

Visit our website at: <http://www.ibmrac.com/>

E-mail us at: rchret@aol.com

Visit us on [Facebook](#)



Mailing Address:

20 1st Ave NE, Rochester, MN 55906

Office Location: 120 1st St. NE

Hours: 10:00 a.m. to Noon,

Tuesdays & Thursdays

Phone: 651-377-8893

e-NEWS

Horst Truestedt, Editor

Content

From the Office

Rochester IBM Alumni Club in 2023

IBM Community Engagement Program

2022 Rochester IBM Alumni Club Christmas Party

Obituaries

Celebrations

Next Newsletter: (email and US mail) March (about the 20th)

From the Office

We are not currently staffing the office. If you need to contact the club, please call 1-651-377-8893 - the call will be forwarded to a board member. You can also email the club at rchret@aol.com. Email is checked weekly.

Larry Plank

Rochester IBM Alumni Club in 2023

Many thanks to retiring board member Paul Brown for all the work he has done for the club. He plans to continue to help out when needed. Also, many thanks to retiring President Marty Jensen for all the work he has done over the last few years. He will be missed.

The reins have been turned over to Larry Plank as our new President. George Heyne continues as Treasurer and Seig Hoepfner continues as Secretary.

Welcome to new board members Lennie Broich, Brian Eckre, and Jim Favre. The board consists of the following members: Lennie Broich, Darlyne Burchfiel, Joan Buske, Brian Eckre, Jim Favre, Wayne Harris, George Heyne, Seig Hoepfner, Ken Kiefer, Nancy Morrison, Larry Plank, Roger Spee, Horst Truestedt, Mary Zastrow.

Hopefully, the club will have a Picnic and Christmas Party. Also, there will be Golf Outings and Walk/Hike activities if Dave Lind is able. Maybe we can again do Red Kettle bell ringing for the Salvation Army. And, we would sure love to have some other events like dinner/theater outings. The newsletter will continue.

We've said it before but here it is again. **We need help** – volunteers to coordinate events or assist with Club board activities. Please call if you're interested.

IBM Community Engagement Program

IBM launched a new IBM Community Engagement Portal on November 1, 2022. Retirees can each register for the portal at: <https://www.ibm.com/impact/initiatives/ibm-engagement/retirees>.

Please allow 24-72 hours for your account to be provisioned. You will receive instructions on how to access the portal via email where you will be able to continue logging volunteer hours and working towards volunteer rewards (formerly known as volunteer grants).

Do note that the 2022 budget for volunteer rewards has been met. The program will re-open on January 1, 2023.

If you have any questions regarding the new Community Engagement Portal, you can contact the portal provider Support@Benevity.com, or the global Engagement team, Engagement@ibm.com, or locally, Lisa Lonien at lisal@us.ibm.com.

Lisa Lonien - P-TECH Employee Engagement and Rochester, MN Site Initiatives IBM

2022 Rochester IBM Alumni Club Christmas Party

The Rochester IBM Alumni Club Christmas Party was held on Wednesday, December 7th at the Rochester International Event Center in Rochester. There were 80 club members and guests that attended.

A HUGE THANKS to the great group of volunteers who helped put on this event - we had folks who helped with the planning, decorating, setup, making name tags, keeping up with the finances, working the welcome table, and taking photographs. We would not be able to put on this event without all their help.

We played several games of "reverse bingo".

Marty Jensen 2022 IBM Alumni Club Christmas Party Chairman



For additional photos, please check [2023 Christmas Party Photos](#).

Obituaries

IBM Alumni (Club members and non-members) who passed away in 2022

David Aakre
Harlan Aakre
Gina Amos
David C. Anderson
Roxi Colbenson Baines
Larry Baringer
Mary Beckman
Pauline Billington
Judy Bohlen
Kenneth Bonnicksen
Bruce Borg
Robert Born
Ronald Brovold
Gregory Brown
Barbara Buck
Talon Bundy
Donald Carlson
Everett Carr
Ustaz Chuor Chuor
John Lee Colbert
Charles Dose
Jerome Downes
Michael Alan Doyle
Edward 'Pete' Eckholm

Josef Emanuel
James Engh
Phillip Erickson
Gary Fallon
Kenneth Folie
Arthur Folkert
Franklin Folkert
Charles Fredrickson
Dennis French
Gunder Froyum
David Funk
Malinda Graff
Sharon (Gilbertson)
Gullickson
Wayne Hadler
James Halling
Wayne Hames
Richard Hammel
Dennis Heimer
James Helvig
John Henke
Dennis Herman
Christine Herrera
Russell Hird

Lawrence Howe
Clair Hubbard
Keith Willis Jacobson
Ronald Jacobson
Bruce Vincent Johnson
Warren Kemplin
Charles Kirchner
Lorraine Kispert
Frank Klauda
Michael Kleinschmidt
Julie Knauss
David Kobliska
Jayne Krause
Ronald Krueger
Richard Kylo
Glenn Laedtke
Roger Lance
Thaddeus 'Ted' Larek
David Lieberg
John Lundak
Sharon Kay Macken
Richard March
Barry Matson
Richard Mickow

Robert Milbrandt	Joseph 'Marty' Robertson	Hazel 'Kathy' Thorpe
William Miller	James Rockers	Delbert Towne
Stanley Morris	Lucille Rolfe	James Vagt
Mel Mullenback	Victor Ronken	Melvin Vehrenkamp
Lorelei Mundy	Gerald Roth	Bruce Vining
Donald George Nelson	Fred Eugene Schmidt	Wallace Vogen
Barbara Nord	Robert Schopp	James Wallace
Steven Oenning	Hans Schulz	Darrel Waters
Jerry Allen Olson	David Schumacher	Margery Watkins
Roger E. Olson	Dale Schwartz	Alvin White
William Otto	David Schwartzkopf	Tommy Wiegand
James Pelowski	Mary Shanks	Audrey Wigham
David Perkins	Kathleen Sedor	Norman Wimmer
Charles Perry	Donald Sotebeer	Orvil Wobig
Jerome Petrie	John Sprenger	Mark Zagaria
Donald Quam	Thomas Steichen	Carol Ann Zotallis
Robert Reid	Harold 'Stu' Stewart	

The following IBM Alumni have recently passed away:

Harlan Paul Aakre died December 31, 2022. Harlan served in the US Army during the Korean War. He was a manager at IBM, retiring after 30 years of service. He was a member of the American Legion Honor Guard for 20 years. He participated in many marathons and watched the Vikings and Gophers football teams. Harlan is survived by his wife, Shirley; children; and a grandson.

Larry Baringer died November 25, 2022. Larry worked at IBM for more than 25 years. He enjoyed sports, playing cards, and fishing. He was active in the church. Larry is survived by his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Ustaz Chuor Thel Chuor died December 1, 2022. Chuor came to the US on an Asylum visa and worked at IBM. He loved the Vikings, politics, crossword puzzles, music, watching wrestling, and spending time with family. Chuor is survived by his wife, Mary; children; and grandchildren.

Joan Downes died November 14, 2022. Joanie was a homemaker and friend to all. She enjoyed spending time with friends and searching for the next great bargain at estate sales and antique shows. Joanie became an Alumni Club member after the death of her husband, Jerry. She is survived by her sons, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Laverne 'Dernie' Fogelberg died October 9, 2022. Dernie lived in Minneapolis, Rochester, Toronto, and Fish Trap Lake in Cushing. She loved to travel, throughout the US,

Canada, Europe, Asia, and Australia. She loved the arts, music, movies, playing piano, and going to plays and musicals. She was active in her church and community. Dornie is survived by her husband Jim (an Alumni Club member), children and grandchildren.

Charles 'Chuck' Fredrickson died October 30, 2022. In 1959, Chuck enlisted in the US Navy. After his discharge, he attended electronics school and then worked at IBM for 30 years in product testing and hardware, retiring in 1995. He was a member of the VFW Veterans Honor Guard and the US Naval Cryptologic Association. Chuck is survived by his wife, Shirley; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Carol Louise Gisler died November 24, 2022. Carol was a homemaker who created a home which was a place of comfort for all. She became an Alumni Club member when her husband, Roy, died. Carol is survived by her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Dwight Gourneau died January 4, 2023. Dwight retired from IBM in 1992 after 27 years as a computer development engineer and manager. He had 12 published inventions, 2 patents, and many special technical awards. After retirement, Dwight spent more than 20 years creating and directing STEM education projects for Native American students and teachers. He served on many boards for higher education. Dwight enjoyed reading, fishing, softball, basketball, cribbage, and running. He is survived by daughters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

James E. Halling died December 17, 2022. Jim worked at IBM for 28 years, retiring in 1990. After retirement, he and his wife spent 30 winters in Mesa, AZ. He enjoyed golfing, hiking, four-wheeling, riding motorcycle, playing pool, camping, and a good game of cards. Jim is survived by his wife, Jean; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Dennis Heimer died December 7, 2022. Dennis served in the US Army. He worked at IBM in Endicott, Poughkeepsie, and Rochester for 15 years. He enjoyed raising beef cattle, collecting classic cars, tractors, pickups and many things red. Dennis is survived by his wife, Karen; children; and grandchildren.

Robert 'Ben' Herr died January 2, 2023. Ben served in the US Air Force during the Korean War. In 1963, he began his 30-year career as a mechanical engineer at IBM. He was a self-taught woodworker and assisted in the building of his homes. He crafted fine furniture and worked with his wife in her crafting business. He enjoyed watching sports, especially the Vikings. Ben is survived by his children and grandchildren.

Christine Herrera died December 14, 2022. Chris held many professional jobs, most recently at IBM in Rochester. She was a business analyst in a global environment. She was a camper, happiest when sitting around a fire telling stories. Chris is survived by her husband, Darrin, and her children.

Clair Hubbard died December 11, 2022. Clair served in the US Army Reserves and worked at IBM Rochester for 30 years. He spent summers with the Rochester Water Ski Team, doing home repairs and other DIY projects. He enjoyed riding motorcycles, working on cars, and hunting. Clair is survived by his wife, Gayle; children; and grandchildren,

Bruce Vincent Johnson died November 23, 2022. Bruce served in the US Army. He worked at IBM from 1960 until retirement in 1989 when he was a Manager of Design Services. Bruce was a racing fan and enjoyed NASCAR. He liked playing poker. Bruce is survived by his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Ronald Krueger died September 4, 2022. Ron served in the US Air Force. In 1966, he began his employment at IBM, starting in the warehouse and later working as a security guard. He spent 28 years with IBM, retiring in 1994. He was also involved in Elgin City government serving in various capacities on the City Council, Emergency Management, Planning and Zoning. Ron is survived by his wife, Barbie.

John Lundak died October 1, 2022. John worked as a computer programmer at IBM Rochester for 30 years. After retirement, he returned to his roots and worked as a farm hand. He was involved with his church, served as election judge, and never missed an election. He was a master cribbage player, could fix and build anything, and he enjoyed hunting and fishing. John is survived by his wife, Joanne; children; grandchildren; and great-granddaughter.

Sharon Kay Macken died November 24, 2022. Sharon spent several years providing daycare for family and friends. She worked at IBM for over 20 years, retiring in 1993. Sharon loved spending time in Arizona during the winter. She loved bowling. She loved birds and animals, especially cats. Sharon is survived by her husband, Pat (an Alumni Club member); children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Richard 'Dick' Marsh died November 21, 2022. Dick served in the US Army. He worked at IBM as a welder/machinist and in the purchasing department for over 30 years. He and his wife traveled to many places including the British Isles, Malta, and Greece. They attended the Pro Bowl in Hawaii and the Super Bowl in Orlando. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, woodworking, gardening, and working on cars. Dick is survived by his wife, Madonna; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Robert Milbrandt died December 27, 2022. Bob served in the US Army. He worked as a Project Engineer for IBM, starting in 1954 until retirement. He volunteered for the Boy Scouts. He and his wife were square dancers. He enjoyed woodworking. Robert is survived by his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Steven Oenning died November 20, 2022. Steve spent the majority of his career as a computer programmer and manager at IBM in Rochester. He was an avid outdoors man. He loved hunting, fishing, golfing, and being on the family farm. He refinished antique furniture and bought and sold antiques. He enjoyed playing cards. Steve is survived by his wife, LaVonne; daughters; and grandchildren.

Charles David Perry died November 29, 2022. In 1965, Charles was employed by IBM Rochester to work in food service. He later became the manager of the IBM cafeteria. He ended his career at IBM in Personnel, retiring in 1995. The things that brought joy to his life were food, family, friends, and laughter. He was a lifelong learner and a consummate reader. Charles is survived by his wife, Kathleen; daughters; grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Robert A. Reid died November 5, 2022. Bob served for 2 years in the US Army. He returned to college and then, in 1958, started work for IBM where he remained for 32 years until retirement in 1990. He volunteered for many organizations including Junior Achievement, PTA, United Way, and Family Services. He was President of the Rochester Water Ski Club and coached youth hockey. Bob is survived by his two daughters and grandchildren.

Norma Sparks died October 19, 2022. Norma worked in the School District with students having special needs. She enjoyed playing cards, knitting, baking and cooking her fabulous Puerto Rican dishes. She enjoyed visiting her childhood home in Puerto Rico. She became an Alumni Club member when her husband, Charles, died. Norma is survived by her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Marion Spohn died January 1, 2023. Marion served in the US Navy during the Korean War. He was a software developer for several organizations including IBM. His career spanned 32 years, residing in Rochester since 1965. He volunteered at the YMCA, served as Scoutmaster, worked with Hiawatha, and managed Boy Scouts at the Seventh Crow Wing Reservation. He is survived by his wife, Betty; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Marge Stephens died September 27, 2022. Marge came to Minnesota and married Roger Stephens in 1957. She lived in Byron for 60 years. Marge is survived by her husband, Roger (an Alumni Club member); daughters; and grandchildren.

Bruce Vining died September 29, 2022. Bruce began his career in 1979 as an IBM Systems Engineer in St. Louis. He transferred to Rochester in 1985. He literally wrote the book on System APIs, releasing a second edition in 2007, and was a sought-after speaker on the subject. After his move to Florida, he continued to work with the system he designed during his time at IBM. He was passionate about work, chess, and building LEGO models. Bruce is survived by his children and grandchildren.

Darrel Kent Waters died October 20, 2022. Darrel enlisted in the US Air Force in 1951, serving in Korea and Iowa. He joined IBM Rochester in 1957 as a Facilities Engineer. After retirement from IBM, he devoted his time to dealing in antiques. He volunteered with the YMCA, County Community Corrections, Olmsted County Diversity Council, and Gay and Lesbian Community Services. Darrel is survived by special friend, Tim Gerarden, and nieces and nephews.

Norman Wimmer died December 1, 2022. After 4 years in the US Navy, Norman earned a degree in Electrical Engineering and began a long successful career at IBM in Rochester. He retired in 1993. Norman and his wife opened the Picnic Basket on the bike trail in Lanesboro, serving ice cream, sandwiches, and picnic lunches. In 1998, they settled in Lake of the Ozarks and enjoyed entertaining friends and family. Norman is survived by his wife, Judy; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Mark Christopher Zagaria died December 10, 2022 in Oyster Bay, NY. He worked at IBM. Mark is survived by his wife, Kathy; children; and grandchildren.

Our deepest sympathy to all surviving family and friends.

Celebrations

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| 60th Anniversary: | Kent and Mary Halling | – October 27 |
| | Argene and Marilyn Treder | – December 26 |
| 63rd Anniversary: | Cub and Marge Bahr | – November 26 |
| 65th Anniversary: | John and Janice Iverson | – December 27 |
| 70th Anniversary: | Paul and Alice Kitzmann | – August 24 |

Please continue to let us know about obituaries and celebrations. We appreciate hearing from you.