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e-NEWS

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From the Office

If you need to contact the club, you can either email us at rchret@AOL.com which is checked several times each week, or you can call the office at 1-651-377-8893 and leave a message. A check for phone messages is done whenever someone goes into the office. We try to go into the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11am and 12pm.

As a reminder, we no longer email out links to the newsletter. If you are not one of the few that get mailed a hard copy to the newsletter (we are not adding more people to that group) then you can view the current and past editions of the newsletter on our website at **IBMRAC.COM**. In addition to the newsletter, you will find other useful/interesting links.

Larry Plank – President

VOTE – on or before November 3, 2026

Take the time to check out your local candidates as well as your State and Federal candidates. If you like what's going on, VOTE! If you want change, VOTE!

Check out your options for voting – how, when and where.

Contact Us

We want to hear from you about obituaries and anniversaries. Or, of course, anything else that's on your mind. We were getting information from you when you 'replied' to the emailed newsletters, but we no longer have the userid that 'sent' the newsletters. You need to send an email to rchret@aol.com or call the office at 651-377-8893 and leave a message. We will get back to you.

Alumni Club Fall Hikes

The eight hikes planned for the second week of September will continue through October and include trails in city and county parks. The trails are moderate with some inclines and will take about 1 ½ - 2 hours with the trail leader pointing out interesting geological features and history of the parks and wildlife and flora along the routes.

Sept 9 - 9:00 am: Quarry Hill city park (Completed)

Sept 16 - 9:00 am: Essex city park, 5455 West River Road NW, Rochester. Meet at the parking lot by the picnic pavilion. Essex Park, located on the north edge of Rochester, has many trails that loop through prairie, woods and meadows providing a great opportunity to enjoy nature and the outdoors. Some trails are paved, others are grass or dirt trails.

Sept 23 - 9:00 am: Indian Heights Park, 1800 Terracewood Drive NW, Rochester. Meet at the parking area at the end of Terracewood Drive. Indian Heights Park is a little-known gem situated between Assisi Heights to the west and the Zumbro River. Trails wind through woods, oak savanna, around an old quarry and offer a hilltop overlook of the city of Rochester. The name "Indian Heights" was coined by pioneers who recognized this as an Indian burial ground in the 1800's. The trail leader will talk about the Indian and Pioneer history of the area.

Sept 30 - 9:00 am: Oxbow County Park, 5731 County Rd 105 NW, Byron. Meet at the 2nd bridge picnic area parking area. Oxbow Park, consisting of 572 acres, offers a great variety of hiking trails that wind through a landscape of wooded hills and meadows. We will hike on the North Meadow Trail and part of the Zumbro Trail.

Oct 7 - 9:00 am: Root River County Park, 4012 80th St SE Rochester, MN 55904. Meet at the parking lot. The 125 acres of Root River Park offers many secluded areas to hike. A 2-mile looped hiking trail winds through the meadows and wooded hills along Root River providing visitors with a variety of options of beauty and natural history. Great scenery with towering limestone bluffs along the Root River. A section of the trail is on a1800's wagon trail used by early settlers.

Oct 14 - 9:00 am: Chester Woods County Park, 8378 Highway 14 East Eyota, MN 55934. Meet at the parking lot by the boat ramp. There are about 12 miles of primitive trails through a variety of inviting natural habitats in the undeveloped areas of the park. The trail leader will select a route of about 2 to 5 miles depending on weather and desires of the hiking participants.

Oct 21 - 9:00 am: Oxbow County Park, 5731 County Rd 105 NW, Byron. Meet at the 2nd bridge picnic area parking area. Oxbow Park, consisting of 572 acres, offers a great variety of hiking trails through a landscape of wooded hills and meadows. We will hike on the Maple trail and part of the Zumbro Trail.

Oct 28 - 9:00 am: Quarry Hill Park, 701 Silver Creek Road NE, Rochester which is accessible from County Road 22 (East Circle Drive), meet at the parking lot by the Nature Center. The Park offers more than eight miles of trails. Paved, grassy and rugged terrain provides a variety of options of trails through meadows, woodland, oak savanna, quarry ruins and overlook of Rochester.

NOTE: All hikes will meet at 9:00am. A reminder email for those who have signed up will be sent a few days prior to the walk-hike date with directions to the park meet-up area.

***To Sign Up* CLICK-HERE.**

Dave Lind - your walk/hiking activity leader

Alumni Club Golf

This season we completed 3 events in June that were summarized in the July 2026 Newsletter. The remaining 4 events were held in July and August at Mount Frontenac, Willow Creek, St Charles, and Lake City Golf Clubs. Each event was a 9 AM start, 18 holes (one event was cut to 9 holes due to heat), with lunch and prizes afterwards. We came away with eagles, birdies, pars, and a few other things 😉. A more detailed article is posted on the ibmrac.com website.

We have made good friends and lasting memories over the years on the golf courses in SE Minnesota. Thanks to IBM, the Rochester IBM Alumni Club, its board members, and all of the attendees and coordinators who have made this possible.

May the course be with you...

⛳ Rochester IBM Alumni Club Golf, final round complete ⛳

Final IBM Rochester Alumni Club Event

This year, we decided to switch things up for our IBM Rochester Alumni Club 2026 summer event. Rather than hosting an outdoor picnic or a buffet at the Stone Barn, we moved indoors to the place where it began for many of us, the IBM main site! We had a sit down catered meal at the Executive Briefing Center featuring black linen tablecloths, burgundy linen napkins and colorful centerpieces that added a festive touch.

We exceeded our original estimate with 123 reservations before the deadline, our largest turnout in several years. Thank you to everyone who attended and made the event a success.

There was a small display of original club documents from its founding 40 years ago in 1986, as well as several poster boards with pictures and history of the club. Also shown on the two large front screens were pictures of previous club events, with thanks to board member Nancy Morrison for pulling those together!

The menu offered a salad, a choice of sliced beef pot roast, herb crusted pork tenderloin, or garlic pasta arrabbiata, accompanied by coffee or lemonade. For dessert, we enjoyed Bunnie's famous coconut cake as well as apple crisp.

IBM Rochester's new Senior Site Executive, Keri Olson, gave a short presentation in which she thanked the retirees for their many contributions over the years in developing successful IBM products and serving customers. She then shared a video highlighting the IBM Rochester site's 70th anniversary celebration held earlier this month.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to IBM for the use of its facilities and for the assistance of staff members Greg Gallas and Lisa Lonien. We also greatly appreciate IBM's generous donation of numerous door prizes, including IBM logo mugs, hats, and water bottles.

A good time seemed to be had by all, and we were delighted by the turnout and enthusiasm. Thank you again to everyone who attended and to all those who helped make the event possible.

Best regards,

Brian Eckre, Event Chair - IBMRAC Vice President

Obituaries

Thomas Adams died on July 2, 2026. Tom served in the US Army from 1956 to 1962 with assignments in Germany and South Korea. He remained an active member in the local Korean War Veterans group. In 1964, he was hired by IBM in Omaha. In 1972, he moved to Rochester and worked for 34 years at IBM until retirement in 1998. After retirement, he volunteered at the Senior Net Computer Lab and the Adult Detention Center where he taught classes and mentored fellow volunteers. He was a traveler, a bowler, played tennis and later pickleball. He participated in duplicate bridge and 500 card groups. Tom is survived by his wife, Mary Pat; children; and grandchildren.

Judith DeYoung died on August 8, 2026. Judith will be remembered for the impact she had on the lives of those around her, for her kindness, warmth and presence. She became an Alumni Club member when her husband Don died. She is survived by her daughters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Barbara Fulford Eakins died on June 22, 2026. Barbara began her career as a teacher and then, spent 20 years as a technical writer for IBM. She was an avid reader. She enjoyed sewing, playing bridge, and spending time working in the Friends of the Library Bookstore. She sang in the church choir and worked on the church 'peace and justice' committee. Barbara is survived by her children and grandchildren.

Arnold Fredriksen died on September 13, 2026. Arnold served in the US Army from 1957 to 1959. In 1962, the family moved to Rochester and Arnold worked for IBM for 28 years until retirement in 1991. He is survived by children and grandsons.

Lola Belle Gardner died on July 31, 2026. Lola was a mother, homemaker, avid golfer, and traveler. She worked at Rochester Public Schools helping special needs students. She became an Alumni Club member when her husband Forrest died. Lola is survived by her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Ardella Geyer died on August 26, 2026. In 1966, Ardella started working at IBM in the cafeteria and stayed until retirement after 23 years. She loved dancing, golfing, gardening, traveling, playing games and camping. She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, VFW, and the Red Hat Society. Ardella is survived by children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

Stephen Goergen died on August 24, 2026. Steve served in the US Navy during the Vietnam War. He worked at IBM Rochester in the electronics department for 23 years. He loved to fish, read books, watch westerns, follow the Twins and Vikings. He is survived by his wife, Sharon; daughters; and grandchildren.

William Hammer died on July 20, 2026. William served in the US Army for 2 years. Following his military service, he got his college degree and enjoyed a successful 38-year career as an electrical engineer with IBM. After retirement, he enjoyed traveling, golfing, biking, skiing, hiking, bird watching, red wine, and serving others. He is survived by daughters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Gordon Heath died on July 18, 2026. Gordon served in the US Army, deployed to the Philippines, during World War II. He started his IBM career in Endicott NY, then transferred to Rochester in 1962 and completed his 30-year IBM career. After retiring, he became a professor teaching business classes at Rochester Community College. He enjoyed camping with his family and visiting 35 states and many national parks. He was a volunteer with his church, Boy Scouts, Kiwanis, American Cancer Society, United Way, and Dorothy Day House. He enjoyed playing cards, choir, chimes, puzzles, and attending his grandchildren's sporting events. Gordon is survived by his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Nathaniel Hermes died on July 21, 2026. In spite of medical and physical disabilities, Nate enjoyed a 12-year career at IBM as a software engineer. He was a proud condo owner and lived independently for over 10 years. He enjoyed reading science fiction and fantasy books, playing board and card games, watching movies, building computers, and giving thoughtful gifts to his loved ones. He cherished time with his family, being a loving and supportive big brother and uncle. He is survived by his parents, grandmother, siblings, niece, and nephews.

Robert J. Johnson died on June 11, 2026. In 1953, Bob enlisted in the US Air Force, spending time at Air Force Bases in Texas, Illinois, New Mexico, Colorado and Korea. He continued his service in the Air Force Reserve. Bob began his career with IBM in 1957, working in manufacturing, production control, and procurement. He retired in 1990. Bob and his wife Sandy traveled around the world and often returned to their favorite place, Japan. Bob is survived by his daughter, grandchildren, and siblings.

Joseph Marchesani died on July 5, 2026. During more than 40 years in Minnesota, Joseph worked in a financial services corporation and was an adjunct faculty member at several universities. He was an editorial reviewer at the Mayo Foundation. He served on several boards including Common Cause MN and the Family Tree Clinic. He was part of a small group hired to establish a campus of the U of M in Rochester where he held a number of teaching and administrative positions. In retirement, he volunteered. Joseph is survived by his wife Peggy (an Alumni Club member) and his daughters.

Donald Z. Pierce died on August 18, 2026. Don served in the US Navy during the Korean War. With a degree in Electrical Engineering, he began his career working on airplanes like B-52s and F4 Fighters. In 1965, he moved to Rochester and, in 1967, he began his 20-year career at IBM. He worked as a senior project manager until his retirement in 1987. Don was passionate about fishing for walleye. He also enjoyed traveling, reading, yard work, finances, and working on computers. He was an active church member. Don is survived by his wife, Edna; children; grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mary Louise Rauen died on July 31, 2026. Mary Lou worked as a surgical technician at several hospitals. She and her husband Ed moved from Minneapolis to Rochester in 1956 when Ed accepted a position with IBM. They traveled around the world. Their home was always open to visitors and Mary Lou was always a caretaker for family and others outside of family. She volunteered at Samaritan Bethany Nursing Home for over 25 years. Mary Lou is survived by her husband, Edwin, (an Alumni Club member); children; grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Gordon 'Jim' Read died on August 10, 2026. Jim served in the US Navy for 3 years. He worked at IBM for over 30 years. He enjoyed creating art and showing his work in several art galleries in Rochester. He also enjoyed construction projects including building their first home. Jim is survived by his wife, Dorothy; daughters; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Ervin Ristau died on August 8, 2026. In 1964, Ervin started his career at IBM. While still working at IBM in 1972, Ervin and his wife Judy bought the Ristau home farm. After he officially retired from IBM, they continued to farm for many more years. He had many loves in his life including his family, fishing, hunting, dogs, family gatherings, and selling his babied Black Angus steers. He is survived by his wife, Judy; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Terry Ryks died on July 25, 2026. When he was young, Terry was a Golden Glove amateur boxer. He worked at IBM as a technician for 33 years, retiring in 2018. He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, four-wheeling, and especially taking family and friends out on the pontoon on Roberds Lake. Terry and his wife, Belinda, liked vacationing in Mexico. He is survived by his wife, Belinda; children; and grandchildren.

Marjorie Saxton died on August 16, 2026. Marge was a homemaker while her husband Jerry worked at IBM in Rochester. In 1964, they moved to a farm south of Kasson where they lived with their four children. Marge discovered a love of ceramics and enjoyed teaching ceramics to groups of friends. She loved her family, traveling, music, reading books, bible study, and volunteering. She became an Alumni Club member when her husband Jerry died. She is survived by her daughter, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Ronald Schrafel died on July 13, 2026. Ron worked for IBM for 30 years, then built and operated a successful upholstery business from his garage for more than 30 years. He also proudly served as a member of the Kasson and Mantorville Fire Departments, including several years as Fire Chief. He loved spending time with his family, being outdoors, and sailing. Ron is survived by his wife, Sharon; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Fred Stussy died on March 3, 2026. Fred served in the US Air Force from 1951 to 1956. He had a long career at IBM, retiring after 32 years. He was a member of the American Legion for 60 years, serving in many leadership roles. He was a member of the Korean War Veterans Club. Fred loved fishing, playing the saxophone, and watching his favorite country-western shows like Gunsmoke. He was a principled, dependable, and generous man. Fred is survived by his wife, Barbara; daughter; granddaughters; and great-grandson.

Rosemary Wagner died on August 13, 2026. Rosemary devoted her life to caring for others. She served as a nurse in a number of hospitals and then, as an industrial nurse with IBM. While living in Rochester, she continued nursing at Samaritan Bethany Nursing Home and Shamrock In-Home Nursing care. She was an active church member. She enjoyed reading, theater, ceramics, flowers, gardening, picnics, walks, travel, children, and dogs. She had a special love of history and shared that passion by leading tours at the Plummer House and Mayowood. She is survived by her husband, Arthur; children; and grandchildren.

Richard 'Dick' Webster died on July 28, 2026. Dick worked at IBM for 30 years from 1957 until 1987. After retirement, he worked in auto sales for 9 years. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and sports. He was a Gopher and Viking fan. He enjoyed weekly senior dining and card playing at the community center. Dick is survived by children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Dennis Wendt died on August 1, 2026. Dennis served in the US Army for 2 years, including duty overseas in Germany. After his military service, he started a long career with IBM in Rochester. He also farmed the Wendt Family Farm with his brothers. He was a lifelong active church member, serving on the church council, teaching Sunday School and ushering. He enjoyed photography, fishing, playing softball, and traveling. Dennis is survived by a son and daughter, siblings, and many nieces and nephews.

Alan Werle died on August 6, 2026. Al joined the US Army in 1951 and served for two years. After completing his military service, he went to work for IBM in Rochester and remained for 34 years, retiring in 1990 as a project manager. Al loved tennis, cross-country skiing, winters in Alabama, and family vacations in Northern Minnesota. He volunteered at his church and Mayo Clinic. Al is survived by his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Our deepest sympathies to family and friends.

Celebrations

59th Anniversary: Larry and Judy Plank – October 14

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