

❖ Consultants in Minnesota ❖

December 1998

Election News

By: Joan Barnes

OK, so here's the scoop on the election of the next set of officers for ICCA/MN. The January meeting is the Minnesota Chapter annual meeting and election of officers (along with the 'vendor/broker fair' since we don't really have a lot of stuff to cover in our annual meeting). Since I am president emeritus, I am the draft board committee of one for new officers. I apologize to everyone for being so late in beginning this process, but I am scampering like mad to get the last of the insulation and vapor barrier in my house, and I am also taking a really tough, but good, network communications class at the university which is eating up all of my 'spare' nanoseconds. The final is December 5 so EVERYONE should be prepared for a call sometime during

the following week (The very moment that you are reading these words your telephone may be ringing.) This election is, as you are all aware, a bit special. Whoever agrees to be vice president in 1999 moves up to president the following year - a very special year for all of us. It occurs to me that I have been thinking about Y2K issues for clients and society, but until today I haven't thought about what our chapter needs to do in order to keep functioning during some very hectic times. I do know that getting together on a regular basis with colleagues and pals who 'get it' will become more and more important to me as we get closer and closer to the big day/year/etc. Perhaps Holiday Fun 1999 should be a New Year's Party. So back to the nominating

process: Gordy Schesel, our current vice-president, will become 1999 president, but we need people to fill 3 officer positions: Vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. Steve Roetzel, our current treasurer, may be moving out of town and cannot serve a second term. Ben Moyle has been secretary for two terms and recently has been really busy with the latest BIM acquisition. Most of the people who have been members for a number of years have already served as officers for at least one year, many of them on both local and national boards. This is probably a good time for newer members to get involved and bring some fresh style and new ideas to the chapter; ruts are generally comfortable but not conducive to good business - especially ours. Please think about what you might do to help support our chapter and give me a call or Email. That way you can talk with me at a time that is convenient for you.

Officers:

President: Ray Giske

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email 103011.3513@Compuserve.com

Treasurer: Steve Roetzel

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Newsletter
of the



Minnesota Chapter



From: "Jerry Stiff" <stiff001@maroon.tc.umn.edu>
Subject: newsletter article

Additional Y2K experiences

Thanks to all you old programmer horses out there who did your proper job many years ago. On all three of the Year 2000 projects I encountered, the original code stood the test of time. Standards were followed. Structure was obvious. Data names were meaningful.

Ongoing maintenance slipped in as you originally hoped it might. Programs that were imagined to last for ten years are going beyond fifteen or twenty; is there a business advantage in that? - you betcha.

Now the bad news. Remember that you coded an "all nines" record or moved high-values to the buffer at end of file? It is not a pretty Y2K situation. Yes, there are cases where spaces, zeroes, or 123199 in date fields are used as processing signals rather than real values. Similarly, situations to accommodate a government policy decision or one superior customer has placed headaches in the code.

For me, Y2K project #2 is finished and #3 is wrapping up. The guideline from project #1 that 1/2 of the effort will be testing was true for case #2. Case #3 had significantly less coding, so the relative amount of testing probably went to 3/4 of the project. In #3 most of

the changes ended up around uses of a called date routine, so most coding deteriorated to just placing a 19 or 20 in front of the year.

Every change required just as much testing, but changes were fewer and easier to isolate compared to earlier Y2K experiences.

For representative statistics, these are some program indicators. Project #2 had changes to 40 batch COBOL programs, 34 online COBOL programs, and 50 DLY280 programs. Project #3 will end with about 120 batch COBOL programs, 80 online COBOL programs, and 2 Assembler programs. Very little JCL was changed in either case.

Case #2 was preserved by the initial analysis and project layout. During the find-fix-test part of the project, many personnel changes made an impact. Several programmers ended employment for a variety of reasons. Remaining programmers were rotated to other projects and the most knowledgeable "user" was diverted to a revenue project. By implementation day, the project leader was spending most of her time on another project. Sometimes we think it is just paperwork, but restating the first sentence of the paragraph, the initial list of programs and fixes provided a steady pathway to the end.

The current project has had some shuffles, too. After case #3 was in progress, one target date was accelerated to coordinate with a major customer's similar commitment date. The pre-analysis scan of programs found many candidate programs for changes, but did not

need changes when inspected closely. The reason for this was because the date routine program already had eliminated much date arithmetic from programs. So we move steadily toward the revised targets.

From: "Jerry Stiff" <stiff001@maroon.tc.umn.edu>

Subject: newsletter jokes

-- I grew up in a neighborhood so rough, I

Visitors at the ICCA Minnesota meeting Tuesday October 20, 1998

A hearty welcome to our visitors at the ICCA meeting October 20, 1998. We all hope you will visit again and become part of our association:

William & Mary Malm
Prime Consultant Corporation

Joe & Jackie Harte
Toad Computer Company, Inc.

learned to read by the light of a police helicopter. -Bill Jones
-- My neighborhood is so dangerous, America On Line won't even deliver E-mail there. -Bill Jones
-- Banks charge a "service fee" to use an ATM. Coke machines will soon expect a tip! -Bill Jones
-- The cost of living is going up and the chance of living is going down. -Flip Wilson
-- My father invented the burglar alarm, which unfortunately was stolen from him. -Victor Borge

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as laws vary from state to state and also because the facts or your situation may not support application of any rule, statement, or suggestion that may be printed in this publication."

[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!!.

From: Joan L. Schwartz
Subject: Fw: Cars & Computers

From: joanschwarz@juno.com (Joan L. Schwartz)

> At a recent computer expo (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared > the computer industry with the auto industry and stated: "If GM had > kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all > be driving twenty-five dollar cars that got 1000 miles to the gallon."

> In response to Bill's comments, General Motors issued a press release > stating (by Mr. Welch himself, the GM CEO): "If GM had developed > technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the > following characteristics:

> 1. For no reason whatsoever your car would crash twice a day.

> 2. Every time they repainted the lines on the road you would > have to buy a new car.

> 3. Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason > and you would just accept this, restart and drive on.

> 4. Occasionally, executing a maneuver such as a left turn, would > cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which

> case you would have to reinstall the engine.

> 5. Only one person at a time could use the car, unless you bought > "Car95" or "CarNT." But then you would have to buy more > seats.

> 6. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, > reliable, > five times as fast and twice as easy to drive, but would only

> run on five per cent of the roads.

> 7. The oil, water temperature and alternator warning lights would > be > replaced by a single "general car default" warning light.

> 8. New seats would force everyone to have the same size butt.

> 9. The airbag system would say "Are you sure?" before going off.

> 10. Occasionally for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you > out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted > the

> door handle, turned the key, and grab hold of the radio > antenna.

> 11. GM would require all car buyers to also purchase a deluxe set > of Rand McNally road maps (now a GM subsidiary), even though > they neither need them nor want them. Attempting to delete > this option would immediately cause the car's performance to > diminish by 50% or more. Moreover, GM would become a target > for investigation by the Justice Department.

> 12. Every time GM introduced a new model car buyers would have to > learn how to drive all over again because none of the controls > would operate in the same manner as the old car.

> 13. You'd press the "start" button to shut off the engine.



Meeting Reservations: Members may phone your reservation to Joan Barnes' office at 257-2570, by 3:00 PM, Monday, November 16, 1998. Non-members should mail this form to: ICCA Minnesota, c/o Steve Roetzel, 4428 Lakeshore Terrace, Eagan, MN 55122.

Name: _____ Company: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State/Zip: _____ Phone: () _____

The Lido Italian Buffet

Members \$20 Non-members \$23 x _____ = _____

Enclosed is a check for: _____



Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 18

HP presentation

Italian Market Deli by Lido

2801 North Snelling Ave

651-636-9721

(north of Rosedale)

Social Hour at 5:30PM

Dinner at 6:30PM

For reservations call
Joan Barnes @ 651-257-2570

FUTURE MEETINGS

The Annual ICCA Holiday Fun Meeting
Thursday, December 17 - The Northland Inn

THE ANNUAL ICCA HOLIDAY *FUN* MEETING

WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, DECEMBER

17TH

AT: The Northland Inn

7025 Northland Drive, Brooklyn Park

(I-694 & Boone Ave)

GUESTS ARE WELCOME & ENCOURAGED

COST: \$30.00 per person

Checks Payable to: ICCA MN

PLEASE R.S.V.P. WITH YOUR MENU CHOICES

BY DECEMBER 9TH TO

LARRY BREMER 553-1994

OR JOAN BARNES 257-2570

Social Time: 6:00 PM

Dinner: 6:30 PM

MENU CHOICES:

Seared Breast of Chicken

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