alliance Board of Directors