

# THE BEACON

*Beacon Technologies Quarterly Newsletter*

## Employee Success Story

***Pam Hall, Sr Business Analyst***

I guess you could call me a self made - self taught IT professional. I actually started my tech career as an administrative assistant. I was able to catch on to new software programs easily and started training others. From there I taught software programs for Productivity Point International. I helped design and create Access Databases for clients and for charity with the Portage County Humane Society. My expertise in Microsoft and other programs brought me to Sentry Insurance where I started with End User Support and training. From there I started managing projects for training, equipment and software upgrades, software licensing and audits. I achieved certifications in ITIL and CSAM (Certified Software Asset Management) and took courses in Business Analysis and Project Management. Like many IT professionals I was downsized out of my job and started doing contract work in 2014. Since then, I've worked in transportation, manufacturing, insurance and contact center positions. This gave me the amazing opportunity to broaden my skills, knowledge and career path. I've been a project manager, business analyst, scrum master, and agile process coordinator/trainer. All of this has further developed my strengths in communication, organization and decision making... all the things a BA needs to succeed! After over 25 years in IT I am still learning new things.

Pam Hall, Sr Business Analyst



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## Did You Know?

The Fox River is one of the few rivers in the nation that flows north.



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### **Beacon Bracket Challenge**

Thanks to everyone that chose to participate in this year's Beacon Bracket Challenge, where you picked the winners of the Men's NCAA Tournament games. The complete results can be found [here](#). The four winners are:

- 1st Place - Travis Crowe - \$150 Amazon Gift Card
- 2nd Place - Aaron Rosenthal - \$100 Amazon Gift Card
- 3rd Place - Mat Gutschow - \$50 Amazon Gift Card
- 4th Place - Tyler Erickson - \$25 Amazon Gift Card

### **Education Reimbursement**

Don't forget to take advantage of Beacon's Education Reimbursement benefit. Details of that benefit as a refresher...

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Beacon Technologies, Inc will reimburse employees up to \$2,500 per year for education related to their job at Beacon. All education and training requests must be preapproved. Beacon requires employees to payback the amount if the employee does not stay with Beacon for one full year after receipt of payment.

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#### Education Reimbursement Process:

Requests must be pre-approved by the Human Resources Director or employees will not receive reimbursement. The Human Resource Director's signature must be on this form and the form must be submitted before the training/class/test/books etc. are purchased. It is the employee's responsibility to obtain the appropriate signatures on the form. Employees will also be required to show proof of completion before payment will be processed. See below for process:

- 1 - Determine desired training
- 2 - Obtain HR approval/signature on form
- 3 - After completion of the course provide Jean Burke with proof of completion, expense report, and receipts.

The \$2500.00 does not carry over from year to year.

## **Pam Hall, continued from Page 1**

### **Favorite Project**

It's hard to choose one project that was my favorite, but I think that the ones that were most challenging and I was forced to learn new things were the ones I thrived, expanded and allowed me to become a better IT professional. My current project in transportation at KBXT as a BA has become my favorite industry to work in. In the past 1.5 years I have expanded my knowledge of the business processes around shipping via all modes of transportation.

### **Family/Hobbies**

I am a mother to 3 adult children. This past year I had my 2 oldest children get married, a new grandson born and my youngest off to college, making me an official empty nester. I have 4 grandchildren ages 2, 3, 5 and 6 months. I cannot stress enough how much more fun it is being a "Pamma" than being a parent. I get to be the good guy ALL the time. I'm blessed that they all live nearby and we are very close.

I live on 2 acres in the woods with my 3 dogs, a rabbit and 17 chickens that double as live lawn ornaments and breakfast providers. I love working in the yard and flower gardens. I like to travel and was able to get to the Florida Keys twice last year and got my first passport and plan to put as many stamps as I can in it next year. My covid project was learning how to make sour dough bread and I have mastered bread, biscuits, cinnamon rolls and much more. I work with organic farmers and friends to purchase or barter ingredients for canning and cooking. The running joke among those who know me is that I am a closeted disaster prepper :)

## **Employee Anniversaries**

### **April**

Thomas Morley - 6 years  
John Lison - 4 years  
James Baho - 3 years  
David Gauerke - 3 years  
Sean Collett - 2 years

### **May**

Carl Galka - 16 years  
Kelsey Kelley - 5 years  
Herb Lichtenberg - 2 years  
Mukarram Mukhtar - 2 years  
Sudheer Ramachandruni - 2 years  
Genie Pennell - 1 year

### **June**

Kristen Suttle-Ebert - 17 years  
Keegan O'Brien - 4 years  
Brady Potaczek - 4 years  
Steve Kaplon - 3 years  
Eric Oelhafen - 3 years  
Joel Malinoski - 1 year

**Pam Hall, continued from Page 2****Interesting Fact**

As a Christmas gift in 2019 my children gave me a DNA kit. I was adopted as a baby and didn't really know my family heritage or medical history so this was a way to find some of those things out. In February of 2020 I received my results and matched with what looked like a first cousin, but ended up being my birth Mom's half sister. I met my birth mother the next week and found out I have 4 half sisters and 2 half brothers! I have since met everyone and was accepted with open arms. This outcome is the best one. I know that some are not the best, but I would encourage anyone looking to try. It was closure for me on so many levels and a new beginning I would have never imagined.

**Brain Foods to Help You Stay Focused at Work**

from [Monster.com](http://Monster.com) contributor, Moira Lawler

**10 BEST PLACES TO VISIT IN WISCONSIN**

ACCORDING TO [TOUROPIA.COM](http://TOUROPIA.COM)

- 1 - Bayfield
- 2 - Milwaukee
- 3 - Apostle Islands
- 4 - Door County
- 5 - Madison
- 6 - Wisconsin Dells
- 7 - Geneva Lake Shore Path
- 8 - Lake Minocqua
- 9 - Cave of the Mounds
- 10 - Pattison State Park



# Upcoming Events - Things To Do

Click the images to be taken to more information on each.

## MADISON



## MILWAUKEE



## FOX CITIES / GREEN BAY / OSHKOSH

