

# Connections

Quarterly Newsletter  
Osco Savon Alumni Club

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[oscosavon.alumni.com](http://oscosavon.alumni.com)

Fall 2025

**Fishing Friends...** Over 50 years ago four Osco guys joined the step-dad of Ron Barr on a Canadian fishing trip and they were "hooked"!! Hearing the stories made many co-workers, friends, sons and grandsons ask to participate. Those original four guys were Ron Barr, Bill Shober, Marvin Feidler and Lowell Hartsock. Bill Shober was lost to cancer but the other 3 have continued to participate nearly every year. Now well into their 80's, along with Dennis



Groteboer and Vern Miller who joined the group close to conception, they decided this Fall they would no longer go fishing but would like to say "Good-bye" to those still going. Dennis had the idea of surprising them by being at the Canadian border motel where they always meet for dinner on Friday night, and enjoy one last dinner together. Wouldn't you know, Den was having some health issues but the other four carried it out. Each group was so surprised as they came upon the old guys waiting for them!! They got their good-byes said and sent the group off on another fun week of fishing! The old guys loved every minute of it!! Additional Osco guys who have enjoyed this trip through the years: Mike Resvick, Lee Hodges, Jim Smith, Jerry Millard, Dick Berray, Dave Abbott, Dick Kidd, Wayne Davis, Rodger McWhirter, Don Gilles, Dick Hoy, Mike Magnuson, Gary Hruby, Shawn Hartsock, Jeff Barr, Rick Sweeney, Cecil Kearney and Jim Martin.

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**Chicagoland Luncheon...** Hosted once again by Diane Heatter, who put together another yearly "September Fall Luncheon" gathering at Papa Passero's in Westmont, IL. It turned out to be a very lovely 80 degree day and a successful event with 29 signed up people who are of course a wonderful group that worked together in some capacity from 1818 Oakbrook, Franklin Park and Elk



Grove offices for many years.

We had various topics and discussion from retirees such as Roger Carpenter, Ken Heatter, Larry Bejnarowicz and Dave Stailey (Jewel Alumni President) throughout the afternoon sharing their experiences. Roger spoke about the working history of passing member Bob Potter during Bob's time with Osco. Ken Heatter, who went to the funeral of Dick George, our past Osco President, gave an elaborate story from one of Dicks sons about his years with Osco only telling people he worked for Osco (never as a President) from his high school days driving a Jewel truck and his excursions from Alaska to Europe throughout the years and working with Jewel/Osco. Dave Stailey (retiring Jewel Alumni President) replaced by Dennis Pierini talked about working with the Northern IL Food Bank to which Ken & Diane Heatter worked with past Spring. "The Ronald McDonald House" with his little houses for saving "pop tops" for recycling for them for donations to The House and current events with the Jewel Companies. Also donated gift bags and Jewel Coupons. Last was Larry Bejnarowicz who updated us on the different food allergies and various testing one can do to determine what foods we can eat and forget about as we age with our aches and pains.

Papa Passero's served up a great endless Buffet with super camaraderie from our Alumni retirees and a fantastic 50/50 Raffle, Mums and Scratch Off Lotto giveaways to all who attended this annual luncheon.

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## Board Meeting Highlights

September 20,2025



There were thirteen Board members in attendance for the ZOOM meeting. The Clubs quarterly financials were reviewed and approved by the Board. Board members reported on the recent Chicago-land, New England and Kansas City events, the first two of which are featured in this edition of Connections and the Kansas City event will be featured in the Winter Edition,

The Board viewed and approved purchasing a one year subscription for the Canva App. We`ll utilize Canva to create video`s from event pictures which will then be shared with those attending the events and emailed to all alumni in the monthly email newsletter, Still pictures will continue to be featured in the Connections newsletter. The Videos will also be uploaded to the Clubs website video vault. Hopefully you received the September monthly newsletter which featured Canva video`s from the Clubs last 3 events.

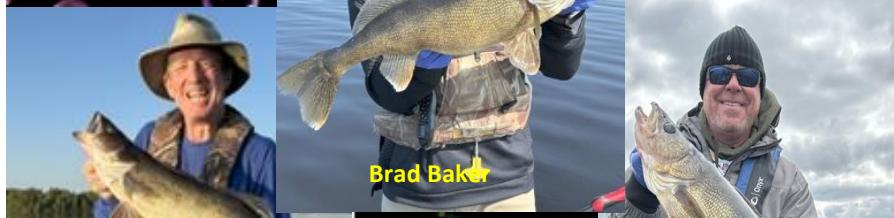
The Board reviewed the website upgrades that are now "live". Dan Quiinn will also be updating all of the "how to" videos and post them on the Website FAQ section.

The Board has decided to maintain the number of Board members at it`s current level of 13 for the 2026/2027 elections'.

**Next Board Meeting:**  
January 17th, 2026

## Fishing Friends from page-1

L-R: Marvin Fiedler, Jeff Barr, Vern Miller, Lowell Hartsock, Ron Barr





Front Row: Laura Stailey, Leslie LaForce, Roger Carpenter & Diane Heatter

Middle Row: Paula Ready, Dave Stailey, Ken Heatter, Katie O'Connor, Sheri Hildebrandt, Jean Reichs, Jim Shepeck, Kathy Zajicek, Lina Bogusch & Anita Tucker

Back Row: Haven Ready, Dennis Pierini, Jerry Hildebrandt, Paulette Pierini, Ron Dilger, Reg Bogusch, Barb Carpenter, Chuck Zajicek & Larry Bejnarowicz





**Kathy & Chuck Zajicek**



**The Guys**



**Anita Tucker**



**Jean Reichs & Diane Heatter**



**Katie O'Connor and Chuck Zajicek**



**The Gals**



**Diane Heatter & Paula Ready**

**ROMEO Club Brunch - Weekly****ROMEO (Retired Osco Merchandisers Eating Out)****DATE:** As ANNOUNCED BY GERRY BAY**PLACE:** THE GENERAL STORE**Loc:** SCOTTSDALE, AZ**TIME:** 11:30 AM**ORGANIZER:** Gerry Bay[geralddbay@me.com](mailto:geralddbay@me.com)

*Spouses, guests and friends are welcome to join in the fun and nostalgia at our events*

**Bob**

**Cook...** Greetings from Green Valley Arizona, where the sun shines 300 days a year. Green Valley is a "Plus 55" Community some 30 miles south of Tucson Arizona. It has a population of about 25,000, which swells to about 35,000 during the winter months.



We all belong to the G.U. Recreation Association, which provides nine locations around town that includes pools, tennis & pickle ball courts.....plus gym and many craft rooms, including metal and woodwork shops. Diana plays cards with her group of gals, while I play golf. We have five courses in town.....four public and one private. Nogales Arizona is another 30 miles south, where you can get prescriptions for half the cost in the valley. Best Regards, Bob & Diana

**Correction...** We inadvertently posted Ken Bellefeuille's name on Sean Murphy's "Where Are They Now" article in the Summer edition.



**Vacation...** Dave Janowicz enjoyed his annual, much needed, break from reality and embarked on his trip to some "secret" lakes in Northern Minnesota and Wisconsin. Dave and five close friends from his early Osco years have been enjoying this trip for more than 35 years. It's hard to believe there are any fish left!!

**IN MEMORIAM**

*On Behalf of the Alumni Club, We Extend Our Deepest Sympathies to the Families Having Lost Loved Ones.*

2025 August 22nd: Bob Potter

2025 September 5th: Chuck Barth

2025 September 9th: Diane Ozark

The Alumni Club would like to thank those of you have taken time to share your thoughts, feelings and remembrances regarding Alumni that have passed. Those remembrances may be posted directly on the "In Memoriam" postings on the website, posted on the Club's Facebook page or emailed to the Club: [oscosavonalumni@yahoo.com](mailto:oscosavonalumni@yahoo.com)

**Congratulations...** After 27 years at embecta and BD, Andy Bailey is retiring from the retail industry!

Thank you to all my mentors over the years at American Stores, BD and embecta. Including the following:



- Greg Crisos: Who recognized that a part timer in high school had potential to learn the retail business.
- Ken Bellefeuille, PHR, SHRM-CP: Who sponsored me to enter the management training program at American Stores
- John Roehm: Who taught me how to always be my best and how to think out of the box.
- Gary Hunstiger: Who taught everyone that people are the most important part of our lives.
- Allen Ravizza and Theresa Steele-Leo: Who both helped me start my career on "The Dark Side" and have been my best work friends over the years.
- Jeff Zivan: Who supported me to grow at embecta.



**New England Golf Outing...** When I woke up on the morning of September 18<sup>th</sup>, I must be honest, the weather certainly did not look too promising. The weather people claimed it was going to clear up, but it was cloudy, cold, and raining – I just did not see it happening. By the time my wife Maria and I arrived at Campbell's Scottish Highlands golf course in Salem, NH four three hours later, it was a picture-perfect day. Our jobs as helpers would be to help checking in the golfers, handing out the rules, collecting email addresses, and getting mini biographies on what everyone has been doing since we last gathered..... or what they have been doing since they left Osco Drug or retired. Maria and I would be joined by MaryAnn Battaini and Kathy Macdonald.

The organizers of the golf outing were Larry Wahlstrom, Glen Yergeau and Ken Bellefeuille. They arrived with the game rules, instructions for us helpers and of course the many prizes that will be awarded for various feats.....like longest drive or closest to the pin. The manager of the golf course was kind enough to allow us the use the outdoor patio. As we were checking in the golfers I saw so many faces. Some that I have not seen since I left Osco Drug back in 1992. I saw Bill Bergin, Michael Joyce, Steve Hatem, Chuck Coupe, Pat Landroche, Ray MacDonald, and Tim Colgan – to name just a few. There were also names that I remember from back in the day.... like John Cook, Bill Pereira, and Larry Zukowski. Marc LeBlanc's gift to the outing..... mini toy golf carts that we were instructed to give to each golfer. Mark now works in some type of toy/greeting card business. We had seven groups of four and the tee times ranged from 10:30 am to 11:30 am, with 10-minute increments between each tee time. The helpers were given two golf carts and were requested to take pictures and hand out water and snacks.

The groups were requested to tee off on the back nine as per the rules of the golf course for that day. Maria and I were in one golf cart and Maryann and Kathy were in the other. Once each group finished the back nine, most grabbed a quick bite to eat and went right back out to start the front nine.

Once each group finished for the day, the after-golf festivities began. This included having dinner from the club-house restaurant, a few drinks and of course telling many stories from our days working at Osco Drug. We then all gathered on the practice green to award the prizes. Once all the prizes were awarded, we all stayed out on the practice green and took a group picture. John Burke then read a very warm and heart-felt email he received from our former regional vice president (who went onto become the president of Osco Drug), Dave Maher. His email detailed how much joy it brought to him working in the eastern region. It detailed how he could not have had the success out here without the hard working and dedicated staff he had working under him. He also pointed out so many people from our region that went on to work in higher positions within the company. He summed up his email to assure to all of us that him and his wife Marilyn were in relatively good health and enjoying life at 86 years old.

My wife and I then left the group and headed home. On our drive home, she continued to ask questions about many of the people she met that day and wanted to get a feel for what my career life was like back in my Osco days. It was not only a great day because I got to see so many people that I kind of grew up with, but I exposed my wife to a different phase in my life and she got to meet some of the people that I worked with, made friends with, and became a part of what my career evolved into.



L-R: Mike Sullivan-Mike Joyce-Stacy Smith-Vicki Westover



L-R: Ray MacDonald-Mark Coleman-John Burke-Mark LeBlanc



L-R: Larry Zukowski-Tim Colgan-Andrew Cossar-Steve Hatem

# The Golfers



L-R: Bill Bergin-Jeff Schares-Bret Ramsdell-Angelo Battaini



L-R: Gene Lacey-John Cook-Bill Pereira-Steve Ayoub



L-R: Ken Bellefeuille-Glen Yerreau-Jerry LaPointe-Larry Wahl



L-R Pat Landroche-Chuck Coupe-Matt Razey



**L-R: Brett Ramsdell-Mark LeBlanc-Jeff Schares-Larry Wahlstrom**



**Larry Wahlstrom-John Burke**



**L-R Ray MacDonald-Larry Wahlstrom-John Burke-Jim VanRyan**



**L-R: Stacey Smith-Mike Joyce-Gerry LaPoint-Ray MacDonald**



**L-R: Steve Hatem-Glen Yergeau-Vicki Westover**



**L-R: Maria & Anthony Accardi-MaryAnn Battaini-Kathy MacDonald**



**L-R Mark Coleman-Paula Cullen-Jeff Schares-Bill Bergin-MaryAnn Battani**



**L-R: Ray MacDonald-John Burke-Bill Bergin-Mark LeBlanc**