



e-NEWS

Seig Hoepfner et al, Temp Editors

From the President

What a great year 2014 turned out to be for the Alumni Club. Our activities were supported and well-attended - a big thank you to all the organizers and all the attendees.

We had a Mystery Dinner at the Hubbell House and a Hubbell House/Melodrama event. We had a Trolley/Four Daughters Winery trip. There were bus trips to the Chanhassen Theater to see 'Fiddler on the Roof', the Old Log Theater for 'Life Could be a Dream,' and the Commonweal Theater for 'Arsenic and Old Lace.' There was a bus trip to a Twins Game and we supported two overnight bus trips to view historical sites and battlefields.

The walk/hike events were quite popular as were the golf outings so they will continue in 2015.

The summer picnic and the Christmas party were both huge successes. We received many great comments. Finally, the health insurance seminars held in October were attended by more than 900 people.

So what's our plan for 2015? We have some things in mind but would like to hear from you. What kinds of activities appeal to you? Are there any activities you would be willing to help coordinate? **We need ideas and we need workers.** Please take a moment to contact us and let us know what you want to see from the Club and, also, how you might be able and willing to help. Think about just helping with one event or activity.

We still need a newsletter editor and some have expressed an interest. Currently, we are working as a committee to get the newsletter published. We'd love to hear from anyone who would like to be involved in the newsletter.

Happy New Year to all.

Seig Hoepfner

Election of Board Members

The votes are in and counted. We received 75 ballots, all of which accepted the full slate of 9 candidates. This was a larger count than we've had in previous years and we thank all who took the time to vote. New and returning board members for the Class of 2017 are Art Snyder, Bill Beaupre*, Bob Mesarchik, Greg Stewart, Hal Kossman*, Joan Buske, Ken Kiefer, Larry Plank and Wayne Harris* (* returning board members). The board looks forward to working with these new and returning members.

Preview of 2015 Events

Sleigh Ride February 4

Highway Cleanup May 12, July 14, September 8

Golf Dates to be determined

Picnic July 8

Salvation Army Bell Ringing November & December (dates to be determined)

Christmas Party December 12

Newsletters (email and US mail) Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov (on or about the 23rd)

Christmas Party 2014

The 2014 IBM Alumni Christmas Party was held December 13th at the local Eagles Club. About 200 Alumni members, spouses, and guests enjoyed great food, a great venue, great conversation!

The Eagles club, led by Teri Moger, did another fantastic job in setting up the room and organizing the food lines. We had many positive comments again this year.

We want to recognize the wonderful donors of door prizes: Think Mutual Bank, Rochester Ford/Toyota of Rochester, Grandmas Kitchen, Rochester Athletic Club, Eagles, Lost Cajun, Thirsty Belgian, Carousel Flowers, Hair Studio 52, and last, but certainly not least, Sue Norell for donating the beautiful lap quilt. Please thank the businesses by patronizing their businesses.

We also had a fantastic group of volunteers help run this event. Karl Shidler had many food servers lined up and Darlene Burchfiel took command of the cake! We had wonderful help at the registration table, Dick Odell was the photographer. Pete Huffman and his crew took charge of greeting and parking as well as passing out door prizes. This is what it takes to have such a successful party. Thank you to all of you for your help!

The 2015 Christmas Party will be December 12th at the Eagles Club, mark your calendars!

Karen Costa-Tappon and Gary Zander, Party Co-chairs



Highway Clean-up 2015

Mark your calendars for the 2015 highway clean-up. We will continue to work on the second Tuesday of May, July, and September. The dates are May 12, July 14, and September 8. Note that our last newsletter had the wrong date for September. We will meet at 9:00 AM at the Douglas Trail parking lot in Douglas. These typically take about an hour or less and are a great way to catch up with friends, enjoy the outdoors, and get a little exercise.

Jim Baker

Walking/Hiking Events for 2015

With the great response for the 2014 walking/hiking activities we have scheduled the following dates for the 2015. Look for sign up and park information in the March newsletter.

Spring outings:

- * 05/06/15 Quarry Hill Park
- * 05/20/15 Indian Heights Park
- * 06/03/15 Essex Park
- * 06/17/15 Root River County Park

Fall outings:

- * 09/02/15 Quarry Hill Park
- * 09/16/15 Gamehaven Park
- * 09/30/15 Indian Heights Park
- * 10/14/15 Oxbow County Park
- * 10/28/15 Chester Wood County Park.

Dave Lind

Alumni Club Office Staffing Volunteers

During 2014, 13 IBM Rochester Alumni Club members volunteered their time (198 hours) to staff the Club office at the Salvation Army building, 120 1st St NE, Rochester. A big THANK YOU to the following club members volunteering their time to help fellow IBM alumni: Joan Buske, Bev Gerzevske, Bill Hammer, Wayne Harris, Kathy Henderson, Seig Hoepfner, Dave Lind, Steve Majerus, Dave Naatz, Frank Richason, Lad Roering, Roger Spee, Ed Venners.

Any IBM alumni interested in staffing the Alumni Club office from 10 AM till Noon on Tuesdays or Thursdays are encouraged to call the club office at 507-424-4193 or send an e-mail to rhret@aol.com for more information.

Wayne Harris, Chairman, Office Committee

A Note Regarding 2015 Club Events

At the present time, your IBM Alumni Club is working to present more events that we hope our fellow members and friends will enjoy. The Sleigh Ride is a definite event but the rest are things we are considering - nothing definite, just ideas. Let us know what you think.

A third annual Murder Mystery Dinner, Mantorville play (*Love, Sex and the IRS*) with dinner at Hubbell House, Johnny Mango gourmet meal with food preparation demo (and lots of humor), Honkers baseball game with refreshments, bus trip to the Old Log Theater (Dinner and play *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*).

Hal Kossman

IBM Alumni Bowling League Mid-Season Report

We usually publish the Bowling League Mid-Season Report in the January newsletter. Due to space limitations, we are now going to put this information on our website ibmrac.com where it will be available for viewing by all interested parties.

Senior Softball Anyone?

For the upcoming summer season, the **Rochester Minnesota Senior Softball Association** (RMSSA) is looking for more SOFTBALL PLAYERS, men age 50 & up and women age 40 & up with some athletic ability.

It is an opportunity to join 100+ current players to participate in organized league softball for fun, fitness, and friendship. Games are played Mon and Wed, 9:30 AM at McQuillan Fields. **The season is May 4 through Sept 16.**

2015 Registration dates are **Wed, April 8th** at the History Center (1195 W Circle Dr. SW in Rochester) and **Wed, April 22nd** at the Wicked Moose (1201 Eastgate Dr. SE Rochester), both **Noon to 4 PM.**

Everyone is welcome to join as long as you meet the age requirements and have some athletic ability. Come out to play Senior Softball this summer! Bats & balls are furnished. You bring your own glove.

It's only \$40 for 40 games plus two picnics! Entry fee is \$35 if you sign up prior to April 8th.

Call Bill Beaupre at 507-288-3324 or log on to www.rochestermnseniorsoftball.webs.com for more information.

Join the Fun...How about a February Sleigh Ride?

Come on along, bring your friends, and join other Alumni Club members at Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch for a delicious hot luncheon along with a salad bar, followed by a 30-minute horse-drawn sleigh ride. Then warm up in Walt's Room with coffee or hot chocolate and cookies. Bring as many friends as you wish (guests do not have to be members of the Alumni Club, but must be at least 18 years of age).

Mark your calendar for **Wednesday, February 4th, 2015. Lunch will be served promptly at 12:00 Noon in the main lodge**, so we recommend you arrive about 11:45 AM. **The menu will be Chicken Kiev with Rice Pilaf, Corn, Salad Bar, Dessert, and Beverage of Coffee or Tea.** (gluten-free meals can be accommodated.) **A 30-minute horse-drawn sleigh ride** will follow lunch at the arena, then join others for **coffee or hot chocolate and cookies in Walt's Room** in the arena until 3:00 PM. **All for a \$20.00 per person.** You will be asked to sign a waiver by the sleigh company saying that, as a participant, you will assume full responsibility for any accident or injury while aboard the sleigh. The sleigh driver can answer any questions you have.

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! Oh, the weather outside might be frightful, but our sleigh ride party will be delightful!

For a map and directions, check this link: <http://www.ironwoodsprings.com/directions.aspx>

*****RESERVATION REQUEST FORM*****

ROCHESTER IBM ALUMNI CLUB SLEIGH RIDE EVENT

Deadline for sign up is 1/21/15

Member Name: _____ Phone: _____

Gluten-Free Meal Requested # _____

Reservation Quantity: _____ x \$20.00 each = \$ _____

Please mail this form and your check to:

IBM Rochester Alumni Club 20 1st Avenue NE Rochester, MN 55906

Cancellation Policy: There can be no refunds after January 23, 2015. If weather affects the event, a date will be rescheduled. For questions, contact The IBM Alumni Club Office at 507.424.4193 or Email rchet@aol.com

Obituaries

IBM Alumni (club members and non-members) who passed away in 2014:

Edward 'Ted' Anderson, Ralph Beaver, Richard Lee Butturff, James R. Cadwell, Robert Paul Chaney, Robert J. Chappuis, James H. Collins, Lyle L. Conrad, Duane A. Douglas, James W. Drescher, Steven Lee Easley, Virgil B. Eggenberger, Robert J. Elgin, Herbert Fjelstad, LeRoy O. Flatness, Marcia Priebe Gray, Bernard John Guenther, Dennis K. Hanson, John Harrington, Lester R. Hartleip, Janice Hjelle, Joseph Holland, Stanley Jensen, Gregory John Kerwin, Robert William King, Gerald R. Knutson, Marvin 'Marv' Kulas, Donald Lee Kundert, Leon M Larson, Edmund 'Ed' Lee, Russell E. Leinau, Charles A. Lopez, John Michael Lynaugh, Alan W. McTavish, Donald Meyers, Edward Ralph Miller, William 'Bill' Miller, Gerald 'Jerry' Murray, Deborah Ann Mustain, Norbert 'Bert' Nass, Paul D. Nelson, Ruth Nevling, Harold C. Renner, Jon E. Rush, Jeanne E. Samways, Una Hoops Schlee, John 'Smokey' Shelstad, Bernard J. Sheridan, John 'Dan' Skinner, Susan K. Starkson, Richard H. Sullivan, Robert Roy Tracy, Richard A. Trachy Sr., Peter Tricker, Gerald 'Jerry' Watros, Larry Lee Weinmann, Arlan 'Archie' Wilson, Kenneth Wilber Wilson, William Howard Witte, Eugene P. Wojtczak, Emmett W. Woolfolk Jr.

The following IBM Alumni Club members have recently passed away:

Lyle L. Conrad died on October 15, 2014. He was a tool and die specialist at IBM for 37 years, retiring in 1991. He is survived by his children, grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Lloyd James Dickhut died on January 8, 2015. Lloyd's career with IBM spanned 39 years. He is survived by his wife, Marie, eight of his 10 children, 18 grandchildren, and 34 great-grandchildren.

Robert J. Elgin died September 30, 2014. He worked as a tool and die maker in the Laboratory Model Shop for 23 years, retiring in 1988. He is survived by his wife, Vera (of 60+ years), three daughters and two grandsons.

Janice Hjelle died on December 10, 2014. She worked for IBM in Rochester and various towns in California from 1962 until her retirement in 1992. She is survived by a sister and her husband of 59 years, Robert, who is an IBM Alumni Club member.

Joseph Holland died on October 6, 2014. He retired in 1987 after 29 years at IBM. Joe is survived by his wife, Lois, and many children, grandchildren, one great-grandson, nieces and nephews.

Gregory John Kerwin died on December 9, 2014. Greg was employed as an electrical engineer at IBM for 33 years, retiring in 2001. He is survived by his wife, Patty, three sons, five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, brothers and sister, and many nieces and nephews.

Marvin 'Marv' Kulas died on December 27, 2014. Marv worked in various positions at IBM for 45 years. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Judy, four children, a granddaughter, and a brother.

Donald Lee Kundert died on November 21, 2014. Don worked at IBM and retired twice with a total of 41 years of service. Don is survived by his wife of 53 years, Theresa, sons and grandchildren, as well as a brother and sister and many nieces and nephews.

Edmund 'Ed' Lee died on October 24, 2014. Ed worked at IBM for 33 years, retiring in 1986. He is survived by his wife Shirley, his children, eight grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

John Michael Lynaugh died on December 16, 2014. John worked at IBM as a licensed chief boiler engineer, retiring in 1991. He is survived by his wife Pat, a sister, a nephew and two nieces.

William 'Bill' Miller died on December 9, 2014. He worked at IBM for 37 years in various capacities including customer engineer, instructor, and service planning. Bill is survived by his wife Julene, four sons, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Gerald 'Jerry' Murray died on November 14, 2014. He worked for IBM for 31 years. Jerry is survived by his wife Marge, four children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Harold C. Renner died on November 25, 2014. During his 32-year career at IBM, he worked as an assembler, programmer, and manager. Harry is survived by his wife on 51 years, Ethel, children and grandchildren.

Richard H. Sullivan died on November 13, 2014. He was a longtime employee at IBM. Richard's wife of 51 years, Anna, died four weeks earlier in October of 2014. Survivors are four children, eight grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Gerald 'Jerry' Watros died on November 2, 2014. Jerry worked for IBM for over 30 years. He is survived by his wife, Marlys, sons and daughters-in-law, seven grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

Eugene P. Wojtczak died on October 11, 2014. Eugene worked for IBM in Chicago and moved to Rochester in 1969. He retired in 1990 after 30 years of service. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn, three daughters, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

On behalf of the Alumni Club, we extend our most sincere sympathy to all survivors.

We have had a number of requests to put the obituaries on our website. We will be doing this but listing just the names of IBM alumni who have passed away in a particular year. Our information comes from the Post Bulletin as well as emails and phone calls from our club members. Most of our members want to see these obituaries, however, if anyone does not want something posted, please let us know.

Celebrations

50th Anniversary:

- Chuck & Karen Balster, June 27
- Rick & Ruth Linder, November 21
- Doug & Marian Knudsen, November 28
- Roger & Bettelu Baker, January 2

60th Anniversary:

- Bill & Joan Otto, November 6

We'd love to hear from you

Thank you to all who have contributed to this issue, and we welcome your input for future newsletters. Take a minute to tell us what you've been doing and what you would like to see the club doing.