



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2025
VOLUME 2025 ISSUE 02

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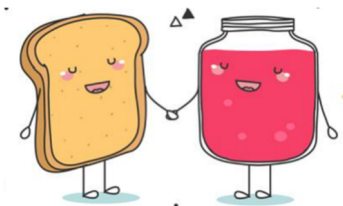
ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Next meeting
Wednesday, February 12th, 2025

7:00 PM – New Berlin Ale House
16000 West Cleveland Avenue
New Berlin, WI 52151



PLEASE COME ENJOY THE NEXT MEETING!

Bring someone you can't imagine being without

MEETING OPPORTUNITY TABLE:

- ✓ Thank you to Sandie and Sam Colon for running the table so well, for so long. Wonderful job.



- ✓ As the postings from Bob have said, they will be taking some time for health and well care
- ✓ We are looking for some volunteers to take over the table responsibilities.
- ✓ There are enough prizes to cover the year – Thanks Sam!
- ✓ Please contact Bob Heck
- ✓ The table will be back starting at the meeting in March 😊 2025

FEBRUARY MEETING:



Wisconsin surely holds many special memories for all of us. From courageous pioneering ancestors forming new towns and farming cooperatives that brought new life to rural country sides. To being raised in four-seasons, walking up hill both ways to school, swimming at the local spot, jumping in leaf piles, playing in snow forts and sledding down the biggest hills. Before you know it, you are raising your own children, starting new traditions and sharing the family stories that are the glue between the past and the future.

February meeting will have both Randy and Bob covering topics directly from the Wisconsin Historical Society and how these resources can best be utilized.

Randy Ray – online research options that are available through Wisconsin Historical Society WHS.

Bob Heck – Area Research Centers – ARC information available for your research needs, also available through the WHS. These resources are only available in-person only.

JANUARY MEETING RECAP

INTERNET SECURITY by BILL HECK

Perfect refresh to tighten up our defenses against the ever-evolving world of scammers, breaches and viruses – oh my! What a time it is. Bill covered many topics and blended updates from past subjects and several new things to pursue in our increasing need to keep our information secure.

Please see the handouts to reference all topics covered but here are some highlights:

- **SCAMS** – you may see these come in all forms but mostly emails or texts. Often, they can be successful with the tactics they use such as:
 - FAMILIAR ORGANIZATIONS
 - WALMART, UPS, JP Morgan Chase, IRS, and more
 - Bank alerts are common
 - PROBLEM or a PRIZE
 - Your account has a problem
 - Take a survey-win a prize
 - OVERWHELMING URGENCY
 - Pay now or further costs
 - Limited time offer – today only
 - PAY WITH GIFT CARDS
 - Has problem with using standard methods so let's do it in gift cards

- **OUR BEST SOLUTIONS –**

- CONTACT SOURCE DIRECTLY
 - They say there is a problem with your tax refund. Don't click or give any information. Call the IRS directly to see what or if there is a real concern or not.
- LOOK AT THE DOMAIN
 - For emails, look for
 - Other country endings
 - Poor grammar
 - Misspelling

- **PASSWORD SECURITY – IMPORTANT**

- PASSWORD MANAGERS
 - There are many options, but a very good option to help keep track and generate very strong passwords
 - Worth your while to make passwords strong. Difference between hackers taking days or years to crack your information.

- **MULTIFACTOR AUTHENTICATION –**

- Another worthwhile benefit.
- Added level can be the difference between account access being safe or vulnerable.

- **AI & VOICE CLONING – updates**

- Bill played the \$10K offer from last year (still makes me giggle) and some new ones.
- AI is advancing and starting to be used for just about everything.
- Stay aware and current – question it.
- Again - Contact the source directly

- **DELIVERY FAILURE NOTICES –**

- Keep track of your expected deliveries
- Contact the source outside of the original form of contact

Bill had some great resolutions as reminders:

1. Be cautious with your email
2. Never send information to strangers
3. Do research before payments and purchases
4. Use best judgement when you do have to share personal information
5. Use different strong passwords for each account
6. Enable 2-factor authentication where possible
7. Be smart about social media and what you post or comment on. May reveal more about you than just a fun quiz.
8. Regularly check your purchase and banking statements
9. Continue to educate yourself on the latest scams to try to make it incredibly difficult for the criminals.

Excellent presentation and a fantastic eye-opening way to start our new year – great job Bill - THANK YOU!

ANTIVIRUS & SECURITY

by SAM COLON

We had a second presentation by Sam about some additional concerns that could affect your hardware and contacts from your computer. Staying safe is no accident. Invest in protection as it is all about protecting you and your information.

Here are some highlights from Sam:

- **MANY THINGS CAN ATTACK YOUR COMPUTER THROUGH INCOMING INFO**

- ADWARE / MALWARE
- SURVEILLANCE
- KEY LOGGERS
- VIRUSES
- TROJANS
- ROOTKIT
- PUP
- DIALER

- **SCAMS – ADDITIONAL ONES**

- Family in distress
- Charity scams
- Tech-support scams

- **DATA BREACHES**

- Recent one from National Public Data clearing house that confirmed **2.9 billion** people's information including social security numbers, banking info, medical health information was

breached and is out on the dark web.

- It is worth doing some of these steps to protect your information from leaked damages:
 - Get a free credit report
 - For concerns – freeze your credit while you work on investigating and correcting
 - Sign up for credit monitoring service – invest in safety

- **THUNDERBIRD EMAIL SERVICE**

- Helps identify and protect your email from much of the spam that may contain many of the threats
- FREE program

- **CONTROL+SHIFT+ESCAPE**

- If you find yourself in a scam or scareware or fake virus – DO NOT CLICK THE “X”
- Choose instead to click simultaneously the CTRL, SHIFT, ESC

- **HOW TO CHOOSE BEST PROTECTION PROGRAMS**

- AV-COMPARATIVES
 - They are unbiased testing house in Innsbruck Austria for independent testing for antivirus programs.

Sam brought a nice twist to round out the security kickoff and ways to keep your hardware and software options safer. Key information and great job – thank you Sam!

Come enjoy this resource!

MUSINGS & MUTTERINGS:

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Next month I will be putting together a fun comment corner to highlight some of our member's journey's. Fun facts, what they are getting from current research, help they may need, Louise Stack previously had used a dozen fact-finding questions to unearth member facts and I will likely incorporate those as part of the process. Thank you to Bob and Louise for allowing me to use these. You never know what might connect you to another leaf in the process 😊

If you want to be in a spotlight – please contact Linda Murphy 414.460.2841 or Bob Heck 414-421-7143 bobheckmpafug@gmail.com

About This Newsletter

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Members interested in submitting articles may email them to bobheckmpafug@gmail.com. The MPAFUG publisher will determine if an article will be used in this newsletter. Articles will be used as space permits.

NO COPYRIGHTED ARTICLES may be submitted without express permission of the author and publisher. Articles should be submitted by the 1st Wednesday to be considered for inclusion in that same month. Credit will be given for your article.

MPAFUG KEY INFORMATION

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bob Miller	Debbie Bluett
Jane Orne	John Canapa
Louise Stack	Linda Murphy
Sam Colon	Steve Gulgowski
Randy Ray	Bob Tatalovich
Bob Heck	

Steering committee meetings are held via Zoom on the third Wednesday of the month except in December. The Steering Committee is an informal group of members who get together to plan topics for future meetings.

All MPAFUG members are welcome to attend.

The Family Search Center

9600 West Grange Avenue, Hales Corners

The Family Search Center Library has updated their hours. See below:

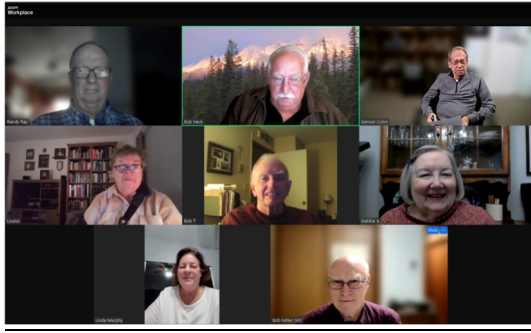
Tuesday hours: 8:30AM – 3:30PM
Wednesday hours: 8:30AM – 12 Noon
Thursday hours: 8:30AM – 3:30PM and
6:30PM – 9:00PM
Saturday hours: 10:00AM – 1:00PM

Enter at the main doors facing West Grange Avenue and follow the signs to the library.

On Thursday evenings, Bob Heck and Randy Ray are the volunteers on duty who will assist you in your research.

For some extra special help from May through September, Cheryl Heck is there to help you. Cheryl is LDS Mormon and is the expert in the Family Search website and LDS issues.

There are numerous portal systems available for free use at the center.



Questions about MPAFUG? Write, call or email:

MPAFUG c/o Bob Heck
4910 Steeple Dr. .
Greendale, WI 53129
414-421-7143
bobheckmpafug@gmail.com

OUR WEB PAGE

<http://mpafug.org>

We invite you to visit our web page and even print a copy of this and the previous month's newsletter. We also have a surname section where you can see who else is working on your family line. Members of MPAFUG have access to a members-only web page which contains past newsletters and handouts from our meetings.

If you would like to make a presentation or have a suggestion for a meeting topic, please contact Bob Heck at: bobheckmpafug@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership in MPAFUG is open to anyone interested in learning more about computer genealogy. Membership is \$12 per calendar year for an individual or family.

For 2025 NEW memberships or renewals:

Please send a check for \$12.00 made payable to MPAFUG to:

Deborah A. Bluett
MPAFUG Treasurer
PO Box 229
Delavan, WI 53115-0229

Please include with your check, your Name,
Mailing Address, email Address and Phone Number.