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e-NEWS

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Volume XXVI Number 1, Jan/Feb 2012

Visit our web site at: rochestermn.com/rrclub

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

ALUMNI CLUB ANNIVERSARY

This is the 25th anniversary of the Alumni Club. Notice the logo.

COMING EVENTS IN 2012

Put these dates on your calendar:

Alumni Club picnic: **Wed., July 11**

Alumni Club Christmas party: **Sat., Dec 8**

Newsletters via e-mail: **Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, & Nov.**

via US mail: **Jan, Apr, July, Oct**

Hi-way Clean-up: **May 15, July 10 and Sept 11**

Golf schedule: here are the dates we have locked in for 2012:

June 4-Stewartville, June 18-Maple Valley, July 9-Zumbro Falls,

July 16-Frontenac, August 13-Willow Creek, August 27-Dodge Center,

September 10-Oak Summit, September 17-The Jewel

Daffodil Days - **Mar 14 – 17**

Salvation Army Bell Ringing - November and December (Actual dates to be determined)

ALUMNI CLUB AUDIT

Duane Haugen, Del Anderson, Wayne Harris, treasurer Jim Miesbauer, and assistant treasurer Jim Decker audited the club finances. On January 9, 2012 they submitted a report to the club president, Roger Spee testifying that all club finances were in order.

Duane Haugen, Audit Chair

MEDICARE B PREMIUM REIMBURSEMENT

A reminder to send in the completed "Special Health Assistance Provision Claim Form" to get your Medicare B Premium Refund if you are eligible (Eligibility depends upon date of retirement). 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 (instructions below).

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.

If you want to down load either of these IBM Forms, go to:

<http://netbenefits.com>

log in (for new users follow the instructions)

click on the heading "**Health & Insurance**" on the tab at the top of the page near the middle of the page.

Click on the heading "**All Health & Insurance Forms**" on the left hand side of the page.

That will take you to a list of about 40 IBM Forms for almost every occasion. You can down load them and print them out.

2011 ALUMNI CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

The 2011 Alumni Club Christmas Party was held December 10 at the Eagles Club in Rochester. There were 240 paid Club members and guests who attended this year and based on the comments the party was well received. The Eagles did a great job catering the event. We would also like to mention Think Mutual Bank, Canadian Honker Restaurant, Rochester Athletic Club, and Hair Studio 52 for their generous gifts used for the drawings. Also a special thanks to our support crew of **Nancy Morrison, Roger Spee, Bob Mesarchik, Jim & Alice Miesbauer, Joyce Lewison, Eddie Peterson, Chuck Kinneberg, Seig Hoepner, Dick O'Dell, Dick Sulack, Carol & Bill Gorder, Barb Muenkel, Kathy Henderson, Sharone Fiedler, and Joan Buske.**

I would just like to add, this year there were various changes made which helped the overall party process (versus our 2010 party which was also held at the Eagles Club). This year we were able to add another room that helped the space/congestion, we added more food lines, both Eagle entrances were used, the registration table was in a better location, rectangle tables were used instead of round tables for wider aisles, and Eagles supplied enough coat racks. All these changes helped the congestion and improved the flow.

We hope to keep improving the party so 2012 will be even better. Some of the written comments giving to us after the party included: It was great! Well organized!. Food was very good! Everything was well done! Thanks Retirees and Eagles! Program was too long! Thanks for the great party, food was great and plentiful, and The Alumni Board Choir was outstanding!

The 2012 Christmas Party is planned for December 8th. So mark your calendars. More party details will be available later in the year so watch the Newsletter.

Roger Lewison/Bernie Peterson - Co-Chairs

SENIOR SOFTBALL

For the upcoming 2012 summer season, 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 7 through Sept 26.

2012 Registration dates are Wed, April 11th at the History Center (1195 W Circle Dr SW Rochester) and Wed, April 25th at the Wicked Moose (1201 Eastgate Dr SE Rochester), both Noon to 4 PM.

Come out to play Senior Softball this summer! Only \$40 for all 40 games plus two picnics! Players are welcome from all races, creeds, and religions as long as the person meets the age requirements.

For more info call **Bill Beaupre** at 507-288-3324 or www.rochestermnseniorsoftball.webs.com.

ALUMNI CLUB MEDICAL SEMINAR

Once again we had John Whelan and Michael Salscheider of Prime Time Health Advisers provided an overview of Health Insurance options available for IBM Rochester Retirees. They covered Medigap, Medicare Advantage, and prescription drug offerings. It was well received, and nearly 400 members attended the sessions, and provided great feedback on the sessions.

Financial donations from attendees more than covered the club's expense to put on the event. Many thanks for all who contributed and those who asked many good questions.

Special thanks to the Alumni Club board members who championed this special event and "made it happen".

Lennie Broich

EMPLOYEES CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION CAMPAIGN

The Rochester Alumni Club members pledged **\$49,132** as part of the 2011 ECCC. This reflects a great trend for us, and demonstrates the generosity of our members. Here is the history on retiree pledges:

2009 - \$43,517

2010 - \$45,790

2011 - \$49,132

Many thanks to you for your participation in the campaign. This money will truly make a difference in our community!

Lennie Broich

FREE HELP WITH TAX RETURNS

Free assistance in filling out federal and state tax forms is available again for individuals and families with low-to-moderate incomes, February 1 through April 15. Please note that lower-income families also may qualify for earned income credit AND a property tax refund (as either a renter or homeowner).

In Rochester, trained tax counselors in the Tax-Aide program of the American Association of Retired Persons will be available weekly at the following locations, February 1 through April 15:

- Salvation Army: call 424-4197 to schedule an appointment
 - Monday mornings (9:00-12:00) and Monday evenings (6:00-9:00 pm)
 - Wednesday afternoons (12:30-4:15)
 - Thursday mornings (9:00-12:00) and Thursday evenings (6:00-9:00 pm)
 - Saturday mornings (9:00-12:00)
- Senior Citizens Service: call 287-1404 to schedule an appointment
 - Tuesday and Thursday afternoons (1:00-4:00)
- Hawthorne Education Center: call 287-1958 to schedule an appointment
 - Tuesday evenings (6:00-9:00 pm) and Friday mornings (9:00-12:00)

In addition, days are scheduled at various senior high-rise apartments for building residents, and arrangements can be made for counselors to provide tax help in homes of those who are homebound by calling any of the sites listed.

Outside Rochester, there are sites in Eyota (Arbor Gardens/Dave Wood @ 226-1437), Lanesboro (Kenilworth Apartment/Vern Riddle @ 696-9562), Pine Island (Senior Center City Hall/356-4262), Plainview (Plainview Senior Housing and Green Prairie Place), Stewartville (Senior Citizens Services/533-4787) and various locations in Dodge County (SEMCAC: 634-4350).

Please note that, in order for the tax counselors to help complete your tax forms at the time of your appointment, you should **bring the following**:

- Social Security (or ITIN) cards for everyone in your family
- Copies of your completed 2010 tax returns (last year's returns)
- Any tax information you have received in the mail regarding tax year **2011**
- W-2 forms and other income/tip information (including welfare payments received)
- 1099 forms (eg, interest, dividends, social security, pension benefits, unemployment compensation)
- Statement of stock or mutual funds sold (including information regarding original cost)
- Receipts if itemizing deductions (taxes, medical and health insurance paid, charitable donations)
- Summary of amount spent on child care (plus child-care address & employer identification number)
- **2011** Certificate of Rent Paid (CRP) forms received from your landlord
- Real estate tax statement for Taxes Payable in **2012** (property tax refund)

Questions? Call the site or 884-9165, and an AARP tax counselor will get back to you.

WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO.....

I heard from **Rich Hartmann**. During my IBM career I worked developing applications for circuit board, chip manufacturing, chemical process control and receiving inspection, FIFO circuit board inventory, TCP/IP, Networking, SSL, VPN, System i, p and z development areas.

I retired in February 2009 and I have stayed in-Rochester, MN. Now I am looking for a position in health care. I have been getting credentials in Health Information Technology to see the systems, processes, and controls for all the data pushed through a computer. I have done volunteer work for ABC Group, United Way, and Sunday Noon Lunch

I occasionally see retirees **Al Lun & Roger Spee** from Rochester.

I like Toastmasters, Lions Club. I work with volunteers and participants in an ABC unit that plans activities for brain damaged individuals.

Another thing I'd like to do is to setup sessions in Social Networking giving IBM retirees an explanation of the programs that are on the internet with ways to set privacy settings for information that is posted. I'll see how that turns out.

Rich Hartmann

IBM ALUMNI BOWLING LEAGUE

The 2011-12 bowling season got under way on October 12th with twelve 3-person teams and 13 substitutes. We are pleased to welcome **Beth Aakre, John Lundak** and **Wayne Depoppe** to the league this year.

In the final week of the first half-season, the BBs (**Warren Warfield, Beth Aakre and Bernie Borgschatz**) and the IJK team (**Isabel Smith, John Lundak and Keith Jacobson**) ended in a tie for first place. The tie was broken in a one game roll-off on January 11, 2012 with the IJK team taking first place. The BBs team took second and coming in third were the Ten Pins (**Terry Clark, Morry Witter and Marv Sawyer**) who were the favorites to win first place.

The United States Bowling Congress (USBC) has increased the difficulty for our bowlers to earn an award this year. However, the following are Game award winners: **Beth Aakre, Bruce Brandvold, Paul Burkart, Terry Clark, Lois Douglas, Eric Fosdick, Fred Garske, Judy Garske, John Greilinger, Keith Jacobson, Eunice Kohlmeyer, John Lundak, Steve Majerus, Roy Quelle, Marv Sawyer and Denny Tweed.**

Bowlers who earned the 75 pins over average game award are: **Fred Garske, Steve Majerus and Denny Tweed.**

Series award winners are: **Karl Anderson, Bruce Brandvold, Paul Burkart, Fred Garske, Steve Majerus and Marv Sawyer.**

Bowlers who earned the 140 pins over average series award are: **Paul Burkart and Fred Garske.**

Congratulations to the half season winners and to the above who earned individual awards.

Dick Smith, league secretary

HAPPENINGS

Elfi & Bill Broton, Rose & Henry Kliever, Gail & Denny Johnson, and **Reuben & Verda Tschritter** recently celebrated their 50th anniversary. **Irene & Joyce Berg** and **Dorothy & Bill Fitzgerald** celebrated their 60th anniversary. Congratulations to all and happy anniversary.

Janet Stevenson, a 2002 retiree from Human Resources, started a women's luncheon group. The group gets together four times per year just for the fun of it. While the group is not sponsored by the IBM Alumni Club or IBM, any woman who has retired from IBM is welcome to attend. Janet would like to make our women retirees aware of the luncheon group as she finds it harder to "keep track" of women retiring from IBM...it's really "word of mouth", she says. Janet sends out an email in January of each year announcing the luncheon dates and places. Just mark your calendars and show up if you want to join in, as she does not require RSVPs. She encourages any IBM retiree woman to attend who just wants to get together with old friends or to meet new ones. Following are luncheon dates for 2012, and all luncheons are at 11:00 am:

January 11	Beetles on 2nd Street SW
March 21	Great China just off 41st Street NW
September 12	Broadway pizza (old Timberlodge)
October 17	Paradise Pete's (Miracle Mile)

If you want to be added to Janet's luncheon email notification list, please send her an email at janroys@charter.net.

OBITUARIES

The following IBM Retirees, both members and nonmembers, died in 2011: Gerald Bartholomew, Constance L. Bennett, Lyle R. Berg, Beryl Bergschneider, Robert Books, Karen A. Brandt, Emmett L. Burdick, William L. Champion, Lotus Cooney Conrad, Mary K. Conrad, Carl Cronk, Frank E. Dapron, Robert Douglas, Ernest P. Dunbar, Rolund Bud Dunkle, James W. Erickson, Loel H. Erickson, Lester J. Fiegel Jr, Lamont A. Granger, Maynard F. Green, William Griebenow, Donald E. Gruhlke, Peter J. Hanson, Kenneth N. Hodge, Mildred S. Jackson, Arthur Jensen, Mitchell S. Kidd, Gordon F. Krueger, Merlyn H. Lenox, Lawrence V. Leqve, Harry Leutink, John K. Lutzi, Glen D. Manbeck, Bernard J. Meddleton, Harvey D. Miller, Dennis Mitchell, Gregory R. Molinaro, Gerald C. Molloy, Dennis L. Mongoven, Donald L. Moore, James H. Musty, Oliver Ohr, Mary J. Petersen, Jerry A. Plantin, Gayle Robbie Robinson, David A. Ronning, George E. Ross, Marion Runerson, Thomas P. Ryan, John Sitte, Norman

Skrukrud, Duane E. Sorenson, Merlin Mike Spading, Richard Spaniol, Don Stephenson, Raymond G. Strebbling, Rita E. Torvund, Charles B. Treadwell, Gary A. Turk, Gerald Willis, Harold A. Wilson, Charles T. Zimmerman.

The following IBM Alumni Club members or spouses have recently passed away:

MAYNARD A. SPRING died November 30. He retired in 1991 after a 27 year career. Survivors include his wife, Eileen; a daughter, Michelle; 2 sons, Steven and dean; 5 grandchildren; and 2 great grandchildren.

FOREST 'FORRIE' GARDNER died December 15. He started with IBM in 1957 and he retired in 1991. Survivors include his wife, Lola; 4 children, Bradley, Cheri Miller, Nancy DeVinny, and Kathy Mulvihill; 6 grandchildren; and 6 great grandchildren.

GEORGE R. GROVES died January 7. He joined IBM in 1948 and retired in 1981 after a 33 year career. He was the plant manager in Rochester for several years. He is survived by his wife, Evelyn; children, Sharon Schwartz, Gail Groves and Jeff Groves; 4 grandchildren; and 5 great grandchildren.

CURTIS JOHNS died December 23. He worked for IBM for 30 years, retiring in 1986. He is survived by his wife, Marcella; and a daughter, Julie Johns.

GERALD V. VARSOKE died December 29. He had a 30 year career in software development, retiring in 1995. Survivors include his wife, Jeannie; 2 sons, Christopher and Brian; 5 daughters, Michelle Berres, Sharon Varsoke, Wendy Schirvar, Jennifer Jacobson, and Bridgette Behling; 4 step daughters, Nicole Stewart, Gina Eberspacher, Christina McNallan, and Jaclyn Schellenberg; 14 grandchildren; and 3 step grandchildren.

KENNETH E. HASTINGS died January 18. He joined IBM in 1956, and spent 25 years at Rochester as an electrical engineer. He retired in 1987. He is survived by 3 sons, Brad, Brian, and Bart; 2 daughters, Barbara Kildahl and Beth Bolstad; 14 grandchildren; and 2 great grandchildren.

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

The editor thanks all who contributed to this issue. If you haven't written, why not do it now and let us know what you've been doing since retirement?

