

The SPIRIT

Official Newsletter of I.B.M. Ring 1 - February 2025 Edition



Our Next Meeting
Official Relaunch of MAGIC 101
February 5, 2025 at 6 p.m.

Please join us on February 5th
Doors open at 6:00 pm
Event begins at 7pm

Dielmann Recreation Center
11400 Olde Cabin Road
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

If the rear parking lot is still unavailable, see this
Special Overflow Parking Chart

Dielmann Recreation Complex Parking Map

The back golf parking lot will be closed to the public during the ice plant switchover project. The city has secured additional lots for overflow parking. A-Frame signs will be posted at the lots providing times and days of the week for parking.



Please be patient during the construction project and remember when parking at the other lots to be respectful as they are helping us all out.

IBM Ring 1 will hold the relaunch of its MAGIC 101 program (after a 5 year hiatus), with the doors opening at 6:00 pm at the Dielmann Recreation Center in Creve Coeur. Four separate stations will be set up for members to learn practical magic in the four disciplines of Coins (Paul Gregor), Cards (Steve Zuehlke), Sponge Balls (Steve Finkelstein) and Okito Box (Quinton Robinson). After every 30 minute tutorial, the instructors will switch tables so that, by the end of the evening, the entire group will be able to see everything being offered. You are welcome to bring family and guests (all ages) to our meetings. The Ring always provides soda, water & snacks for all attendees to enjoy.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me. My information is as follows:

Michael W. McClure

watson7654321@gmail.com

618-826-5125 (please leave message)

We look forward to making our club the BEST I.B.M. Ring ... the only thing we need is YOU!

Please consider joining us!

Be ready to have some FUN!

Ring 1 Events - 2025

February 5	Ring 1 meeting: Magic 101 - Four Magic Disciplines
March 5	Ring 1 meeting: Open Mic Night &/or Fall Show Viewing
March 23	St. Louis Kidney Walk Strolling Magic: Westport Plaza, Maryland Heights, MO 11:00-12:30p.m.
March 28	Ring 1 meeting: Greg Wilson In-Person Lecture
April 2	NO REGULAR MEETING - Moved to March 28
April 3-5	Gateway Close-up Convention Collinsville, IL 62234 https://www.baskervilleproductions.com/gateway2024
May 7	Ring 1 meeting: Auditions for 2025 Florissant Show
June 4	Ring 1 meeting: Javi Benitez In-Person Lecture (tentative)
July	NO REGULAR MEETING
August 6	Ring 1 meeting: Flea Market & Auction
September 3	Ring 1 meeting: Magic Competition
October 1	Ring 1 meeting: Giacomo Bigliardi Lecture (tentative)
October TBD	President's Banquet - Location TBD
November 5	Ring 1 meeting: Tim Shegitz In-Person Lecture
December 3	Ring 1 meeting: Holiday Party & Gift Exchange

The St. Louis Magic Roundtable

meets every Saturday at 1:30 pm at Dierbergs,
1080 Lindemann Rd, Des Peres, MO 63131.

Check the following website for the latest information, before attending each week:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/374210993307299>

Your I.B.M. Ring 1 Board is proud to announce our new designation as a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit!

Thanks to the recommendation of our member, Christian Misner, who happens to also be a lawyer, we enlisted the help of the Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts (in early 2024) to give us accurate legal advice regarding the former status of our club in Missouri. They determined that we no longer held valid non-profit status, and offered these suggestions to rectify our situation.

- **THEY MOST STRONGLY RECOMMENDED FORMING A NEW ENTITY**

Our former club was subject to reprimands and fines due to its unregistered status.

It was best to start with a clean slate and seek REAL non-profit status for the first time.

We were encouraged to file for new MO non-profit and IRS determination.

- They further suggested that we consider a 501(c)(3) Status and its perks:

Allows ALL donations to Ring 1 to be tax deductible (even our own member's dues).

Provides Non Profit liability coverage for Officers and Directors (Missouri Revised Statute

Section 351.355) protecting them from expenses incurred in connection with civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative actions.

Tax-deductible enticement for Donors/Grants (any donation to our old 501(c)(6) were NOT tax deductible), allowing us to seek donations from Grants that we were not eligible for before.

Board driven leadership:

Only Board Directors vote (on all high level decisions), per Section 355.066 of the Missouri Nonprofit Corporation Act, for us to stay in compliance.

Only Board Directors vote to elect Officers & Board Directors (future date November 2025).

Elections held Annually (Fiscal Year Jan. through December) - Any Director or Officer can

resign at any time, or can be removed by majority of Director-only votes (with or without cause ... MO law), which provides the general membership the strongest influence over recourse against improprieties and negligence. They will work hard to retain your trust!

Officers have the authority to perform day-to-day business of Ring 1.

"Members" of Ring 1 are legally considered "Delegates," and ALL can offer their candidacy for any Office or Board position at every election, which is highly encouraged.

"Members" pay "dues" to local and International - thereby satisfying I.B.M. requirements.

Very limited annual reporting (until our income exceeds \$50,000 annually).

An expanded number of elected Directors will create an Officer and Director Leadership team that contains about half of the members that attend regular meetings. This is

unprecedented in Ring 1 history! The club is now in the hands of its most active members.

Many other I.B.M. Rings enjoy the benefits that 501(c)(3) status affords them. Now we do too!

We want to remind you about an important detail regarding voting procedures in Ring 1.

Because we recently registered as a real nonprofit organization, a 501(c)(3), in order to bring in more funding and save more money, we must adhere to Missouri Statutes governing nonprofit corporations. Under these regulations, voting rights are limited to Board members only. We

assure you that your voice and input remain invaluable to our organization. The Board is

committed to actively seeking and considering the perspectives of all Delegates (Ring 1 members). This new structure allows us to maintain our nonprofit status, which in turn enables

us to increase our fundraising potential, while providing our generous donors tax savings.

We already have a donation of \$1000 (due strictly to our 501(c)(3) status) promised 12 months from now, but also a world of financial opportunities, the likes of which have never been available to us before. 2025 is only the beginning of a brighter and more inclusive Ring 1, dedicated to the needs and desires of ALL its members. If you have further questions regarding our exciting new opportunities, please contact Michael McClure, Chairman of the Internal Affairs Committee, at his email watson7654321@gmail.com .

I.B.M. Ring 1 Contacts

Role	Name	E-mail	Phone
President	Darryl "D. Jay" Lenz	djay1000@yahoo.com	(618) 462-3675
Vice President	Steve Queen	stevenstrangestl@gmail.com	(314) 651-9162
Secretary	Al Zibits	alan.a.zibits@boeing.com	(636) 273-9974
Treasurer	Sandy Weis	sweis50@yahoo.com	(314) 378-4403
Board Member	Steve Finkelstein	sfinkelstein1@sbcglobal.net	(314) 409-6869
Board Member & Webmaster	Michael W. McClure	watson7654321@gmail.com	(618) 826-5125
Board Member & Past President	Scott Smith	scott@plato.com	(618) 610-5947
Board Member & Spirit Newsletter	Gary S. Chan	ring1newsletter@finderstellers.com	(929) 525-3496
Board Member & Assistant Spirit Editor	Paul Gregor	paulsmusicplus@gmail.com	(314) 827-4266

May is the month designated, in our past, for the election of the next year's Ring 1 Officers and Board. We are fortunate to have so many dedicated members stepping forward that are willing to serve in leadership positions for the balance of 2025 and the full 2026 fiscal year.

The Nomination Committee has received the following requests:

President – Steve Queen (current Vice President)

Vice-Pres. – Tim Shegitz

Treasurer – Sandy Weis (current Treasurer)

Secretary – Scott Smith (current Director)

Paul Gregor (current Director)

Board Directors – Steve Finkelstein (current Director)

Mike Hindrichs

Steve Bolland

James Hodge

Steve Zuehlke

Michael W. McClure (current Director)

We also will automatically welcome our current President, Darryl Lenz, to the Board in the "Past President" position, as directed by our past Bylaws.

If you are interested in stepping into a leadership position, contact the Nomination Committee members, Sandy Weis, Steve Queen or Michael McClure to be added to the members being considered.

Ring 1 Report by Sandy Weis et al.

Bob Blattel has been organizing a Toy Drive for almost twenty years. His company, Blattel and Associates, have been helping to get the word out to their clients who also contribute toys. Bob's wife, Chris, helped to start the toy drive when she was teaching at the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Saint Charles. The North Grand Area in St. Louis City benefitted for almost 17 years. However, when COVID hit their neighborhood, it was not feasible to continue to service that area. Therefore, Bob connected with *The Employment Connection*, which is a United Way of Greater St. Louis partner agency, and their CEO Sal Martinez. A brochure, that was distributed, requested new or gently used, unwrapped toys. Bob's grandchildren helped to pack the toys in his basement. His son, Scott, and daughter, Kate even donated four bikes to the toy drive. Bob shared the following—"My favorite way to give back is through magic. This past December, I volunteered to perform at three local 'Breakfast with Santa' events and sponsored the 'Holiday Magic Toy Drive.' Thanks to all the people and businesses who helped collect and donate toys, we reached nearly 200 needy and unhoused families in the Greater St. Louis Area. A special thanks to Sal Martinez and his team at Employment Connection for coordinating and distributing toys!" The Ring appreciates what you are doing for the less fortunate in our community.

Steve Finkelstein, Ring 1 Board Member and Community Engagement Chairman, organized a new event entitled *IBM Ring One Supporting Our Troops: A Magical Homecoming*. On Saturday, December 21, 2024, IBM Ring 1 joined with the USO and brought joy and wonder to 3,000 active duty military personnel. This is a yearly event, also called Green Day. These personnel are traveling from Fort Leonard Wood through St. Louis Lambert International Airport to begin their holiday leave as they made their way home for the holidays.

A team of five talented magicians from Ring 1—Steve Finkelstein, Tim Shegitz, D. Jay, Dan Todd, and John Skarin—dedicated their morning to performing close-up and walk-around magic for our troops. From 6:00 to 10:30 AM, the magicians moved around the USO area, engaging and creating moments of surprise, laughter, and connection.

"It was an incredible experience to bring smiles to the faces of those who serve our country," said Steve Finkelstein, reflecting on the event. "We felt honored to entertain and provide a brief escape for our troops as they waited for their flights." This special event marked the beginning of what IBM Ring 1 hopes will be an ongoing relationship with the USO. The magicians expressed their enthusiasm for continuing to support and uplift military personnel through the art of magic. "Seeing the joy and amazement on their faces was the best reward we could ask for," was a common refrain expressed by all of the volunteer magicians. We look forward to future opportunities to collaborate with the USO and give back to those who give so much for us. We have opportunities to spread the magic to other cities with other IBM Rings. As the holidays approach, moments like these serve as a reminder of the importance of community, gratitude, and the magic of human connection. IBM Ring 1 remains committed to using their craft to spread positivity and support, ensuring that those who serve our nation experience a touch of wonder during their travels. Steve thanks the Ring One Team for doing such an outstanding job!

Magic Community News

* Glenn Bishop Obituary *

Glenn Bishop of Saint Charles, Missouri passed away on December 31, 2024.

Glenn is survived by his Wife - Joyce Bishop, Children - Sara Bishop, Sean Bishop, Jarod Bishop, Siblings - Tracey (Eric Knight) Bishop, Susan Bishop, Jack (Lorina) Bishop, Bonnie (Wayne) Gordon. He was a Nephew, Cousin, Brother-In-Law, Uncle, Great-Uncle, and Friend to many.



Magic Conventions

<https://www.themagicwordpodcast.com/magic-convention-guide>

2025 GATEWAY
Close up
CONVENTION

LECTURES, CLOSE UP SHOWS,
WORKSHOPS, BREAK OUT
SESSIONS, DEALERS ROOM & more

APRIL 3 - 5 TOM DOBROWOLSKI

GEOFF WILLIAMS **EDWARD OSCHMANN** **NATHAN KRANZO** **JACK CARPENTER**

CALEB WILES **RYAN BLISS** **GARY PLANTS** **DISBELIEF**

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