



THE OMNI USER

2021 Midwest Road Suite 200
Oak Brook IL 60523
630.953.6312

February Dinner Meeting
Tuesday, February 17, 2004

registration & user discussions 5:00, dinner 6:00, presentation 7:00

UCCnet

A mini-Y2K-like event is underway among the retail industry and their wholesale suppliers. Their objective is to achieve full supply chain collaboration. The first steps towards this goal are the standardization of information shared within the supply chain, a central registry that contains this information and finally full data synchronization between all parties. This is what UCCnet is all about!

UCCnet is a non-profit organization responsible for the UCCnet GLOBAL Registry. Major retailers and suppliers worldwide are signing on as trading partners, exceeding 1000 in September. So what do you do when a major retailer calls you or sends a letter requesting compliance? You attend this session. We'll cover what UCCnet is, why companies are doing it, what solution features are required and finally take a look at the only end to end solution available today on IBM's eServer iSeries.

Al Grega – Director of Business Development, LANSA, Inc.

Al is responsible for promotion and channel development of LANSA software in the Americas. Prior to joining LANSA Al was a 24-year veteran of IBM, spending his last 5 years as the iSeries e-business Segment Manager for IBM Americas. He has vast experience in IBM systems development, services and sales. Al has also taught at the State University of New York at Farmingdale and is currently a Subject Matter Expert (SME) for WebSphere and XML at COMMON.

Please **reserve online** at... <http://www.omniuser.org> by **Noon on Thursday, February 12, 2004**

The OMNI web site is our preferred method of reserving for the meetings. If you **must**, you can call **(630) 953-6312** and leave your company name, the names of those attending, and their entrée choices.

This month's menu:

Starter Caesar Salad

Entrées (choose one)

Meat: London Broil with peppercorn sauce, creamy whipped potatoes.

Veggie: Veggie Kabobs with rice pilaf

Dessert Carrot Cake

Dinner Meeting Cost:

\$25 Member or Student, preregistered

\$40 Non-Member, preregistered

\$5 surcharge for non-registered, if possible

Late arrival (post-dinner) \$5 Member, \$20 Non-Member

Cash or Check only at door, Credit Cards online only

If you must cancel your reservation...

If your plans change at the last minute and you cannot attend (never happens in our business, right?) the best way to cancel is to use the web. Click the register button, leave your name, company name and in the phone number field, enter "Cancel." That's all it takes! No penalty, no problem. If you can't use the web, call 630-953-6312 to cancel. Please help us with this so we can provide you with the best possible meeting accommodations. Thanks!

Directions to the Embassy Suites Hotel

Our monthly meeting is located in Lombard, on Butterfield Road between Meyers Road and Highland Avenue. An easy on/off at I-88's Highland Avenue exit, then turn north on Highland, east on Butterfield to one block east of Yorktown Mall, then south at Technology Drive.

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Edited by Jerome Hughes, Jromeh@comcast.net

January meeting notes...

A great big OMNI round of applause and thanks goes out to **Dave Money of Andrews Consulting**, whose interesting and informative **“Introduction to Webfacing: A Practical Example”** was featured at our January meeting. Dave's real-world, “in the trenches” observations on leveraging existing resources to extend your applications with WebSphere were well received by a large group of OMNI attendees, who had a great time learning about the pros and cons of various WebSphere options and strategies. Thanks, Dave, we'll be sure to see you again at the next COMMON conference!

President's letter

by Paul Nelson, OMNI 2004 President

Greetings!

It is with equal parts pride and trepidation that I'm writing to you this month as I take over the presidency of the OMNI User Group. I've been around the Chicago area for nine years, now, but because of my duties with COMMON, it seemed that adding OMNI to my plate was a little too much. Now that I've scaled back a little with COMMON, I decided that the time was right to contribute to OMNI. Little did I know that when I agreed to run for the OMNI board, they'd pick the rookie to serve as the president!

That being said, I look forward to an exciting year. We have already lined up our slate of meetings for the first half of the year. We're finalizing plans for our “Spring Day of Education” on April 22nd, and we've already begun the task of planning for our technical conference next fall.

Please join us at our February 17th meeting, which brings us Al Grega from LANSA. Al will be discussing the ins and outs of UCCNET.

Al is responsible for promotion and channel development of LANSA software in the Americas. Prior to joining LANSA Al was a 24-year veteran of IBM, spending his last 5 years as the iSeries e-business Segment Manager for IBM Americas. He has vast experience in IBM systems development, services and sales. Al has also taught at the State University of New York at Farmingdale and is currently a Subject Matter Expert (SME) for WebSphere and XML at COMMON.

I've known Al for several years, and he definitely knows his stuff! Don't miss this meeting.

In closing let me thank you in advance for your support, and don't be afraid to jump in and help us. We need your involvement to help OMNI grow.

Thanks, and we'll see you at the meetings.

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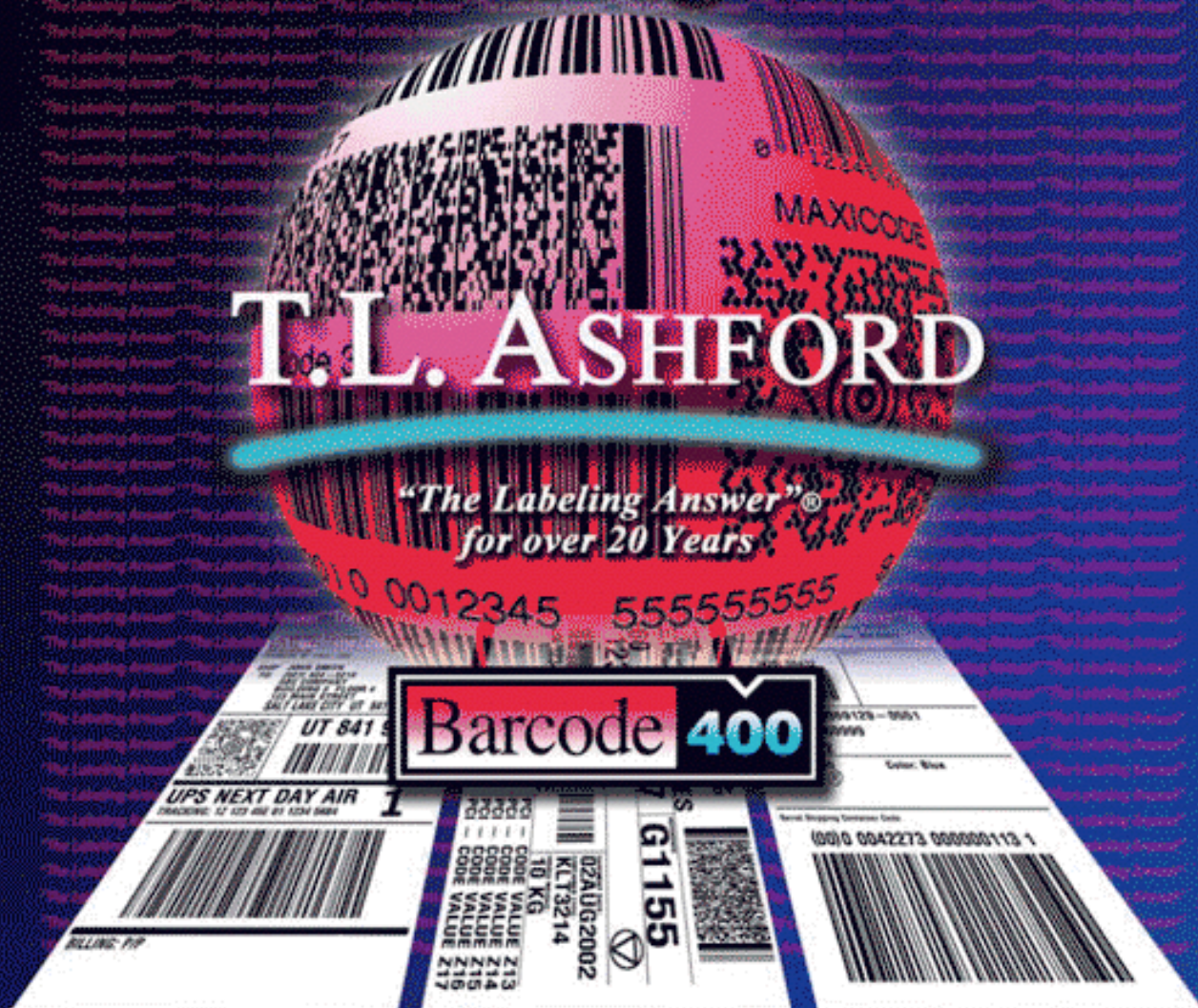
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OMNI 2004 Board Election Results

Elections for the OMNI User 2004 Board of Directors were held Tuesday, January 20th during OMNI's monthly dinner meeting. At the Wednesday, February 4th board meeting, the new board held elections to determine who would serve in each board position. Here's your new OMNI User 2004 Board of Directors:

President	Paul Nelson	pnelson@arbsol.com
Vice-President	Bill Lorimer	wlorimer@arbsol.com
Secretary	Ray Frazer	rfrazer@daubert.com
Treasurer	Bill Parks	wparks@worldnet.att.net
Seminar Vice-President	open	
Membership/DB Director	Sal Stangarone	sals@mrc-productivity.com
Communications Director	Jerome Hughes	jromeh@comcast.net
Advertising Director	Matt Gross	prgg1@aol.com
Conference Director	Ron Boris	ronboris@comcast.net
Webmaster	Dale O'Leary	doleary@sitebuilder.org
Past President	Jean Dietsch	j.dietsch@comcast.net
IBM Liaison	Joe Thompson	jwthomp@us.ibm.com
Advisory Board Member	Yomi Kuforiji	ykuforiji@hubgroup.com

Please note that the position of Seminar Vice-President is currently open. The other board members are covering the duties of this position until it is filled. Please consider whether you might like to help OMNI out by volunteering to assist us with this position. The duties involved are:

- Schedule speakers for regular meetings with the approval of the Board
- Send out confirmation letters to upcoming speakers
- Arrange needed equipment for speakers
- Obtain speaker gifts with the approval of the board
- Introduce speakers at each meeting, thank the speaker and give gift at the end of the regular meeting
- Give briefing of upcoming speakers at each regular meeting
- Distribute, collect, and summarize monthly evaluation forms
- Send out thank you letters to speakers after meetings
- Report to the Board

For now, the other board members are covering the duties of this position. At the February board meeting, speakers were chosen for the March, May, and June meetings. This leaves the scheduling of speakers limited to the remaining August, September, and October monthly meetings, so this board position is a good one for a first time board member to get their feet wet with the OMNI board while not requiring an extra-large commitment of time. If you are interested or have questions about this position, please contact any of the board members listed above.

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February 2004 COMMON Corner *Education from COMMON*

Local User Group Profile: The OMNI User

Chicagoland's user group shares secrets of success

By Jane Jerrard

Looking for new ideas for your Local User Group (LUG)? Searching for suggestions on boosting membership or increasing attendance at meetings? This month's LUG profile reveals how one user group handles these issues and more. We talked to Jean Dietsch, president of The OMNI User and active board member for eight years, and she shared the inner workings of the group. We hope it will help other user groups!

User Group: The OMNI User – An Association of Computer Professionals

Location: Chicago, Illinois, and surrounding suburbs

Membership: “We have about 1,200 members in our database,” says Dietsch, “and about half of those are paid members.” Members are iSeries professionals, including programmers, operators, consultants, managers, and IT executives.

“We’re always trying to increase our membership,” Dietsch says. “It’s been steady the last couple of years because there haven’t been any major installs of iSeries” in their area. Once a year OMNI User asks both IBM and COMMON to send conference materials to their mailing lists. “We don’t see their lists,” explains Dietsch, “because a third-party mailing house sends out our brochures. But introducing people to our technical conference is how we get the majority of our new members.”

Funding: Membership dues – and “we make money at our Technical Conference, which helps us fund our speakers for the following year,” Dietsch says.

Meetings: OMNI User meets monthly, except in July and December. Members pay \$25 to attend a meeting, which includes dinner, and non-members pay \$40.

Speakers and topics are chosen by the board based on member input and past evaluations. “We bring in people from IBM and other experts and consultants,” explains Dietsch. OMNI User pays the speakers’ expenses but does not pay them to speak. The OMNI User has an IBM Liaison on their board. This person helps The OMNI User get speakers, and industry vendors also assist.

Each monthly meeting offers user discussion tables with experts, similar to COMMON’s “Ask the Experts,” which attendees can visit during the registration hour. “It doesn’t cost anything to do this,” says Dietsch. “The experts volunteer or we use our members.” Topics for meetings have been easy. “We noticed in 2003 that WebFacing and WebSphere are still big,” says Dietsch. “People are still very hungry for new information on these topics.” Dietsch estimates that a good meeting draws 40 to 70 attendees.

Conferences: The OMNI User hosts two one-day conferences each year. The Spring Day of Education is held at IBM Oak Brook (Ill.), and offers four session times with a choice of four sessions per time slot. And the Fall Technical Conference, which draws 200- 350 attendees, includes four time slots and a choice of eight sessions per time slot, plus a keynote luncheon and a large expo hall.

“We bring in speakers on: Database, Linux, Security, LPAR, WebFacing and WebSphere and RPG, Eclipse, Java, and COBOL toolsets,” says Dietsch.

“It’s really manageable to do a one-day conference,” says Dietsch. “The conferences make some money but not a lot. Some years IBM will pay for their speakers to travel and some years we pay,” she continues. “We don’t pay our speakers, but we give them gifts.”

To help choose the topics covered at a conference, OMNI User checks out information on the next COMMON conference to see what will be covered. “I’m on COMMON’s registration team now,” says Dietsch, “and working with them gives me more insight into how COMMON operates and how our group can work.”

Volunteers: OMNI User is an all-volunteer organization. “The toughest thing is getting volunteers to continue to run for positions like the board and conference volunteers,” says Dietsch. “With the decrease in IT budgets, people have had to work harder and have less time to volunteer. To find conference volunteers, I have been recruiting volunteers who had been laid off or are unemployed. I tell them volunteering is a great way to network. One volunteer got a job with one of our vendors – it’s nice how things work out.”

Dietsch also tries to draw in first-time volunteers to sit at an expert table or help with the conference committee planning – then the board will try to recruit experienced volunteers as candidates to run for new board positions.

Web site: www.omniuser.org

Reprinted from the first issue of COMMON.CORNER Magazine.

Join COMMON! Attend our IT Education Conference and Expo...

...in the Spring: San Antonio, May 2-6, 2004. Special focus is on Linux, and there will be a one-day Linux workshop – complimentary to attendees.

<http://www.common.org/conference.html>

...in the Fall: Toronto, October 17-21, 2004. Special focus is on Enterprise Application Modernization.

<http://www.common.org/toronto.html>

...and next Spring: Chicago, March 13-17, 2005. OMNI will be staffing the LUG booth!

As in past years, OMNI members may use OMNI’s COMMON membership number to qualify for member savings on COMMON. Contact a board member for details.

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OMNI Midrange Event List

February 17 5:00 pm OMNI Monthly Dinner Meeting
UCC NET with Al Grega of Lansa
[Online registration available here!](#)
Embassy Suites, 707 E. Butterfield Rd, Lombard, IL

February 19 10:00 am
iSeries Developer Roadmap with Doug Fulmer of IBM Dallas
[Register Here](#) for this On-Line Chat

February 23 6:30 pm
OMNI Board of Directors Meeting
all are welcome, contact a board member to confirm time/place
Midwest Road Building, 2021 Midwest Rd, Oak Brook, IL

March 18 10:00 am
Linux for iSeries and WebSphere Portal Express for iSeries with Craig Johnson, IBM Rochester & John Quarantello, IBM Dallas
[Register Here](#) for this On-Line Chat

March 23 5:00 pm
OMNI Monthly Dinner Meeting
Case Study of RF Implementation with Bill Parks
Embassy Suites, 707 E. Butterfield Rd, Lombard, IL

March 31 6:30 pm
OMNI Board of Directors Meeting
all are welcome, contact a board member to confirm time/place
Midwest Road Building, 2021 Midwest Rd, Oak Brook, IL

continues on next page...



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OMNI Midrange Event List (continued from last page)

April

OMNI Monthly Dinner Meeting

There will be no dinner meeting in April due to the Spring Day of Education 4/22

April 19 6:30 pm

OMNI Board of Directors Meeting

all are welcome, contact a board member to confirm time/place

Midwest Road Building, 2021 Midwest Rd, Oak Brook, IL

April 22 8:00am

Omni's 3rd Annual Spring Day of Education

IBM Corporation, Two Lincoln Centre, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

May 2-6

Common Spring 2004 Conference, San Antonio, TX

[Registration and information](#)

May 20 5:00 pm

OMNI Monthly Dinner Meeting

V5R3 Announcements Tentative

Embassy Suites, 707 E. Butterfield Rd, Lombard, IL

May 24 6:30 pm

OMNI Board of Directors Meeting

all are welcome, contact a board member to confirm time/place

Midwest Road Building, 2021 Midwest Rd, Oak Brook, IL

June 17 5:00 pm

OMNI Monthly Dinner Meeting

V5R3 CL Enhancements Tentative

Embassy Suites, 707 E. Butterfield Rd, Lombard, IL

June 21 6:30 pm

OMNI Board of Directors Meeting

all are welcome, contact a board member to confirm time/place

Midwest Road Building, 2021 Midwest Rd, Oak Brook, IL

The OMNI User 2004 Board of Directors Contact Information

position	name	phone	email address
President	Paul Nelson	708.670.6978	pnelson@arbsol.com
Vice-President	Bill Lorimer	630.288.4831	wlorimer@arbsol.com
Secretary	Ray Frazer	630.203.6861	rfrazer@daubert.com
Treasurer	Bill Parks	708.267.1516	wparks@worldnet.att.net
Seminar Vice-President	open		
Membership/DB Director	Sal Stangarone	630.916.0662	sals@mrc-productivity.com
Communications Director	Jerome Hughes	630.632.4566	jromeh@comcast.net
Advertising Director	Matt Gross	847.466.2944	prrgg1@aol.com
Conference Director	Ron Boris	847.520.5550	ronboris@comcast.net
Webmaster	Dale O'Leary	847.836.9920	doleary@sitebuilder.org
Past President	Jean Dietsch	847.318.7495	j.dietsch@comcast.net
IBM Liaison	Joe Thompson	630.568.1189	jwthomp@us.ibm.com
Advisory Board Member	Yomi Kuforiji	630.271.3831	ykuforiji@hubgroup.com