



Warren S. Johnson Society Newsletter
WSJSociety.com
Vol. 31, No. 4 / Fourth Quarter 2024

Winter Luncheon
Thursday, January 16, 2025

Alioto's-3041 N. Mayfair Road

PRICE: \$27 per person

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

The luncheon selections are:

- Chicken Parmesan with Mostaccioli.
- Sliced Roast Beef with whipped potatoes, gravy and vegetables.
- Seasonal Salad with grilled chicken breast.
- The Dessert will be Vanilla ice cream with chocolate syrup

Lunches are served with a salad and choice of dressing, Italian bread, and coffee.

The Seasonal Salad is served with soup or fruit cup (in season), Italian bread, and coffee.

Lunch is \$27 per person.

Please make checks payable to:
WSJ Society.

Checks need to arrive by January 9, 2025

Mail checks to:

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

See Pg 3 for details of PayPal payment option

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
Financial Crimes:
Awareness and Prevention

Speaker
Elizabeth Melendez
Bilingual Branch Manager
UW Credit Union

Learn how to protect yourself from scammers! A Fraud Expert from the UW Credit Union will talk about credit and debit card fraud, identity theft and phishing scams, precautions you can take to protect your information, steps to take if you become a victim, educational resources.

Elizabeth Menendez has worked at UW Credit Union for the last six years and is also a Financial Mentor in the community. She enjoys connecting with people about financial topics.

President's Message



507 Development Plans



The new owners of our former 507 E. Michigan building (Bear Real Estate Group – Kenosha Wi) released an overview of their thinking about how they will put the building to use. They bought the building for \$24 million in 2021 and have been leasing it back to Johnson Controls, until all employees could be relocated. This has now happened. Present plans do not include tearing down any of the seven interconnected sections of the building. They plan to call it The Patent Block, as a reference to Johnson Controls' history of innovation, including at least 50 patents originated in the building. I suspect some of you reading this have your name on some of those patents.

The oldest (Building 1- which has "Johnson Service Company" over the 507 entrance) and newest (Building 7 – Bregel Technology Center) will be leased out as office space. They are considering using the building 7 cafeteria as a breakfast/lunch restaurant. Those uses seem quite straight forward since that is what they have already been used for.

The other buildings 2-6 will be repurposed into residential units in the future. They are still working out how to do so. Those of us that have traveled those halls, and varying levels, can fully understand the challenges they face. Google "Bear Real Estate Group – Kenosha Wi" for more information.

Since Milwaukee's new streetcar "The Hop" runs on both the Michigan St. (North) and Clybourn (South) sides of the block, the location should be good for both office space and residential living. I am not aware of any mention made about parking space for commuters. I did so for 42 yrs.

At least it still stands.

--Gene Strehlow

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.WSJSociety.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

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

In Remembrance

Dave Walden passed away on October 23, 2024. His wife Edie predeceased him. He is survived by their children and their families. Dave worked for JCI for 36 years as a Building Automation Engineer, Senior Systems Integrity.

PayPal option for luncheon payment

Payment by check is preferred.

However, for a service fee, the Warren S Johnson Society now offers payment via PayPal™.

To pay using PayPal™, send an email request to wsj.president@gmail.com. Please indicate name(s) and menu choice(s).

A PayPal™ invoice will be sent to you electronically with instructions for payment.*

(* Your email must be registered with a PayPal™ account . A 3% service fee will be added to the invoice.)

Work and Life in the Big City

by Richard Schreiner

(Author's Note: This is the third in a series of articles on company history, focusing on the now former JCI facility at 507 East Michigan Street in Milwaukee. Following this article, I will take a hiatus and invite and encourage my fellow WSJ Society members to submit editorial content for our newsletter.)

A few years ago, I read a book about the history of Bell Laboratories, the famous research arm of the former AT&T ([The Idea Factory](#) by Jon Gertner, Penguin Books 2012).

Before going further, a brief history:

AT&T still exists as a brand name, but the current incarnation is an amalgam of several former Bell Telephone operating companies which acquired rights to the AT&T name when they purchased the remaining assets of their one-time parent.

Bell Labs still exists, but after its ownership passed through various owners, it is now a subsidiary of the Finnish telecommunications company Nokia.

I noticed that the original location of Bell Labs was 463 West Street in Manhattan, not far from the well-known Greenwich Village and West Village neighborhoods. How cool it must have been, I thought, to have an engineering job in Manhattan – leave work and head for a Broadway show or a trendy jazz club. Then I remembered that, while downtown Milwaukee would not be confused with Manhattan, working at 507 East Michigan offered us many big city amenities all just a short walk away.

My pre-JCI job was at a manufacturing company located in a stereotypical suburban industrial neighborhood. Moving to JCI's 507 East Michigan location in 1978 was a delightful change, even in the days before the adjacent Historic Third Ward became trendy.

(cont'd Pg 5)

Work and Life in the Big City (Cont'd)

I remember countless evenings where my JCI colleagues and I would adjourn to various downtown venues for musical and other entertainment. I'm sure members of our Society could add to this list, but I'll mention the PAC (now the Marcus Center), the Pfister's Crown Room (now Blu), John Hawk's Pub, and the Blue River Café. Of course, who can forget (sometimes inappropriately long) lunches at Summerfest on "free entry" days.

The Historic Third Ward, which until the late 80s was largely warehouses and light manufacturing (plus some JCI parking lots) quickly changed. In my early days at JCI, I believe the only dining establishment in the neighborhood was the Broadway Bar and Grill (or BBG to its regulars) – open only for breakfast and lunch except for a once-a-month Friday night fish fry. In my latter years at JCI, 3rd Ward dining and entertainment options were practically innumerable.

On the practical side, being able to do shopping and other errands at lunchtime without the need for a car was so convenient. Even with the decline of downtown retail, there were still Gimbles, Boston Store, JC Penney, Pill and Puff, Walgreens, Schwartz Books, etc.

Speaking of convenience, for myself and many of my colleagues driving to work was optional. I could walk from my eastside home or take the bus. Many of my suburban colleagues used the Milwaukee County Freeway Flyer express bus service, or Wisconsin Coach from Waukesha.

Although I'm sad to see JCI move on from downtown, I'm excited about the redevelopment possibilities. The new owner of the 507 campus (seven interconnected buildings in total) recently announced their plans for the campus: <https://urbanmilwaukee.com/2024/11/12/johnson-controls-former-hq-will-become-modern-offices-housing/>

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 1st 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 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.