WAUCTALK

Wisconsin All-computer Users Club

WISCONSIN ALL-COMPUTER USERS CLUB

WAUC

Members Helping Members

Member of

apcug

An International Association of Technology & Computer User Groups

VOLUME 43 Issue #8   AUGUST 2025

Judy Taylour

Presents

Accessibility and Assistive Technology

Milwaukee, WI

September 4th	General Meeting
September 11th	Tutorial SIG
September 18th	Q & A SIG
September 23rd	WAUC Lunch*
September 25th	Smartphone SIG
September 29th	Investment SIG** 6:00PM

ALL SIGS ARE HELD ON ZOOM

https://tinyurl.com/33xwntkv

*Brass Key	**Wauwatosa Library
4952 W. Forest Home Ave	7635 W. North Avenue
Milwaukee, WI	Wauwatosa, WI

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

October – Al Williams – SCAMMERS AND OTHER INVASIVE SPECIES

November – Hewie Pop-lock – SD CARDS

December—WAUC Annual Christmas Party

I wonder why we are so so obsessed with trying to find intelligent life on other planets, when we can't even find intelligent life here?

Dear WAUC Members,
Thank YOU for being a member of this club!! We appreciate you!!
If you are reading this, I want you to know that the leaders of this group, are always guessing what you want us to do for you! I have sent out a quick survey and hope to get some responses to help us lead.

How many of you knew Char Holte? She passed away early in July. Very interesting person!
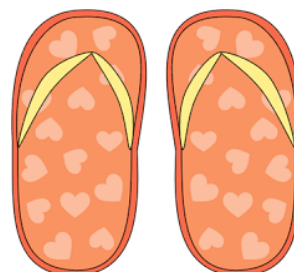
I recently joined another club for their general meeting. I was disappointed in their program. The main program was given by a member and was not the quality we get from APCUG. I am very happy that Terry Harvey is able to get us APCUG speakers who are prepared and have quality, educational and meaningful programs!

A big THANK YOU goes out to ALL APCUG Leaders and Speakers for all they do for us and many others!

I am equally happy that we have Jim Hempel for our SIGS. He is always prepared as possible and is able to find excellent answers to members questions. It is also great to have Brian to answer the real difficult questions for us.

Don Skarda - A PROUD member of WAUC!!!
YOUR President, Wisconsin All-computer Users Club (WAUC) (I serve to help you)
Our club is built on the Mission of "Members helping Members!

JULY 2025 TUTORIAL SIG

Those present included Jim Hempel, Terry Harvey, Brian Behling, Tom McAndrew, Kathy Mueller, Betty Robinson, Louise Bozek, J.J. Johnson, John Schwarzmeier, Margaret Cortez, Louise Dahms, Don Skarda, Richard Durand, and Bill James.

We were all so happy to see Tom! We haven't seen him in some months.

Jim wanted to share a little about things going on in the area: EAA in Oshkosh and the Air and Water Show. We're fortunate to live in an area with so many wonderful events.

Best Buy has highly rated Over-the-Air antennas (OTA) on sale this week for $29. Jim has one and gets over forty channels. It's approximately the size of a sheet of paper and just needs to be taped in a window.

A popular computer magazine commends YouTube TV as the best streaming service. They comment that the best budget streaming services are Sling TV and Hulu Orange and Hulu Blue. Kathy has Hulu and was thinking of changing as they have greatly increased their prices. Jim has Hulu Blue and Orange. A discussion about Roku followed. Roku is adding new channels every week although not all are free.

Microsoft Office Pro Plus 2019 is now on sale for $20 from the PC World Shop. No disc is included; it's for download only. It includes Access, Excel, OneNote, Outlook, PowerPoint, Publisher, Word, and Skype for Business.

Windows 10 will reach it's end of life on October 14, 2025. After that date, Microsoft will no longer provide free security updates, bug fixes, or technical support for Windows 10. This means that running Windows 10 past this date will leave your system vulnerable to security threats, malware, viruses, and compatibility issues. The operating system itself will not suddenly stop working but take steps to use alternative security software.

Emojis are visual characters that represent emotions, places, or things. They are perhaps the most popular non-text characters that can be displayed in Unicode format. Emojis can be used to build connections and make new friends by adding personality and emotion to your messages. They can help bridge the gap between sender and receiver, making conversations feel more personal and engaging. ♥

About half the members in attendance this evening are already using Windows 11. Jim had a video for us called, "How to Use a Computer Windows 11 for Beginners – Lesson 1" by BTH Dreamer. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GpsNvcROrL8 We watched the first few minutes but there wasn't much interest. Windows 11 isn't all that much different in appearance than Windows 10.
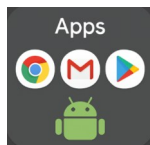
Richard asked if more than one app can go in a folder. Yes, it's possible to put many apps in one folder and it's very easy. LONG-PRESS ON AN APP ICON AND DRAG IT OVER ANOTHER APP you want to include in the folder. RELEASE THE FIRST APP, and a folder will be created containing both apps. You can then drag other apps into this folder to add them as well. You may then name your folder.

Richard makes his phone calls from his PHONE app. He selects CONTACTS but then gets the message saying it's disabled and requires permission. He was advised to go to Google Play store and find an app called CONTACTS and copy all his contacts from the PHONE app to the new CONTACTS app. He's afraid of deleting his contact list for fear of not being able to recreate it, which would be a nightmare for anyone. Make sure you're backing this type of important information to Google. Go to SETTINGS, GOOGLE, scroll down to BACKUP, and toggle BACKUP BY GOOGLE ONE to ON. This stores all your important information to the cloud. If you lose your phone or get a new phone all your information will be transferred.

Terry L Harvey

JULY 2025 QUESTION & ANSWER SIG

Those attending are Jim Hempel, J.J. Johnson, Richard Durand, Terry Harvey, Louise Bozek, Betty Robinson, Brian Behling, Jan Mlagan, Don Skarda, Karen Fenney, Louise Dahms, and Bill James.

Richard has a new phone and would like to take good care of the battery. To optimize the lifespan of your smartphone battery, it's recommended to maintain the charge between
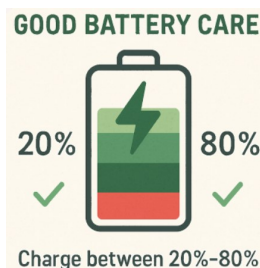
20% and 80%. To set those preferences, go to SETTINGS, BATTERY, tap OPTIMIZED CHARGING, and toggle ON. This feature learns your charging patterns and aims to charge your battery to 80% initially, delaying the final 20% until shortly before you typically unplug your phone. Another battery saver is Adaptive Charging. This feature learns your usage and limits background activity of rarely used apps. To turn this on: SETTINGS, BATTERY, ADAPTIVE CHARGING, toggle to ON.
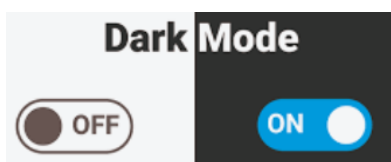
Jim keeps his phone on Dark Mode to save battery. In Dark Mode the user interface of the device is a dark color scheme, typically with a dark background and lighter text. This mode is designed to reduce eye strain, potentially save battery life on some screens, and provide a more comfortable viewing experience in low-light environments. To enable it: SETTINGS, DISPLAY, DARK.

Jan just got a new Google TV but they are having trouble setting it up. They have Spectrum Cable Television but they don't want to stream. Google TV does not allow the Spectrum app. A work-around would be to cast it from a smartphone but that's rather impractical for regular viewing. The Google TV doesn't come with a coax cable. Another solution would be to purchase a Roku device and attach it to the television. The Spectrum app is available on Roku only. Don volunteered to go to Jan's house in the morning to help them get it set up.

Karen asked if anyone does international travel. Brian does. She was looking for information for cell phone rates. She said the best rate she could find was through AT&T and was $12 per day. Brian has Spectrum Mobile. When he travels, he calls them, tells them where he will be traveling, and arranges cell service through them.

Louise D wanted to share something that happened today. She was shopping at Sam's Club and lost her iPhone. She backtracked through the store, even asking an employee, who was very helpful, to help her look. All their searches were futile. They could not find the phone and assumed someone probably picked it up. When Louise arrived home, she went on her iPad in an attempt to locate the lost phone. She used "Find My iPhone" and it showed it was at Sam's Club. Then she remembered she rested on a sofa while she was there. She called Sam's Club and explained the situation and asked if they would check the sofa. When the store employee arrived in the sofa section, Louise called the cell phone and the phone was located. We love a happy ending!

As most of us keep our phones locked, it would be very difficult for someone finding a phone to locate the owner. A solution to that situation is to have a notification on your lock screen of who should be contacted. Many of us have a message on our lockscreens that reads, "If you find this phone please call (insert your contact person's name here) at (list the phone number here). Louise B would like instructions on how to put that message on her screen. Go to SETTINGS, LOCK SCREEN, CONTACT INFORMATION, DONE. Now, when your phone is off and someone picks it up, that message will scroll across the screen. Note: It may not show on your screen if you're at your own home, so don't think it didn't work.

At a previous meeting, someone mentioned they like to work jigsaw puzzles. Bill mentioned a site a friend of his uses called, Jigsaw-
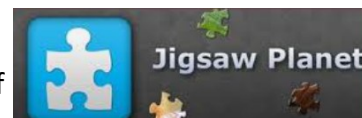
Planet.com . I've been greatly enjoying that site. In fact, my right arm aches as I type this report. If you like jigsaw puzzles, this is a great site.

J.J. showed us a short video presentation he prepared on AdBlocker.

Below is a continuation of the SIG but it's written by Jim Hempel.

Terry L Harvey

THE SAGA OF CLONING A HARD DRIVE

You may have heard me talk about my favorite PC. It's the one I use for many of the Thursday night SIG events. I bought this Win 10 desktop PC back in 2014.

I usually try to select a PC that will have a long life through many Windows updates, new OS versions and the ever-increasing size of application software. I don't believe it's specifically the absolute top of the line, but one very close to that.

Recently the main hard drive started to show signs of failure. Several signs can indicate a failing hard drive, including unusual noises, slow performance, and data corruption. Other symptoms include frequent crashes or freezes, boot errors, and the "Blue Screen of Death" (BSOD). Additionally, files may disappear or become corrupted, and the drive might not be recognized by the system. My system has become very slow starting and I once got a Blue Screen on start up with a warning I didn't understand, but knew it could be a serious issue.

So, while I do regular backups of my Documents and Pictures, I haven't done full backups often. I decided it was time to do that. My research in the various types of backups, their pros and cons, and the software available to perform these tasks brought me "clones" vs "backups" vs "images". Searching these terms came up with these results.

Disk Cloning copies everything on a disk, including the operating system, installed programs, settings, and data, sector by sector, and bit by bit copies it to another drive. This produces a bootable, identical copy of the original drive.

It is especially helpful if you are upgrading to a larger hard drive, creating a readily available backup for immediate use. It provides fast recovery (just swap drives) and preserves the exact state of the original drive. It requires a drive equal or larger than the source.

Disk Imaging creates a compressed archive (image file) of the disk's contents, including the operating system, applications, and data. It is a single file (or a set of files) containing the entire disk image, which needs to be restored to a drive using imaging software. It is good if you are creating backups for disaster recovery, transferring data to a new system, or creating multiple backup copies. It saves storage space, allows for multiple backups, and enables restoration to different hardware and it requires software to restore the image, restoration can be slower than cloning, and the image file can be large.

Disk Backup is the broader process of creating copies of data for safekeeping and recovery purposes. It can encompass both cloning and imaging, but it generally refers to backing up individual files and folders. It is used for protecting against data loss due to hardware failure, accidental deletion, or other unforeseen circumstances.
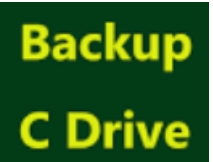
In essence, while all three terms are related to data protection, cloning creates an exact, bootable replica, imaging creates a compressed file, and backing up is a more general term that can include either of the other two methods, or a more targeted approach to files and folders.

I was interested in creating a duplicate hard drive that I could simply use as a direct replacement for an aging hard drive. This led me to the clone approach.

Next, I looked for software that could help me create a cloned hard drive. I easily located what I thought could do the cloning. In fact, quite a number were identified. I chose to check out these three.

Cloning a disk with Macrium Reflect 8

First, I looked into Macrium Reflect. It seems that Macrium Reflect was the one that people suggested, but is apparently no longer free. It was now a premium option. To do this clone once, I wasn't excited about paying for the $50 premium version.

On to the second one, AOMEI. AOMEI Backupper's free version (Standard edition) can clone a hard drive, but with some limitations. It can clone non-system drives, meaning drives that don't contain the operating system. However, it cannot clone the system drive (C drive) which contains Windows and other essential system files without an upgrade to a paid version. Yup, it could clone any drive except the system drive which required a premium version. Not for me!
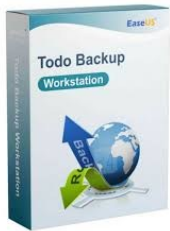
My third choice was the free version of EaseUs ToDo Backup. I learned EaseUS Todo Backup can clone a hard drive including the system drive. It's a feature within the software that allows users to create an exact copy of a hard disk, including the operating system, files, and settings. This is useful for upgrading to a new drive, migrating your OS, or creating a backup. Success was a matter of hours away. But when I looked at the results the next morning, I saw a file that ended with .pdb.

So, what is that? It's a Program database (PDB) and is a file format (developed by Microsoft) for storing debugging information about a program. PDB files commonly have a .pdb extension. That's where I quit for lack of understanding.

At the next SIG, I asked about it and learned from J.J. that some programs use this format for their output. After a search, I found that EaseUS Todo Backup creates backup files with the file extension .pbd. This is the format used for disk images and other backup types within the software.

After reading more about this and trying to understand the multiple steps to follow now to create a new system hard drive for my desk top, I called it quits. At

the SIG, after explaining this, Brian suggested I look at Hasleo Backup Suite Free. This will be my next project, to learn about this new software package.

To Be Continued!

Jim Hempel

JULY 2025 SMARTPHONE SIG

Those in attendance were Jim Hempel, Terry Harvey, John Schwarzmeier, Jim Dettman, Jan Mlagan, Betty Robinson, Don Skarda, Margaret Cortez, Louise Bozek, Kathy Mueller, Louise Dahms, Richard Durand, Bill James, and Brian Behling.

This meeting got off to a quick start with a question from Kathy. She recently read an article about Microsoft. It stated that Microsoft passwords would no longer going to be used.

Basically, the question was, why is Microsoft password no longer being used after Aug 1 and what do we do? The reasons given were that the passkey is much safer and they went on to describe how to set up it. This technology can use a PIN, facial recognition and/or finger prints. Once this takes place, Auto fill will no longer be available.
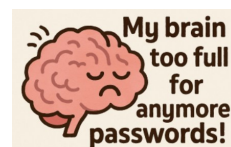
Ever feel like your brain is stuffed with passwords—and yet one of them always slips away just when you need it most? Did you misplace your password book or Post-it notes? You're not alone. Passwords have been around for decades, but they come with plenty of headaches. They're easy to forget, tempting to reuse, vulnerable to phishing scams, and all too often exposed in massive data breaches. Enter passkeys.

Microsoft announced this big shift. They're phasing out password storage and autofill features in the Microsoft Authenticator app, and encouraging all of us to switch to passkeys instead. After Au-

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gust 1, 2025, all previously saved passwords in the app will be gone for good. Authenticator will still support passkeys, but password management will be handled through Microsoft Edge going forward.

So, what exactly is a passkey? Think of it as a unique, secure handshake between your device and the website or service you're signing into. There's no password to type, remember, or store on a server. Passkeys use a technology called public-private key cryptography. Your device holds a private key that never leaves your computer, while the site has a public key that's useless without its private counterpart. When you sign in, your device proves it has the private key— usually by you unlocking it with your fingerprint, face, or a simple PIN. It's fast, safe, and—most importantly—phishing-proof.
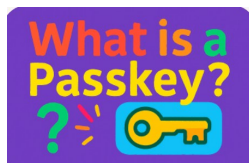
This approach comes with plenty of advantages. Because the private key never leaves your device, it can't be stolen in a data breach. No other website you visit has this private key. Since you're authenticating with biometrics or a PIN that never travels over the internet, you're protected from phishing. And the experience is smoother—Microsoft says passkeys succeed on the first try almost 98% of the time, compared to just 32% for passwords.

Creating a passkey can be done in a few different ways with details for Google, Amazon and Microsoft to follow later in this discussion

The move away from passwords is more than just a trend—it's a shift toward a safer, simpler, and more reliable way of securing our online lives. Microsoft's decision is just one step in a much bigger industry push, and it's one that might finally free us from the endless cycle of "Forgot your password?" emails. The sooner we make the switch, the sooner we can enjoy logging in without the stress—and without those 7,000-per-second hacker attacks breathing down our necks.

With passkeys, you can securely sign in to your Google Account and others using just your fingerprint, face, screen lock, or security key. Passkeys and security keys can also be used as a second step when signing in with your password. Be sure to keep your screen locks private and security keys safe, so only you can use them.

In the SIG, Terry carefully and patiently demonstrated the entire process to create a Google Passkey. She had all the WAUC members follow along to create their own Passkeys successfully. Rather than describe the steps here, this video explains it very clearly. It's called How to Create a Google Account Passkey by Max Dalton and its only 3 minutes long. And, passkeys are very easy to setup.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wj2z-hQHcIw

For a longer and more complete description, here is another video. It's by Ask Leo and called Say Goodbye to Passwords: Passkeys Explained Simply. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYdHm7zoF_M

Step by Step instructions for Amazon and Microsoft follow for those that missed this SIG and the hands-on tutorial.

To set up a passkey on your Amazon account, navigate to "Your Account," then "Login & Security," and find the "Passkey" section. Click "Set up" and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process, which may involve using your device's PIN, fingerprint, or facial recognition.

1. Go to Amazon Account Settings. Sign in to your Amazon account on a web browser or the Amazon Shopping app. Access your account settings, usually found by hovering over "Account & Lists" and clicking "Account" or by navigating to "Your Account".

2. Locate Login & Security Settings: Find and click on the "Login & security" section.

3. Find Passkey Settings: Look for the "Passkeys" section. If you haven't set up a passkey before, you'll see an option to "Set up." If you have, you

may see an option to "Edit" or "Add a passkey".

4. Follow On-Screen Instructions: Click "Set up" (or "Edit" or "Add a passkey") and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the passkey setup.

This might involve using a password manager, iCloud, or a security key.

You may need to authenticate using your device's PIN, fingerprint, or facial recognition.

5. Complete Setup: Confirm the setup process. You may see a message indicating that the setup is complete.

6. Using Passkeys: Once set up, you can sign in to your Amazon account using your passkey instead of a password. You'll use your device's lock screen PIN or biometrics to verify your identity.

To create a passkey in Microsoft Authenticator, you'll first need to register it as a sign-in method through your Microsoft account's security settings. You can do this by navigating to your Microsoft account's security information page and selecting "Add sign-in method," then choosing "Passkey (FIDO2)". You'll then be prompted to choose where to save the passkey (e.g., on your device or a security key) and follow the on-screen instructions.

Access your Microsoft account security settings: Go to Microsoft's security information page and sign in. Add a new sign-in method: Click on "Add sign-in method".

Choose Passkey (FIDO2): Select "Passkey (FIDO2)" as the method. Then sign in with MFA: You'll need to authenticate with your existing multi-factor authentication method.

Choose where to save: Select where you want to store your passkey. Options may include your current device, a security key, or other supported devices.

Follow the instructions: The system will guide you through the specific steps based on your chosen device or method. This may involve using a biometric scan (like fingerprint or facial recognition) or entering a PIN. You may name your passkey (optional): You can choose a name to help you easily identify the passkey in the future.

Complete the process: Once the passkey is created,

you'll be redirected back to the security information page, and your new passkey will be listed as a sign-in method.

SUCCESS While this may seem like a daunting number of steps, it is much easier than it appears. Once you accomplish one, go right on over to the next one. Remember, success is sweet and YOU CAN DO THIS!

Passkeys are supported on all modern browsers like Microsoft Edge, Safari, and Chrome.

Jim Hempel

JULY 2025 LEADERSHIP
COMMITTEE MINUTES

Those in attendance were, Jim Hempel, Don Skarda, Terry Harvey, Jan Mlagan, and Tom Martini.

We were told that the day for the Investment SIG has been changed to Mondays. The Wauwatosa Library told Richard that his original date and time for the room were already in use.

Don is going to contact Don Gardner to see if we have any raffle prizes left. If we do, we will again be raffling off prizes at the General Meetings.

Don will be contacting Pastor Fred about the use of the hall for our October 30th (5th Thursday of the month) meeting. We also need to ask the Pastor's permission to use the hall for next year's 5th Thursday meetings.

June's WAUC luncheon had about 10 people in attendance. The question still remains whether to continue at Brass Key or change location. The question will be posed at another time.

The Leadership meeting was very poorly attended this month, so Don took our suggestion to send out reminders each month. Before we knew it, the reminders were created and added to the calendar for monthly reminder memos.

Tom wants to create and send out a press release to local new stations to see if they would interview the club for a local interest segment. He also

thought we could put something on YouTube to create an interest in the club.

One of the things he asked us was, "What would be our hook when we would do these things?" The reply was to use our motto "Members helping Members".

Thanks, Tom for all your effort and research.

Along this same idea, Don looked into other computer clubs in our area to see how they are faring. To start with, we are thinking about sending a copy of our newsletter and/or inviting members of the club MHUG to visit at one of our club's meetings. Don did send an invitation to them after we discussed how it should be worded. If we get responses, we are thinking about extending invitations to other clubs in the future.

We are going to look into using Sign up Genius for replies to future picnics and parties. Have any of you used this program? If so, let us know what you thought about using it.

Jan Mlagan

THE VALUE OF PUZZLES

AND WORD GAMES FOR SENIORS

For today's seniors, staying mentally active no longer requires a table full of puzzle pieces or a stack of crossword books. Thanks to technology, jigsaw puzzles and word games can be enjoyed right on a computer, offering all the traditional benefits—plus a few modern advantages.
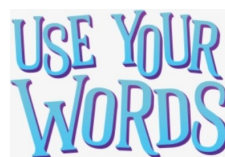
Digital puzzles and word games challenge the mind in much the same way as their physical counterparts. Online jigsaw puzzles require pattern recognition, problem-solving, and visual-spatial reasoning, while word games like online crosswords, Scrabble-style games, or word searches strengthen vocabulary, memory, and logical thinking. Regular engagement with these brain-stimulating activities can help seniors maintain mental sharpness and may even slow cognitive decline.

The beauty of computer-based games is their accessibility. Seniors can log in and play at any time of day, making it easier to incorporate these activities into a daily routine.

One of the standout advantages of digital puzzles is the ability to adjust difficulty levels. Jigsaw puzzles can be set to just a few large pieces for beginners or hundreds of small ones for more of a challenge. Word games can be tailored to use simpler vocabulary or more advanced clues depending on the player's preference.

Many seniors experience vision or dexterity challenges that make traditional puzzles harder to manage. Computer-based games often include large-print options, adjustable zoom, bright color contrast, and even voice-assisted clues for those with visual impairments. The mouse or touchscreen replaces the need to manipulate small pieces, which can be a relief for those with arthritis or limited mobility.

Online jigsaw and word games often feature multiplayer modes, chat functions, or leaderboards. Seniors can play with family members across the country, join virtual puzzle clubs, or challenge friends in real time. This digital interaction helps combat feelings of isolation—a key factor in senior health and happiness.

Computer-based puzzles never get lost, and there's no cleanup required. With thousands of designs and themes available online, seniors can choose favorite landscapes, animals, or historical scenes. Word games ensure new challenges are always waiting.

For seniors, computer-based jigsaw puzzles and word games are more than a pastime—they're a convenient, adaptable, and socially engaging way to keep the brain active. By combining the joy of a good mental challenge with the ease of modern technology, these games help support both cognitive health and overall quality of life.

Terry L Harvey

Before we work on
Artificial Intelligence,
why don't we do something
about natural stupidity?

WAUC: Wisconsin All-computer Users Club, WAUC was established to provide an educational forum for people interested in learning about computers and related devices. WAUC provides educational programs and publications for its members, as well as providing social and charitable opportunities for the membership. While WAUC is a private club and doesn't share any member information outside the club, we encourage members to interact with other members and to facilitate this we publish a membership directory, an email, and promote via a public Facebook group where we often add pictures of group events and our public website.

WAUCtalk is a publication of the Wisconsin All-computer Users Club. WAUC is a computer club dedicated to promoting and instructing the use of computers by WAUC members. WAUCtalk is emailed to all WAUC membership. Free advertising is available to all WAUC members. We are not responsible for omissions or errors.

WAUC Application for Membership / Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

*email*_____

*City*_____ *State*_____*Zip*_____

*What do you want to do with your computer?*_____

To join WAUC, please send a completed form along with a check for $30 ($15 after July 1st) to cover dues from January 1st through December 31st, 2025.

WAUC

% Bob Banerian

P.O. Box 340883

Milwaukee, WI 53234-0883

First Class