

NEWS

Ed Rosencrants, Editor

e-mail us at: rchret@us.ibm.com

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Office Hours: 10:00 AM 'til noon, Tuesdays & Thursdays

Visit our web site at: <http://rochestermn.com/rrclub>

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Phone: 253 - 3664

MEMBERSHIP DUES TO CHANGE

A very small percentage of our members pay Annual dues. Because of increasing costs associated with maintaining our data base, postage & printing of the newsletter, the picnic, and the Christmas Party, the board has voted to change the dues structure.

Effective January 1, the "Annual" option will not be available. To maintain their membership, those members currently enrolled in the "Annual" option must sign up for the "Lifetime" membership.

The cost of a Lifetime membership will remain at \$25 through June 30th, 2008. Effective July 1, 2008, the cost of the Lifetime membership will be increased to \$35. Current Lifetime members and those who enroll before July 1, 2008, will not be affected by this increase.

2007 RETIREE VOLUNTEERS

During 2007 there were many IBM retirees and their spouses who volunteered their time to sell daffodils for the American Cancer Society and ring bells for the Salvation Army. They were: **Alan Calavano, Ruth Nevling, David Middleton, John Sprenger, Penny Ryno, Ken and Dotty Willkomm, George and Wilma Menshik, Loel Erickson, Gary Zander, Rita Buegler, Darvin Anderson, Del Anderson, Bob and Carol Sonnabend, Nick Nielson, Gary Allar, Bill Beaupre, Seig and George Hoepfner, Lila Swanson, Jim and Mary Abraham, Judy Wasser, Lynn Knutson, Wayne Harris, Ann Konop, and Ron Kellogg.** Thank you to all for your support.

Loel H Erickson,

Community Service Chairperson

COMING EVENTS

Put these dates on your calendar:

Retirees' Club picnic: Wed., July 9

Retirees' Club Christmas party: Sat., Dec 6

Newsletters in Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, & Nov.

Hi-way Clean-up: 1st one in April.

Golf schedule: here are the dates we have locked in for 2008: June 9-Stewartville, June 23-Coffee Mill, July 28-Frontenac, August 11-Willow Creek, August 25-Dodge Center, September 8-Oak Summit.

DAFFODIL DAYS

HELP WANTED FOR DAFFODIL DAYS – The American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days will be held March 12th thru March 16th. The IBM Retirees' Club will again staff a sales site on those days. This year our site will be Hy-Vee South (note location change from last year). If you can help, please call the Retirees' office at 252-3664 and leave a message. Someone will call you back to schedule a shift.

Loel H Erickson, Volunteer Coordinator

2007 RETIREEES' CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY

The 2007 IBM Retirees Holiday Party was held on December 8, 2007 in the Auditorium at the Mayo Civic Center. There were 462 people who paid to attend. The Auditorium was beautifully decorated with garlands, wreaths, trees, and table centerpieces, all done by IBM Retiree Board volunteers.

The caterer was Canadian Honker with a great display of warm and cold hors d'oeuvres and desserts. Entertainment was provided by Les Fields and the Turkey River All Stars.

Our friends at Think Bank graciously paid for our event insurance (\$250.00) and we thank them. They have done this for us in past years (when they were a Credit Union) and have continued to do it even though they are now a Bank.

Thanks to the Board members for all the help with decorating and elsewhere. Special thanks to Nancy Morrison who made the centerpieces and has kept the decorations intact for years -- this in addition to helping with treasurer work, creating name tags, and supervising the decorating.

The next event (2008) will be on December 6, 2008 in the Exhibition Hall at the Mayo Civic Center.

Seig Hoepfner, Chair - Holiday Party

IBM RETIREES' BOWLING LEAGUE

Each new season, it seems the league suffers a small degree of attrition for various reasons, but thanks to 8 last minute entries, (**Bruce Brandvold, Sandy Dean, Lloyd Dickhut, John Greilinger, Steve Majerus, Bob Polikowsky, Nancy Shatford, & Mary Ann Wahl**) we kept the roster at 12 3-person teams.

On January 2nd we arrived at the half-way point of the season. The winning team of the first half bowls against the winning team of the second half for the championship. Going into the final session of the half, the top 3 teams were separated by only 1 ½ points. The 3rd place team won all 7 points to beat out the 1st place team, who won only 5 points. The final standings are: 1st place, MEK BUNCH (**Mary Ann Wahl, Eunice Kohlmeyer, & Karl Pasch**), 2nd place, LUCKY 7's (**Sandy Dean, Morrey Witter, & Harry Wahl**), 3rd place, JOG (**Inez Jacobson, Chris Oslund, & Fred Garske**).

Several bowlers earned USBC Emblems or Pins for having a game or series score which met the USBC criteria for awards.

40+ pins over average game:

140 avg or less:

Betty Voss	183 game
Ellen Simon	181 game

160 avg or less:

Jessie Shanklin	210 game
Lois Douglas	204 game
Warren Warfield	203 game

600+ series: 175 avg or less:

Fred Garske	653 series
Bob Polikowsky	617 series

Here are the current individual leaders:

High Avg:

Karl Anderson	193
Jessie Shanklin	161

High Game with handicap:

Fred Garske	273
Bea Quelle	250

High Series with handicap:

Fred Garske	734
Lois Douglas	693

Thanks to the subs who have filled in this year and to the regulars for arranging for a sub when needed.

Dick Smith, League Secretary

HAPPENINGS

The following celebrated their 50th anniversary: Dick & Char Amdahl, Ed & Jan Bailey, Arnold & Gracia Fredriksen, John & Alvis Houston, John & Jan Iverson, David & Carole Nelson, Loren & Terry Nielsen, Jim & Sandra Ptacek,

Don & Judy Ryan, Larry & Jackie Sanneman, and Roger & Marge Stephens.

RETIRED IBMER'S NEEDED

There is a need for volunteers in the Rochester school district. If you volunteer:

-The school where you volunteer would qualify for an IBM On Demand Community grant (individual volunteers are eligible to give \$1,000 cash or up to \$2200 worth of hardware/software or teams of 3 volunteers are eligible to give up to \$7,500 worth of hardware/software (if you volunteer 40 hours over a period of 5 months)).

-The students, especially English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students, would get help to catch up.

-It is a way to pay society back for all that has been done for us.

-All religions encourage it.

-You may find life more enjoyable.

Volunteering opportunities exist with students from kindergarten age (any elementary school in Rochester) up to adults (Hawthorne Education Center). Just try it. If it isn't for you, you don't have to continue. To get started go to the Rochester school district's website: <http://www.rochester.k12.us>. Under "Community", click on "Volunteer Opportunities", or under "Schools", select the school you are interested in volunteering at, then click on "Community groups" and then "Volunteers in Education".

After you begin volunteering register on the IBM On Demand Community website by going to www-01.ibm.com/ibm/ondemandcommunity and after registering you can track your volunteer hours and earn a community grant for your school! Questions? Contact Ted Saxman, 282-5079, tsaxman@charter.net

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 30, 2008.

MEDICARE B PREMIUM REIMBURSEMENT

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

The instructions are on the back of the form, available from "IBM National Human Resources Center" at 1-800-796-9876, or as a download from Net Benefits. See instructions below for access to all forms. You have until December 31, 2008 to file for reimbursement for 2007.

FORMS ONLINE

Download IBM forms. See our website (<http://rochestermn.com/rrclub>) for easy access to net benefits, or go to:

<http://netbenefits.com>

Then **log in**, (new users, follow the instructions). Then click on the heading "**Health & Insurance**" near the middle of the page. Then **click on** the heading "**All Health & Insurance Forms**". That will take you to a list of about 40 IBM Forms for almost every occasion. You can download them and print them out.

WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO.....

Jim Stayton says: I guess it's time I let everyone know I'm still going. I've found that being 80 isn't so bad after all.

I keep busy, working actually, every other month in our church office. I had been treasurer for many years and "retired". They asked me to work in the office, for pay, and I even have a title "Administrative Assistant".

My Niece and I spent more than 3 years compiling a "creative non-fiction" history of my mother's family, from 1640 in Switzerland, to Germany, to America in 1845, and descendants to date.

I've been a stringer for the Ocala, FL Star-Banner and write a monthly column for a paper in upstate NY. We did a lot of traveling until my wife's health failed. She has been in a nursing home for the last 3 years.

I enjoy reading about fellow workers, except for those that passed on.

Jim Stayton

OBITUARIES

The following IBM Retirees died in 2007: Roger Aakre, Roger Abernathy, Sharon Arms, George Baier, Gerald Balm, Robert Bandel, Rudy Beniak, James Brandner, Hilmar Bittner, Thomas Brekke, Kenneth Byrne, Leslie Colburn, John Costello, Dallas DeYoung, Hazel Dietz, Henry Doran, Marjorie Epley, Virginia Forsyth, Leroy Haagenson, Leslie Hesly, Thomas Higgins, Ronald Jerdon, Gordon Johnson, Robert Johnson, Earl Korpel, Ralph "Red" Larson, Jerry Lentz, Daniel Liffrig, Earl Meyer, Calvin McNutt, Edith Mogren, Rose Morrisette, Harlan Mosby, David Mosher, Fredrick Oeltjenbruns, Jay Ogg, Daniel Oslund, David Opfer, Glenn Pearce, Margaret Pugh, Marjorie Riege, Paul Rokke, Delos Schoonover, Albert Schuster, James Sensenbaugh, Larry Snyder, David Stahmann, Frederick Steinlicht, Gail Stiller, Richard Van Why, Edward "Dayne" Walker, Doreen Ward, Joseph Welder, Lyle Wharton, & Marvin Wilson.

The following IBM Retirees' Club members or spouses have recently passed away.

KENNETH J. MAHONEY died November 16. He worked for 36 years as an electrical engineer, retiring in 1985. Survivors include a son, Kevin; 3 daughters, Nancy Mahoney, Kathleen Mahoney-Ritchie, & Mary Mahoney; 8 grandchildren; and a great grandchild.

VIRGINIA "GINNY" BOOKS died November 20. She was the wife of retiree Arlen Books. She is survived by her husband; a son Steve; 2 daughters, Vickie Peters & Beth Vallee; and 6 grandchildren.

KAREN M. LOECHER died November 24. She was a part number engineer for 23 years. Survivors include her husband, Kevin; 3 sons, Tim, Todd, & Tony; and 4 grandchildren.

PENRHYN "PENNY" JOHNSON died November 27 in Tucson, AZ. She was the wife of 1985 retiree Trygve. Survivors include her husband; a daughter, Linda; a son, Steven; 3 grandchildren; and 4 great grandchildren.

WILLIAM H. WATSON died December 5. He was a packaging engineer for nearly 30 years, retiring in 1985. He is survived by a son, Thomas; a daughter, Marcia Bauman; 5 grandchildren; and 9 great grandchildren.

CAROL J. WHITEMORE died December 14. She was the wife of deceased retiree Ralph Whitemore. She is survived by 2 daughters, Nancy Bennett & Janet Renaux; 2 grandchildren; and 2 great grandchildren.

GERALD FITZSIMMONS died December 24. He worked in several IBM locations, retiring from Rochester in 1988. Survivors include 2 sons, Patrick & Stephen; a daughter, Debra; and 4 grandchildren.

RICHARD J. RYNO died January 7. He worked in the education department for 29 years, retiring in 1990. He is survived by his wife, Penelope; 2 sons, Michael & Kevin; 3 daughters, Linda, Deborah Cardille, & Pamela; and 8 grandchildren.

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

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION OFFER FOR THE RETIREES' NEWSLETTER

Your membership dues for 2008 are due now. If you are a lifetime member, 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 no longer available. 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 for \$25.00.

NAME: _____ **SPOUSES NAME:** _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, & ZIP: _____

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

SEND TO: IBM Rochester Retirees' Club
Dept. 868 / 005 - 1
3605 Highway 52 No.
Rochester, MN 55901

We are always looking for new members for the Retirees' Club, but we do not always hear about new retirees. If you know someone who has retired and does not know about the club, please contact us with the name and address of the person. We would like to send him/her info about the club.

