

President's Note for January

Computer Users of Erie held its Holiday Party on December 7, 2017. The party replaced the General Meeting in December. Those of you who turned out for the event braved the first significant snowfall of the year. Weather concerns limited attendance to 36 of the 47 reservations received. All present seemed to enjoy the event despite what awaited them outside upon their departure. Little did we know that within three weeks almost 10 more feet of snow would vault Erie into the lead in the Golden Snow Globe competition, probably a position we will hold for the rest of this winter season. First place is not always a great distinction.

In January we return to our winter General Meeting schedule (you know, the third Thursday afternoon of the month). These meetings feature programs that broaden our understanding of computer related topics and are one of the key benefits of CUE membership. Over the years we have featured a number of programs on staying safe online and avoiding malware, ransomware and viruses and I hope these have raised your level of caution when dealing with the internet, email and social media. Several programs introduced free software including Open Office and Libre Office and brought both to my computer. You may have them on your own computer as a result of CUE's programs. Some General Meeting programs over the years have shown us the leading edge of technology and I mention here only a few to illustrate. I remember vividly when Tom Kuklinski introduced us to streaming media through the Roku, a product previously unknown to me. I enjoyed presenting my new friend Alexa in several programs when the Echo was first available and now she seems to be everywhere. Perhaps the November meeting program will have a similar impression as it introduced a technology area not well known.

The November General Meeting program was not the advertised "Windows 10 Creator" (now scheduled for February) since Lou Cioccio was ill. The last minute substitute topic was "Chromebooks". The two videos shown influenced Don Grim to buy one (for \$100) on Black Friday and he will talk to us about his experience and impressions in the January General Meeting program. If you use your computer for browsing the internet, email and social media the Chromebook does all this and more, requiring less tech savvy to keep it running properly. To find out more about Chromebooks, which are rapidly growing in sales and acceptance, join us at 2:00 PM on January 18 at Lifeworks Erie.

John Fair