

❖ Consultants in Minnesota ❖

January 1998

Presidents Letter

by Ray J. Giske

Those of you who were unable to attend the December Holiday Fun at Nicklow's really did miss out on

some fun! By all accounts those who did attend (and there was a goodly number) had a great time. There was laughter, good food, great dancing (the belly variety), singing (???), and excellent camaraderie! Thanks so much to Larry and Mary Kay Bremer for making the plans and taking care of all the arrangements. Special thanks to Joan Barnes, Norm Nelson, and Bill Gentry (Joan's DBA) for making all the arrangements for the singing. Perhaps, during the next year, Bill Smale will be willing to offer the group some vocal lessons so that we will be ready to do some REAL singing by next December.

As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, the January meeting will consist of the Broker Fair and the Chapter Annual Meeting (NOTE: The location is the Wyndham Garden, not

the Lido as published in the Newsletter last month). Hope all of you will be able to attend. The primary item on the Annual Meeting Agenda will be the election of officers. Joan Barnes, the Chair of this year's Nominating Committee has provided details elsewhere in this report as to the slate of nominees.

It is hard to believe that only 12 short months ago I was elected President of the Minnesota Chapter. Although the term of office is a single year, I have agreed to serve a second term. At the same time,

it seems appropriate to look at what the organization has accomplished over the last year and give some consideration to what might be some key activities during the next year. With respect to the past year, four items stand out in my mind. They include:
HOSTING THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

It was just a year ago when Joyce Burkhardt visited the Twin Cities to look at possible sites and to ask the MN Chapter to host the conference. It was at that time that Bill Buending stepped forward to serve as conference chair and, as we all know, did a marvelous job of organizing the project.

NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR: As you know this newsletter is the primary means of communication among the membership. After 10 years as Editor, Karl Hella decided it was time for a break (a well deserved one, I might add). The call went out for a replacement and Magne Hatlevik volunteered to take it on. Needless to say the newsletter has been coming out regularly all year long without missing a beat. Thanks to both Karl and Magne!

PARTICIPATION IN NETCOM: Over the course of the year, the MN Chapter was invited to participate in a number of conferences. Among the options available, the MN Chapter Board agreed to participate in the NetCom conference at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Sept. Although the conference was small (it was the first time in Minneapolis), feedback from the members who participated and who volunteered to staff the booth on the convention floor indicated that it was a worthwhile activity. Thanks to all who volunteered and especially to Robert Kelsey who presented.

FORMATION OF WEB SITE TASK FORCE: Over the last year and a half, at least, several members have suggested that our organization could benefit by having a chapter web site. We have a dedicated group of chapter members identified who will take on the awesome task of developing a set of recommendations for the Chapter to consider in that regard. We look forward to their report and, to the Task Force members, thanks for volunteering! The above list illustrates the most important thing I have learned this past year as I served as President. That is that the MN Chapter has some very dedicated, committed, and creative members. I look forward to what the New Year will bring us! I'd be happy to hear any ideas you might have (861-6054 or rgiske@compuserve.com).

Best Wishes for a Happy 1998!

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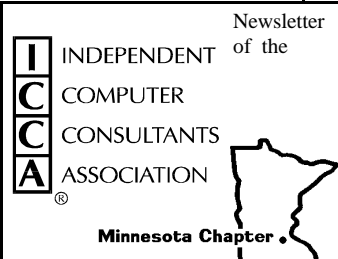
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One Y2K Example

By: Jerry Stiff stiff001@maroon.tc.umn.edu

I offer this recap of my first Year 2000 assignment, so others might have a gauge. A substantial application system was made Y2K compliant over a one year period, expending 2 people-years of effort. About 1/2 of the effort was testing.

This tells the relative size and complexity of the system. The application runs on an IBM mainframe. The file types involved are sequential, VSAM, a compress-expand file, and a few incidental DB2 tables. Most of the system was written before 1983. Program coding standards had been well used which simplified the "find and fix" phase. Typically seven analysts and programmers maintain this system. There are 300 JCL members (job streams for daily / weekly / monthly / etc., -&- some are ad hoc / recovery / obsolete). There are 1400 COBOL source members (batch programs, sub-programs, copy-lib members, CICS maps, online programs, one-time programs, etc.).

Of the 1400 source members, only 195 programs were changed during this project. On the other hand, every reasonable JCL job flow was executed in the proof phase and discrepancies were investigated. There were no file conversions, no changes to record layouts. A "sliding window" coding technique was added to the 195 programs, to assign a century based on

the 2 digit year. Management commitment was constant throughout the project, although minor diversions did occur. It was the pilot Y2K for the company, so sometimes the project got beneficial attention but also had to endure delays for vendor software (date discoveries).

Staffing went like this. One employee, a senior computer analyst well versed in this application, was full time on this Y2K project for 52 weeks. An employee accountant used 13 weeks in reviewing tests. Two contractors (programmer analyst duties) were used for 22 weeks each. The contractors did the program research, coded changes, compiled, and unit tested. The senior analyst had used simple scans to detect candidate programs to change; he set up JCL for the system tests; he determined the data subset for the "proof" executions; he used utilities to advance dates for "future" tests; and he tracked down discrepancies.

I have high confidence in the result. I am aware that a lot of systems remain for Y2K attention.

Flying High

a Short Bio of Ben Moyle

by Larry Bremer

Ben was born and started growing up in Columbus, Ohio. Since his Dad was career military, he saw more of the world before finishing grade school than many people see in a lifetime. Tours included New York, California, Japan and lastly Duluth MN. He finished school in Duluth, participating in (AKA running) the drama club, chess club and science club. He also graduated from UMD, with Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in Mathematics and Political Science. In college, he participated Math club and ROTC. Ben also belonged to the Arnold Air Society which was primarily a fraternity for ROTC members.

Immediately out of college, he went to work for the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis as a systems programmer. After 10 years with the Fed, he began his consulting career. The plan was to develop software for retail sale in the idle time between contracting assignments. As fortune would have it, the early success of the first product (BIMSPOOL, 3270 printer support) caused an early branch into software. His software still dominates the market niche it serves and is internationally known.

BIM and Associates has grown to 13 employees (25 foreign agents producing sales), and the general ledger posts gross revenue of between 2 and 2.5 million annually.

Ben is a charter member of ICCA MN and was the first acting president since he organized the first chapter meeting in 1980. Ben is also instrumental in publishing the membership directory, organizing the annual Vendor/Broker Fair (this meeting) and also maintains the ICCA-MN referral service.

On a more personal level, Ben has never been married but in his words has had the same girl friend longer than most people stay married. He enjoys flying and owns a plane that is capable of aerobatics. He flies to either coast a couple times each year, would like to do more aerobatics, and plans to pursue his instrument rating. He has several stories about flying - ask him about turning an airplane into a glider while in the air!

[ed. note]

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Attention all ICCA members:
Get involved, write a story for the newsletter. I need stuff to fill these white(blue) pages!!.

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as laws vary from state to state and also because the facts or your situation may not support

Nominating Committee Report

By: JoanBarnes jebarnes@igc.apc.org

The nominating committee met and accepted the nominations of the following chapter members for officers for FY1998:

President: Ray Giske

Ray has been president this past year and felt that since Gordy has been Vice-President for just a partial term, he (Gordy) might want a bit more time to get comfortable with being an officer before he rolls into the president's position. He (Ray) also felt that he (Ray) needed a bit more time to finish some of the tasks which he hoped to see completed during his term as president.

Vice-president: Gordon Schesel
Gordy has served as vice-president for about half a year. If Ray hopes to stay on as president, Gordy needs to do something, and a full term as vice seemed like the likely choice.

Secretary: Ben Moyle

Ben has agreed to another term as secretary - keeping track of the membership list, the prospective member list, how many people in each member firm, and all that other fun stuff.

Treasurer: Steven Roetzel

Steve and his business partner Don have been members for about two years. Our current treasurer, Sheridan Timms, is looking at doing more business travelling and is uncertain about regular attendance at monthly meetings. Steve has been active in chapter

activities and will be a good addition to the chapter board.

The election of chapter officers will take place at the January meeting. While the committee is pleased with the slate of candidates, there are many qualified members who may choose to run for one of the officer positions. Further nominations may be made from the floor prior to voting.

And now for something completely different: Don't forget to plan to attend the National Conference in Philadelphia in June. We should be able to win the travelling chapter award this year.

[HUMOR] MS in Georgia

William Smale BSmale@compuserve.com

How things would be different if Microsoft were located in Georgia...

1. Their #1 product would be "Microsoft Winders"
2. Instead of an hourglass icon you'd get an empty beer bottle
3. Occasionally you'd bring up a window that was covered with a Hefty bag and some duct tape.
4. Dialog boxes would give you the choice of "Ahh-right", "Naw", or "Git" instead of "Yes", "No", or "Cancel"
5. Instead of "Ta-Da!", the opening sound would be Dueling Banjos
6. The "Recycle Bin" in Winders 95 would be an outhouse

7. Whenever you pulled up the Sound Player you'd hear "Freebird!"
8. Powerpoint would be named "ParPawnt"
9. Instead of "VP", Microsoft big shots would be called "Cuz"
10. Hardware could be repaired using parts from an old Trans Am
11. Four words: Daisy Duke Screen Saver
12. "Well, the first thing you know old Bill's a billionaire..."
13. Flight Simulator replaced by Tractor-Pull Simulator
14. Microsoft CEO "Billy-Bob" (a.k.a. Bubba") Gates
15. "ParPawnt" would have a "Pond Scum" and a "Junk Yard" Scheme
16. One wrong turn while surfing the web would send you face to face with a 12 gauge
17. "This computer protected by Smith and Wesson" screen saver
18. Directions to Corporate Headquarters- "Down the road a block or so"
19. Microsoft Word includes a phonetic spell checker "Hookt on fonics werk 4 me"
20. Development of Family Tree software would be replaced by the Family Straight Line
21. New corporate dress code - no shoes allowed
22. Instead of a beep when you made an error, you'd hear "git off me daddy, yer crushin' my cigarettes!"



Meeting Reservations: Members may phone your reservation to Joan Barnes' office at 257-2570, by 3:00 PM, Monday, January 19, 1998. Non-members should mail this form to: ICCA Minnesota, c/o Sheridan Timms, 6940 Tartan Curve, Eden Prairie, MN 55346.

Name: _____ Company: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____
 State: _____ Phone: () _____

Chicken Marsala (Sauteed Breasts of Chicken with Marsala Wine Sauce) - Red Ticket Members \$20 Non-members \$23 x _____ = _____
 Stuffed Pork Chops (With Rosemary Stuffing) - Blue Ticket Enclosed is a check for:



Next Meeting

**Wednesday January 21
Annual Mtg/ Broker Fair**

Wyndham Garden Hotel

4460 W 78th St. Circle
831-3131

Social Hour at 5:30PM
Dinner at 6:30PM

For reservations call
Joan Barnes @ 257-2570

FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday February 19
Italian Market Deli by Lido

Tuesday March 17
Wyndham Garden Hotel

Visitors at the ICCA Minnesota Thursday November 20th meeting

A hearty welcome to our visitors at the November 20th ICCA meeting. We all hope you will visit again and become part of our association:



DR. M "Raj" Ulagaraj
Quin Olson
Shawn Michaud
Morgana Johnson
Frank Zobel.



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