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e-NEWS

Horst Truestedt, Editor

Content

From the Office

Message from the President

2025 Alumni Club Christmas Party

Alumni Golf Plan for the 2026 Season

Obituaries

Celebrations

Next Newsletter: Available on the website on March 21st

From the Office

If you need to contact the club, please call 1-651-377-8893 -- the call will be forwarded to a board member. Emails sent to the club at rchret@aol.com are checked frequently. We hope to staff the office from 11:00 to 12:00 Tuesdays and Thursdays. We will see if this is a benefit to club members.

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.

2026 will be the last year of the club's operation. In reflection in 2025 we had three very successful events. We had the annual summer picnic again at the Stone Barn event center, we had a meal at the Hubbell House followed by a very entertaining play at the Mantorville theater and lastly our Christmas party at Charlie's Eatery and Pub. The attendance at all exceeded what we expected, so that was good.

After we assess the club's finances versus operational expenses, we will determine what, if any, events we can have in our final year. Our goal would be to still have the traditional major events of the summer picnic and Christmas party. Dave Lind indicated he will continue to guide the walking/hiking in the summer. The golf league will continue their events for 2026. The agreement with the county to do road cleanup out of Douglas was ended after our Fall pickup.

I want to recognize James Favre for agreeing to maintain our website at least through the end of the year. I also want to thank Horst Truedtedt for agreeing to edit the newsletter through the end of the year and for past years of editing, being the editor is no small effort.

Starting with this issue of the newsletter, for 2026 it will only be available on the club website at www.ibmrac.com. Those receiving paper copies in the mail will still receive them. 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.

While going through some folders in the desk in the office recently I found some things of interest. There are minutes from organizational meetings in October, November, and December of 1986. They defined the Club's structure and purpose as a sub-club under the IBM Club. The Club's constitution was originally adopted January 22, 1987. It is ironic to realize that the Club had its origin in December 1986 and forty years later to the month, it will be shutting down.

In those forty years the Club has weathered multiple challenges. When the corporate IBM Club made some policy changes and reorganized, we were told we no longer could use office or meeting room spaces on the site. So, we had to secure space off site. We found our current office space in a Salvation Army building, for meeting space we utilized several since then. Then in 2015 a reliable source told the Club that IBM was going to make more changes to the corporate IBM Club, and we should consider divorcing from Rochester IBM Club and go independent or risk losing all our financial assets at the time. The Club investigated what it would take for the Alumni Club to become a non-profit 501-C (7). We commenced on that path and in April 2016 we officially became Rochester IBM Alumni Club, Inc. in the ten years since, there have been other organization changes such as reducing

from a 21-member Board of Directors to 15. Another was moving our membership data base off unsupported Lotus application on the office computer onto a Google application in the Cloud.

So, the Alumni Club has had a forty-year run that has provided a wealth of activities for its membership. I would like to give a big thank you to all the members and especially people who volunteered to serve on the BoD, as officers, as committee chairmen and workers both past and present. There are several people currently on the board that have served for well over ten years. Without all of you, the Club could not have lasted forty years. Thank You!

President - Larry Plank

Alumni Golf Plan for the 2026 Season

We are planning 7 events on the following schedule:

6/1 The Bluffs
6/15 Cedar River
6/29 Zumbro Falls
7/13 Mt Frontenac
7/27 Willow Creek
8/10 St Charles
8/24 Lake City

If you have not received our email invitations and would like to participate, please send us your name and email address so we can add you to the distribution list. We will email everyone next May with details of the events and instructions for signing up.

We encourage you all to join us next season for 7 more rounds!

2026 Golf Committee:

Jeff Parker (jeff.buddyscooter@gmail.com), primary contact
Bill Kleis (wckleis@gmail.com), assistant

2025 Alumni Club Christmas Party



The Rochester IBM Alumni Club held it's annual Christmas Party on December 3rd at Charlie's Eatery and Pub. A total of 89 people signed up – most came although there were a few who couldn't make it. Some meals were delivered.

The food and service, as always, was wonderful. The people enjoyed visiting and chatting. In some cases, people were seeing people they had not seen in a long time.

Nancy Morrison put together a slide show of photos taken at previous Christmas Parties, going back to 2004. The slide show played all through the party and it went well. It was fun to see some Christmas sweaters worn again and again over the years and it was great to see the people who have been regulars at the Christmas parties. Sadly, there were photos of

many regulars who are no longer with us. These photos are all available on our website, IBMRAC.com, if anyone is interested.

Marty Jensen, who started the Reverse Bingo, was enjoying warmer climates so Mary Zastrow took over. Not only Bingo, but chatter and puns aplenty were part of Mary's performance and she was outstanding. Ken Kiefer also joined in the 'pun games.'

Many thanks to the committee headed by Joan Buske – Seig Hoepfner, Nancy Morrison, and Mary Zastrow. Also, thanks to the additional people who came early to help with the setup and decorations as well as the takedown – Jim and Margaret Favre, Karl and Betty Shidler.

As always, a very special thank you to Judy Plank for once again taking photos.

Obituaries

The following IBM Alumni passed away in 2025:

David Alexander	Theodore Dunnington	John Huber
Richard Armstrong	David Ellringer	Pat Hurley
Lyle Bacon	Don Erdman	David Ihrke
Robert Becker	Charles Eyerly	Gary Jacobson
Richard L. Bennett	Timothy Fairclough	Bruce Jeske
John Bernhardt	Douglas Ferguson	Thomas L. Johnson
Jean Braun	William Fitzgerald	Eugene Jones
William Budensiek	James Fugleberg	Elna Knutson
Nathaniel Calvert	Richard Fursa	Edward Korbel
Micah Chetrit	Jon Glarner	Curtis 'Corky' Larson
Virgil Clark	Robert Grabau	Donald Lindgren
John Cople	David Greden	Roger Loken
Jennifer Dervin	Paul Gunderson	Robert Lueck
Francis 'Jim'	Paul Haas	Patrick Macken
Deutsche	Diane Harvey	James H. Miller
Stanley deVaal	Harold Helleck	Wilbert Mohlis

Kenneth Moorhead	Griffith Rees	Mary Lou Soukup
Marilyn Morem	Frank Richason	Leslie Thronson
Joseph F. Murphy	Gordon Riekmann	Eileen Thorpe
Robert R. Murphy	Francis 'Fran' Rookey	Robert Tiede
Bradley Mussman	Ed Rosencrants	Gary Titus
Cyril 'Cy' Nelson	Robert Rueber	Peter Tuinstra
David E. Nelson	Donald Sabatke	Bruce Unverzagt
Donald R. Nelson	Arlan Scharberg	Judith Walter
Dorothy Ness	Douglas Seavey	Sharyn Voss
Darrell 'Curley' Oelkers	Robert Sharp	Lloyd Wasson
Donald Ottman	Nathan Sikkink	Alvin Wendt
Martin Peterson	Dale Slindee	Gordon Westphal
Clete Pollack	Ralph S. Smith	Lanny Witter
Francis Reardon	Lyle Solem	
	Donnie Solomon	

New obituaries for this Newsletter:

Richard L. Bennett died on December 28, 2025. Dick spent time in the US Army. He worked his entire career at IBM where he built many lasting friendships. Dick was a member of the Elks Club, Rochester Exchange Club, and the American Legion. He loved golf, spending time at the cabin and in Florida, and attending the many activities of his grandchildren. He is survived by his children and grandchildren.

William F. Burrows died on January 5, 2026. Bill spent his entire career with IBM, a job he took great pride in. He enjoyed target shooting, attending gun shows, fishing, and spending time with family and friends. After retirement, he cherished the extra time he got to spend with his wife Nancy riding horses and traveling. Bill is survived by his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

LuVerne 'Vern' Bushlack died on December 31, 2025. Vern and his wife Marmie lived most of their married life and raised their children in Rochester. They did spend 13 years as snow birds in Arizona. Vern began his career teaching agriculture at Kasson-Mantorville High School, then went on to establish award-winning horticulture programs at John Marshall High School and at Rochester Community Technical College. Vern is survived by his wife Marmie (an Alumni Club member), children, and grandchildren.

Francis 'Jim' Deutsche died on November 9, 2025. Jim joined the US Army and completed Officer's Candidate School and Airborne Ranger training. He had a long 35-year career at IBM in Rochester. Jim is survived by his wife, Sharon; sons, and grandchildren.

David Ellringer died on July 25, 2025. Dave spent 35 years with IBM in Rochester and later, lived in Colorado and Wisconsin before retiring in Arizona. Dave was a passionate competitor in Kubb, winning countless tournaments. He was equally dedicated to horseshoe pitching, playing and organizing tournaments into his later years. He made the world a better place through friendship and laughter. Dave is survived by his wife, Cheryl; children; and grandchildren.

Charles 'Chuck' Eyerly died on October 11, 2025. Chuck began his IBM career in Endicott NY. He moved to Rochester, worked in the Hardware Support Center and spent a total of 33 years at IBM before retiring in 1998. He was an active member of the Jaycees. He was a champion bowler and enjoyed fishing, golfing, hunting, softball, and walking. He was known for always having his camera with him. He and his wife lived in Florida for a time but after her passing, Chuck moved to South Carolina. He is survived by extended family and friends.

William Fitzgerald died on November 16, 2025. Bill went to work at IBM in Rochester in 1955, retiring after working for decades in several different departments. He enjoyed traveling for IBM, especially trips to New York and Argentina. He was a long-time member of the Eagles and Elks. He loved music, fishing, gardening, and yard work. Bill is survived by his wife, Dorothy; children; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and great-great grandchildren.

Diane Marie Harvey died on November 22, 2025. Diane worked at IBM for over 25 years. After retirement, she spent a year caring for a grandson and when that year was over, she opened an in-home daycare. She enjoyed gardening, collecting decorative plates, flowers, hummingbirds, casino trips, fishing trips, and hosting holiday parties. Diane is survived by husband, Ron; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

David Ihrke died on November 20, 2025. Dave built a long and dedicated career with IBM in Rochester. He enjoyed his work but the farm boy in him never faded. After retirement, he became a Master Gardener and took pride in tending his lawn, planting flowers and helping others with their gardening. In his later years, Dave and his wife moved to an assisted living unit. He made friends easily, continued to enjoy music, but definitely not bingo. Dave's legacy is in the stories he told, the lessons he quietly taught, and the love he showed for family and friends. He is survived by his children and grandchildren,

Curtis 'Corky' Larson died on December 15, 2025. Curtis served in the US Air Force during the Vietnam War. In a work career which spanned 50 years, He worked at a number of different places, including IBM, in Rochester. He loved spending time with family, being outside, and telling stories to his children and grandchildren. Curtis is survived by his wife, Diane; children; and grand-children.

Patrick Macken died on November 22, 2025. Pat spent 40 years at IBM, where he held various positions and formed many lasting friendships. He was deeply committed to his family and community. He coached sports teams for his son and granddaughter. He attended concerts, plays, and games. He always smiled, cheered, and celebrated the accomplishments of his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Pat loved to walk around the neighborhood, always ready to stop and chat with someone. He is survived by children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Dorothy Ness died on December 25, 2025. Along with other jobs, Dorothy worked at IBM in Rochester for 24 years, retiring in 1990. She was dedicated to family. She enjoyed working outdoors with flowers. She also enjoyed bowling, ceramics, and music. Dorothy is survived by her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

Karen Noltee died on September 30, 2025. Karen worked in financial credit services and customer services. She was a proud mother and grandmother. In her younger years, she enjoyed roller skating but later, transitioned into spending time at the lake. She loved gardening, especially working with hostas, fairy gardens, and succulents. She taught gardening classes and participated in garden tours and plant sales. Karen is survived by her husband, Dennis (an Alumni Club member); children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Donald Ottman died on November 16, 2024. Don worked at IBM. After retirement, he worked at Rochester Parks and Recreation. For years, he mowed the cemetery next to his home. His greatest joy was family and, especially, family gatherings. He enjoyed soccer games and dance recitals. He enjoyed talking to nieces and nephews who stopped by for visits. Don also enjoyed his small hobby farm. Over the years, he had many animals around him, including dogs, goats, sheep, donkeys and other small animals. He is survived by his wife, Ardith; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Gordon Riekman died on December 6, 2025. Gordon was a proud US Air Force veteran. Never working anywhere else, he was also a proud long-term employee of IBM. He was a skilled woodworker, building a garage from a pile of lumber delivered to his driveway as well as many home renovations. He loved the annual fishing trips where he taught his children and grandchildren how to cast and set a hook. Gordy had a special bond with a grandson and enjoyed many hours of Hot Wheels, videos, and time at McDonalds. He is survived by his wife, Lois; children; and great-grandchildren.

Francis 'Fran' Rookey died on October 8, 2025. Fran was active-duty military for 15 years, ending as a Captain and ultimately reaching the rank of Major in the USAF Reserve. During and after his military service, he worked with computers. In 1987, he moved to IBM Rochester where he worked on product development for high-speed internet routing devices. He always enjoyed a project, especially one that involved fixing or completing something, like houses. First, it was houses he lived in but then he went into buying and managing multiple unit apartment complexes. Fran is survived by his wife, Karlyn; children; and grandchildren.

Lyle Solem died on November 30, 2025. From 1953 to 1955, Lyle served in the US Army. He got an Electrical Engineering degree and worked in Wisconsin, developing guidance systems for the Titan Missile. In 1960, Lyle came to Rochester and started work at IBM, continuing for 27 years. After retirement, he started his own consulting firm. Among many community interests, Lyle was involved with Girl Scouts, Kiwanis, American Legion, and CORE. He enjoyed woodworking, traveling, camping, and listening to elementary school children read (as a Kiwanis volunteer). He is survived by children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Robert Tiede died on December 22, 2025. Bob worked at IBM Rochester for 30 years. After retirement, he sold his small farm and moved to Stone Lake WI. He went back to school and became an electrician. He enjoyed visiting with friends, hosting football games, fish fries, and popcorn. He was an avid fisherman and hunter, enjoying many trips in pursuit of his pleasures. Bob is survived by a daughter, grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Sharyn Voss died on November 11, 2025. Sharyn spent many dedicated years pouring her heart into her work at IBM. She also spent time in her church community, helping to establish the IHN program (now Family Promise) which offers housing and employment assistance to families in need. She found joy in life's simple pleasures like reading, playing Scrabble, crocheting, cooking and baking. She was an avid Minnesota Vikings fan. Sharyn was especially fond of her constant companion, her cat Smokey. She is survived by husband, Robert; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Lloyd Wasson died on December 4, 2025. Lloyd began work at IBM in Endicott NY. In 1965, he moved to Rochester to continue his career at IBM. He worked in Programming Products, Development/Architecture, and various aspects of the AS/400. Lloyd retired in 1996. Lloyd and his wife Marsha enjoyed traveling, visiting places by bike, car, plane, and cruise ship. They volunteered at the local food shelf. Lloyd volunteered to help seniors with computers. He was involved in volleyball, softball, bowling, biking and card clubs. He loved choral music and sang in several choirs. He is survived by children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Our deepest sympathies to family and friends.

Celebrations

61st Anniversary: Rick and Ruth Lindner November 21

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