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Web Site: <http://rochestermn.com/rrclub>

Volume XVIII Number 1 Ed Rosencrants, Editor January/February 2005
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SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS

On Friday November 19th, IBM Retirees' Club members and spouses rang the bells for the Salvation Army at J C Penney at Apache Mall. Even though it was a cool and rainy day, contributions were good. A very special thank you to the following bell ringers: **Jim "Abe" and Mary Abraham, Del and Bonnie Anderson, Rita Buegler, Loel Erickson, Jim and Peggy McEvoy, David Middleton and Ruth Nevling.**

Loel Erickson, Coordinator

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

During 2004, twenty Retirees' Club members volunteered their time to staff the Club office at the IBM main site. Four of the below individuals volunteered 10 or more times. Regardless of the number of times volunteered, a big **THANK YOU** to **ALL** the following volunteers:

Chuck Abrath, Gary Allar, Del Anderson, Ed Anderson, Bob Bonsi, Rita Buegler, Loel Erickson, Dwight Gorneau, Wayne Harris, Gordon Kappel, Paul Klankowski, Bob Mesarchik, Dave Monson, Ruth Nevling, Lad Roering, Bill Schmidt, Richard Smith, Arlyn Ward, Judy Wasser and Kenneth Yule.

Anyone interested in staffing the Retirees' Club office from 10 AM till noon on Tuesdays or Thursdays, please call the club office at 507-253-3664 or send an e-mail to rchret@us.ibm.com .

Wayne Harris,
Chairman, Office Committee

DAFFODIL SALES

The IBM Retirees' Club will be selling daffodils for the American Cancer Society, again this spring. Our assigned location is Hy-Vee Barlow Plaza on March 9 - 13. If you would like to assist in this very worthwhile cause, please call the Retirees' office at 253-3664 and someone will call you to schedule a day and a time.

Loel Erickson, Chairman, community services

COMING EVENTS

Put these dates on your calendar:

- Retirees' Club picnic: Wed., July 13
- Retirees' Club Christmas party: Sat., Dec 3

It is not too early to think about GOLF. We have a tentative schedule set for 2005:

- Stewartville, June 13,
- Lake City, June 27,
- Coffee Mill, July 20,
- Frontenac, August 1,
- Willow Creek, August 29,
- Dodge Center, September 12,
- Maple Valley, September 26,

More information will appear in follow-up Newsletters and on the Retirees' Club Web-Site.

MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE

At the January board meeting the board discussed the budget and club finances, and voted to raise the cost of annual membership from \$3.00 to \$5.00. This is the first increase in membership dues since the club was founded in 1987. There is no increase in life membership. This was forced on us by the increasing cost of mail, food and facilities for club events.

RETIRES' HOLIDAY PARTY A SUCCESS

The 2004 IBM Retiree Club Holiday party was held on December 4th, 2004. A total of 539 people attended this year's Holiday Party. The Mayo Civic Center staff and our caterer, Catering-by-Design, did an outstanding job, which resulted in another fun afternoon. When you have an opportunity to do so, thank them.

The 2005 Holiday Party will again be held at the Mayo Civic Center on December 3rd. Put that date on your calendar now.

We want to make a special note of thanks to the THINK Credit Union. They paid the fee for the liability insurance again this year. When you stop by their offices, please share our thanks with them.

If you have any comments that would help improve the party for next year, write or call and let us know. Because of input we received after our 2003 Holiday Party we moved back to the Auditorium, added another serving area, and were able to have an outstanding musical group from the Pine Island high school entertain us. We will work with the Civic Center and the caterer to make next years Holiday Party even better.

I would like to thank all the board members who staffed the registration tables and those Holiday Party committee members for time they spent planning, and helping out during the event. A special note of thanks goes to Nancy Morrison, who provided all the decorations, and managed the registration tables.

Jim Honsey,
Chairman, Holiday Party Committee

RETIREES' CLUB NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

We sent out 128 News letters via email. That's less than 10% of the members. We received 3 undelivered notes. The experiment was a success and will be tried again this time. If you have not sent in your e-mail address, please consider doing it. We are trying to reduce mail expenses by at least 10% this year.

RETIREES' CLUB AUDIT

On January 18, the treasurer met with the audit committee to go over the books. Upon completion of the audit, the books were pronounced in good shape.

Wayne Harris, Chairman, audit committee

IBM RETIREES' BOWLING LEAGUE

Again this year, we have fourteen 3-person teams and have arrived at the half-way point in the season. We schedule a "position day" on which to end each half season. For those not familiar with the term, the team that is in 1st place is matched against the 2nd place team; the 3rd place team against the 4th place team, etc.

In 1st place was Lois & Kids (**Lois Hansen, Clarence Speltz, & Karl Pasch**) matched against the 2nd place Rockets (**Marv Sawyer, Dorothy Guenther, & Dick Smith**). The Rockets 'fizzled' handing all 7 points over to Lois & Kids to lock up 1st place for the first half. The 7th place team, Bill's Girls (**Isabel Smith, Bill Miller, & Jessie Shanklin**) won all 7 points in their match to squeeze into 2nd place by only a half point ahead of the team 2 + 1 (**Dick Severson, Judy Garske, & Chris Oslund**), who moved up to 3rd place. Now we reset the points back to zero and all start working toward that first place finish in the second half.

Here are those who won individual awards so far this season.

Fred Garske had an outstanding 298 game (2 pins from perfect) on December 1st. In recognition of this achievement, he earned an ABC 298-game wrist watch. Earning the ABC Senior 75 Pins Over Average (game) emblem are:

- **Fred Garske** 298 (99 over avg)
- **Terry Bowman** 275 (87 over avg)
- **Jerry Warner** 267 (75 over avg)
- **John Prasil** 223 (79 over avg)

On Dec 15th, Karl Pasch had games of 203, 245, & 227 for a 675 series and earned the ABC 150 Pins Over Average (series) emblem. **Dave Drips** earned an ABC All Spare emblem with a 180 score. After recovering from a serious arm injury last season, **Betty Voss** showed us that she is still a contender with games of 154, 176, & 209 for a 539 series. For this she earned a WIBC 125 Pins Over Average emblem and the WIBC 200 Game pin. Also earning their

WIBC 200 Game pins were **Bea Quelle** and **Isabel Smith**, each having a 202 game.

On Dec 22nd, Inez Jacobson (a 141 average bowler last year) hit a 220 game and earned the WIBC 75 Pins Over Average emblem and the WIBC 200 Game pin.

Here are the men and women who have put up the best numbers so far:

High Average:	Harry Wahl	- 191
	Jessie Shanklin	- 162
High Game (hdcp):	Fred Garske	- 299
	Inez Jacobson	- 279
High series (hdcp):	Karl Pasch	- 750
	Betty Voss	- 731

Congratulations to Lois & Kids on your first place finish and to those who have earned individual awards. Thank you to the subs who have filled in when needed, and to the regulars for their excellent attendance.

Dick Smith,

League secretary

OBITUARIES

The following IBM Retirees' Club members or spouses have passed away since the last newsletter.

ROBERT J OESTERLIN died November 6. He joined IBM in 1948 and retired in 1986. He is survived by his wife, Merle; 2 sons, Robert and Scott; and 5 grandchildren.

VIRGINIA 'GINNY' BIEDLINGMAIR died November 11. She was the wife of 1983 retiree Robert. She is survived by her husband; 3 daughters, Karen Baetsen, Susan Wilson, and Linda Blanchard; and 5 grandchildren.

GERALD ELMER 'GERRY' KOLLASCH died November 13. He retired in 1987. Survivors include his wife, Joanne; 6 daughters, Judy Bell, Laurie Brownell, Nancy Almli, Mary Kollasch, Diane Borgschatz, and Karen Meier; 2 sons, Steven and Larry; 12 grandchildren; and 5 great grandchildren.

HAROLD LEONARD MUELLER died November 18. He was a machine operator until his retirement in 1990. Survivors include his wife, Twylah; a son, Mark; a daughter Sara Vinje; and a grandchild.

LOIS M. SCHERMERHORN died December 3. She was the wife of 1987 retiree Everett. Survivors include her husband; 2 daughters, Lana Schulz and Sandra Senst;

2 sons, Steven and Scott; 7 grandchildren; and a great grandson.

FERD R ANDERHOLM died December 17. He retired as Mgr of Lab Operations in 1983. He is survived by his wife, Audrey; 3 daughters, Ellen Felix, Nancy Engel, and Peggy Anderholm; 2 sons, Eric and David; and 11 grandchildren.

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

In the last newsletter I mistakenly reported that Ken Bell was deceased. I heard from Ken and I apologize for the mistake.

EMPLOYEES' CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

You can ALL take great pride in knowing that the Rochester 2004 Employee Charitable Contribution Campaign was a HUGE SUCCESS. Through the generous donations of thousands of IBMers we were able to raise over \$1.5 Million in funds for the first time ever on the Rochester site!! Every single goal was beaten.

Here are the Highlights:

- We set out to provide help to over 50,000 people with our donations. Final numbers show we will be able to provide help/services to 52,009!!!!
- Our Site Goal was to raise \$1,462,000 - We raised \$1,508,289... beating the Site Goal by \$46,289!!!
- The average gift was \$442, which beat last year's average gift by \$23. We pledged \$1,000,000 to the Olmsted County United Way... and beat that goal by \$33,542!!
- The retiree community raised \$53,588.
- All of this was accomplished with a site population that was down 107 people from last year... pretty amazing!!

Thank you so much for your support and these AWESOME results!!!

Karl Pasch,

Coordinator

MEDICARE B PREMIUM REIMBURSEMENT

A reminder to send in the completed "Special Health Assistance Provision Claim Form" to get your Medicare B Premium Refund. You are eligible if:

- You retired December 31, 1990, or prior. Submit for reimbursement of Medicare premium in excess of that included in your pension.
- You retired after December 31, 1990, but before December 31, 1996. Submit for reimbursement of Medicare B premiums.

The instructions are on the back of the form, available from **"IBM**

National Human Resources Center" at 1-800-796-9876.

You have until December 31, 2005 to file for reimbursement for 2004.

LIFE PLANNING ACCOUNT

For those of you who are participating in a wellness course or an exercise/weight control program, reimbursements for certain expenses are available. File "Life Planning Account Claim Form", available from "**IBM National Human Resources Center" at 1-800-796-9876**. Instructions are on the back of the form. Claims must be filed by April 15, 2005.

IBM ON DEMAND COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Minnesota has 1325 IBM On Demand Community volunteers who are registered on the ODC website. They have logged more than 56,000 hours in this first year -- and valued at the current "going rate" for volunteers of \$17.23 per hour, that means \$964,880 of services have been provided to area schools and not-for-profit organizations.

In our first year of ODC, 135 not-for-profit organizations and schools benefited from ODC Community Grants through their IBM volunteers. Individuals and teams of 3 or more were able to make cash or technology grants, and these organizations received more than \$550,000 in technology and cash for their work. Here are four examples:

Jim Engh attended the kickoff event for IBM Retirees held at the site in July. Intrigued by the program, he asked how his Mayo volunteerism might be leveraged. Jim took on a leadership role and identified other IBM retirees who are active volunteers and was able to recruit twelve who have given more than 40 hours to participate in team grants. Mayo Clinic, Methodist and St. Mary's Hospitals and Mayo Foundation collectively realized nearly \$22,000 in technology as a result.

Will Rasmussen is one of 28 IBMers who help senior citizens with tax filing through the AARP Tax Aid program. Collectively, they volunteer 2500 hours, more than half the total 4300 hours volunteered in this important program). Will led a team to make a technology grant valued at over \$7,000.00 for the program.

Before **Dean Ascherman** retired from IBM, he was an active volunteer with schools and the Minnesota Disabled American Veterans Foundation. Upon retirement, he became director of the program and recruited IBM volunteers to help increase the technology capacity of the organization. As a result, the DAV office management system is server based, management is mobile through laptops, and a new website has improved communications with their clients.

Ted Saxman has been a tireless volunteer with the Rochester Public Schools. To leverage his ODC grant opportunity, Ted partnered with two active employees and did a team grant for technology valued at over \$6,000.00 for the Mayo High School Newcomers program.

Find out more about this program at our web site: <http://rochestermn.com/rclub>

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION OFFER FOR THE RETIREES' NEWSLETTER

Your membership dues for 2005 are due now. If you are a lifetime member and do nothing, you will continue to receive the newsletter. You are a lifetime member if LM is printed on the address label below. If you have been a yearly subscriber, the \$5.00 annual fee is due now, or consider the **onetime lifetime membership** of \$25.00. If you are not a member of the IBM Rochester Retirees' Club and are wondering why you got this issue of the newsletter, it's because we send a copy of the first issue each year to **ALL** IBM Rochester retirees. We want you to know that the club is active and you can join for a modest fee and get the newsletter, as well as participate in the club activities. To join, fill out the following form and send with your check.

NAME: _____ **SPOUSES NAME:** _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, & ZIP: _____

IBM EMPLOYEE NUMBER: _____ **e-mail address** _____

1 YEAR (\$5.00) _____

LIFETIME (\$25.00) _____

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