

PEOPLE OF ACTION

Tom Angerer

Founder, Intelligent Network Solutions (Retired)

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(Member since 2002)



Milwaukee Rotary member Tom Angerer always knew that he would run his own business. “I always thought I would run my own company. I never saw myself as someone else’s employee,” said Tom Angerer, former President and CEO of Intelligent Network Solutions. So, after a career working for companies such as Wisconsin Bell and AT&T, in 1992 Angerer started his consulting firm, Intelligent Network Solutions.

Angerer was raised in Cedar Rapids, Iowa with his three older sisters, where his father worked for a telephone company and his mother stayed at home. He attended the University of Iowa and moved to Wisconsin after graduating. Following in his dad’s footsteps, he went into the telephone business. He rose up the

corporate ladder and, when he found a niche that AT&T didn’t provide, he launched Intelligent Network Solutions.

Intelligent Network Solutions provided consulting and project management to clients such as the University of Wisconsin and Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS). One of the company’s biggest projects was to equip public school classrooms with data drops and electrical drops. These services helped provide access to the internet, along with equipping buildings with things such as electrical outlets. Angerer fondly remembers watching his clients use their services and their excitement when they accessed the internet for the first time.

“Meeting my client’s objectives was the most fun for me. When a client said thank you, that meant the world to me,” he said. At MPS, Angerer and his team helped both students and staff get acquainted with the new technology. “It was fun to watch young people get on the networks and watch them learn,” he said.

Angerer retired from Intelligent Network Solutions two years ago and closed the company. Although he is enjoying retirement, he says he misses the people he used to work with, both employees and clients. “They were good because they listened to my crazy ideas, and as an owner, you want to be a little crazy sometimes,” he said.

Since retiring, Angerer has more time to enjoy hobbies such as golf and hunting. He previously golfed for business, and now keeping up with golf has allowed him to stay in touch with former business friends. When it comes to hunting, Angerer hunts with his wife’s family, hunting mainly deer and pheasant. He enjoys the camaraderie and family tradition.

Angerer recently celebrated his 39th wedding anniversary with his wife, Patty. They met in a downtown office building after Angerer moved to Milwaukee. They married a year and a half later. Angerer describes it as love at first sight. In 1985, they built a house in Greenfield, where they currently live.

Angerer has been involved in Rotary for more than 15 years. He was originally approached to join by a close friend and has enjoyed ever since. He says although he doesn’t do much speaking or presenting, he likes the social aspect and

hearing other people speak. Of course, he also enjoys the golf committee. He especially admires Rotary's scholarship program and the fact that it not only provides scholarship money but works to mentor students. He has enjoyed his time with Rotary and looks forward to more years.

Editor's Note: Rotary People of Action *is a bi-monthly series written by a group of Rotarians. This feature was written by Kimberly Kane.*