



Warren S. Johnson Society Newsletter  
WSJSociety.com  
Vol. 31, No. 3 / Third Quarter 2024

**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Luncheon**  
**Thursday, October 17, 2024**

Alioto's-3041 N. Mayfair Road

**NOTE PRICE INCREASE: \$27 per person**

11am-Gathering / 12pm-Lunch / 1:00 program

The luncheon selections are:

- Chicken Normandy – boneless chicken breast with homemade bread dressing, gravy and cranberry sauce
- Baked stuffed pork chop with brown gravy, applesauce
- Grilled chicken breast salad with raspberry vinaigrette.

Lunches include a salad with choice of dressing, whipped or buttered new potatoes, Italian bread, and coffee.

Salads are served with soup or fruit cup (in season), Italian bread, coffee. The dessert selection is strawberry sundae.

Lunch is **\$27 per person.**

Please make checks payable to:  
WSJ Society.

**Checks need to arrive by October 10, 2024**

Mail checks to:

WSJ Society  
P.O. Box 510105  
Milwaukee, WI 53203

Please let us know of any dietary restrictions you may have when making your reservations. Or, contact Jim Pasterczyk, VP Program at 414-764-8609.

**PROGRAM**

**Shoua Vang, MPH**  
**Public Health Specialist**  
**Southwest Suburban Health Dept.**

Social isolation is a rising public health issue, and heavily impacts individuals 55 years and older. Social isolation is an objective lack of social connectedness to other people and loneliness is a subjective feeling of a lack of connectedness to other people. Risk factors include mental or physical challenges, relationship changes, retirement, moving, new parents, and limited access to resources.

Southwest Suburban Health Department have services that can help with reducing social isolation.

My role as a public health specialist consists of strategic planning, building partnerships and collaboration with our partners to improve the community health. I also educate the community on harm reduction, like bike helmet safety, or Narcan training. As a specialist, our goals and work center around the community health improvement plan, which focuses on Mental and Behavioral health, Health relationships and community connections, and substance use.

## President's Message



### JCI – 507 News

I happened to be going through downtown Milwaukee recently and taking note of what has changed since I retired 12 years ago. I note that the 507 building, that I spent much of my time in, no longer has any of the large Johnson Controls signage on it. I know it has been sold, as I had reported here a few issues ago, so I made a point to drive around the building to see if there are any other changes taking place. While I didn't see anything physically changed to the building, the only place I could still see any indication that it was Johnson Controls was in the two pieces of engraved stone or concrete over the two former main entrances on Michigan St. The oldest of the two still has "Johnson Service Company" above it and the newer entrance to the east still has "Bregel Technology Center" above it. I guess that confirms that once something is "Cast in Concrete" it is at least somewhat longer lasting than the bright shiny logos and lettering that was mounted on the outside wall. Those can be unbolted more easily than a masonry header over a doorway. That concrete/stone may disappear too, but not yet. I assume all JCI employees are now moved out. The company presence in downtown Milwaukee is fading fast.

This made me think of the Milwaukee's Theater district and question if Fred Bregel's name is still on part of the gallery between the Pabst Theater and the Powerhouse Theater. He made a large enough donation to get his name on one of the wings of that gallery. Roadwork and parking issues kept me from checking personally if it is still there. An online search didn't turn up any mention of Bregel, but I see they have a fund drive to update that area of the facility to a larger space referred to as the Haack Grand Lobby, so we will see if any F. Bregel recognition remains. Even large donations may only get name recognition for a limited duration.

On a broader JCI note, Johnson Controls current chief executive officer George Oliver has announced his plans to retire from that role, so a succession plan is in the works as they look for a new CEO. He plans to remain chairman of the board. I doubt that we will be seeing him at any of our retiree luncheons however, although he is more than welcome. He is the first JCI CEO that I have not personally met since Fred Bregel, who would shake everyone's hand when he came around at Christmas time.

Gene

## About the WSJ Society

The WSJ Society is a social group of people who share career experiences at Johnson Controls, Inc. The Society brings its members together to enjoy and help each other; and contribute to community. Activities of the society are described at the website:

[www.WSJociety.com](http://www.WSJociety.com).

This Newsletter is published quarterly to contribute to those goals. Member stories and ideas are welcomed and encouraged.

### OFFICERS:

Gene Strehlow	President
Jim Pasterczyk	VP Program
Mary Kehoss	VP Membership
Richard Schreiner	Treasurer
Dave Anderson	Secretary
Otto Mageland	Website
Erica Wolfe, Ex-Officio	Newsletter Editor

### Board of Directors

John Meyer  
Carol Lomonaco  
Greg Pascucci

For membership information, contact the Membership VP using this email:

[help@wsjsociety.com](mailto:help@wsjsociety.com)

For any payments, include a note describing the intent of the payment, make checks payable to **WSJ Society**, and mail to:

**WSJ Society**  
**P. O. Box 510105**  
**Milwaukee, WI 53203**

For street or email address changes, and items submitted for publication in the Newsletter, please contact our Newsletter Editor:

Mail: **Erica Wolfe**  
**Newsletter Editor**  
**5207 Robinwood Lane**  
**Hales Corners, WI 53130**

## New Member



**Scott Faland**  
**First time luncheon attendee**

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## *In Remembrance*

**Darwin Bell** passed away July 31, 2024 at the age of 94. He was a machinist in Milwaukee.

**Walter Bache**, age 94. Resided in California; no other information available.

## Nice to Meet You Mr. President

By Richard Schreiner

Most corporate employees rarely, if ever, have an opportunity to meet their executive leadership. It's not only a matter of location, but whether that leadership is willing to spend time meeting with non-executive employees.

In my years at Johnson Controls (which started in 1978 and ended in 2013), despite my modest level in the corporate hierarchy, I met every president (Fred Brengel, Jim Keyes, John Barth, and Steve Roell). All were very gracious and happy to have a few words, regardless of whether the encounter occurred at work or elsewhere.

In the case of Mr. Brengel, prior to corporate offices moving to Glendale, he was in the same building (the 507 E. Michigan St. facility in Milwaukee) which made chance encounters not unusual.

For those who are not familiar with the area, Glendale is a northern suburb which shares a border with the city of Milwaukee. The Glendale facility was acquired with the Globe Union merger. Globe Union became the "Power Solutions" business of Johnson Controls before being sold and reformed as today's Clarios.

Mr. Brengel is fondly remembered for his holiday season walks around the building to personally greet as many employees as possible.

It was a different time to be certain – Mr. Brengel's home address and phone number were in the Milwaukee phonebook!

As it happens Mr. Keyes was for a few years, a resident of my neighborhood (the lower east side of Milwaukee). We'd cross paths at Walgreens and other places. At charity events sponsored by JCI, if he was in attendance, he would find where JCI employees were seated and personally greet them.

When Mr. Keyes retired, he set aside an afternoon for simply sitting at a table in the 507 cafeteria so any employees that wanted to have a farewell visit could do so.

Mr. Barth also had a residence in my neighborhood, so we had chance encounters both at restaurants and on the street. As with his predecessors, he would take time for a few pleasant words.

When I'd have an encounter with Mr. Roell, I got the impression that while he likely didn't remember my name, he surely remembered my general circumstances. The best memory (among many) was an evening when some fellow employees and I were volunteering at the Hunger Task Force. Mr. Roell was an HTF board member at the time, and by coincidence our volunteer evening coincided with a board meeting. After the meeting's adjournment, he made a point of visiting us in the "food sort room".

Through the years, even though some corporate policies and decisions might have been puzzling to me, having met the CEO (if only casually) gave me confidence in the company's leadership.

# TIME?



**..... YES, and time to renew your membership!**

Keep in touch with your life-long work associates via the Newsletter! **Annual Association membership dues are \$5....** You may choose to pay several years in advance or pay a **lifetime membership of \$50** as over 500 members have chosen to do. New members (only) paying after September 1<sup>st</sup> will be credited for both the current and next year. Not sure you've paid your dues? Please refer to the "WSJ Society - Members List", which is included as an attachment to this newsletter, and can also be found on our [WSJSociety.com](http://WSJSociety.com) website in the "Members Only" section.

## **MEMBERSHIP ENTITLEMENT COMES WITH 10 YEARS**

If you are retired from Johnson Controls or still working there with 10 years of employment, you are eligible for membership in the Johnson Controls Retirement Society.

The address for sending your membership to is listed inside this newsletter.