

# WAUCTALK

Wisconsin All-computer Users Club

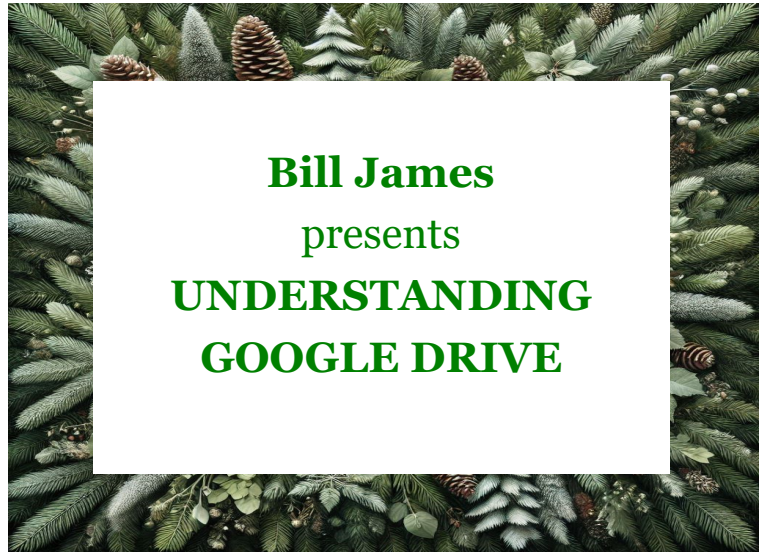
<https://wauc.apcug.org>

Main@WAUC.Groups.io



VOLUME 43 Issue #1

JANUARY 2025



Jackson Park Lutheran Church

4535 W. Oklahoma Avenue

Milwaukee, WI

January 2nd	General Meeting
January 9th	Tutorial SIG
January 16th	Q & A SIG
January 22nd	Investment SIG
January 23rd	Smartphone SIG**
January 28th	WAUC Lunch*
January 30th	One-on-One Event

ALL SIGS ARE HELD ON ZOOM

<https://tinyurl.com/33xwntkv>

\*The Brass Key  
4952 W. Forest Home Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI

\*\*On Zoom for January and February

## UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

February – Bill James

UNDERSTANDING GOOGLE  
DRIVE

March – J.J. Johnson, AI DISINFOR-  
MATION

April – Chris Taylor – PROTECTING  
YOUR PC

May – Picnic

June – Bill James – SPYING

June 12<sup>th</sup> – Waukesha County Sheriff's  
Department – DRONES  
\*\*\*515 W Moreland Blvd.  
Ac260 Door 8  
Waukesha, WI

July – Francis Chao – TETHERING  
YOUR CELL PHONE

August – Ray Baxter, ANDROID AU-  
TO

September – Judy Tylour – ACCESSI-  
BILITY

October – Al Williams – SCAMMERS  
AND OTHER INVASIVE SPECIES

November – Hewie Poplock – SD  
CARDS

December – Christmas Party

## JANUARY 2025 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear WAUC Members,  
I hope you all had a great  
beginning to 2025! I am  
expecting great things from  
the club again this year.  
What did we do last year?  
Here is a short recap:  
10 - General Meetings with  
super presentations

- 1 – Picnic
- 1 - Holiday Party
- 12 – Phone & Tablet SIGS
- 10 – Tutorial SIGS
- 12 – Q & A SIGS
- 1 – Bingo Night
- 5 – One on One – Free Assistance – Training ses-  
sions
- 12 – Investment Club Meetings
- 11 – WAUC Luncheons
- 12 – WAUCTalk Newsletters
- FREE Phone and email assistance as needed

That looks like 63 meetings during 2024 for \$25.  
So that is less than 40 cents per meeting for  
members. PLUS, free phone and email assis-  
tance, Brian's free computer assistance, a super  
newsletter, and venues for socializing!!

I encourage each of you to actively participate in  
the events and activities planned throughout the  
year. Your ideas, feedback, and involvement are  
invaluable in shaping the direction of our club.  
Here's to a year of growth, learning, and shared  
successes!

Best regards,  
Don Skarda

**Czech Dinner & Bazaar**  
Sunday, February 23, 2025  
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Seating Times: 11:00 am & 1:00 pm

**Menu:**  
Jaternice, Pork, or Combo  
Dumplings & Mashed Potatoes Gravy  
Czech Sauerbrout  
Pye Bread & Butter  
Assorted Bakery  
Coffee & Milk  
Cash Bar

**Cost:**  
\$22.00 Non member Adults  
\$15.00 Sokol Member Adults  
\$10.00 Children (under 12)

**Blessed Sacrament  
Catholic Church**  
3100 S. 41st Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53215

Use the west entrance located on 40th St.

**Reservation  
Deadline  
February 14th!**

**Czech Obchod (Bazaar)**

**Items for Sale**  
Bohemian Garnet Jewelry  
Czech Ornaments  
Kneishky & Assorted Bakery  
Jaternice (Czech Sausage)

Pay online with credit card at  
sokolmilwaukee.org or use this code:

For more information visit: [www.sokolmilwaukee.org](http://www.sokolmilwaukee.org)

## DECEMBER 2024 TUTORIAL SIG

Those attending were Julia Rice, J.J. Johnson, Jim Hempel, Terry Harvey, Richard Durand, Rita Bruce, Marcia Zientek, Brian Behling, and Margaret Cortez.

First on the agenda was to ask for questions. Since no one else had any, I asked how to make a hotlink or hyperlink, in Microsoft Word or Publisher. Both Marcia and J.J. are very proficient in these programs. I insert them often when writing up SIG reports or in preparing the newsletter. When I click on them though they never seem to work. Marcia offered if I closed the document. Then went back and opened it again the link would work. She said for some reason they don't work until the document has been closed once. To create a hotlink, also known as a hyperlink, HIGHLIGHT THE TEXT OR PICTURE, RIGHT-CLICK AND SELECT LINK FROM THE SHORTCUT MENU. OR SELECT INSERT TAB AND CLICK LINK. In the INSERT HYPERLINK DIALOG BOX, enter the link in the ADDRESS BOX. Click OK. You can also copy a hyperlink and paste it elsewhere in your document. To do this, HIGHLIGHT THE LINK, HOLD DOWN THE CTRL KEY AND TAP THE C KEY (to copy). PASTE THE LINK wherever you want.



Richard was in Walmart and chatted with a salesman who was using his mother's Samsung folding phone. Richard wondered if anyone knew anything about them. I saw both the Samsung and the Motorola folding phones when I went to the Spectrum store to sign up for the 1-year free cell service. I talked a little with the knowledgeable salesman. I asked him how well they held up to frequent folding. He said the screens on both brands held up for only approximately 3 months before developing a crease where the phone folded. The screens are not covered by Samsung's warranty. J.J. said one of the prominent APCUG members, Bob Gostischa, has had experienced a number of issues with his Samsung foldable. They sure are spiffy looking though.

Richard asked if anyone has a problem with butt-dialing. No one did. Most of us keep our phones locked by using a passcode or fingerprint scan.



Marcia would like to send her grandson money for Christmas. She doesn't want to send a check nor does she want to send him a gift card. What is the best way to send money? There are several

convenient and reliable ways to transfer money to a relative within the US. Bank wire transfer, Zelle, Venmo, PayPal, and Cash App are all great ways, each method has it pros and cons, so it really depends on how much money you're transferring and how quickly you need it to be available. Since Marcia already has PayPal, that might be her best option. However, be sure to check with your bank first to see if you'll be charged an electronic fund transfer fee.

To transfer money using the PayPal app, OPEN the PayPal app and LOG IN. Select SEND or PAYMENTS, then PAY. Enter the RECIPIENT'S NAME, EMAIL, MOBIL NUMBER, and PAYPAL USERNAME. Entre the AMOUNT, CURRENCY, and any optional note. Choose FRIENDS AND FAMILY or GOODS AND SERVICES. Review the details and select SEND.



There was a good amount of discussion about gift cards scams. The bottom line is gift cards are a good way to lose your money. Only buy gift cards when you absolutely must. Don't send them through the mail. For now, only give cash, or a money transfer until further notice. Who knows how long even that will be safe.

To find the full URL behind a questionable TinyUrl, you can COPY and PASTE THE SHORT URL into your browser's address bar and add "PREVIEW.TINYURL.COM/" before the short URL.



<https://tinyurl.com/33xwntkv>

Julia has been getting voice mails that contain short URLs within the message. Is this a scam? No one has heard anything about this nor has anyone attending had a similar experience. Keep us



posted, Julia!



Rita has Facebook Messenger on her PC. She recently received a message stating she needs to update her

Facebook Messenger. So, she installed another Messenger app. Now she has 2 icons. Every time she opens the first one, she had installed she still gets a message to update the app. She was advised to remove that one as the other opens fine and doesn't tell her to update.

Jim showed us a short video, "How to See What's Behind a Tiny URL Without Clicking on It." So, if you received an email from an unknown sender with a URL or a TinyURL would you open it to see what it was all about? NO, you should not click on any URL or TinyURL you receive from someone you don't know. So, what could happen? First of all, any time you see an email from someone you don't know, BE SUSPICIOUS. Don't provide any information or interact with the website. But know that just by clicking on a link or being redirected to a fraudulent website, you do risk a malware infection. If you didn't download or execute anything, and you are up-to-date on your security updates, chances are you're okay. TinyURLs can be used to mask malicious links, leading to phishing attacks or malware downloads, even if the email seems to come from a legitimate source. Because they hide the actual destination URL, it makes it difficult to know where you're going before clicking.



Back to the TinyURL...what is a TinyURL? It is a shortened version of a long URL that redirects to the original page. For example; the URL for WAUC's meetings held on Zoom is [https://](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2624168210?pwd=OTZYTWcveEI1TjZlV2I1M0ZWVIs2UT09)

[us02web.zoom.us/j/2624168210?pwd=OTZYTWcveEI1TjZlV2I1M0ZWVIs2UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2624168210?pwd=OTZYTWcveEI1TjZlV2I1M0ZWVIs2UT09) . Here is the TinyUrl: <https://tinyurl.com/33xwntkv> . To make a TinyURL, go to <https://tinyurl.com/> . The process takes seconds and is very easy. When you get to the website you will see the blank box that reads: ENTER LONG LINK HERE PASTE THE LONG URL IN THAT BOX.

At the bottom of the box, in green, it reads SHORTEN URL. Click on that box and wait a few seconds. SUCCESS! It's that easy.

What are other people searching for? Google Trends "Trending now" page, located at: <https://trends.google.com/trends/> , is a free tool that analyzes and displays the popularity of search queries

**MOST SEARCHED AREAS RELATED TO SPRING CLEANING**  
past year, US

● Yard  
● Kitchen  
● Bathroom  
● Garage  
● Bedroom



on Google. You can use this tool to analyze interest in a particular query or topic, see how popular a term has been in the past, identify which regions a term is most popular in, compare two topics at a time, identify seasonal trends and news events and much more. Just type in a topic and click on EXPLORE. This is a fun website where you can enter one word and get volumes of information. Enjoy!



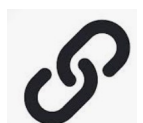
I asked for a good website to convert a YouTube video file to an MP3. Go to EZMP3. First select your YouTube video, then copy the URL of your selection, go to EZMP3 and PASTE the URL in the box.

Terry L Harvey

## DECEMBER 2024 SMARTPHONE SIG

Jim Hempel, Don Skarda, J.J. Johnson, Terry Harvey, Julia Rice Richard Durand, Rita Bruce, Margaret Cortez, Louise Bozek, Jan Mlagan, Louise Dahms, and Betty Robinson were in attendance.

To start off the meeting, Rita asked a question about the content on her smartphone. She would like to put a link on her home screen that would open a document that is frequently used. That icon could be a hyperlink or a photo.



We found a number of suggestions for her to try out. Here is one of them.

To display a photo as an icon on your Android phone's home screen, you can use a widget, specifically a photo widget, from the Google Photos app or a similar app.

How to use a photo widget:

- Open the Google Photos app or a similar photo management app.
- Find and choose a photo you want to display.
- Go to the "Widgets" section of your phone's settings.
- Find a photo widget and select it.
- Choose the photo you want to display as the icon.

Add the widget to your home screen.

Alternatively, if you want to display a specific photo album, you can:

- Create an album with the specific photo you want to display.

Add the album to your home screen.

In essence, you can use a photo widget to display a specific photo on your home screen, or you can add an album with the desired photo to your home screen for quick access.

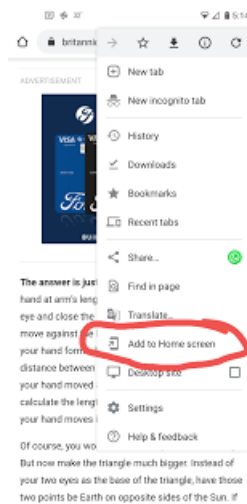
As we talked more about this issue, we found a few more suggestions. This is one of those.

To put a link or icon to a specific photo or album from your Gallery on your home screen, you can use the following steps:

- Open the Gallery app and navigate to the photo or album you want to link.
- Tap on the three dots (or similar menu icon) in the top right corner.
- Look for an option like "Add to home screen" or "Create shortcut."

If available, select the "Add to home screen" option, and the Gallery app will create a shortcut on your home screen that opens the selected photo or album.

If your device doesn't have a direct "Add to home screen" option for



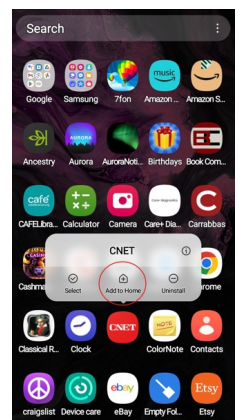
Gallery items, you can try creating a folder or album specifically for the photo you want on your home screen and then add that folder/album to your home screen.



Alternatively, you can use a widget that displays photos, such as a photo frame widget, to show a specific image on your home screen.

You need to find a way to create a shortcut or widget within your device's settings or apps that links to the specific Gallery photo you want to access quickly from your home screen.

To put a link to a document on your home screen, OPEN THE DOCUMENT IN YOUR FILE MANAGER APP, LONG-PRESS ON THE FILE, select CREATE SHORTCUT or ADD TO THE HOME SCREEN option from the menu, then DRAG the newly created shortcut icon to your desired location on the home screen.



Julia asked about a Kindle tablet that has had for a while. She said she noticed a drop in the amount of power in the battery and it doesn't seem to be holding a charge.

If your Kindle battery isn't holding a charge, it could be due to a number of reasons including: worn-out battery, incorrect charging cable, high screen brightness, excessive Wi-Fi usage, outdated software, or background processes draining power; try adjusting settings like screen brightness, turning off Wi-Fi when not in use, using the correct charging cable, and performing a device restart or software update;



If the issue continues after you have tried adjusting settings, reduced brightness and stopped using Wi-Fi, your Kindle battery might need to be replaced. That can be a expensive repair. We suggested looking for a new one, especially when we found a Black Friday deal on a new Kindle 8 for \$50.

Jan has a medical device through Adapt Health.



She received an email from PAUBOX TRUST CERTIFIED HIPPA

EMAIL SOLUTION and wondered if that was a legitimate email. Louise B said she also had a medical device from Adapt Health and the PAUBOX email address is all legitimate.

We took a look at Amazon Haul. If you try to access it on a PC, you will get a notification that it is only available on a smartphone or tablet. There may be a QR link that can be used to get the app. They seem to have a limited product offering – nothing as extensive as the normal Amazon website. Haul does not have a good SEARCH function. Instead, the items they offer are arranged into various categories, such as Home, Electronics, Clothing, etc.



#### Improve Your Memory



Then we went to a website for seniors that outlined seven ways to improve your memory. There are so many things to remember, and much to our frustration, it often feels impossible to keep everything in order. Car keys and glasses are lost, and due dates and birthdays are forgotten. Fortunately, improving your memory isn't hard.

- Go for a Walk. Exercise supports the growth of new brain cells and neurotransmitters, which helps improve memory. Try doing this daily for around 20 minutes.
- Learn Something New. Just as our muscles become stronger by being worked, so do our brains. Learning new things forces the brain to create new neural pathways, which send signals from one part of the brain to another. Try learning a new language, a new recipe or play trivia games.
- Some caffeine can get you started. Drink coffee. Your morning cup gives you more than just an energy boost. Researchers at Johns Hopkins University believe that caffeine may also enhance long-term memory. Its suggested you limit this to no more than four 8-ounce cups a day.
- You've all heard the importance of sleep. Stay in bed longer. When you go to sleep, the brain sorts



through recent memories, decides what to keep and forget, and connects new memories to older ones. However, sleep deprivation can interrupt this process and lead to memories becoming distorted or lost.

- In addition to getting more sleep, devote some time each day to relax. Meditation is one way to reduce stress by lowering your heart rate and blood pressure while making you feel more present. This affects memory, which improves when stress levels are lower.

- Remember mom's advice about eating your vegetables and greens. Mom was right when she told you to eat your veggies — a salad is one of the best meals for your brain. Dark, leafy greens may help slow cognitive decline thanks to nutrients such as vitamin K, lutein, folate, and beta-carotene. And top it with some berries.



For the last suggestion, we can turn to music. It can help us recall memories from long ago by activating memory regions in the brain. For example, listen to a song you associate with a significant life event, such as a wedding, dance or a graduation. The more you listen to the song, the more memories you'll be able to recall and retain.



For more details on this, you can read the entire article at <https://betterreport.com/how-to-improve-memory/>

Rita needs a new electric toothbrush. She bought refill heads for a Philips 5300 toothbrush from Groupon in error some time ago. Now she's wondering how to find the best price on that model toothbrush. We Googled, then looked under the SHOPPING category and found it for \$20 less on eBay but Rita wanted to purchase it locally in case she didn't like it.



David Muir has a series on ABC called Made in America. We watched his recent 3-minute video focused on Christmas. You can watch

it here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxK-9LgEi7g>



We then had a short discussion about the Black Friday deals. Streaming services like Paramount, Peacock and others were offering special pricing on their packages – some for 3 months, others up to a year. After those periods, the service would continue at normal prices unless you cancelled.



We closed the meeting with a 20-question trivia about the US government organization. I think Richard took top honors for getting the right answers. This was followed by a short video about how the early sound effects were created for Disney cartoons in the good old' days. I'm attaching a link to it for your viewing enjoyment.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cVcMWuEeQOM>

Jim Hempel

## DECEMBER 2024 LEADERSHIP REPORT

Those present were, Don Skarda, Terry Harvey, Jim Hempel, Tom Martini, Jan Mlagan, Suzanne Holcomb, Bob Banerian, and Richard Durand.

We want to extend a special thanks to Suzanne for offering to continue being our monthly snack provider for the monthly general meetings at the church. She also will also continue to coordinate the picnic and Christmas party. We really appreciate all you do for us.

We want to again thank Terry for her exceptional work on creating our WAUCTalk. Terry you are our star.



Special thanks are also extended to Kathy Mueller for being our Sunshine Person. If you are aware of a WAUC member who is ill or having surgery, please notify Kathy at

bk75.mu@gmail.com . She is also the

person who sends out reminders to presenters one week prior to general meetings.

The 2025 Calendar, always a work in progress, was created by Don and is currently being reviewed by Jim.

Jan has been in contact with the Greenfield Public Library offering WAUC's technical help. We will be setting up dates there offering one-on-one help to the public as a community service.



Mark your calendars for the Drone Presentation which will be presented by the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department.

The date is June 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00PM at 515 West Moreland Blvd, Ac260 Door 8, Waukesha. This presentation will be in lieu of the regular Thursday meeting. This will not be a ZOOM meeting.

Our financial report looked quite good this month because most of our members paid their dues before the end of 2024. We also have a few outstanding bills, one from the Christmas party expenses and the other being the club's new projector.

We have been considering investing some of the extra money in an interest-bearing account, but there are many things to be considered such as minimum balance and length of time the investment needs to be in the account.

The Christmas Party was a great success! Everything was beautifully presented and the tables looked very festive. Suzanne, you did great!

We had a lengthy discussion about what worked and what we need to work on in the future. Gloves will be available for everyone to use at our next party/picnic. We became aware that there were several people who would have benefitted by having someone help them at the buffet table, so we will have volunteers to help at future events. It seemed that the pieces of beef were too large and difficult to eat for many people. It was also a costly part of our buffet, so we decided to not have it next time. Tom requested there be sufficient start-up money at the entrance table along with separate envelopes for Dues, Donations, Dinner payments, and Non-Member dinner payments.

You missed it if you didn't attend the December 26<sup>th</sup> After Christmas Bingo. It was a lot of fun once we got started. We played many different games

and had many winners. When we were out of prizes, we just played for fun. We will have future game nights so watch for them.

Once again, Terry put together a terrific list of presenters for the year. If you know of any presenters you would like us to have or ideas you would like to have presented, let Terry know for next year. It is

never too early to give her ideas.



We will use our new projector at the January General

Meeting. Paul will be asked to learn how to set up everything for future meetings. The committee also felt that we needed a case to transport the projector. A new case will cost around \$30. Don was put in charge of purchasing a bag/case with cost to not exceed \$50.

Jackson Park Lutheran is going to allow us to run an ad in their bulletin. Thank you, Pastor Fred! We will also be donating \$500 to the church, along with a nice thank you letter, for the gracious use of their facilities.

Terry created a blurb about WAUC, and Don is placing it on the WAUC Facebook page. If you haven't seen it, take a look. It represents us very well. Terry also placed the blurb on the NextDoor app and received a reply from an interested person. So, keep informing people about our club because you never know where we might find new members.

Just a reminder, the Investment SIG will only be via ZOOM for the months of January and February.

Tom will make reservations for lunch at the Brass Key for January 28<sup>th</sup>. Please let him know if you are planning to attend.

Wishing you a Happy New Year,

Jan Mlagan

## DECEPTIVE MESSAGES IN TEXT AND EMAIL COMMUNICATION: SHORT DEFINITIONS

Deceptive messages, transmitted via text or email, are a common method of online manipulation and fraud. These messages are designed to mislead unsuspecting recipients for various illicit purposes, including identity theft, financial scams, or malware dissemination. This report provides concise definitions of prevalent deceptive messages found in digital communication.

### Phishing:

Phishing is a fraudulent tactic in which scammers pose as legitimate entities, usually through email, to dupe recipients into revealing personal information, like login credentials, credit card details, or social security numbers. These messages often contain links to counterfeit websites that mimic trustworthy organizations.

### Spoofing:

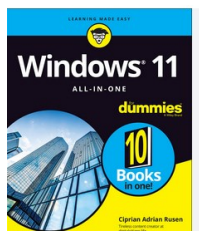
Email spoofing entails sending emails that appear to originate from a credible source but are actually sent by a malicious sender. The aim is to establish the recipient's trust and coerce them into taking actions such as clicking on malicious links or downloading infected attachments.

### Advance Fee Fraud:

Also known as the "Nigerian Prince" scam, advance fee fraud involves a message promising a substantial sum of money in exchange for a small upfront fee. Victims are asked to provide their bank details or personal information to claim the supposed windfall, but it is a ploy to steal money or data.

### Romance Scam:

In a romance scam, fraudsters create fictitious online personas to form a romantic relationship with victims. They often request money under various pretenses, such as medical emergencies or travel expenses, while manipulating emotions to extort funds.



**FREE  
EBOOKS**

<https://tinyurl.com/mrxbufmf>



### Tech Support Scam:

Tech support scams comprise messages or calls claiming that the recipient's computer has a critical issue requiring immediate assistance. Victims are urged to pay for unnecessary services or share sensitive information with the scammers.

### Lottery or Prize Scam:

These messages inform recipients that they have won a lottery or prize and need to pay a fee to claim their winnings. In reality, there are no winnings, and the scammers aim to extract money from victims.

### Fake Invoice Scam:

Scammers send fraudulent invoices or bills that appear legitimate to individuals or businesses. Unsuspecting recipients may make payments for non-existent services or products.

### COVID-19 Scams:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, deceptive messages related to the virus proliferated. These messages may offer fake vaccines, cures, or financial relief and exploit fear and uncertainty.

### Sextortion:

Sextortion involves threats to reveal explicit photos or messages unless a victim pays a ransom. Perpetrators often obtain compromising content through social engineering or hacking.

### Charity Scams:

Charity scams masquerade as legitimate organizations seeking donations for a cause. Fraudsters pocket the donations or use them for nefarious purposes rather than supporting the advertised charitable efforts.

### Conclusion:

Deceptive messages via text and email are pervasive in the digital age, preying on unsuspecting individuals. Awareness of these deceptive tactics is crucial for individuals and organizations to protect themselves from scams and fraud. Staying informed and adopting best practices in online communication is essential to mitigate the risks associated with these deceptive messages.



Robert J. Banerian, CPCU, ARM

Personal and Commercial Insurance

Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter

Banerian & Associates, Inc.

banerianassoc@milwpc.com

8626B W. Greenfield Ave. #A-300

414-259-1396

West Allis, WI 53214

Fax: 414-259-1398

**Did you know that if you garden  
in your back yard naked, your  
neighbors will build you a privacy  
fence for absolutely no cost to you.**



**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**



## **Your membership makes a difference**