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e-NEWS

Horst Truestedt, Editor

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**Next Newsletter: (email and US mail) March (about the 20<sup>th</sup>)**

## 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](mailto:rchret@aol.com). Email is checked weekly.

*Larry Plank*

## Message from the President

It is another new year! I hope everyone had a happy holiday season. I want to thank all the Board of Director (BoD) members and officers for all their efforts the past year. Without their work we would not have a club or events that allowed alumni to reconnect with other retirees. Thanks again.

2025 is going to see some changes in club operations. As everyone is aware we are an ageing and shrinking group. Attendance at our events is dropping as a result. That has been the trend for several years. We have been losing more members every year than

we have had new ones join. We have a couple of openings on our BoD that will probably remain unfilled. And there are few vacant officer positions in our org chart that will probably remain that way.

Our goal for 2025 is to still have the traditional major events of the summer picnic and Christmas party. Other activities we intend to continue, if possible, are the walking/hiking in the summer, road cleanup out of Douglas in spring and fall, golf outings, and any other events that anyone may come forward with a suggestion, and that they would like to coordinate. In terms of Club activities, for what we do in 2026 will depend on what happens in 2025.

In the forthcoming months though, you will be seeing a change in the way the newsletter will be made available. Those receiving paper copies in the mail will still receive it, but we will start putting the newsletter on our club website [www.ibmrac.com](http://www.ibmrac.com). For a period of time, we will still send out a notice with a link to the newsletter like we have been, as well as putting it on the website. But at a future date, we will stop sending the notice with a link and only have the newsletter on the website. But we do foresee that by the end of 2026 club activities will be concluded due to lack of new volunteers, funding, and aging systems, databases and web programs with ongoing support concerns.

*Larry Plank*

## 2025 Club Activities

For 2025, we are planning on having a Picnic and Christmas Party, Walk/Hike activities, Golf Outings and Road Cleanup.

We are also hoping to have at least two more activities (maybe more?) and would like your input on what activities you would like to see. The 'traditional' events (Picnic and Christmas Party) mainly appeal to the older members as a chance to get together with old friends. What appeals to the 'younger' members of the club? Plays, music events, dinner/theater, informative presentations/lectures, or something else? We'd love to hear from you. Please send an email to [rchret@aol.com](mailto:rchret@aol.com) or call the office (1-651-277-8893) and leave a message. You can even send a note through the Postal Service. We will get back to you to discuss.

## Website and Newsletters

We are asking members to look at our website [IBMRAC.COM](http://IBMRAC.COM) and become familiar with it. There are notices about upcoming events and signup forms, reviews (with photos) of past events and general information. For many years, we have made the January newsletters available on the website. They are under the 'Newsletter' tab. When the time

comes to stop emailing the links as we have been doing, all the newsletters (not just January) will be available at our [ibmrac.com](http://ibmrac.com) website. We plan to start putting all the newsletters on the website fairly soon so people can get used to accessing them. For now, this will be in addition to the emails. Again, if you have questions, send an email to [rchret@aol.com](mailto:rchret@aol.com) or call the office at 1-651-277-8893 and leave a message. We'll get back to you.

## 2025 Alumni Golf Season

The golf committee Bill Kleis, Jeff Parker, and I have already started planning for the 2025 Alumni Golf season.

Our tentative schedule for the season is below. We have worked with each of the Golf Clubs to pencil in the dates, but other details remain to be worked out. We should have those details ironed out and online registration ready by the first of May. The information we have is listed below and we will be sending the details for each event in the reminder notices prior to the events. If you are not on the golf email list and would like to be, drop me an email and I will add you.

One change we have decided on for 2025 is to change the standard length of each outing from 9 to 18 holes. We will still have a 9-hole option for those who can't play 18 for whatever reason, but this will move the lunch to after the 18 is complete, around 1pm in most cases.

Below are the events we have scheduled for this year. Once registration opens in May, you can sign up any time at least 5 days in advance of the event. As is normal, the events are all Mondays, and we will either be having a 9am shotgun or tee times around 9am.

5/19/2025 Pine Island  
6/02/2025 The Bluffs at Coffee Mill, Wabasha  
6/16/2025 Cedar River GC, Adams  
6/30/2025 Zumbro Falls  
7/14/2025 Mt Frontenac  
7/28/2025 Willow Creek  
8/11/2025 Lake City CC  
8/25/2025 St Charles (new for 2025!)  
9/08/2025 The Jewel

2025 IBM Alumni Golf Committee: Jim de Longpre ([jim@delongpre.com](mailto:jim@delongpre.com)), Bill Kleis ([wckleis@gmail.com](mailto:wckleis@gmail.com)) and Jeff Parker ([buddyscooter@yahoo.com](mailto:buddyscooter@yahoo.com)).

## IBM Alumni Club Christmas Party



The 2024 Christmas Party was held on December 4 at Charlie's Eatery and Pub. This was our first party at Charlie's but what a great job they did for us. The food was very good, and the service was fantastic. Everything was served at the tables, so no one had to get up to get coffee or dessert or anything. Marty Jensen, once again, did his reverse bingo show and, as always, it was fun.

There were 76 attendees (2 others signed up but didn't come). Once again, there were fewer people than in previous years, but everyone seemed to enjoy the party. Several people asked us to keep this event going.

The day started with a little rain and a temperature of 35 degrees or so. The rain stopped, the temperature started dropping, and the wind picked up. On the way in and especially on the way out, there was lots of touching and holding on to one another and no one got blown over. The roads were clear for the ride home.

Many thanks to the club members who came and enjoyed the party. A special thank you to Judy Plank who, once again, took all the photos. Also, many thanks to the board members who helped with planning and setup: Joan Buske, Mary Zastrow, Nancy Morrison, George Heyne, Jim and Margaret Favre.

*Seig Hoepfner, Party Chair*

## Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign

Lennie Broich and Bill Beaupre, once again, coordinated the Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringing Campaign.

Many thanks to the following volunteers: Bobbette Pronk, Steve and Sandy Majerus, Larry and Judy Plank, Seig Hoepfner and Joan Buske, Seig Hoepfner & Nancy Morri

son (2), Tom and Ann Schwalen, Steve and Sue Broich, Bill Beaupre & Lennie Broich (2), and support from Roger Spee and Horst Truedstedt.

**It was reported that the IBM Alumni Club raised \$7,693.83 in 24 hours.**

*Lennie Broich and Bill Beaupre*

## Obituaries

**The following IBM alumni passed away in 2024:**

Karl Achterberg	Laurie Andersen	Frank Angelotti
Richard Aug	Shirley Bakken	Lawrence Barsness
Daniel Bennett	Marvin Berg	Rudolph Biaggio
Beverly Bixby	Herman Bleimeyer	Dorothy Bornmann
Sandra Brandau	Charles Brown	Dona Brunner
Dennis Butterbaugh	Lee Cleveland	Gerald Connelly
Gerald Cook	Donald Dean	Arletta Mae Derby
Robert Dubke	David Dunn	Herbert Erickson
John Fibison	Pamela Fischer	William Fischer
Steven Foley	Lee Forstie	Gerald Freetly
Roy Fritz	Todd Gabriel	Jeffrey Gaulrapp
Kathleen Giere	Bertram Dale Goodfriend	Francis Goplen
Maurice Greene	Alvin Grossbach	Maureen Gwynn
Duane Haack	Richard Hall	Paul Halverson
John Halvorson	John Harvey	Delores Helland
Lyle Hinrichs	Arden Hoffman	William Hubbard
David Husbyn	Donald E. Johnson	Douglas Johnson
Duane Johnson	Larry J. Johnson	Judy Myers Kinsey
Larry Kirkland	Istvan Steve Kiss	Paul Klankowski
Jana Lyn Knutson	Charles Koenig	Gerald Kratz
Roger Krsnak	Gary Larson	John Leitzen
Lyle Thomas Lemke	Robert Mahlik	Lawrence Martinez
Edward Mataitis	Michael McDermott	Ralph McGuire
Robert Mesarchik	James Morrow	Ronald Murray
David Gust Nelson	Richard Nixa	Robert Noble Jr.
Robert Noderer Jr.	William Osler	Leslie Rolfson
David Schleicher	Richard Siepmann	William Sinkeldam
Robert Sokol	Charles Speltz	Harriet 'Hatsy' Staab
Howard 'Chub' Stewart	Rosann Suckow	Thomas Swaim
Gary Swanson	Roger Taylor	Dick Tenley
Joan Wallace	Margaret Wampach	Richard Welsh
Marilyn Wester	Robert Wichser	Maurice Witter
Robert Woessner	Russell Wright	

## **New obituaries for this newsletter:**

**Frank Angelotti** died December 23, 2024. With a PhD in computer science, Frank worked at IBM in Rochester for 25 years and also taught computer courses. He earned numerous patents. Frank had a profound appreciation for science and nature. He was passionate about fly fishing and conservation. He also enjoyed woodworking and wood-carving. He loved his family. Frank is survived by his wife, Debra, and his mother, Jackie.

**Beverly Kay Bixby** died December 24, 2024. Beverly attended flight attendant school but then went into administrative work. In 1965, she and her husband, Gile, moved to Rochester and she began her career at IBM. She raised her children full-time and later took on several other jobs. She loved playing bridge and was active in her church. Bev became a member of the Alumni Club when her husband, Gile, died. She is survived by children and grandchildren.

**Charles Gene Brown** died November 20, 2024. Charles served in the US Navy from 1968 to 1972, during the Vietnam War. When he was discharged, he began his career at IBM. Throughout his life, he was a big car enthusiast. He is survived by his brothers, goddaughters, and nieces.

**Dennis Butterbaugh** died November 26, 2024. In 1963, Denny and his wife, Gloria, moved to Rochester and he worked at IBM. Denny retired after more than 30 years and then became a busy volunteer. He was active in his church and made mission trips. He volunteered in various food ministries including Channel One in Rochester. Denny was a great outdoorsman, building a rustic cabin, canoeing, hiking, and chopping wood. He restored a 1952 XK120 Jaguar. He is survived by his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

**Gerald 'Jerry' Connelly** died November 24, 2024. Jerry worked at IBM for 10 years, then followed his heart and began farming with his brothers. He and his wife, Margaret, loved to travel, especially going out West and to Canada. His travels included a trip to Ireland to kiss the Blarney Stone. His sense of humor and his stories and jokes were enjoyed by all. He is survived by siblings and many nieces and nephews.

**Roy Fritz** died December 20, 2024. Roy served in the US Army for 4 years during the Korean Conflict. He was employed at IBM in Rochester for 35 years, until retirement. He was a member of the Stewartville American Legion and the Driftskippers Snowmobile Club. In retirement, he and his wife enjoyed traveling, especially fishing trips 'up North.' Roy was a hunter, fisherman, snowmobiler, bowler, and a sports fan. He is survived by children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

**Delores Helland** died December 16, 2024. Delores was a homemaker until her children were all in school and then went to work in the cafeteria at IBM. Delores enjoyed sewing and making clothes for children. She was an avid quilter. She was a wonderful cook and cake decorator. She created handmade gingerbread house kits for family and friends. Delores is survived by children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

**Lyle Thomas 'Tom' Lemke** died November 23, 2024. In 1965, Tom and his wife, Susan, moved to Rochester and Tom started working at IBM. After 35 years, Tom retired, as an engineering manager, in 2000. He was an active church member and Kiwanis member. He was involved in the annual Holiday Hockey Event and was a volunteer tax preparer for AARP. He was involved with the Rochester Civic Theater. Tom enjoyed reading, starting plants in his greenhouse, investing, theater and concerts. He and his wife enjoyed traveling the world. Tom is survived by his wife, Susan; children; and grandchildren.

**Michael McDermott** died December 3, 2024. In 1969, Michael started work at IBM in Rochester. In 1971, he joined the US Army and spent time at White Sands Missile Range. In 1973, Michael returned to IBM in Rochester. He received 16 patents for his work, mostly in high availability computing, and he also received Technical Achievement awards. He enjoyed sports, gardening, and woodworking. He volunteered for Habitat for Humanity and helped coordinate the IBM volunteer house in 2006. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and his children.

**Edward Mataitis** died December 22, 2024. In 1968, Ed moved to Rochester to work for IBM. He did disk drive development and testing until his retirement in 1999. Ed loved working in his yard and gardening. He enjoyed home projects and was always up to the challenge of fixing whatever was broken. He and his wife, Mary, enjoyed watching baseball games, college basketball games, and his grandson's activities. Ed was active in his church. He is survived by his wife, Mary; daughters; and a grandson.

**Karen Pasch** died November 9, 2024. Karen taught school for a time, then spent time raising four children, and returned to work as a tax professional. She was active in her church, especially in the areas of women's ministries, hospitality, and leadership. She volunteered for more than 13 years at Mayo Clinic Infusion Therapy. Karen enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, studying the Bible, doing crafts and puzzles, and following Minnesota sport teams. She is survived by her husband, Karl Pasch (an Alumni Club member); children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

**LaVerne Schettl** died November 7, 2024. LaVerne and her husband, Myron, moved many times for Myron's work with IBM. In 1963, they settled in the Oronoco area and established a tree farm and sawmill business. LaVerne became an Alumni Club member when her husband, Myron, died. She is survived by children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

**Rosann Suckow** died November 2, 2024. After finishing school, Rosann worked as a secretary, eventually taking a job with IBM in Rochester in the early 1970s. She supported numerous international management teams until retirement. Rosann taught piano for many years, playing piano/organ and singing throughout her life. She was a dancer and taught country and line dancing to hundreds of people. She was also a talented seamstress. Rosann is survived by her husband, Virgil; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

**Robert Wichser** died November 4, 2024. Bob served in the Marine Corps during the final years of WWII in what is known as the 'China Marines.' His career at IBM lasted 30 years and he took an early retirement package. He then started his next career of 20 years in a family business, Rochester City Delivery. Bob was an avid hunter and fisherman. For 37 years, he participated in a local fishing group, which headed to Canada for every spring opener as soon as the ice was gone. He is survived by children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

**Russell Wright** died December 3, 2024. Russ served in the Army National Guard. As an electrical engineer, he had a 30-year career with IBM. He and his wife, Darlene, lived on a hobby farm and enjoyed raising, showing, and trail-riding horses. They wintered in Apache Junction, AZ. He loved his life, his family and his many friends. Russ is survived by his wife, Darlene; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

## Celebrations

<b>60th Anniversary:</b>	<b>Ron and Dotty Persik</b>	<b>October 17, 2024</b>
	<b>Michael and Patricia Haider</b>	<b>December 26, 2024</b>
	<b>Gerald and Joann Richter</b>	<b>February 6, 2025</b>
	<b>Ken and Rita Kiefer</b>	<b>February 20, 2025</b>
<b>62<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary:</b>	<b>Karl and Betty Shidler</b>	<b>November 10, 2024</b>
<b>63<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary:</b>	<b>Reuben and Verda Tschritter</b>	<b>December 27, 2024</b>
<b>68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:</b>	<b>Nick and Terry Nielsen</b>	<b>December 27, 2024</b>

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