

Snapshots of Times

Ask not what your Club can do for you, ask what you can do for your Club!



INTRODUCTION

We have had 21 presidents since the Club’s 1980 start, <http://vipclubmn.org/History.html#Officers/>. Harvey Taipale is the longest serving, now in his 5th term. Presidents facilitate the Board’s planning then communicate with members via our periodic newsletters. It seems appropriate to publish this presidents’ messages compendium, thereby reflecting the Club’s evolution since 2004 [<http://vipclubmn.org/newsletters.html#Archives>]. Their messages are copied hereunder in a month-by-month chronology. Most messages reflect the board meeting discussions plus comments about recent events. A few were penned by VPs or past presidents. Sorry, but I have not included the occasional pictures that were part of a few messages.

A significant byproduct of our Legacy initiative that started in 2005 is that during these 17 years, we have recorded the club’s activities. We also have created a specific Club history webpage, <http://vipclubmn.org/history.html>. In effect a chronological journal of events including records of the periodic luncheons before and during this epoch; for example, <http://vipclubmn.org/activities.html#Geeks>.

If a reader happens to have newsletters from before 2004, please contact us so that we can scan and archive them either at the Charles Babbage Institute or at the Lawshe Memorial Museum.



Thanks in advance, *LABenson*

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Edited with Microsoft Word.

¹ Click on any section for a quick scroll thereto.

JANUARYs

Dale Phelps, 2004 – 05

January 2004: The last social event of the year for the VIP Club was our annual Christmas Party held at the U.S. Air Force NCO Club. Ninety-seven members and guests enjoyed an evening of great food and entertainment. The Twin Cities Women's Choir under the direction of Mary Bussman sang, with some audience participation, songs of the Holiday Season. We then danced or just listened to the relaxing and enjoyable music of The Connie Villars Quartet.

Ann Thureen and her husband Jim, [representing UNISYS Liaison] gave a recap of what UNISYS is doing in the computer world. Invited guests Jim Commander and Judy Cognetta of UNISYS and Sheri Grone of Lockheed Martin were unable to attend. The VIP Club wants to thank UNISYS and Lockheed Martin for the contribution of chocolate-covered cookies and Abdallah candy on our beautifully decorated tables.

As your new President, I want to wish all of you a healthy and prosperous 2004 New Year.

Respectfully, *Dale Phelps*, VIP President

January 2005: Christmas is a time to get together and have a party. The VIP Club held its annual Christmas Party on December 9, 2004, at the U.S. Air Force NCO Club. In attendance were 116 VIP Club members and guests. The North Suburban Chorus directed by Jonathan Nye provided a festive touch to the social hour with a mix of Christmas songs and audience sing along. We were served a tasty dinner and then danced or listened to the relaxing and enjoyable music of The Connie Villars Quartet. Party invitations were extended to Rick Ambrose, Sheri Grone, and Darlene Wise of Lockheed Martin; Jim

Commander, Ann Thureen and Judy Cognetta of Unisys. We were honored to have Jim Commander of Unisys greet everyone and gave us a little synopsis of the company. The VIP Club wants to thank Unisys and Lockheed Martin for the party favors they provided. A big thank you to Warren and Dorothy Becker for organizing this wonderful party.

I want to wish all of you a Happy New Year and hope to meet more of you this coming year.

Respectfully, *Dale Phelps*, VIP Club President

January 2006: As your past president, I want to offer my last comments to the VIP Club. It was a pleasure and honor to serve you the past 2 years. I want to thank all the board members for their support and encouragement. Also, many club members assisted me and were wonderful to work with. One of the highlights of my presidency was the 25th anniversary celebration picnic at Highland Park. More members attended than any other event of the VIP Club. I want to wish all members a healthy and prosperous 2006 New Year. It is my hope that you will continue to support the VIP Club and its activities.

Respectfully, *Dale Phelps*, VIP Club Past President

Bernie Jansen², 2006

January 2006: I wish all the members of the VIP Club and their families New Year's greetings and good health for the coming year. I look forward to a busy and productive year as the newly elected President of the VIP Club. I want to thank all the VIP Club 2005 officers, Board members, and Committee Chairs for the truly, outstanding job they did in growing our club, providing excellent meeting programs, and ensuring our financial wellbeing. Dale Phelps as President the past two years has successfully directed these efforts and will

² Bernie was also president during 1998 and 1999.

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continue to serve on the Board. I want to especially commend Joe Schwarz for his complete and continuing dedication in putting out a newsworthy and timely "Newsletter". Hank Dotzler who held the past President slot on the Board will relinquish that position to Dale Phelps. For the year 2006 I extend a special welcome to our new Secretary, Lynn Lindholm and new board member, Lowell Benson. I also welcome Brian Berggren as Vice President for 2006 - Brian was a Board Director the last several years and will continue to review and report on Health Issues for the "Newsletter". For the 2006-year, Jack Farber will continue to serve as treasurer of the club; however, Jack has resigned from the program committee. Since 1992 Jack has arranged most of the monthly programs and since 1995 has contracted the band and the entertainment for the annual Christmas Party, Dinner-Dance. On behalf of the Club, I thank Jack for his many years of dedicated service in providing great programs regularly for our monthly meetings and Christmas Party. We are looking for someone to join the Program committee and assist Dale Phelps in planning/acquiring programs for 2006 – please see page 3 (Program Committee) for further details.

Additionally, I welcome back the other returning members of the Board: Dick Mullins, Marion Scott, and Joe Schwarz. Dick Mullins will continue to maintain the membership lists and Marion Scott will continue as the coordinator of VIP Club volunteers for the Red Cross Blood Drives at the Unisys and Lockheed Martin facilities. And I am pleased to say that Joe Schwarz will continue as editor of the "Newsletter".

Photos of the VIP Club Officers and Board Members for the years 2005 and 2006 were taken at the Christmas Party – please see page 5.

On a lighter note, approximately 100 VIP Club members and friends attended the Christmas Party, Dinner-Dance on December 8th at the NCO Club at the Air Force Base. The program featuring "The Twin Cities Women's Choir" and "The Connie Villars Quartette" and the sit-down dinner were enjoyed by all. Unisys and Lockheed Martin provided table party favors. Ron Smith of Unisys and Richard Olson of Lockheed Martin provided updates on the status of their companies. A photo collage of the attendees and program participants is provided as an insert of this "Newsletter".

Respectfully, *Bernie Jansen*, VIP Club President

January 2007: At its December 6th Meeting, the VIP Club Board approved several changes to the number of Program meetings for the year 2007 but the frequency of issuing the Newsletter and Board Meetings will be decided on a month-by-month basis. You will recall that at its October meeting, the Board decided to cancel the January 2007 Program Meeting and to combine the January and February 2007 issues of the Newsletter. The additional changes to the 2007 Program Meeting schedule are as follows: the April 11th Program Meeting was cancelled and the annual "Volunteer Recognition Breakfast" (usually held on the 3rd Wednesday of April) will replace it. Also, the July 11th Program Meeting at Unisys was cancelled. The rest of the 2007 Program Meeting schedule is unchanged and is as follows: February 14th - Eagan; March 14th - Roseville; May 9th - Eagan; June 13th - Picnic (Highland Park); August 8th - Roseville; September 12th - Eagan; October 10th - Potluck (Roseville); November 14th - Eagan and December 13th - NCO Club.

A total of eighty-nine members and guests attended the annual Christmas Party Dinner-Dance on December 14th. The North Suburban Chorus provided the Christmas music, and the

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Connie Villars Quartette provided the dance music. Management representatives of Lockheed Martin and Unisys attending included Mr. Richard (Ole) Olson of Lockheed Martin and Mr. Robert Vavra, Program Manager of Unisys ClearPath OS 2200 Systems and his wife, Betty. Unisys and Lockheed Martin provided table favors for each guest. The 2007 Christmas Party will again be held at the NCO Club. A collage of photos taken at the Christmas Party is provided as pages 4 and 5 of this issue of the Newsletter. Also, special recognition is due to Dorothy and Warren Becker for their efforts in setting up and coordinating the annual Christmas Party.

As noted in the Meeting Schedule discussion above, Unisys will host the VIP Club Volunteer Recognition Breakfast at the Roseville Facility on April 11th. To collect and collate the "Volunteer Services Survey" information in a timely manner it is necessary to include the Survey Form in the January/ February and March Newsletters. See the survey form on page 7 of this Newsletter. Responses are due by April 4th, 2007.

I noted in the "PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE" of the December Newsletter that it would be my last Newsletter column as VIP Club President since our new President, Brian Berggren would be taking over this column in January 2007. However, Brian has had a family emergency and he and his wife will be out of state until the middle of January. The Board and I hope he'll be able to take over his President's role at that time. Meanwhile, Tom Turba, our new Club Vice President will chair the next Board Meeting on January 3rd at Unisys Roseville.

Respectfully, *Bernie Jansen*, VIP Club Past President

Brian Berggren, 2007 – 08

We've combined January/February issues since 2008 to lighten the wintertime load on volunteers.

January/February 2008: With the year-ending Christmas Party at the NCO club, 75 smiling faces enjoyed the social hour with plenty of nuts, crackers, cheeses, herring, and refreshments from the ever-helpful bar mistress. Ann Thureen gave us end-of-an-era information on the Unisys move away from in-house hardware design to Intel-platform processing: Ole Olson then talked about Lockheed Martin's new work on military radio and remotely piloted vehicles.

After Bernie's obligatory officer, board, and past presidents photo op, we sat down to well-prepared and well-served dinners and the great listening and dancing music from the Connie Villars Quartette. Again, a special thanks to Dorothy and Warren Becker for their organizing efforts and Hank Dotzler for NCO club access. A collage of photos taken at the Christmas Party is provided as center insert of this newsletter. Respectfully, *Brian Berggren*, VIP Club President

Tom Turba, 2009-10

January/February 2009: A wonderful time was had by all the 80 some attendees at the VIP Club annual Christmas party, which was held at the NCO Club at the airport. It was good food, good conversations, good music, and some good dancing by several people. You would never know they are retired by the way they danced. Ann Thureen from Unisys Roseville talked about the state of the company and reassured everyone that things were not as bad as they looked. John Westergren from Lockheed Martin told of the

Established in 1980 new wins for the company and how everything is going.

Brian Berggren presented Member Emeritus awards to Mildred Gignac and John Dufour for the outstanding work they have done for the VIP Club. Unfortunately, Bernie Jansen could not be present to receive his well-deserved Member Emeritus award but will have it presented at a future date. A collage of photos taken at the Christmas Party is provided as a center insert.

Our next big event will be the Volunteer Recognition Breakfast in April. I encourage everyone who has done any kind of volunteer work to send in your hours either electronically or with the form on page 7. The next big event after that will be our annual picnic on June 10th. Mark your calendars and plan to attend come rain or shine. It is a well-covered area that can keep everyone dry as was proved last year. Respectfully, *Tom Turba*, VIP Club President.

January/February 2010: Hopefully, you have all had a joyous holiday season and got to see the Pioneer Press article on —The almost Silicon Valley|| which tells our story of ERA, Univac, Unisys, Lockheed Martin, and other derivative companies that were pioneers in the computer industry here in Minnesota. If you missed it, ask your friends for a copy, or visit our website.

In December, we had another great Christmas Party at the NCO Club. Pictures of the event can be seen on pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter issue. It was suggested that we consider having the party earlier in the day, but by a 5 to 1 majority, it was decided that the party would continue to be an evening event. There are some things in life where it is just nice to continue what we have always been doing.

This year we will have an interesting set of program activities including a presentation by

Bud Kraehling and his wife in September, the volunteer breakfast in April, a great summer picnic in June, a visit to the Air National Guard Museum, and another great Christmas Party. Other activities that will be happening during the year that you may be interested in attending include another reunion in Roseville in April, the Unihogs/Uniturkeys get together in November and the Old Timers get together at Fort Snelling in December. These are all great events where you can see old friends and meet coworkers you have not seen in a while.

This year, students at the University of Minnesota will now start seeing some of computer history that has been developed here in Minnesota through a set of changing displays that will be placed on the university campus. If you are interested in helping with the displays, your help is welcome. We also have a lot of pictures and other artifacts that it would be good to capture information on. For further information, contact Lowell Benson, whose contact information is on the last page. With best wishes to everyone in the New Year.

Respectfully, *Tom Turba*, VIP Club President.

[Lowell Benson, 2011](#)

January/February 2011: In January 1946 Engineering Research Associates was formed, the kickoff of the Twin Cities era of digital computers and applications for military defense systems. The November 2010 announcement by Lockheed Martin (LMCO), that they will be closing their Eagan facility, marks the beginning of the end of this 65-year era! Although some of the current employees may elect to transfer to other LMCO facilities, the VIP Club Board is saddened by the thought that many others may be „forced“ into an early retirement or job hunting.

Since LMCO became a co-sponsor of our retirees' club in 2000, we have flourished as their support complemented that of UNISYS,

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Roseville. We celebrated the Club's 30-year anniversary last October - from the 75 initial members in 1980 we've grown to over 1,000 members. Our VIP Club WILL NOT CEASE to exist because of this „plant 8“ closing, expected sometime in 2013. We will continue to plan and provide programs, picnics, newsletters, and other activities for our members. The Board already has 2011 venue reservations in place for the April volunteer breakfast, the April Roseville Good Old Days celebration, our June Highland Park picnic, the December Old Timers gathering, and our annual Christmas Dinner/Dance.

Yes, there are and will be issues to resolve – the Club Board will manage a two-year transition period as we consider options and take care of the details of future meeting places, program sites, and Legacy Committee storage/working space. **We will continue the Legacy Committee work** because that job isn't done yet. We do feel a sense of urgency relative to the cataloguing of the cabinets full of photos and pictures. Effecting long term repositories for our hardware artifacts will not be easy. The good news is that our „history“ documents already have a destination at the University's Charles Babbage Institute. Let any board member know what you are willing to do to help our Club during this transition time.

Two suggested New Year's resolutions which should be easy for you to keep! 1) Go to one more Club event than you did last year and 2) Contribute a personal or project paragraph to fill in any history gap you see on the legacy web site <http://vipclubmn.org>. Respectfully,
Lowell Benson, VIP Club President

Tom Turba, 2012

January/February 2012: With the New Year comes changes not only to the Officers to the VIP Club, but a change in when we will be having program meetings. Due to member

requests, the Club will now try to have program meetings during the day. This will start with the February meeting, which will be held at 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon at the Unisys plant in Roseville. Meetings after that are still being arranged, so check the monthly listings for time, date, and place.

Lowell Benson is now our immediate past president and remains our webmaster for the Club site. I am the President, and Bob (R. C.) Hanson is now our new Vice President. Keith Behnke takes over as our Database Administrator to replace Quint Heckert, who has left the snowy north and moved to sunny Arizona. The other members of the Board remain as they were.

There is always room for more people to help run the retirement club. We are looking for another Vice President come fall, and there is always room for more people to help arrange programs and run events. Just let one of us know if you are interested or have ideas that we could use. New blood and new ideas are always welcome

The Christmas party was an outstanding success and a survey of attendees showed that the earlier time of 4:00 p.m. was a good idea. This year's Christmas party will again be at the earlier time and again be at the Officer's Club at Ft. Snelling. I hope to see you at Club events during the New Year. Remain healthy, wealthy, and active until then. Respectfully, *Tom Turba*,
VIP Club President

Bob 'RC' Hanson, 2013

January/February 2013: There were two VIP gatherings in December at the Fort Snelling Officers Club. First, the Old Timers meeting was well attended by approximately 300 people, which provided the opportunity to visit with many friends from the past. The second was the annual Christmas party, which had a social hour followed by dinner and

Established in 1980 entertainment for listening and dancing, which made for an enjoyable evening. On behalf of all VIP members, we thank Lynn Lindholm for her seven years of service as club secretary. Respectfully, *Bob 'RC' Hanson*, VIP Club President

[Lowell Benson, 2014- 15](#)

January/February 2014: I am excited by the \$25,000 State Legacy Grant awarded to the Lawshe Museum in December; thanks to Harvey Taipale for his management skills in helping the Dakota County Historical Society develop the proposal. Details are in the Reports, Legacy Activities section on page 4. Welcome to our incoming Vice President, Bob Pagac. Bob retired from Lockheed Martin in 2011 after 44- years in a variety of engineering and management positions. For the last 2.5 years, he has been active supporting the Legacy photo identification efforts.

Thanks to all other Board Members, Board Associates, and Member Emeriti who are volunteering to continue VIP Club 2014 leadership roles. Tom Turba leaves the Club Board after seven years as a Past President, President, and VP – thanks for leading us! He will continue to serve the Club as a Board Associate, coordinating the Roseville Good Old Days – an annual event which he created in 2008 to bring Roseville retirees back together. Respectfully, *Lowell A. Benson*

January/February 2015: Do you see the Celebrating 35 icon in the UPCOMING EVENT ITEMS table just above? From the initial 70 members to ~870 in 2004 and now well over 1,000 members (with spouses, over 1,800); we are indeed an enduring organization. Our three-page constitution chartered a board of directors, authorizing them to develop a set of bylaws with four goals:

1. The CLUB shall provide an opportunity for social interaction of its members.
2. The CLUB shall provide services and information appropriate to the interest of its members.
3. The CLUB shall provide a mechanism for member services to the community.
4. The CLUB shall provide a forum for information on the heritage and on-going action of the heritage companies (Twin Cities based Univac/Unisys organizations and the predecessor and successor firms).

Our programs meet goal 1, our newsletter and web site meet goal 2, our annual April *Volunteer Recognition* event takes care of goal 3, and our volunteer work at the Lawshe Museum and with the Charles Babbage Institute at the University far exceeds goal No. 4.

My thanks to Past President Bob Hanson for the inspiring *Celebrating 35 - 1980 to 2015* theme. Thanks Millie for your vision, your continuing counsel, and steadfast support of me and the 17 previous presidents over these many years! We will celebrate our 35 successful years all year long! Respectively, *Lowell A. Benson - 2015* President

[Keith Behnke, 2016 – 17](#)

Welcome to 2016, seventy years after our original heritage company was founded. Our VIP Club tries to provide venues that enable many of us who have been part of the heritage companies to continue personal contacts with our “worker family”. Recently we sent a survey to all VIP Club members who have e-mail addresses and experienced a very good response. The Executive Board will be reviewing your opinions and use them to shape our activities in the future. A special thanks to all of those who took the time to respond. Knowing that there are seniors' clubs in many of your locations (see the table on the Recreation Page of the VIP Club web site) that provide a wide range of activities, the VIP Club

Established in 1980 tries to complement these offerings with special human interest and social programs that relate to our past company relationships. While many of our former employees have scattered across the country in their retirement years; a majority still reside, at least part of the year, in the Twin City area (as of December 2015 – 720 of the 920 membership units are in the 5-county area). We speak of “membership units” which are basically membership households and because spouses are also considered full members our individual membership count is 1625. We look forward to serving all of you with our newsletters, programs, and web site (<http://vipclubmn.org/>) during the coming year. Sincerely, *Keith Behnke*, 2016 Club President.

January/February 2017: Happy New Year! 2017 is a transition year for us; the Roseville Unisys operations will be moving into a wing of the Unisys Eagan building. No more evening program meetings in the Roseville plant and no more board meetings there after June. We will also transition our newsletter printing to the Eagan plant. To ease the transition the board has decided to issue six 2017 newsletters instead of the ten per year over the last decade.

We, as a board, have not planned any events for January and March in the Twin Cities. We suggest that our members join one of the periodic social gatherings listed on the back page. Our focus will be on these events interspersed with an occasional topical or entertainment program when appropriate. You will see an announcement of the April volunteer luncheon in this issue. The method of submitting your volunteer hours has been simplified so, hopefully, we will get more of our members who are doing volunteer activities to report their hours. We also want to encourage all volunteers to attend the

recognition luncheon. *Keith Behnke*, VIP Club President.

[Harvey Taipale, 2018 - 22](#)

January/February 2018: Greetings, and though it's a bit early, I wish you all a Happy New Year. We all need to say, "Thank You" to Keith Behnke for his past service as VIP Club President, VP, and Director (continuing to serve on the board as immediate past president), and Orrin McGill, who has retired from the board. We also welcome new Board Members; Steve Koltes (Vice President), Boni Westberg (Secretary), and Jim Andrews (Director). Together with the returning Board members, we happily begin the new year with a full slate of officers.



I recently attended a series of classes relating to people finding their motivations to propel them into the Third Chapter of life - the time when one is no longer constrained by one's vocation but is free to pursue one's avocation(s). The VIP Club is certainly an organization for that third chapter time. We are officially a non-profit social organization, and one of our goals is to promote opportunities for retirees to continue to maintain those enjoyable people connections we developed in our working careers. Structuring these events is not difficult and is enjoyable, but it does take some time, and we do depend on members to volunteer to pitch in. So, for all you third chapter folks with some spare energy, I would like to once again extend the invitation to volunteer to participate in helping with club events or for future Board positions.

Finally, we should be happy to hear that the Minnesota Historical Society, TPT, CBI, and the Dakota County Historical Society are collaborating to develop a documentary around the history of the computing industry

Established in 1980 in Minnesota. They have received a grant and hired two researchers, who are working on pulling the history together. They have been to the Lawshe Museum, and thanks to all those who have worked (and are still working) to catalog all the legacy material there, were extremely happy to find an organized source of information and photos that will make their job easier. The Lawshe continues to accept historical materials relating to the legacy of ERA, and volunteers continue to work every Tuesday, and would welcome involvement of anyone who is interested. *Harvey Taipale* VIP Club President.

January/February 2019: I had a very enjoyable time at the Dec. 6th Old Timers' Reunion. There were lots of great remembrances, many familiar faces and many I had not seen for a while. Represented were three or four "generations" of retirees, roughly corresponding to the eras when the company was in a big-time hiring mode. As I was driving home, a couple of thoughts crossed my mind. First, we collectively were fortunate in many ways. The days of the "old timers" were an exciting time in the computer industry, filled with many challenges. We had a great cadre of fellow workers, contributing at all levels from nuts and bolts to top management, fully capable of meeting those challenges, often excelling. While there were certainly ups and downs, I recall the underlying tone was generally one of collegiality and cooperation. There was an idea that we were in this together. That feeling fostered a sense of family, and I saw that same sense continuing in the camaraderie that was so obvious at the reunion. I really don't think today's corporate employee often gets to feel the same sense of community in the workplace.

Second, I think the creativity of those days is generally under-appreciated. As people talked

about past projects and programs, one couldn't help but respect the diversity of the undertakings - lots of electronic stuff for sure, but also networking technology, software innovation, Minnesota's first (maybe only) integrated circuit plant, and complex systems in ships, planes, submarines, and land bases. Behind all of these was a robust research activity and a whole layer of ingenuity in the factories and field service groups that delivered products and kept customers happy. Many of our business processes were outstanding. All of this was the output of smart, committed, and inventive people.

So, my final thought was that, although I would probably have never thought so at the time, I was extremely lucky to be a part of this era. I hope you all appreciate your good fortune too. Happy Holidays to all of you! *Harvey Taipale*, VIP Club President

January/February 2020: I have always been impressed with the loyalty of our Twin Cities' employees - not necessarily to whichever company we were at the time, but to the relationships they developed through their work associations. Our thanks to Millie Gignac, who forty years ago recognized the benefit of continuing those relationships after retirement and launched the VIP Club. The club continues to provide opportunities to maintain friendships forged during our working years.

To that end, the Club hosts several events during the year: a Holiday get together in January, Volunteer Luncheon in April, Roseville Good Old Days and Syttende Mai in May, the June picnic, the Unihogs/Technologists Reunion in November, and the Old Timers get together in December. This year we tested - successfully - hosting a Sept. Happy Hour.

The club newsletter provides an update to members six times a year, listing upcoming

Established in 1980 activities, historical tidbits, and death notices. Our website provides updated info, as well as historical data available at any time. We also began using Evite to help spread the word about upcoming events.

Club member volunteers are preserving our technological history by collecting and cataloging materials at the Dakota County Historical Society's Museum and at the Charles Babbage Institute.

All of this does take some effort, and I want to thank all of you who worked to make all this happen during the past year. I particularly want to thank Lowell Benson, who is retiring from the Board. Over the past many years, Lowell has served in every capacity on the Board, most recently as Newsletter Editor. Thanks, Lowell for your dedicated service.

I also want to invite the rest of our members to consider getting involved – we need ongoing help with the newsletter, board membership, and event organizing. The crew at Lawshe can always use more help. Think about joining in!

Merry Christmas everyone, and I wish you all a happy 2020, as we prepare to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Millie's creation, the VIP Club. *Harvey Taipale*, VIP Club President.

January/February 2021:

First some housekeeping. As you might imagine, when we don't get to sit together and we let the auto Zoom mediator decide who gets to talk, we don't do as good of a job communicating as we would like. It appears we confused some folks about free membership, so see our newsletter article on page 1 clarifying some of the questions that came up. Bottom line, everybody gets a free year as follows:

- If you're a member, do nothing, your free year has been automatically added.
- If you're not a member yet, you need to register.

Next, it now looks like there is some real hope regarding COVID. By the time you read this, vaccines are beginning, and most of us will probably be in the third wave of the rationing process. Assuming a lot of things, the VIP Club is tentatively planning for some resumption of traditional events later in 2021. We ARE planning to have a picnic. Depending on deployment of the vaccine, we hope our picnic happens at our traditional time of June, or, as fallbacks, July, or August. And the optimistic Norwegian contingent, maybe trying to propagate the notion of Norwegian invincibility, is proceeding to plan for Syttende Mai in May. We'll see . . . but I hope it happens. We will revisit the schedule at our February Board meeting.

In the meantime, there are some things that might interest our members.

First, there is the 75th anniversary of ERA's founding. Check out Lowell Benson's article surveying our history (see Legacy Tidbits reference to Anthologies Tell the Story); it all began in January of 1946 when ERA opened its doors. The progress of computer technology is truly amazing, but like any good house, it could not have been built upward without a good foundation, of which most of you were a part. Second, there is an upcoming event in Philadelphia commemorating the 75th anniversary of ENIAC. February 15 has been proclaimed ENIAC Day in Philadelphia, home of the University of Pennsylvania, where ENIAC was invented (see <https://eniaday.org>.) The Minnesota operations had nothing to do with ENIAC, but it is part of our corporate genealogy. ENIAC was manually programmed (a process that took weeks) by plugboards and

Established in 1980 switches and was initially used to calculate ballistic tables for the U.S. Army. As a reference point, the National Bureau of Standards' Standards Eastern Automatic Computer (SEAC) is generally recognized as the first stored program digital computer and was first demonstrated in April of 1950. The precise early operating schedule of the now unclassified ERA ATLAS is unclear, but it was installed and operational at the Navy's Nebraska Avenue site in December of 1950

(<http://vipclubmn.org/Articles/HistoryReview.pdf>).

Third, we all know that the Lockheed Martin contingent in Minnesota has been dispersed, but one of the places where some of our fellow employees ended up was at Marinette Wisconsin. Lockheed Martin is the prime contractor for one version of the U.S. Navy's Littoral Combat Ship (LCS), and Fincantieri Marinette Marine is Lockheed Martin's subcontractor shipbuilder. LCS 21 is named Minneapolis St. Paul, and is on track to be commissioned in May 2022. Commissioning is usually a big deal, and the Minnesota chapter of the Navy League oversees commissioning events, but, of course, COVID is impacting their plans. Check out <https://navyleaguemn.org/lcs-21> for the latest. Last report was that the ceremony would be in Duluth, and if it's open to the public, consider attending.

Finally, last issue's Your Story articles regarding COVID in Germany and Greece piqued my curiosity about Japan, where I visited several times to license the Q-70 for use in the Japanese Navy. I have lost contact with the people I knew (my last visit was 14 years ago), so I hit Google and was flabbergasted. Japan, with a population of 125 million, has had about half the total number of COVID cases we have had in Minnesota (population

5.6 million) and far fewer deaths. No lockdowns, just advocating avoidance of the three Cs: Closed spaces, Crowded places, and Close-contact settings. Japan has always had a mask-wearing ethic, along with a cultural sense of obedience to authority and great consideration for not impinging on someone else's space. I suspect those factors are responsible for their success so far, although their current infection rate is on an upswing, just like most of the rest of the world.

Stay safe and hang in there—only a few more months to go. *Harvey Taipale*, VIP Club President.

January/February 2022: Recently, someone at the Minnesota Historical Society interviewed me about my career at Univac and successor companies. I was not unique—many others have been interviewed or will be interviewed. This is a current project to further preserve information about the early development of Minnesota technology companies. While discussion included projects and programs we all worked on, there was also quite a bit of questioning regarding the people in the company and their working and social relationships.

The people part of this session served as a reminder of the connections I developed at work over the years and all the intersections between their lives and mine. Some of these connections were casual, but others are very long-lasting and deep, and if I am honest, I must confess that many of these people have influenced the trajectory of my life. As a case in point, a fellow employee introduced me to the gal who became my wife—52 years and counting!

There was something quite wonderfully unusual about our workplace. In my career, I interacted with many other companies and many other operating units of whatever

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corporate entity we were at the time. I never observed another organization that had the same deep-down sense of unity, dedication to success, and esprit de corps that I experienced every day in my home organization. It wasn't just Minnesota Nice, but it was a strong collegial commitment to delivering to the customers, who had put their faith in us, that ultimately bound everyone together. It was an attitude that was passed along to generations of people and organizations that established a big part of the corporate culture here.

That wasn't only my observation—the interviewer indicated that other interviewees had similar observations. I am also willing to bet that most of the “old timers” in the VIP Club would have similar observations and feel the same way. That might not be unique in the world, but it certainly is rare.

So, you might ask, where is all this philosophizing going? Well, several places. First, the VIP Club is an organization where we all can keep some of those connections going, as recently happened at the Old Timers' Reunion, and at other club events. So, it's worthwhile for all of you to keep the club rolling by participating, supporting events, or even volunteering to be a board member. Second, remember our legacy history efforts. Contribute your historical materials, or volunteer to help process all this material. It certainly wouldn't hurt to help support the Charles Babbage Institute (CBI), Dakota County Historical Society (DCHS) and the Minnesota Historical Society, either. Both CBI and DCHS have been strong resources in preserving the history of our Twin Cities operations, and the VIP Club maintains a membership in both organizations.

Finally, if you or someone you know should be interviewed by the Minnesota Historical

Society, let me know and I will pass their names on.

Meanwhile, plan to continue to participate in club events, notably the upcoming Volunteer Luncheon in April, and Roseville Good Old Days in May. The club is also considering a casual “Happy Hour” get-together in late February or early March, conditions permitting. Watch for an invite or check the website announcements (<http://vipclubmn.org>). *Harvey Taipale*, VIP Club President

FEBRUARYs

February 2004: All nine of the newly elected VIP Club board met for the first time on Wednesday, 7 January, in Roseville. We welcomed Joe Schwarz as a new director and gave recognition in absentia to Warren Becker, vacationing in Arizona. Warren has helped the club and its members in so many ways. The VIP Club remains solvent after our Christmas party and the treasurer's books have been audited.

Phyllis Salchow, a registered occupational therapist with the Phillips Eye Institute, spoke at our January program. We all learned how important it is to take good care of our eyes. She described normal eye functions, common age-related problems, and solutions. Also, she talked about eye diseases of concern to seniors, such as macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, and cataracts. She also demonstrated some adaptive techniques and had many handouts for us. About 50 members attended to learn about such a pertinent subject. It was good to see more Lockheed Martin members journey to the meeting. Also, a member from Wisconsin drove about 200 miles round trip to attend. We all enjoyed a very pleasant and informative evening. Respectfully, *Dale Phelps*, VIP President

February 2005: There isn't one of us who would want a medical emergency. If that time

Established in 1980 came, every precious minute would count. Patti McCauley, Education Coordinator and Paramedic from ALF Ambulance Service in Apple Valley told us about the "VIAL OF L.I.F.E." program. The VIAL OF L.I.F.E is a way of making personal medical information available to paramedics or other first responders should they be called to your home. The medical information is stored in a plastic bag that is put in your refrigerator. This information is extremely important at the time of an emergency. Medical forms were given out to complete and an explanation of the red sticker in the bag which is to be placed on the outside of the refrigerator door. Ms. McCauley also demonstrated the Automatic External defibrillators that are now in many public buildings. If we have helped to save just one life, this program has had its merits. You might want to check your own area ambulance service or police for more information.

I encourage you to renew your VIP Club membership for the newsletter. If you do not have a 5 after your name, you have not renewed for 2005. If you have an interesting article for the newsletter, we encourage you to submit it to the attention of your editors.

We are also discussing with Judy Cогnetta of Unisys the annual VIP Club Volunteer Recognition Breakfast which would be held the third week in April 2005. Volunteer Survey forms and firm information on the breakfast will be included in the March Newsletter.

Also, I want to announce a change of the month for our annual picnic. This year it will be held the 13th of July at Highland Park. Highland Park is being renovated and no June reservations were permitted. Chuck Homan did his yeoman duty in getting it reserved again. Thank you, Chuck. Respectfully,
Dale Phelps, VIP Club President

February 2006: The VIP Board met at Unisys Roseville on January 4th. As part of this meeting, the Board reviewed the status of our Christmas Dinner-Dance since we had some complaints that the service at the NCO Club was slow and that some members received incorrect food orders. Based on the discussions that followed it was decided to evaluate the Mermaid Club in Mounds View as an alternative to again holding the Christmas Dinner-Dance at the NCO Club; after further discussion the Board decided it would vote on this matter at a special meeting after the general meeting on January 11th. On January 11th the Board voted on the two alternatives and decided to renew the contract for the Christmas Dinner-Dance at the NCO Club for this year for Thursday, December 14th, 2006.

The program on January 11th featured a narrated slide show by Jack Farber, our Club Secretary and world traveler. The show featured his May 2005 trip to Northern France including Paris, the beaches at Normandy, Gardens of Claude Monet, and Chateaus of the French nobility. There were approximately 40 VIP Club members in attendance. I am pleased to announce that Unisys as part of National Volunteer Month will again host the Annual "Volunteer Recognition Breakfast" for members of the VIP Club. This Breakfast is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19th at Unisys, Roseville. Members are asked to complete a Survey Form – this form is used to recognize and tabulate the many volunteer efforts that members perform in behalf of many charitable and civic organizations. All VIP Club members who submit the "Volunteer Hours Survey Form for the Year 2005" are invited to the recognition breakfast. Details for completing the survey are provided in the form provided on page 5 of this Newsletter. Joe Schwarz and Dale Phelps will assist me in compiling the survey data and preparing the program for this event.

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On January 12th as part of the VIP Club's ongoing support of the Lockheed Martin Legacy project, Dick Lundgren, Lowell Benson, and I visited the Charles Babbage Institute with John Skonnord of Lockheed Martin. We reviewed files from ERA and Univac, the predecessor companies to Lockheed Martin Tactical Systems, for files which might provide pertinent information on the early development history of the computing industry. Lowell has created a sample web site for discussion purposes. This site will be available to those who want to review the Legacy files.

On a personal note, Warren Becker, (former VIP President, long-time Board Director, and Cochairman of the Christmas dinner-dance event with his wife, Dorothy) had a serious accident the day before Christmas and has been in Hennepin County Medical Center since that time. He is expected to be discharged from the hospital the week of January 16th. On behalf of the VIP Club, we wish him a speedy recovery. Respectfully, *Bernie Jansen*, VIP Club President

January/February newsletters are combined since 2007.

MARCHS

March 2004: Our February VIP Club program was held in the new Eagan Community Center. Teacher Robert Scurrah gave an eye-opening presentation on what is happening in some of our schools. He related instances of students concocting harassment complaints against teachers and how the justice system, to protect the students, starts by assuming the worst on the part of the teachers. Parents should get more involved in the education system and know what their children are doing. Robert taught in the school system and shared first-hand knowledge of the

problems in two of the schools in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

UNISYS in Roseville will host our annual VIP Club Volunteer Recognition breakfast on April 21, 2004, at 8:30 am. You are encouraged to send your "VIP Club Volunteer Hours Survey Form for the Year 2003" found on page 7. Bernie Jansen and John Dufour will be coordinating this effort, Jack Farber is arranging the entertainment. You deserve to be recognized and we hope you will turn in your form.

I failed to recognize Past President Hank Dotzler in the January and February VIP Newsletters. Hank served two years as President, and we want to thank him for all his contributions and let Hank know how much we appreciated him. To all the other officers and board members, thank you too.

We invite all retirees to join us and enjoy the VIP Club and the programs in Eagan and Roseville. Remember, this is your VIP Club!
Respectfully, *Dale Phelps*, VIP President.

March 2005: Now that the Ground Hog saw his shadow on February 2nd, 2005, in Minnesota, we can expect six more weeks of winter. The February VIP Club program was held in Roseville. Our intrepid world traveler, Jack Farber, shared his slides and experiences of his visit to Israel and Egypt. The presentation was very appropriate for the date of our program being Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Jack did an excellent job of narrating the slides and it did give us a better understanding of the happenings in this part of the world. Thank you Jack!!

UNISYS in Roseville will again host our annual VIP Club Volunteer Recognition Breakfast on April 20, 2005, at 8:30 AM. All VIP Club members who submit the survey form are invited to the recognition breakfast. Details for

Established in 1980 completing the survey are provided in the "Volunteer Hours Survey Form for the Year 2004" found in this Newsletter. We encourage everyone to send in your Survey Form by April 8th. Bernie Jansen will be coordinating this effort.

Our speaker for our March program meeting to be held at the Eagan Community Center will be Coleen Rowley, former FBI Agent, and outstanding patriot. She will speak on ethical behavior, and I encourage everyone to attend.

Stay warm and healthy the rest of the winter and we will all look forward to an enjoyable spring. Respectfully, *Dale Phelps*, VIP Club President

March 2006: Our 8 February program featured a slide presentation by Lyall Schwarzkopf on the damming of the Yangtze River. Lyall is well traveled and has been a frequent visitor to China, so his narration was particularly broad and well informed. When Lyall asked how many in the audience had visited the Three Gorges area, approximately one-fourth of the 46 present raised their hands. More telling of his show was the flat palette presented by the slides; no shadows or hint of a sun in the sky apparent - air pollution in areas with population or industry keep all in constant haze. (As an aside, remember the great slide quality of the presentations of our own master photographer and world-traveler Jack Farber.)

We also conducted an informal poll to test interest in the Mermaid Club in Mounds View as an alternative to the NCO Club as our Christmas Dinner-Dance site. At the January meeting in Roseville, the audience split 17-17 in a show of hands. At the Eagan meeting, the hands were 17 for staying at the NCO Club vs. 3 for changing to the Mermaid.

Your February newsletter announced that Unisys would again host the Volunteer

Recognition Breakfast on Wednesday, April 19. Volunteers, please complete and return the survey form and be recognized for your charitable and civic efforts. All who submit the survey form by April 8 are invited to the breakfast. Mary Hall will provide vocal entertainment with guitar accompaniment.

Lastly, Dick (Ole) Olson of LM spoke of the LM Legacy Initiative, brought copies of computer genealogies and histories, and requested interested retirees to sign-up for his emails and to help with the task. Dick Lundgren then spoke of the visit to the Charles Babbage Institute by Bernie, Dick, Lowell Benson, and John Skonnord (LM) in January. Copies of his report were available, and we will hopefully have a net link for the Legacy Initiative soon.

Respectfully, *Brian Berggren*, VIP Club Vice-president

March 2007: First, a big thanks to Tom, Bernie, Joe, Lowell, and the rest of the board for allowing Barbara and me to spend a month plus in Gulfport, MS, helping the brother-in-law after back surgery. Next, send your volunteer hours to Bernie for the April Volunteer Breakfast.

For you older "old-timers," the original Geek Squad meets for lunch the first Friday at the old Parrish's site. Also, help Ole and the Legacy effort by sending him your career info.

Lastly, those who attended the February program got a treat from Bob Price, the Control Data CEO who followed Bill Norris. Bob told us how lucky and proud we should feel for being in on the start of the computer industry as he reminisced about the people and machines that led that development.

Respectfully, *Brian Berggren*, VIP Club President

March 2008: For those of you that could not attend the February meeting, Major Cynthia Rasmussen, a psychiatric nurse, and the

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Combat Operational Stress Control Officer with the 88th Regional (Midwest) Readiness Command Surgeon's Office, gave an excellent presentation on the kind of problems our returning veterans face readjusting to life when coming back home after living for an extended period in a war zone. It's important for families, friends, coworkers, and other people to be aware of the problems a veteran may encounter when readjusting to "normal" life.

It is Major Rasmussen's job to help veterans and their families recognize the problems they may be having, deal with them, and move forward in their lives. She is more than willing to help any veteran you know that is facing readjustment problems and has not overcome the major change in life experienced on returning home.

We have several handouts from the meeting that we will send to anyone who requests them. The handouts can help you identify if there is a problem and give you contact information where help can be found.

It is always better to help than to do nothing.

Respectfully, *Tom Turba*, VIP Club Vice President

March 2009: Our speaker at the February meeting, Ted Olson from The Nature Conservancy, did a wonderful job of explaining what the Conservancy does to help preserve and restore native land in Minnesota, other states, and around the world by working together with local people, corporations, government agencies and other nonprofit groups. Their main philosophy is to work with others to accomplish a goal rather than to confront people to try and make a point. The talk was enjoyed by all the twenty some people present.

A couple of changes have been made to the Volunteer Recognition Breakfast. Because there is no longer a cafeteria in the Roseville Unisys plant, the breakfast this year will be held at the Tri-City American Legion in New Brighton. The date has also been changed to Wednesday, April 15th so that it would not conflict with another event. If you have done volunteer service in the last year and have not already sent in your hours electronically or with the form in the newsletter, please do so as soon as possible.

As we see every day, we live in changing times. Who would have ever imagined the Internet, electronic commerce, iPods, iPhones, and all the other marvels that are now common practice? Electronic mail is now much more used than postal mail ever was. Part of that is because it is cheaper and quicker. The VIP Club is now in the process of adding e-mail addresses to our member database and will begin using e-mail, and the posting of information on our webpages, for a more timely and efficient distribution of member communications. See the accompanying article on page 3.

Spring will soon be here with green grass and flowers, and our June picnic will follow not long after. It is always good to get out with friends in the fresh air. If you have ideas of activities the club should be doing to get members together, please let me or another club officer know. Respectfully, *Tom Turba*, VIP Club President.

March 2010: Tom Turba, our President, had a stroke on January 22nd. As I write this newsletter message, the Regions Hospital Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy specialists have evaluated his progress and home „set up“ determining that he can go home before you, the reader, get this Newsletter. Over the next month or two Tom's three problems to work on in therapy are his

Established in 1980 right eye, his left leg, and his left arm. We who've seen him in the hospital are encouraged by his positive attitude and efforts to regain physical health. He's even doing some e-mail, one-eyed and one-handed!

So, as Vice President, I either must or get to write these monthly messages and lead the agenda at the Club's board meetings. First a recap of the Club's 2009 highlights: In January we observed the sealing of Minnesota's bicentennial time capsule which contains a couple of our Legacy artifacts and a report about our 2008 sesquicentennial activities. In February, after some experiments, we opened electronic newsletter notification/distribution to the membership. In April we moved the April Volunteer Recognition Breakfast to the Tri-City American Legion Post because the plant 4 cafeteria was no longer in operation. In June, our '09 summer picnic was attended by over 100 persons, punctuated with a Members Emeriti award to Chuck and Midge Homan. Chuck coordinated the picnic for the club for many, many years after he had served as Club President. July saw a raise of our membership fees, the first in over a decade.

August was marked with the passing of ERA pioneer John „Jack“ Hill at age 99, Jack was supervisor of the ATLAS installation team in the fall of 1950. I'd like to publicly thank Don Weidenbach for representing us at the memorial service. In September about 50 members came to the Eagan Community Center to hear Dr. Tom Misa present our history beginning with the formation of ERA. In October instead of a pot luck lunch or dinner, we experimented with a pumpkin pie and ice cream social followed by a Cuba slide show from Tom Turba. In November, the 2009 board was re-elected to serve during 2010. At our December annual Christmas dinner/dance we honored Warren and Dorothy Becker with the

Members Emeriti award, recognizing their dozen years coordinating the Christmas party.

This year was jump started with the January 3rd Pioneer Press article "The almost Silicon Valley" written by Tom Webb. Then on January 20th we set up a Legacy artifact and document exhibit in the Walter Library at the University of Minnesota. This spring semester we're featuring Mr. Webb's article and a theme of memory technology that started with the DRUM MEMORY as the world's first „hard-drive“.

As we look ahead to the rest of 2010 - our Program Coordinator, Dale Phelps, is arranging several excellent programs in both Eagan and Plant 4. At our February 10th program, nationally acclaimed Charlie Maguire brought his voice, guitar, harmonica, spoons, and jaw harp for a one-of-a kind-program of songs and stories about Minnesota. Wow, a grand program – perhaps we'll invite him back next year. In August we'll celebrate 30 years of Club existence – we invite all Club members to contact any board member to let him/her know about your „celebration“ ideas.

In closing, I encourage each of you to look at, then process, the 2009 Volunteer Hours Form (page 7) in this Newsletter. If possible, also join us for breakfast and speaker Jim Braebeck on April 21st at 8:30 a.m. - again at the Tri-City Legion Post in New Brighton. Respectively yours, *Lowell A. Benson*.

March 2011: Transition of LMCO jobs to other facilities is now underway. John Samuelson was named as General Manager to oversee the transitions. Some VIP Club transitions are also underway. How many of you read the „boiler plate“ on page 10 of the Jan/Feb newsletter? There is a new entry "Recreation Leagues, Keith Behnke, *894-2182." Keith has joined the VIP Club Board as an Associate to coordinate communications

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with the golf league, the trap & skeet league, the electronics club, the toastmasters, etc. as the „boards“ of those activities decide whether to continue after the plant closes. In the future, notes about these activities may begin to appear in the newsletter and/or on the VIP Club web site. Our May program will be in the MACS building conference room just inside the visitor's entrance instead of at the Eagan Community Center. We'll resume cookies and coffee at this program. The Board has arranged to hold our annual Christmas Dinner at the Ft. Snelling Officers Club instead of the Service Club so that attendees don't have to go through the security gate rigmarole. Our intent is also to start the event earlier so that guests can avoid some rush hour traffic.

Another transition is underway in the Northern side of the Twin Cities. After two decades of 2nd Wednesday of the month breakfasts at the New Brighton Tri-City Legion, a UNISYS retirees' group is now meeting monthly at the New Brighton Eagles Club (just a block north.) Our annual volunteer recognition breakfast will also be at Gina's Café in the Eagles building on April 20th, please notice the address change on the Volunteer Survey form and on the web site.

Another transition in progress, the Blue Bell retirees club now has a new president, Joe La Viola, as Al Rollins has stepped down. The Board exchanges newsletters with that group. Our website links page also links to their web site.

Although we have dates set for future programs; if you have a topic or speaker you'd like to see us schedule, please contact any board member and we'll try to set it up.

Respectfully, *Lowell Benson*, VIP Club President

March 2012: For those of you that missed it, we had a good afternoon presentation by State Trooper Mike Fredrickson at the Roseville plant with details of how he had helped save two people earlier in the day that had been thrown out of their car. Evaluation is still being done on the scheduling of program meetings, to see if earlier in the day works out better for most people, and what the problems may be. The next meeting in Eagan will again be earlier in the day.

If you help other people and volunteer your time and knowledge, take a few minutes, and fill out the Survey Form in this Newsletter to see how much time we are all spending helping others while being retired. Also, plan on going to the volunteer breakfast in April to share your stories with others.

As you may have heard, Unisys has signed a 5-year lease to stay in their current building in Roseville but will be consolidating into about 1/3 the space on the west side of the building. Lockheed Martin continues to close their plant in Eagan and is working with the Dakota County Historical Society for preserving history items there. We expect to have a walk-through of the plant in May for those that are interested.

I hope to see you at future Club events during the year. Respectfully, *Tom Turba*, VIP Club President

March 2013: Planning has started for the GRAND REUNION PINIC to be held on 12 June at Highland Park. This year we will not be asking attendees to bring food items, they will be purchased based on the early registration data. This newsletter contains instructions on how to register, which must be done by May 15. It is extremely important that we have an accurate count of attendees so we can purchase the appropriate quantities.

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Our history will be preserved due to the efforts of many volunteers who identified what was on photos, sorted and organized documents, etc. The organizations that are the recipients of the data and some equipment are The Dakota County Historical Society and the Babbage Institute. Dakota County is planning to use the equipment as part of a display that shows our companies contribution in the development of computers. Respectfully, *Bob 'RC' Hanson*, VIP Club President

March 2014: I herewith apologize for the misleading item in the Jan/Feb VIP Club newsletter "Missed Obits: James Patrick informed us in late November that Bob Faust and Errol Morrison passed away in 2013. We did not receive detail obits for them." Within an hour of the electronic news distribution, Jim Frazier sent us a link to an obit for Errol Morrison. The next day, Myron Lecy called John Westergren stating that he'd just spoken with Bob Faust. After some more internet communications, it was determined that Jim Patrick was indeed correct; however, he was referring to E. Robert 'Bob' Faust who was a 30+ year employee of Sperry in South Carolina. I then telephoned and apologized to our Twin Cities Robert 'Bob' Faust for spreading a word of his demise. Toward that end, if you've heard of the passing of a former colleague - please provide us with a link to the obit! It is a good thing that a few are put behind bars for believing what is read on the internet. Sorry that I submitted the item to the newsletter without checking further. Five days before our February program meeting; Ray Quinn, the scheduled speaker, called Dale Phelps, our program coordinator, informing him of David Fitch as a substitute speaker. We wish Mr. Quinn well as he recovers from a heart attack. At the 2/12 program, a baker's dozen of our members listened to Mr. Fitch speak about "Aid and Attendance Benefit Services"

(A&ABS), a VA benefit program enacted in 1951 for WWII veterans. The VA also refers to this as the "Improved Pension Program." Since the inception, it has been extended to cover Korean conflict and Viet Nam war veterans. We had club member veterans in attendance from each of these three wars! One of the qualification requirements of the A&ABS is that the veteran is 65 years old, thus Golf War and recent middle east veterans don't qualify yet. Mr. Fitch fielded many diverse audience questions, if any reader has individual eligibility questions - contact him at www.eldercareminnesota.com.

Respectfully, *Lowell A. Benson*

March 2015: I just re-read our 30-year anniversary booklet prepared by Quint Heckert - on line at <http://vipclubmn.org/Articles/30yrBooklet.pdf>. I'd like to note one paragraph: "Since the clubs inception members have provided in excess of 438,120 hours of volunteerism: that's over 50 person years of volunteer efforts for such diverse activities as ushers at the Guthrie Theater and for the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, critique presentations of law students at William Mitchell Law School, phone work for public television fund raisers, United Way, Wright Brothers National Memorial, etc. Through these activities club members have not only served their communities but have also been good-will ambassadors of our companies."

At the 2012 Volunteer Recognition Breakfast, Coordinator Bernie Jansen reported that "the estimated value of the reported Volunteer Services contributed by VIP Club members for the year 2011 was over \$550,000" (26,029 hrs @\$21/hr.) Reported hours via surveys for 2010 through 2013 have added another 95,478 hours to total 533,598 hrs.

Quint's and Bernie's numbers are based on our annual surveys - I can't help but wonder what

Established in 1980 the real numbers should be or could be. Less than 15% of our membership has been returning the survey forms! I challenge you, our members to respond to the 2015 survey now with your 2014 volunteer hours! Respectively, *Lowell A. Benson* - 2015 President.

March 2016: Back in October I talked about the subject of volunteering. Each year we ask VIP Club members to submit a summary of volunteer efforts that they were involved in. We are at that time again and would ask you to use one of the three options provided on page 5 to let us know about the things you did in 2015. From my discussions with other retirees, I know that many, if not most, of them do some volunteer work. It may be for a religious group, non-profit, civic group, school, or other organization. Some have told me they don't want any special recognition but as a retirement club we think it is important to make sure its members are rewarded for the wonderful things they do for others. Submitting this data lets us collect the total amount that club members contribute and lets us brag a bit about how great our membership is. The VIP Club's Volunteer Luncheon will be held at Joseph's Grill in St. Paul again this year, a beautiful venue with great food. It will be held on Wednesday, April 20, at 11:00 AM. Please join us there as a reward for your generous contribution. Sincerely, *Keith Behnke*, 2016 Club President.

March/April 2017:

We've now combined March/April issues as we transition to six board action meetings per year.

How did you like the stadium tour? For us that were there it was quite an experience and with the Super Bowl coming here next year, that

should be an awesome event. In the meantime, I hope to see some more new faces at the upcoming Volunteer's Luncheon. Please get your inputs in and join us at Joseph's restaurant in St. Paul for a delicious luncheon and meet some of the VIP Club's other volunteers. We will see the golf leagues starting soon with a tournament to kick off the season in mid-April (review the golf league website at <http://www.ulglmn.org/umgl/> to see what the whole season looks like) and consider joining us.

With Unisys vacating their facility in Roseville and moving much of what was there to the facility in Eagan, we are going to bi-monthly newsletter and Executive Board meetings, but the planned activities for our members will go on as in the past. After the Volunteer Luncheon comes the Syttende Mai and Roseville's Good Old Days in May, the annual Reunion Picnic in June, a river boat outing (in the planning stages) in August, an open house at Unisys in Eagan (with refreshments) in September, a pie and ice cream social in October, the annual Unihogs/Uniturkeys in November, and the Old Timers gathering in December. There is a possibility that we may make some changes to the Christmas Party and will let you know when it is firmed up. So, get these things on your calendar (visit the VIP Club website at <http://vipclubmn.org/> to get date and location information from the "Planning Ahead" column on the Home Page. I'm looking forward to seeing you at many of these events. *Keith Behnke*, VIP Club President.

March/April 2018: Greetings to our members and readers! If you weren't there for our inaugural Holiday Party on January 7th, you missed a great time. Good fellowship, good food, and a fine concert from the Eagan Men's Chorus (remember the Sperryaires?) Thanks to Keith Behnke and the Chorus for providing a

Established in 1980 delightful afternoon for attending club members.

As the researchers continue to dig into the history of the computing industry in Minnesota, I have been struck by a couple of things. First, the young generations today haven't a clue about what the world was like before everyone had a supercomputer in their hip pocket. They have no concept of how hard (and expensive) it was to start the world on the path of technological progress that got us to today, where access to data and communications are everywhere and almost free. I am thankful that this effort is finally underway via a Minnesota Legacy Grant; participants are Twin Cities Public Television (TPT), Minnesota High Tech-Association, CBI, U of MN researchers, and DCHS with some volunteer inputs from Club members. I am looking forward to how the pros manage to tell the story in a way that recognizes the innovative contributions of so many people.

Second, I was looking back at our website, and find that 2018 marks two huge 60-year industry anniversaries. In 1958 Remington Rand UNIVAC delivered the first Naval Tactical Data Systems' computer to the U.S. Navy and UNIVAC delivered an ERA 1103 Computer, S/N 3 to the University of Minnesota. The delivery to the Numerical Analysis Center under Dr. Marvin Stein marked the beginning of the University's Computer Science Department. And the NTDS delivery was the beginning of a long-lasting core business for the company.

I'm guessing that there are lots of other milestones that occurred over the years that aren't on our web site but should be. As researching historians parse through lots of data to paint the picture of the early days; they do look at the career summaries and remembrances therein. If you haven't done a career summary, I urge you to consider submitting one. People often say that they

never did anything "big," but the reality is that everyone was a contributor, and it takes adding up all the contributions to tell the whole story.

Don't forget to join us on April 11 at Joseph's Grill for our annual Volunteer Recognition Lunch. Register by submitting your volunteer survey (in the newsletter or on the web site). There is no requirement for minimum number of hours, anyone who volunteers is welcome, and best of all, the lunch is free. We know that club members are active in many ways in their community, and this is one opportunity to say "Thanks." *Harvey Taipale* VIP Club President.

March/April 2019: Many years ago, one of the political parties in Minnesota adopted a theme of "There Ain't No Such Thing as a Free Lunch!" Well, times have changed; on April 10th, you all have a great opportunity to prove that statement false. Of course, I am referring to the VIP Club annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon at Joseph's Grill in St. Paul. Thru the years, the club members have been outstanding volunteers in their individual communities, and the Club is very pleased to recognize the contributions of all of you by hosting a FREE lunch. Josephs serves great food, has plenty of room, and it's a good opportunity to socialize with your fellow volunteers and find out some of the many ways our members are giving of their time to their favorite organizations and groups. So, sign up now (mail, email, or on-line), mention your favorite volunteer activity, and then join us on April 10th!

On the topic of supporting organizations, the VIP Club will be celebrating a milestone in 2019 - 40 years ago Millie Gignac had the vision to launch an organization to support retired employees in maintaining the connections that they developed over their working careers. There will be more on a celebration later this year, but in the meantime, you can all

Established in 1980 encourage fellow employees to join the Club. Anyone who ever worked as an employee of ERA/Univac in the Twin Cities, or any of their follow-on organizations (including Sperry, Unisys, Loral/Lockheed) is eligible to join, either as an associate member (under 55) or as a voting member (55 up). The corporate presence of our past employers is diminishing, but the Club is still here after 40 years. Come and join us! Happy spring to each of you! *Harvey Taipale, VIP Club President*

March/April 2020: 2020 marks the 40th anniversary of the VIP club, and after 40 years, things are changing a bit. First, we welcome our new newsletter Editor, Mary Beth Ruhland. As reported last issue, Lowell has decided to become more retired, and Mary Beth has taken on the role of Editor. She is a Lockheed retiree, worked in the publications area. Both her parents were also employees, and her father was a previous club board member. {Richard J. and Theresa Mullins – read his obit on page 3 of <http://vipclubmn.org/Newsletters/Enews1607.pdf>}.

Speaking of the newsletter, the Board would welcome any feedback you might have regarding newsletter content. What don't you particularly like, and what other areas might you like to see added? Do you have a burning desire to contribute any article of interest? Was there an important milestone you want to share? Call, write, or email any of the board members with your thoughts.

We also have an important date for you to save – the club will host a 40th anniversary party on the afternoon of September 15th, 2020, at the Royal Cliff event center in Eagan. More details and sign-up info to follow in the next newsletter but mark your calendars and spread the word.

The VIP club is also moving. Some of you may remember when there was a clubroom in the Shepard Road plant, and members could get a free lunch in the cafeteria. Well, both that plant and the free lunch are long gone, and our "home" has been a post office box in Roseville. As the club membership has gradually drifted to the south area (almost half of our members live in Dakota County alone), regular mail pick-up in Roseville is getting to be more of a challenge, so we are moving our PO box to Eagan. HOWEVER, the Roseville box is still active and will remain so for some time during the transition. You may keep using the Roseville address to send in your renewals and volunteer reservations for the FREE volunteer brunch on April 8th at Josephs. See you then. *Harvey Taipale, VIP Club President.*

March/April 2021: The VIP Club Board continues to believe there is a light at the end of this pandemic tunnel, and we are proceeding to schedule VIP Club social events beginning in June. Barring any major setbacks, outdoor weather, greater distribution of vaccine, and modest safety precautions should allow us to gather safely, beginning with our traditional picnic in June.

Last year, we postponed our 40th anniversary bash to September 14, 2021, and that reschedule looks like a go. Watch for future newsletters and check the website (www.vipclubmn.org) for the latest.

One event that we are regretfully missing this year is the Volunteer Recognition lunch. After some deliberation, the feeling of the board was that April was just a little too soon to have an indoor event. This lunch has been traditionally scheduled to coincide with National Volunteer Month, and April 18-24 has been designated National Volunteer Week. Volunteerism is an under-appreciated component of the U.S. economy– about 25 percent of our population volunteers, with an

Established in 1980 estimated dollar value in the hundreds of billions of dollars. But the dollars and hours are only part of the story. Volunteers are more than free workers; they accomplish so many good things that wouldn't happen if it were left to the for-profit sector or Government sector. In my experience, these achievements really help other people and a great diversity of worthwhile organizations.

Minnesota is right up there nationally in volunteerism, and the Twin Cities are the top participating area of Minnesota. I know many of our members are a strong part of this record of achievement. VIP Club members have contributed tens of thousands of hours every year supporting churches, social agencies, civic organizations and friends and neighbors. Many of you have indicated that you don't want recognition, but the fact is that this world would be a much less nice place without your efforts. Our club get-together is a small way to collectively say Thank You and we all look forward to better times in 2022. Meanwhile, everyone should stop for a moment in April and give volunteers a virtual pat on the back. Last issue I mentioned the commissioning ceremony of LCS 21, the Minneapolis-St Paul, originally planned for May in Duluth. Well, things have changed—the ship class has been found to have a design flaw in the system that combines the power output of two gas turbine engines (think jetliner engine) and two diesel engines. Until they get a handle on this, the commissioning is on hold for an indeterminate time. If any of you are interested in going when it does happen, however, I recommend you go ahead now and request tickets at <https://navyleaguemn.org>. They will forward requests to the U.S. Navy, who will issue free official tickets when the commissioning occurs. This will be a great event and summer in Duluth will be a better time. *Harvey Taipale*, VIP Club President

March/April 2022: It occurs to me that occasionally, the president ought to talk about the overall state of the VIP Club. We haven't done that for a while, so here are a couple of comments. First, we have a strong population of members, with over 750 active members, mostly in Minnesota, but also throughout the country.

Second, the VIP Club is financially sound. Many of our events are structured to break even financially. Unisys continues to provide our newsletter printing and mailing. We continue to have a good renewal income each year, so the club can afford to subsidize certain events like the 40(First) Anniversary Party, the Annual Reunion Picnic and the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. While these are great events, the board has a constant concern over the number of nonparticipants who are not realizing all the benefits of club membership.

The board often discusses our long-term viability. We are a retiree group for local companies that trace some legacy to Engineering Research Associates (ERA), or local UNIVAC organizations, if you prefer. Unisys, the last local legacy company, has shrunk from thousands of employees in its heyday to a few hundred today. Lockheed Martin, the last holder of the defense operations, is down to less than a hundred people locally. The base for producing future retirees has dramatically shrunk. Previous retirees are regularly disappearing—it's tough to face the result of the aging process, but it's inescapable.

All this means that the population of retirees—our member base—is going to diminish at some point in the future to where the currently constituted VIP Club becomes a non-sustainable entity. This is certainly not in our immediate future but is worthy of some thought. Let me assure everyone that the club intends to continue to keep on with our

Established in 1980 traditional events for several years in the future. But, without some changes, this will eventually come to an end.

Broadly, we have several possibilities. First, we can gracefully go about our business until we hit some level of dysfunction and disband with one last hurrah. This is essentially what the Blue Bell retiree group did.

A second option could be to expand our reach of retirees. Perhaps we reach beyond our company to include employees of all the various spinout companies that arose from the early ERA presence in the Twin Cities. Another option could be to refocus the mission of the VIP Club to something new. Suggestions have included:

- Promoting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in Minnesota
- Advocacy for technology
- More education of the history of the computer business arising from ERA et al
- And . . . lots of variations in between.

Membership qualifications would be realigned with the new club focus. I am sure that the creative energy of our members can come up with more ideas. So, I am asking for input from all of you—what do you think? What ideas do you have?

I reiterate that nothing is going to change in the near-term. Keep your membership up and keep coming to events. Change takes time, and by thinking about the future we want (Earl Joseph would be happy), we have a better chance of making it happen. Call, write or e-mail any of the board members with your thoughts, ideas, comments, or concerns. If you want more direct involvement, consider coming to a board meeting or volunteering for board membership.

In the meantime, make your reservations for the April Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, join us for the March Happy Hour, and put the

Roseville Good Old Days get-together on your calendar in May. For those of you with a membership that expired in 2021, renew and continue to enjoy the community of fellow VIP Club members. *Harvey Taipale*, VIP Club President

APRILS

April 2004: The North Suburban Chorus performed a variety of Traditional, Irish and Patriotic music at our program meeting on March 11 in Roseville. Some of the songs sung were Heart & Soul, Someone to Watch Over Me, Baby It's Cold Outside, April Showers, Irish Lullaby, Danny Boy, This Is My Country and Battle Hymn of The Republic. The audience joined in the singing of Let Me Call You Sweetheart and My Wild Irish Rose. The Chorus' closing song was May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You. Our own Jack Farber is a member of the chorus. Judy Cогnetta and UNISYS provided us with delicious bars and coffee for the social time. Thank you, Judy!

I encourage everyone to come to the April program in Eagan. We will feature Ms. Minnesota Senior America Pageant, Cameo Club, in a "Showcase" performance. The various talents include singing, acting, dancing, and speaking. The VIP Club's own Marlene Merth was a Ms. Minnesota. Our annual VIP Club Volunteer Breakfast will be held at UNISYS in Roseville on April 21, 2004, at 8:30 am. Please send your "VIP Club Volunteer Hours Survey Form for Year 2003" to Bernie Jansen. Think Spring!! Think Spring!!

Respectfully, *Dale Phelps* – VIP President

April 2005: It was great to see so many new faces among the 70-plus that attended our March program. Retired FBI Special Agent Coleen Rowley, spoke on "Integrity –Always Do Right." She simply defined integrity as "doing right when there is no one to make you

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do it but yourself.”

Coleen gave us four reasons for integrity: 1) We owe it to the victims and public, 2) We identify mistakes to learn from them and improve, 3) We can better retain and recruit the best and brightest, and 4) We better capture, regain, and retain trust of the public in order to be effective. She is a strong speaker, gave us a well-organized talk, took and confidently answered questions on a wide range of subjects, and graciously allowed herself to be cornered for one-on-one questions until 9 p.m.

Our annual VIP Club Volunteer Recognition Breakfast will be held at Unisys in Roseville on April 20, 2005, at 8:30 a.m. Please complete your “Volunteer Hours Survey Form for the Year 2004” found in this Newsletter and return to Bernie Jansen by April 8th. Your volunteer service is greatly appreciated.

The VIP Club was officially formed on July 24th, 1980. It is our intention to have a 25th Anniversary Celebration at our picnic the 13th of July. If you have any suggestions to make this a gala event, submit

them to your board members. Think Spring! Think Spring! Respectfully, *Dale Phelps*, VIP Club President

April 2006: Over the past several years our program chairmen have done an outstanding job in procuring excellent and interesting programs for our membership. Unfortunately, our March program in Roseville did not meet this standard and on behalf of the VIP board I apologize for the quality of this program. The March 8th program featured an extended review by Joel Long of the book *Stolen Valor*. Joel was a helicopter-gunship commander during the Vietnam War and flew 700 combat missions in Vietnam. The authors of *Stolen Valor*, B.G. Burkett and Glenna Whitley researched the Vietnam War era and

concluded that the Vietnam Generation was robbed of its heroes and its history. Mr. Long attempted to elaborate on this theme with excerpts from the book but was not able to validate his views. There were approximately 40 VIP Club members in attendance.

As noted in the past two issues of the Newsletter, Unisys will host the Annual “Volunteer Recognition Breakfast” for members of the VIP Club on Wednesday, April 19th at Unisys, Roseville. Volunteers, please complete and return the survey form and be recognized for your charitable and civic efforts. Member’s response to this year’s 2005 survey is lagging significantly behind that of previous years. To date, approximately half as many members have responded to the survey and the expected attendance at the breakfast is less than 40 versus last year’s attendance by 70 members. As previously noted, all members who submit the “Volunteer Hours Survey Form for the Year 2005” are invited to the recognition breakfast. Details for completing the survey are provided in the form provided on page 7 of this Newsletter.

As part of our ongoing support of the Lockheed Martin Legacy History project, the VIP Club Board in February approved a \$100 donation to the Charles Babbage Institute. Also, as part of the Club’s support of the LM Legacy project, Lowell Benson, VIP Club Director, has created a website which will enable interested Club members and others to review the project status and access the compiled data. See LEGACY NEWS UPDATE on page 4 for more detail. Respectfully, *Bernie Jansen*, VIP Club President

April 2007: Our March program with Kent Van Roekel of Collette Vacations featured pictures big and small for the four destinations: Ireland, Italy, Costa Rica, and New York. Kent’s practiced patter made the time go so fast. What we didn’t get to see was

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Roger Gillette's pictures of his Wyoming backpacking adventure; his DVD could not be read by Kent's computer. Also, Bernie asks that you send him your volunteer hours whether you plan to attend the breakfast or not. At our last board meeting, John Dufour visited and asked that we send Jack Farber an email at mnjack@localnet.com to say hello. Jack has been spending his time at home and the hospital, with more at the hospital. Jack took care of the club's books for years and presented many fascinating travel programs through his beautiful slides and bright commentary. We remember and thank you, Jack. Respectfully, *Brian Berggren*, VIP Club President

April 2008: *Remembering Jack.* Jack Farber was our treasurer for ten years, but he was so much more. He was a choir member and made sure we had music for some of our programs. He was a presence whose words and wisdom were always appreciated. He was a source for finding so many of the programs for Roseville events. Most of all, he was a world traveler who shared his eyes and ears with us. He turned his beautiful slides into marvelous travel adventures accompanied by his taped narration and music. He even dressed for the theme of his presentations. These were always among the best attended of our programs and we were so fortunate to have him share. Jack was a little larger than life and I will remember him that way. Respectfully, *Brian Berggren*, VIP Club President

April 2009: Jim Klobuchar, our speaker at the March meeting, kept us entertained with stories from different parts of his life including his encounter with Ginger Rogers here in the Twin Cities. He also told us about his trips to various countries, the poverty and poor living conditions, and how lucky we are. But he also talked about the ray of hope that micro-

financing is showing in impoverished regions where a small amount of money is given to a small group of entrepreneurial people, normally women, who use the money to enhance what they are doing. Decisions on how the money is used are made as a group and everyone is accountable for the money they are given. In the process, they learn how to manage money and work together. The end result is that they improve their lives, become more educated, become happier, become more productive, and improve the lives of their children and the community they live in.

Remember, if you have done volunteer service in the last year and have not already sent in your hours electronically or with the form in the newsletter, please do so right away so we can recognize them at the Volunteer Recognition Breakfast on Wednesday, April 15th. I hope to see you there. Respectfully, *Tom Turba*, VIP Club President

April 2010: VOLUNTEERISM - the word of the month for April. I fully expect to see Tom Turba, our stroke recovering President, at the April 21st Volunteer Recognition Breakfast. Volunteering is so great because as individuals we can pick and choose what, when, where, and to whom we give our time and talents - unlike our careers which demanded a working presence for many hours per day! There is a broad diversity of volunteer locations and opportunities - churches, fraternal organizations, community organizations, etc. Copying one of Tom's recent notes: —As well as therapy and doctor's visits, we went out Tuesday to the church where the Scouts meet. There was a community Parks and Recreation meeting on revising the City Master Plan for Roseville. I am on the committee for this, did not have to attend, but thought it was good to get out and see people. One thing I noticed at the end, when everyone started talking, is how sensitive my hearing in the right ear is to noises

Established in 1980 now. The nerve to the dampening muscle is not working, so anything loud seems two or three times as loud to me. The left arm is getting more functional. Individual finger movement is coming back too, but still not for detail movements. Gross movement is improving, and I can raise my left hand if I have a question, not as fast nor as high as the right arm. I have to respect Tom because even as he is occupied with stroke recovery, he continues to support groups including sending e-mail comments about issues to the Club 's Board.

A few of you readily volunteer to support blood drives at Unisys, LMCO, and the MACS building. Marion Scott has been coordinating servers and greeters for 29 years, beginning soon after the club was formed in 1980! At the April 21st Volunteer recognition breakfast, the Club will recognize her as well as each of you who sends us your volunteer hours. Bernie Jansen has been coordinating this recognition breakfast for over a dozen years.

For the last decade there has been a *Roseville West* gathering in the Phoenix area coordinated by Wally Emerson. Citing Wally 's gathering announcement: — I have decided that this will be the last get together I will host. I have enjoyed doing this for several years now. If someone wishes to pick it up in subsequent years, I will be glad to help them get started. *Who is going to volunteer to keep this event going?*

When Tom Turba joined the Club and Board four years ago, he came to his first Old Timers' gathering at Ft. Snelling. The next month he said that that was mostly Defense people, and we should do something like that for Commercial. So, he kicked off the Roseville Good Old Days (RGOD) at the Roseville Legion Club in 2008, expecting 150 he got just over 200 people to come – overflowing the facility. In 2009 RGOD moved to the larger New

Brighton Legion Post. Expecting up to 250, over 300 came. This year, on April 30th RGOD will be in yet a larger facility, the Mermaid in Moundsview – volunteers to help the 2011 event should step up now. Tom is one of the 73 who has already signed up to attend and snack! If you happen to go to the Syttende Mai gathering on May 20th, thank the

people who put it together. Each of these social gatherings takes many hours of volunteer time to keep everything flowing smoothly.

In closing, I would like to draw reader attention to the *Serving You Survey* in this newsletter. At our March meeting the Board had a lengthy discussion about how we could better serve our members. The Board cannot serve you as we were elected to do if we do not know what you want us to do. Or should I paraphrase a former U.S. President – *Ask not what your Club can do for you, ask what you can do for your Club!* Respectively yours, *Lowell A. Benson*
VP

April 2011: Our Club continues the UNISYS tradition of honoring our volunteers at a breakfast in April, national volunteer recognition month. To volunteer is to give of oneself for the benefit of others or for the benefit of a cause. From a national viewpoint, the best-known call for volunteers was JFK who said: *“Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country!”*

I also think about two terms: „The Energizer Bunny“ and „indefatigable“. Both terms are applicable to our recognition breakfast coordinator, **Bernie Jansen**, and our club founder, **Millie Gignac**. In addition to supporting our Legacy Committee and various board activities, both were on the planning committee for the Eagan sesquicentennial celebration last summer. Last fall we honored **Marion Scott** who has been coordinating

Established in 1980 service at our sponsor site blood drives for 30 years. Last December we noted the passing of Fred Hergesheimer who voluntarily raised money to build a school and hospital for the south sea natives who saved him during WWII. At our Christmas Party, **Barb Grueschow** volunteered to bring the bone marrow transplant topic to our March program meeting. In late December, I encountered **Rollie Schwitters** making sure that anxious relatives waiting for surgery patients could understand the hospital status boards. Larry Bolton, Quint Heckert, and Harvey Taipale have spent two days a month in the LMCO building cataloguing legacy documents and artifacts for three years. From the March 1st Shoreview Press: "**Judy Cognetta** was recently awarded the „Sal LoBaido Volunteer Services Award“ for her years of volunteer efforts." An unassuming background volunteer is **Joe Schwarz** who gets our newsletters put together. I've reviewed the electronic forms sent to Bernie and am amazed by the wide variety of organizations benefitting from our member volunteer hours.

VOLUNTEERISM is indeed everywhere! We'll hear a bit more about what you've done at the breakfast on the 20th

This summer my church will conduct another „time and talent survey“ to get volunteers for their next year programs and missions. Next fall, our nominating committee will seek volunteers for the Club's 2012 board and associated activities. Whenever or wherever you personally choose to give of your own time and skills, enjoy the smiles and thanks of those who are the recipients. My personal thanks to each one of you who gives so much time for the benefit of others! Respectfully, *Lowell Benson*, VIP Club President

April 2012: Chad Roberts, the director of the Dakota County Historical Society, gave an interesting presentation on what the Society

does and their plans for displaying artifacts from Lockheed Martin and Unisys at their South St. Paul Museum. For any of you that worked on the defense side of operations, it looks like there will be plenty of opportunities to help at the museum to get things displayed, catalogued, and to properly tell the story of Univac, Unisys, and Lockheed Martin in the Twin Cities.

If you haven't already done so, turn in your volunteer hours for 2011 to Bernie Jansen and plan on coming to the Volunteer Breakfast to share your stories with others. I'm sure it will again be a great event.

I hope to see you at future Club events during the year. Respectfully, *Tom Turba*, VIP Club President

April 2013: Although I was unable to attend the February program that was held in Roseville, the report at the March Board meeting stated that it was very well attended. I don't know what the contributing factors were - maybe the time 2.00 PM in the afternoon and/or the subject which dealt with the controversy over retrieving oil from shale fracking in North Dakota. If anyone has an idea for any topics for the VIP program meetings, please provide them by email or call Dale Phelps (phone number and email address are in this newsletter).

The calendar of events during this time of the year contains many events that may be of interest to VIP personnel. Details of these are in this newsletter for your consideration.

Respectfully, *Bob 'RC' Hanson*, VIP Club President

April 2014: April is national volunteer recognition month. Volunteerism is the giving of one's own time and talents for the benefit of others. Each of us does a little or a lot for organizations or neighbors or causes about which we care - usually keeping in the

Established in 1980 background. For some, a simple 'yes, I can handle that' statement has turned into virtually a full-time job! I've noted that the Dakota County Historical Society has had a volunteer recognition lunch and that my church has had thank you volunteer events.

I personally want to thank all our Club members who have given of their time and talents to a wide variety of organizations during 2013. I appreciate the unsung efforts of about a dozen retirees who have spent dozens and hundreds of hours cataloguing photos at the Lawshe Memorial Museum.

We, the VIP Club Board, thank Bernie Jansen and Frank King for processing the 2013 survey responses and to Joe Schwarz for editing the printed program. And thanks to several 'background' individuals who have taken care of bits and pieces to make our volunteer recognition breakfast happen. Respectfully,
Lowell A. Benson

April 2015: *Traditions!* As the second Wednesday breakfast ended today, 3/11, Marv Brown stated that this was the 279th monthly gathering of UNISYS, Roseville retirees. That is 23 years of 25 to 45 people meeting having breakfast in New Brighton and maintaining work-based friendships.

In 1973, Richard 'Ole' Olson gathered a group of UNIVAC employees to celebrate Norwegian Independence Day at a luncheon. Because of the friendships, several non-Norwegians have been participating at these Syttende Mai celebrations. With 50 to 100 participants, this gathering is as much about friendship as it is celebrations.

This year the Club board decided that this mid-May gathering would be a good program for the month. Information about the first two traditional meetings is on web site page 8.

This morning I read a blog link from Larry Debelak about an aircraft built in 1962: "Above, the HC-130P Iron Horse, tail number #62-1863, begins its final flight to retirement at the bone yard at Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ; below, the same aircraft in its previous configuration as an EC-130E, based at D-M in the 1990s." This is a tacit tribute to the many, many years of UNIVAC/Sperry/UNISYS equipment and systems quietly serving our country aboard Lockheed aircraft types. We already have some ABCCC information on page 62 of the website, I will add the blog link and other ABCCC data by the time you read this newsletter. Did I mention that Ole was one of the ABCCC systems' engineers?

BTW (**By The Way** in texting), if you want to know on which page(s) your name appears on our website, take a look in section 3 of page 28 - <http://vipclubmn.org/PeopleIndx.html>.

Hope to see you in April at the Volunteer recognition luncheon and/or Roseville Good Old Days gathering. Best Regards, *LABenson*

April 2016: In this issue you will see the first of the reviews of our recent membership survey. Our purpose is to make sure that we are satisfying the needs of our many members. Obviously many of our former coworkers have relocated out of the Twin City metropolitan area so they are not able to take part in the VIP Club events. That is why we try to cover a broad range of topics in the newsletter and on the website. However, with 639 membership units (includes spouses) out of 832 within the five-county metropolitan area we try to provide local programs that appeal to the majority. Your feedback helps us make decisions on future programs and activities. So don't wait for a formal survey to let us know what works and what doesn't. *Keith Behnke*, 2016 Club President.

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<p>Since 2017 the March April issues have been combined.</p>
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MAYs

May 2004: April's VIP Club Program was held at the new Eagan Community Center. You either enjoyed or missed a wonderful opportunity to see and hear the Ms. Minnesota-Senior America Pageant, Cameo Club "Showcase" Performance. The various talents included singing, acting, dancing, and speaking. Our own VIP Club member, Marlene Merth, sang "Mocking Bird Hill." The women were elegantly dressed in beautiful formal gowns. The program concluded with everyone singing "God Bless America". Coffee and cookies were served for refreshments.

The VIP Club Volunteer Recognition Breakfast was held at UNISYS in Roseville on 21 April 2004 at 8:30 a.m. See more details on page 5.

It is not too early to plan and mark your calendars for our VIP Club Annual Picnic to be held 9 June 2004, 4:00 p.m. at the Highland Park Pavilion in St. Paul. This event enjoys the largest attendance of any Club event each year. Plan to come and enjoy good food and company. Respectfully, *Dale Phelps*, VIP President

May 2005: Mr. Bob Deflores took us back to some nostalgic days in the film industry at our April Program Meeting in Roseville. Bob is a very serious film historian and has a remarkable collection of old films. He also has been associated with some of the real stars of show business and shared some of his conversations with industry people. The films he showed were Looney Tunes "Super Snooper"; a rare Laurel & Hardy film from the vaults of MGM where they play themselves and their wives; and the main feature was the "Great Stars" of Hollywood narrated by Henry

Fonda. Some of the stars were: Marlin Brando, Humphrey Bogart, Douglas Fairbanks, Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, Elizabeth Taylor, Rita Hayward, Joan Crawford, Betty Davis, Clark Gable, Judy Garland and Marilyn Monroe.

In observance of National Volunteer month Unisys hosted a Recognition Breakfast for VIP Club Volunteers at the Roseville facility on April 20th. Over 100 members responded to our Volunteer Services Survey and 70 members attended the breakfast. Our Club members contributed more than 23,000 hours of service to various organizations during calendar year 2004. Nearly half of these hours were contributed by seventeen members and spouses. More details on the breakfast and Survey results are provided on page 5 of this issue of the Newsletter.

Our VIP Club Annual Picnic will be held 13 July 2005 at the Highland Park Pavilion in St. Paul. The VIP Club will be celebrating its 25 Anniversary. If you have any suggestions to make this a memorable event, please submit them to your board members. Respectfully, *Dale Phelps*, VIP Club President

May 2006: Our program on April 12th in Eagan featured a color presentation on the purpose, facilities, and programs of the Minnesota landscape Arboretum by Director, Peter J. Olin. Mr. Olin gave a very interesting and informative program that was very well received by the Club members. There were approximately 40 VIP Club members in attendance.

Unisys hosted the Annual "Volunteer Recognition Breakfast" for members of the VIP Club on Wednesday, April 19th at Unisys, Roseville. The response to the Year 2005 "Volunteer Hours Survey Form" was the best received. Approximately 70 members attended the Breakfast. A more detailed

Established in 1980 report on the breakfast will appear in the June Newsletter.

The VIP Club Liaison to Unisys for many years has been Judy Cognetta. Judy has retired and the Club extends her its Best Wishes. In acknowledgement of her excellent service to the Club we sent her a floral arrangement. The temporary Unisys Club Liaison is Sue Carrigan; she can be reached at 651-635-7955.

In support of the Lockheed Martin Legacy History project a coordination meeting with LM representatives was held on April 5th. See the "LEGACY NEWS UPDATE" on page 4 of the Newsletter for more information.

Respectfully, *Bernie Jansen*, VIP Club President

May 2007: For volunteers, the adventure never ends. We started with a bit of weather to accompany the April 11th Volunteer Breakfast that also kept Vicki Snyder, our program speaker, stuck at her home in Rochester. Bernie and Dale made a great save by inviting several of the volunteers to tell of their experiences and rewards. To a person, everyone enjoyed this impromptu addition to the program and hoped it could be part of future programs. Lowell also brought some Legacy "artifacts" and encouraged all to check their closets and tell their stories. And despite the weather the volunteer turnout was very good. Best of all was the breakfast buffet from the Unisys kitchen; the eggs were tasty and tender, the fruit cut small, and the mini rolls and muffins of many flavors.

Now is the time to mark your calendars for the June 13th picnic at Highland Park. We will start our planning at the May board meeting and hope for good weather and another opportunity to visit with old friends.

Respectfully, *Brian Berggren*, VIP Club President

May 2008: Unlike last year's volunteer breakfast, we had cool but comfortable weather and a great volunteer turnout. Of our hosts and sponsors, Unisys represented by Sue Carrigan and Lockheed Martin by Lee Myer, Peggy Mullikin, and Jan Raycraft. Lee spoke of the company's appreciation of our volunteer community and its work on the Legacy program. Ole Olson and Lowell Benson share the continuing progress on the Legacy tasks, with Lowell also inviting visits to the new and ever-growing VIP club website.

Bernie Jansen, our volunteer event chair, gave us the numbers from this Year's volunteer survey: 120 responders reported giving 24,532 hours in service to their chosen organizations and causes. As Bernie knows so well, our donated hours continue to grow and benefit communities both in Minnesota and many other states where our members reside.

Our program speaker was humorist LuAnn Buechler, who talked about the "Heart of a Volunteer." LuAnn is a chronic volunteer, and as a mother of two handicapped children, ran March of dimes charity auctions in the Rochester area. She offered both touching and laughable observations about volunteering as she cheerfully disabused us her seven myths about volunteering.

Look at the June 11 Picnic notice and then mark your calendar. We again hope for good weather and another chance to visit with our co-workers and friends. Respectfully,

Brian Berggren, VIP Club President

May 2009: April is a time of year when we feel spring in the air, enjoy the longer hours of sunlight and see the re-growth of flowers and grass. It is also a time when we recognize the retirees in the VIP Club who have done volunteer service in their communities. This year we had an increase of 12% in the numbers of hours reported and an increase of 20% in

Established in 1980 the number of people reporting their volunteer work. It is good to see this increase and to realize that more people are giving their time and effort to helping others in their communities. Doing volunteer work can be a very rewarding experience because you can directly see the results of your efforts and develop personal contacts with the people whose lives you are affecting. I am sure there are many hours and the work of many people that did not get reported. The important thing, however, is that people are getting out and helping others. Thanks to all of you that have given of yourself to help others. Keep up the good work! Respectfully, *Tom Turba*, VIP Club President.

May 2010: As you all have heard, I had a stroke, not something uncommon as we all get older, but also not something I expected as an active retiree who wore hiking boots more often than dress shoes. I still plan on wearing them again, but not while I'm still using a cane. In some ways I guess I'm lucky as I don't appear to have lost memory or thinking ability, and I was in the emergency room before the classic symptom of losing total function on one side appeared. They say I have a good chance of regaining total functionality, it's just a long road to travel and it certainly isn't traveled at Internet speed. I'm back attending meetings and doing the things I enjoy, not quite at the same speed, but that will come. I'd like to thank Lowell Benson for filling in for me while I was out and thanks to everyone who sent me cards, messages and visited me while I was in the hospital.

If you used to work in Roseville, or have friends who did, come to the Good Old Days reunion at the Mermaid in Mounds View on Friday, April 30th. We are expecting over 400 people. It will be a great event with old friends you haven't seen in a long time. Even though I'm not driving yet, I'll be there.

With the warm weather here, the grass turning green, and barbeques being fired up, it's time to mark your calendars for Wednesday, June 9th. We will have the annual picnic again at Highland Park starting at 4:00 p.m. Come rain or shine, this is always a good event to meet with people you know and used to work with. Get together with a few old friends and come together. That makes it more fun for everyone.

Another event to put on your calendar is the August meeting, which will be an outing to the Air National Guard Museum at the airport. You will get to see and climb aboard aircraft like you have never done before. This will be a social event with cake and other treats. Carpooling arrangements from Eagan and Roseville is expected.

This year marks the 30th Anniversary for the formation of the retirement club. It has helped retirees in the Twin Cities area stay in touch with programs, meetings, and outings throughout the years. If you have pictures or stories of past events that you would like to share contact Quint Heckert who is putting together a collection of VIP Club memories. We will have a celebration of the event during our October meeting, which will again be a social event with treats for everyone.

Respectively, *Tom Turba* - VIP Club President.

May 2011: How many of you have wondered what the Club Board does at its monthly meetings? In a nut shell; we listen to reports from our coordinators, discuss issues, and act as needed to resolve issues. At each meeting we discuss possible topics or speakers for future program meetings. We also have continuing discussions about promulgating the Club considering the announced 2013 LMCO date for closing the Eagan facility. A first action of this transition time at the January meeting was to appoint Keith Behnke as a Board Associate to coordinate communications with

Established in 1980 various LMCO recreation clubs as those club boards look forward. As a board we immediately agreed to provide pages on our web site for „recreation“ communications. At the February meeting we decided on the April volunteer breakfast program and a new venue. We selected a travelogue for the May program, including going to the Eagan, Unisys building instead of the Eagan Community Center. At our March meeting we discussed LinkedIn as we'd been asked to consider that as a Club communications method. We decided that, like Face Book, electronic contacting via LinkedIn is an individual choice and the Club won't directly participate. At the April meeting we decided who brings what for the June picnic, selected an entertainer for our October pie and ice cream meeting, and asked the program committee to get additional information about their suggested August outing. Also, at our April meeting we formed a Constitution and Bylaw update committee, see the HEADS-UP article elsewhere in the newsletter.

Club members are welcome to sit in at board meetings, just let us know the week before so that we can arrange access to the building. Respectfully, *Lowell Benson*, VIP Club President

May 2012: For those of you that could not attend the Volunteer Breakfast, it was a very good event. One of the notable items mentioned is that last year club members contributed the equivalent of over ½ million dollars' worth of volunteer work and this only represents the reported hours.

One of the things the Board is thinking about is having a super reunion event next year, where anyone who used to work for Univac, the predecessor companies, or the current follow-on companies would be invited. Any ideas you have on this would be appreciated.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Club picnic in June or any other event that fits into your schedule. Respectfully, Tom Turba, VIP Club President.

May 2013: The Volunteer Breakfast on April 17th at the Roseville VFW was enjoyed by all the attendees. However, there were several no-shows of people who said they would attend, they may have good reasons. The VIP Club would appreciate early notice from persons whose plans have changed so in the future we can avoid the extra expense. The events soon are the Roseville Good Old Days on April 26th, the Norwegian Syttende Mai on May 17th, and the Grand Reunion Picnic on June 12th. We request that those planning to attend pre-register (Details of How) are provided on page 7. Respectfully, *Bob 'RC' Hanson*, VIP Club President

May 2014: A non-profit organization had asked to use our membership database for mailing capital campaign flyers. Our bylaws state: "Sec. 3 The use of the name THE VIP CLUB or the Membership List for other than club functions, by any individual without the express prior approval of the Board is prohibited." Your VIP Club Board has had several lively discussions during the previous two board meetings about giving permission. Comments have included: "Don't do it", "just give them mailing labels", "What about organization xyz, if we do for one we should do for others", and "we have to consider member privacy."

The only previous 'approval' has been for United Way as part of our newsletter distributions. So, we will not hand out the database nor a redacted address set for any area mailing list - BUT we encourage our members to take a look at historical societies in his/her respective home towns and consider becoming a member with their stated benefits and opportunities: • Anoka Co. Historical

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Society
<http://anokacountyhistory.org/> • Dakota Co. Historical Soc. <http://www.dakotahistory.org>
• Hennepin Co. Historical Society <http://www.hennepinhistory.org/> • Minnesota Historical Soc. <http://www.mnhs.org/> • Ramsey Co. Historical Soc. <http://www.rchs.com/> • Washington Co. Hist. Soc. <http://wchsmn.org/>

78% of our membership resides in the five county Twin Cities area, 8.4% in out-state Minnesota. The remaining 13.6% of our members who live in 33 other states and two countries should check locally to see what 'historian' benefits may be available to you. Respectfully, *Lowell A. Benson*

May 2015: Do you wonder what happens at our Board meetings? At the April board meeting we set the member price for the June Picnic and for the August Jonathan Padelford River cruise. The actual per person cost is about 25% above what we charge our members, the VIP Club is quite solvent. We also discussed which guests to invite to our September program and candidate speakers for the October and November programs. Our Programs Coordinator, Dale Phelps, was asked to book the musician for the Christmas dinner/dance.

In addition to social activity planning, fixed items on the agenda are secretary's report, treasurer's report, membership report, Sunshine report, Legacy reports, and next newsletter scheduling.

After some discussion, we resolved to create and award a Volunteer Extraordinaire Certificate. The first recipient is Keith Myhre, presented at the 2015 April Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. Keith has been instrumental in the exhibit development successes of the second Minnesota Legacy Grant at the DCHS Lawshe Memorial Museum.

If are willing to help plan the Club's future, try a 'test visit' to a Board meeting. We have a director slot open, just a test visit would not commit you. Hope to see you at Syttende Mai and the Picnic! Sincerely, *Lowell Benson*

May 2016: You will find a reprint of the President's Message from the Unisys Blue Bell Retirees Group in the right-hand column of this page. As you can see they have reached a point where they have lost several members of their Board of Directors. Not being able to find anyone willing to join their board has put them in a position of having to shut down at the end of this year. While we do not have as serious a problem as this we continuously have difficulty finding people willing to join our board. Getting new members for our board is important beyond filling open positions but also to assure we have new thinking to help us make decisions that keep us providing meaningful benefits for our club members. I would like for us to be able to establish a "waiting list" of those interested in participating when openings occur. It's up to you to let us know who you are. *Keith Behnke*, 2016 Club President.

Since 2017 the May and June issues have been combined.

May/June 2017: I'd like to iterate my thanks to all of you who responded to our volunteerism survey. We had 66 responses to the survey with over 26,000 hours of volunteer activity. The April 19th recognition luncheon was delicious, and it was great to see some new faces there, see report on page 4 of this issue. National Volunteers week, April 23rd – April 29th is an opportunity to recognize and thank volunteers who lend their time, talent, voice, and support to causes they care about in their community. Their stories can serve to inspire others to find ways to take action that creates change. We are proud of the members

Established in 1980 of the VIP Club who find time to volunteer and are happy to reward them with this luncheon. *Keith Behnke*, VIP Club President.

May/June 2018: Every American History buff and sports fan is familiar with Tennessee's identity as the "Volunteer State," This nickname was adopted during the War of 1812 or the Mexican American War ("Remember the Alamo!"), depending on which version of Tennessee's history one chooses to accept.

But when it comes to volunteering today, things have changed - Utah is the national leader in volunteering, with over 43% of the residents volunteering in some form throughout the year. Minnesota ranks second, with over 35% of our fellow state citizens volunteering. Folks over 55 in Minnesota continue to volunteer at about the state average but spend considerably more hours supporting their favorite organizations than the state average. Most popular organizations supported by volunteers are churches, educational/youth services, and community service.

The value of volunteer service in Minnesota is estimated at several billion dollars annually. This year, April 15 - 21 was designated as "National Volunteer Week" in recognition of the many contributions volunteers make to our society. The VIP Club honors volunteers every year with our Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, a free event for anyone who registers. The club keeps an informal tally on the number of members who volunteer and the hours they spend, and it's clear that we as a group are super - volunteers; the hours spent volunteering per person are far greater than the Minnesota average. It's also clear that there are quite a few folks who are a bit timid about publicly mentioning their volunteer efforts - I would estimate that only about a third of those members who do volunteer

work report their efforts and even fewer sign up for the lunch.

Whether or not you joined us this year, on behalf of the VIP Club and all the organizations you support, I would like to echo a big THANK YOU for all work you put in over the past year and urge you to join us for lunch next year on April 10th to recognize the many contributions volunteers make to our community.

Harvey Taipale VIP Club President.

May/June 2019: A few days ago, I was reading a newspaper article about an "elderly" person, who turned out to be 65. Being well past 65 myself, "elderly" had a connotation that I absolutely did not like, although Google seems to confirm that 65 is the accepted age when people become "elderly". AARP, which occasionally raises the issue of ageism, says that "elderly" is inappropriate for anyone under 95, so I think I'm going to use that idea and hope that Google and the rest of the world wise up – our club has forty age 90+ members! No matter how we identify ourselves, VIP Club members should give themselves a collective pat on the back. 73 people provided inputs to our annual volunteer survey, tallying over 20,000 hours of volunteer service. I know that many of you don't think it's important to be recognized for volunteering, or don't think it's appropriate, or are just plain modest, but your informal comments indicate there is a lot more activity than we compile with our annual surveys.

Nationally, about one-fourth of retired people volunteer, with the numbers a bit better in Minnesota - our state has the second highest percentage of volunteers in the US, and Minneapolis-St. Paul is the number 1 US volunteering city. If our survey data is representative of the VIP Club as a whole, these demographics would indicate that we capture only about 20% of the actual volunteering done by club members each year.

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So, whether you turned in a survey or chose to fly under the radar, kudos to you all for all the effort you put in throughout the year. Looking at the variety of causes people support with their volunteer efforts, it's obvious that most of them could not carry on their very worthwhile work at the level they do without you. Keep it up! The world needs you – and appreciates you.

Make note of some upcoming events mentioned in the newsletter - Good Old Days and Syttende Mai in May and our June picnic, this year at a new place. Come and join us and renew old acquaintances or maybe make some new ones. Happy summer to each of you!
Harvey Taipale, VIP Club President.

May/June 2020: I'm guessing that by now, most of you are feeling a little bit overdosed on COVID-19 virus news. This is a serious situation affecting us personally, locally, as a state and nation, and as the human tribe. This is not a transitory situation; we're all going to have to learn to adjust for quite a while, and we're going to have to be flexible while we are adjusting. The VIP Club is also making some adjustments.

First, we are complying with the guidelines issued by the State and Federal Government. In the near term, we have cancelled several group events, including the Volunteer Brunch (more on that later), Syttende Mai and the June picnic. Roseville Good Old Days has been postponed to October, in hopes that our local situation will improve by then. In addition to being good citizens, we are also motivated by understanding the demographics of VIP Club members. Face it, friends, most of us are in the high-risk group for a bad outcome if we contract COVID19. I used to joke about how young people acted as if they were invincible, but over the years I have come to find out that many of us still haven't figured out that things dramatically change as we age. For the time

being, all of us need to be more careful, and the Board wants to fully endorse an atmosphere of high caution for all our fellow retirees. Hence, we are cancelling or suspending all our near-term group activities. As a small group, the Board is conducting business online, with our April meeting conducted via Zoom, thanks to Unisys.

So, what's the outlook? We are optimistically keeping our Fall events on the calendar, intending to monitor the situation, and not cancelling unless and until necessary. Personally, I will be surprised if these will occur in 2020, if for no other reason than we, as a group, need to be careful, but we will continue to play it by ear and keep the membership informed.

We will, however, continue regularly with the newsletter, which is a key tool in passing along information. Our new editor, Mary Beth Ruhland, is on board and will do a great job of getting the newsletter out to all of you. Check the newsletter for information on future events. Another source of information is our website: www.vipclubmn.org. The website is updated regularly and is a great source of timely information. Finally, this year Keith Behnke has initiated the use of Evite as another means of reaching out to our membership for scheduled events; we'll kick out Evites again as soon as we can resume scheduling future events. Hopefully, we can let every club member know what's happening by reaching out through these various media.

Speaking of the newsletter, this month we have included an interesting side story from Gish Devlaminck. Every one of us has tales like this from our work life (and some of them are even fit to print!). If you have one you would like to share, please take a few minutes to write it down and mail it to the club mailbox (which is new, now sending to P.O. Box 21903 in Eagan) or email it to a board member or the

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newsletter (newsletter@vipclubmn.org) and we'll work on getting it into a future newsletter. For those of you that are finding some time on your hands, you might also think about submitting a career summary for inclusion on the website. We still haven't hit the goal of 200 that Dr. Arthur L. Norberg indicated are necessary to paint an accurate history of the Minnesota-based operations. For Legacy committee history details, check out: <http://vipclubmn.org/Legacy.html#Committee>

Finally, I can't begin to express my disappointment at the necessity to cancel our Volunteer Recognition gathering at Joseph's Grill. There are a lot of statistics about volunteerism, but the short story is that Minnesota is a leading volunteer state, seniors are a great cadre of volunteers, and our fellow employees have an outstanding commitment to supporting a diversity of worthwhile organizations, many of which could not be successful without their volunteers. I know that you do not volunteer simply for a free lunch or recognition, but personally and on behalf of the VIP Club, I want to deliver a big THANK YOU to all of you! And please, keep up the great work, now more than ever. The gathering at Joseph's Grill is just a chance to recognize some of this work and for club members to get together, and I genuinely missed the opportunity to do that this year. Stay safe, friends *Harvey Taipale*, VIP Club President.

May/June 2021: Well, we're about to resume some of our traditional VIP Club activities, but there are still a few unknowns we need to deal with as things evolve. First, the picnic is scheduled for June 16th at Central Park in Eagan beginning at noon, with food service from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m. We will have the park until 10:00 p.m., but I guarantee that the beer (and most of us) won't last that long!

We are assuming that by then the great majority of our members (we are, by definition, seniors, after all), will have been vaccinated, and this event will be outdoors, so this should be a safe gathering. For the unvaccinated, it's up to you to wear a mask and watch your distance.

The cost is \$5 at the door. The lack of prepayment tends to make some folks casual about committing to attend, but we need to plan for a number (otherwise, the beer will run out sooner, and you may not get a burger). We will use Evite to guide our planning. If you will attend, please RSVP with the number of attendees to the Evite invitation. If you don't receive an invitation via Evite, remember to check your Spam folder, and make sure we have your current e-mail address. For those without Internet access, call Keith Behnke if you plan to attend (651-587-2591) and leave a text or voice mail message. Either way, please respond by the end of May.

COVID guidelines pertaining to this type of gathering are not totally definitive and theoretically could change. If something changes that would impact the picnic, we will contact the registered attendees by Evite, e-mail, or phone. As always, the latest information will be posted on our website (<http://vipclubmn.org>).

Planning is proceeding for our 40th Anniversary Dinner Party on September 14th at Royal Cliff Event Center in Eagan. Royal Cliff is currently COVID-compliant; we also expect things will be further relaxed by September. The afternoon will include a social hour, buffet dinner and a short program, with a cash bar available. Evite will again be used to inform everyone— expect an invitation in June. This event is a bit more formal and structured than the picnic, so we are asking everyone to sign up and pay a \$5 registration fee per household (single, couple, member, and guest, etc.). A registration form

Established in 1980 is in this newsletter and online on our website (<http://vipclubmn.org>). Please register by August 3. You can also sign up and pay at the Picnic on June 16.

Enough housekeeping! I want to make a couple of comments about our history. I recently browsed a book entitled *The Computer from Pascal to von Neumann*, by Herman H. Goldstine. I say browsed because the book has far more historical information than I wanted to peruse and was written in a style that made it hard to absorb. Dr. Goldstine was associated with the ENIAC and EDVAC teams, Princeton's Institute for Advanced Study, and later, IBM, among other organizations. Significant (to me, at least), he makes only brief mention of the work of ERA, and his chronology and genealogy of the 1101 and later systems is a bit terse and confused. He makes no mention of Atlas and its code-cracking predecessors, perhaps because this book was published in 1972 and the work of ERA's Atlas was not declassified until 1974.

The upshot of this is that this otherwise scholarly book suffers from a hole in the communally accepted history of the computer business in the United States. Our retirees are the last source of quality information to fill that hole. There are three ways to help fill that hole:

- First, send in a career summary. The Charles Babbage Institute historians have told us that if enough (more than 200) employees tell their story, there will be enough data to paint an accurate picture of the early history of ERA/Univac/Sperry et al, in Minnesota. Check out our existing 195 career summaries on our People page at <http://vipclubmn.org/People.html>.

- Second, send your historical material to us. Any board member will transport papers, photos, artifacts or whatever you want

to offer to the crew working at Lawshe Memorial Museum, and they will sort it, catalog it and transmit it to the appropriate place (generally either Lawshe or the Babbage Institute) to preserve it for posterity. Incidentally, the Dakota County Historical Society, which operates Lawshe, would also love your membership support.

- Finally, you can volunteer to help process all this stuff. The crew has been working at Lawshe since 2012, and still has several years of effort to catalog and digitize historical materials. The material loses some historical value if it is not properly identified and put into context, and this group can always use help in that process—maybe as simple as scanning documents. Someone is there almost every first and third Tuesday morning of the month and training is available. Contact Keith Myhre or one of the board members if you are interested.

Get vaccinated, stay safe and see you at the picnic! *Harvey Taipale*, VIP Club President

May/June 2022: April was volunteer month in the United States, recognizing the contributions of volunteers, supporting all needs and interests in our society. Those contributions are impressive. Nationally, one in four people significantly give of their time to their favorite organizations. In Minnesota, that number is around 40 percent, and Minnesota is always in the top ten states for volunteering. Some surveys put us second only to Utah. Pinning down some objective measurement of volunteers puts a strain on the statisticians, but it's pretty safe to say that volunteers contribute at least a couple of hundred BILLION dollars in equivalent effort directed toward their favorite organizations every year. Volunteering in the last two years has been a more challenging commitment than in years past. Organizations limiting interaction, COVID constraints and concerns for personal safety have all been obstacles to volunteers. Given the context of the recent past, I stand in awe

Established in 1980 of the tenacity of our VIP Club members. Those of you who turned in the volunteer surveys prior to our annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon demonstrated your continued support of your favorite non-profits, local groups, churches, and other causes; in spite of numerous roadblocks to your participation.

But those surveys only tell part of the story. I know from your individual stories that many of you put yourselves “out there” in a lot of important ways. Some of you just don’t think recognition is important, and don’t respond to our survey. Others think your efforts don’t count— “I only helped my neighbor out,” or “I filled in for a friend,” or “I just gave the homeless person on the street a couple of bucks.” When it comes to volunteering, quality and that quantity aren’t the whole story. What does count is someone felt motivated to help another human person; I think there’s not too much more important than that in life, and our club members do an outstanding job. On behalf of the board, THANK ALL OF YOU!

I would be terribly remiss if I didn’t recognize our 2022 Volunteer Extraordinaire, Lowell Benson. Volunteering extensively for more than the past two decades, Lowell has served on the VIP Club Board in several capacities, including as President; he cochaired the Lockheed Martin Eagan Legacy committee, spent hours as the webmaster for the VIP Club and his church and organized many of our retiree get-togethers. As a matter of policy, club board members are not eligible to be recognized as Volunteer Extraordinaire, but Lowell has retired from the board, allowing us to at last award him this long overdue recognition: Thank You, Lowell, for all your dedicated service!

A couple of administrative notes: First, we will host our annual picnic on June 22 and urge you all to attend. Cost is \$5, payable at the door (or

picnic table, as it were). Construction may change our parking a bit, and we are trying to minimize the inconvenience. Also, we have been increasingly relying on Evite for reservations for many of our events, with mixed success. Most people commit and show up, which is the perfect outcome. An accurate headcount allows the event planners to scale the resources to the need. On the flip side, if 200 people say they are coming to the picnic, and only 150 show, we end up with a lot of leftovers (somehow there’s never any leftover beer, but you can eat only so many brats). Or, if we have a whole bunch of walk-ins, we have to scramble to make sure everyone has enough. So, what I really want to say, is that everyone is welcome, reservation or not, but if you can give us a genuine heads-up response via Evite, it makes planning a lot easier for our event hosts.

Harvey Taipale, VIP Club President

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June 2004: Mr. Bob Deflores took us back to some nostalgic days in the film industry at our May Program Meeting in Roseville. Bob is a very serious film historian and has a remarkable collection of old films. He also has been associated with some of the real stars of show business and shared some of his conversations with industry people. Some of the films he showed were Looney Tunes with “The Tabasco Kid”, The March of Time – Year 1949, Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra of 1952, News Thrills Real of 1939, and GE’s Bing Crosby show of 1954.

I would encourage all of you to send in your favorite recipes to be used for the UNISYS Employee Cook Book. It will be published in conjunction with the United Way Campaign. See more details on page 3. Lynn Farris Lindholm has graciously accepted the responsibility to help Jim Larson with the

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Sunshine club. Lynn does a beautiful job with the cards.

Our VIP Club Annual Picnic will be held 9 June 2004, 4:00 p.m. at the Highland Park Pavilion in St. Paul. Suggestions of what to bring for the potluck portion of the picnic are based on the first letter of your last name. Hope you will plan to attend and enjoy good food and company. Respectfully, *Dale Phelps*, VIP President

June 2005: As I write this message, I am beginning to wonder if it is ever going to get warmer and when our wonderful summer days will come. Our May program meeting was held at the Eagan Community Center. It was well attended with Steve Lear, Peace Project founder, representing the Jewish Community Relations Council giving a very informative power point presentation on "Understanding the Middle East Conflicts: A Hope for Peace." There was time for questions and there was good participation in the discussion. Steve concluded with an inspiring prayer.

I encourage you to attend our June program meeting in Roseville. Eleanor Ostman will speak on a subject all of us like: Eating and Eating Out. Eleanor was food writer at the St. Paul Pioneer Press for 30 years. She has written two books: "Always on Sunday" and "Minnesota Eats Out". The books will be available to purchase, and Eleanor will sign them.

Mark your July calendars for the 13th. Our VIP Club will be celebrating our 25th year anniversary. You are encouraged to bring memorabilia items to share with your fellow VIP Club members. This will be a great opportunity to see some of your former cohorts and do some reminiscing.

Respectfully, *Dale Phelps*, VIP Club President

June 2006: Our program on May 10th at Unisys, Roseville featured a presentation on the mission, facilities, and programs of "Feed My Starving Children" (FMSC), a Minnesota charitable nonprofit Christian organization. "FMSC is dedicated to provide nourishing food to starving children throughout the world, and to providing volunteer opportunities for youth and adults." Mr. Brian Molohon, Development Director gave a very moving and informative program about FMSC that was very well received by the Club members. FMSC has created a special nutritious meal that is heat-sealed in plastic bags and then boxed by volunteers for shipping to children all over the world. Each bag holds six life-giving meals which are prepared at a cost of 15 cents per meal. In addition to utilizing volunteer help to prepare these meals, FMSC actively solicits donations from individuals, churches, and groups. FMSC reports that 94% of all donations it receives go directly to feeding children. FMSC plans to utilize 100,000 volunteers this year and produce 25 million meals for the world's poorest children. After the Program, several Club members indicated that they would support a Club effort to package food at one of the 3 Minnesota facilities. There were approximately 20 VIP Club members in attendance.

As noted in last month's Newsletter, Unisys hosted the Annual "Volunteer Recognition Breakfast" for members of the VIP Club on Wednesday, April 19th at Unisys, Roseville. A more detailed report on the breakfast appears on page 5 of this Newsletter.

There have been several changes in our corporate liaison personnel. As noted in last month's Newsletter, our new VIP Club Unisys Liaison is Sue Carrigan. Also, within Unisys, Marjorie Johnson, who handled the Club interface to new Unisys retirees, has retired and Linda Lockrem has taken over these

Established in 1980 duties. Within Lockheed Martin our new Club liaison is Tierney Helmers. In support of the Lockheed Martin Legacy History project a coordination meeting with LM representatives is scheduled for May 31st. See the "LEGACY NEWS UPDATE" on page 4 of the Newsletter for more information on the Legacy History project.

Respectfully, *Bernie Jansen*, VIP Club President

June 2007: Our May program was another ad hoc adventure. The scheduled speaker was absent by unknown cause and the 20-plus attending made do. The highlight was Ole and Lowell telling Norwegian jokes (it was better than it sounds), maybe as practice for the Syttende Mai Luncheon. Bernie revisited his eleven years coordinating the Volunteer Recognition Breakfast. The "open mike" let others bring up topics of interest as well. I hope to see you at our picnic on June 13th on the program is food and friendship. It's a can't miss. Remember, there is no July program, and our next newsletter will be a combined July/August issue delivered after mid-July.

Respectfully, *Brian Berggren*, VIP Club President

June 2008: Our May program gave about 30 of us a new look at the 35W bridge disaster and a real appreciation for the speedy planning, communication, and coordination that made rescue, recovery, and traffic re-routing so successful. Major Al Smith of the Minnesota State Patrol was at the site within five minutes of the collapse and, as the nine-county Metro Operations leader, was tasked with getting the responding organizations assigned to defined activities. As Major Smith told us, sometimes the organizations have different philosophies: police are good at stopping traffic, while MNDOT tries to make traffic move more smoothly.

Along with the State Patrol and MNDOT, the Minneapolis Police and Fire and U of M Police departments, Hennepin County Sheriffs, U.S. Corps of Engineers, and NOAA were involved. In addition, contractors were brought in for fencing and paving and other police departments were asked to supply personnel for perimeter security. Smith reminded us that until it was determined that explosives were not involved in the bridge collapse, the site was treated as a crime scene; following that determination, the site was still managed to document and preserve as much as possible as evidence for review.

Major Smith's audio-visual presentation included site shots from the State Patrol helicopter's real-time camera and images from the U.S. Corps of Engineers' camera at the St. Anthony Lock and Dam showing the actual twelve second collapse. He also shared how the recently acquired 800 MHz communication systems let all the involved organizations talk to each other, especially during the period when cell communication failed. Minnesotans are fortunate to have organizations with non-political managers that function well together in emergencies and disasters. Our little group was also very fortunate to get a good look at the workings of such a fine response.

Next up is our Annual Picnic on June 11 at Highland Park. We always hope for good weather and to see some new faces. Also, remember that we will not have a program in July and that the July and August newsletters will be combined. Respectfully, *Brian Berggren*, VIP Club President

June 2009: At our May program meeting, Mike Schwartz of Lunds & Byerly's gave us an interesting presentation on the history of grocery stores and what has been happening in the food industry during the last 100 years. With peaks into what was happening at ten-year intervals, Mike showed how the grocery

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store business has changed from selling basic commodities that people would use to prepare their food at home to a provider of prepared foods that can be used to fix a meal in a matter of minutes or just eaten out of the box. At one time, a good grocery store would have hundreds of items to sell, now it must have 10s of thousands of different items to be competitive.

It is another example of how life has changed, mostly for the better. With warm weather finally arriving, the grass growing, and barbeques being brought out, it is time to think about the annual picnic. Hopefully, you have all put it on your calendar: Wednesday, June 10th at 4:00 p.m. at Highland Park. It does not matter if it rains, we will have the whole shelter and umbrellas for the cooks. I am not sure if we'll have wild turkeys walking by this time, but I'm sure we'll have fun. Talk to your friends and get them to come. It is good to just sit down, share a meal, talk about the old times at work, and share some of the stories you know. I hope to see you there. Respectfully,
Tom Turba, VIP Club President.

June 2010: For those of you that missed the May program meeting, our speaker, who has had a varied lifetime career in the news media, talked about how it has changed and how in many ways it is no longer the media we used to know and trust. Local radio, television and newspapers used to have a dedicated staff of reporters and investigators who would ferret out the news and report on it. Today, local media cannot afford the staff they used to have and rely on mass-produced reports that are fed to them by national news organizations. It was an interesting and thought-provoking talk.

The Roseville Good Old Days get together at the end of April was a resounding success with plenty of parking, a great meeting room at the Mermaid, good food at a reasonable price, a

slide show of the demolition of buildings #1 and #2, great conversations with old coworkers, and hundreds of people attending. Next year's event is planned for the same place at the same time of year.

The next Club event is the annual picnic on June 9th, which will again have delicious, barbequed angus burgers, an array of pot luck delicacies and old-time camaraderie. Recruit a friend or a group of friends and come together. Car-pooling makes it easier, and you know you'll have at least one group of friends to eat with.

Our August meeting will be another chance for seeing old friends, having a chance to get outside, having a bite to eat, end seeing something interesting. It will be held at the Air National Guard Museum at the airport. See the August program in this issue for further details, mark it on your calendar, and send in your information today.

I look forward to seeing you all at the picnic in June, the museum in August, and our other activities through the year. Respectively,
Tom Turba VIP Club President.

June 2011: Please, when you've finished scanning your favorite sections of this newsletter, take a second look at the Constitution Change Ballot on page 7. As we continue the Club's transition into the future without LMCO sponsorship and diminishing UNISYS sponsorship, the Board has made some decisions to facilitate keeping in touch with all former employees, not just retirees. This transition includes effecting changes to our Constitution to be followed by some Bylaw updates. We'll include the „voting“ results in the September newsletter – will inform you of the salient Bylaw changes at that time too. I extend my thanks to the update committee of Quint Heckert, Tom Turba, and Harvey Taipale for their analysis, diligence, and foresight in

Established in 1980 developing these changes to the Club operational requirements and methods.

Sorry that you missed our inaugural program meeting in the UNISYS, Eagan facility. Thirty-five of our compatriots were there to see an eclectic presentation slide-and-video show about Egypt. The evening's big hit was the DVD videos put together by Paul Lindholm from his and Lynn's 2008 tour. The facility was great, an overhead video projector and screen made presenting easier than at the Eagan Community Center. Dale Phelps brought cookies and had very few left to take home. The 30-cup pot of decaffeinated coffee was emptied. I'm looking forward to our return to UNISYS, Eagan for our September Program!

Respectfully, *Lowell Benson*, VIP Club President

June 2012: In the last month we've had two reunion events that were very well attended. The first was the "Good Old Days" event in Mounds View for people that worked on the commercial side in Roseville and the second was the "Last Walk Through" of the Lockheed Martin plant on the defense side. At both events hundreds of people were greeting old friends and coworkers that they had not seen in years. As many people said, it was like a family reunion.

The VIP Club Board is still thinking of having a super reunion event next year for anyone who used to work for any part of our current or predecessor companies. If you would like to be involved in getting things organized or have any ideas you would like to share, your input is welcomed. It is obvious from the turnout at the two events this month that reunions are a fun thing that everyone enjoys.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the next coming event, which is the Club picnic in June. We're hoping for good weather, but rain or

shine we'll be there and have the shelter reserved. Respectfully, *Tom Turba*, VIP Club President

June 2013: The Roseville Good Old Days gathering was well attended again. The socializing was great. The noise level became significant as clusters of people told stories of the past.

The May 8th Program speaker was retired Navy Commander, Chip Laingen; a helicopter pilot who frequently landed on the moving deck of ships. He now is a key member of the Defense Alliance. This organization is focused on being a catalyst for innovative technology while accelerating economic development principally thru small business. The Defense Alliance is one of several that were funded by the SBA to shorten the time it takes from an idea to a usable product. The greatest impediment to growth of this business is the actions of both Federal and Minnesota governments.

I hope to see many of you at the "Grand Reunion Picnic" in Highland Park on June 12th. You're welcome to attend even if you did not preregister. You may attend at a cost of \$10 per person. (See the "Walk-in PICNIC FORM", page 7) Respectfully, *Bob 'RC' Hanson*, VIP Club President

June 2014: Welcome back AZ and FL snowbirds. Welcome home to our out-of-state members who have planned a summer vacation back in Minnesota.

Although time always seems to fly in Minnesota; I invite you to take a break from your lake fun or the golf course while you are here! The newsletter lists several PERIODIC GROUPS breakfast or lunch gatherings at which you could meet and greet a few former co-workers. Better yet, if your timing is right come to the June picnic or the August outing at the Charles Babbage Institute. The picnic

Established in 1980 and CBI tour are also opportunities for donations of your old ERA/UNIVAC/Sperry/UNISYS hardware items and documents. Plus, if you still have a few vacation hours to burn; the Lawshe Museum great hall has preliminary displays of our ERA to LMCO history! Respectfully, *Lowell A. Benson*

June 2015: *Looking to the Future!* ERA opened its doors in 1946 so 2016 will mark 70 years since the beginning of our heritage companies and our IT Legacy. Our club has existed for half of that time. Among our current membership are twelve 90-year-olds – most are WWII veterans. At the Club's picnic in 2006, I recall Don Weidenbach commenting: "I worked for the company for 30 years and have been retired for 30 years!" Thanks to Don and the others for their writing and artifact contributions to our IT Legacy at CBI, the Lawshe, and to our website. A few years ago, the Club Board passed a resolution to give any/all 90-year-old members a life membership, i.e., no more annual dues. So, as you read this please let us know when your milestone birthday occurs. I believe that Manny Block reaches that age later this year. Our membership database entries have dropped below 1,000 for the first time since 2007! You, as a current member, can influence your former co-workers to 're-join' or to be a 'new' member. Your May directory has 98% of our membership so you should be able to check if a friend isn't a member. Invite him/her to attend the picnic or Mississippi river cruise with you. If he or she is less than 55 years old, they could become Associate Members – recruit, recruit, recruit for 2016!

And I urge you to consider joining the Club Board. Our commercial systems retirees (plant 4) are grossly under represented on the Board! For 2016 we have a need for a Vice President and a Director (or two or three.) Contact me or

2015 VP Keith Behnke to discuss what you could do for the future of the VIP Club. Sincerely, *Lowell Benson*.

June 2016: As we move into summer, with hopefully good weather, I spend much of my spare time golfing. With the Unified Legacy Golf League sponsoring both league play and tournaments many Lockheed and Unisys employees/retirees get to enjoy continued work-related friendships. We play at many courses around the Twin City area and are always looking for new golfers. The VIP Club also plans outdoor events, such as the Annual Reunion Picnic at St. Paul's Highland Park in June and the River Boat Trip which will be on the St. Croix at Stillwater in August this year. These are great opportunities to get together with former co-workers so I hope many of you will take advantage of them and submit your registration forms. Watch the newsletter for the events we have planned for September, October, November, and December. We would like to see more of you at our get-togethers. *Keith Behnke, 2016 Club President.*

Beginning in 2017, June news was included in the May/June newsletter.

JULYs

July 2004: It was picnic time for VIP Club members on June 9th at Highland Park in St. Paul. We never know what our Minnesota weather may be when we schedule a picnic; the morning of June 9th was no exception and it started with a heavy rain. However, as the day progressed the rain stopped, and it turned out to be a beautiful day for our picnic. Rain or shine Highland Park has a wonderful shelter for us to enjoy. A special "thank you" to Chuck Homan, our picnic chairman and cook, along with Jim Larson, for those hamburgers grilled to perfection. Thank you to the kitchen crew

Established in 1980 who helped with setting up the food and cleaning after the picnic. Also, thank you to our photographers. Picnic pictures are included as an insert in this newsletter. Attendance was well over 100 people. It was great to see everyone having a good time renewing old friendships. Also, thank you to everyone bringing the delicious food.

I want to thank everyone who submitted his or her favorite recipes to be published in the UNISYS Employee Cookbook. I am looking forward to trying some of them.

The VIP Club presented a panel discussion on retirement to the employees at Lockheed Martin on Wednesday, June 16. The Lockheed Martin Diversity Council sponsored this event. Presenters were John Dufour, Joe Schwarz, Hank Dotzler, Brian Berggren, and Bernie Jansen, with me as moderator. Hope everyone is having a great summer. Respectfully,
Dale Phelps, VIP President

July 2005: Mark your calendar, July 13th at 4:00 PM will be our Annual VIP Club Picnic at the Pavilion in Highland Park (see map on page 5.). This year's picnic is a special occasion, as the VIP Club will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary. Let's really make it a celebration! I encourage those of you who have company memorabilia to bring it for display and share with your fellow VIP Club Members. A special table will be set up for these memorabilia. All attendees are requested to bring a food item for the potluck portion of the picnic. Please refer to the July Program (page 1) for information on what to bring. Each member attending the picnic will receive a gift commemorating the VIP Clubs 25th anniversary. Hope to see you there for a time of fun and reminiscing.

The June Program meeting, presented by Eleanor Ostman, provided us with a history of

best-loved restaurants in Minnesota starting in 1850 to the present with pictures of the buildings and their menus. Eleanor had her two books "Minnesota Eats Out" and "Always on Sunday" for sale and was willing to autograph them. These are two very interesting books.

"VIP Club elections for new officers and directors will be held in November, it is not too early to think about volunteering to become an Officer or Director of the VIP Club. Please talk to any of the present officers or directors if you have questions. Respectfully,
Dale Phelps, VIP Club President

We've merged July and August newsletter issues since 2006.

July/August 2006: Due to publishing constraints concerning the July and August issues of the Newsletter, the Board at its meeting on June 7th decided we'd issue a joint July/August Newsletter!

Our picnic on June 14th at the pavilion in Highland Park, St. Paul was a huge success! We had a warm, sunny day and everyone enjoyed visiting with old friends and did justice to all the food prepared by the Club plus that brought by the Members. Both of our corporate sponsors, Unisys and Lockheed Martin Management were represented at the picnic: Mr. Bill Rohde from Unisys and Dick "Ole" Olson from Lockheed Martin. Special thanks are due to the following for their work in making the picnic such a memorable event: 1). Chuck Homan for chairing the picnic committee and procuring the Park for our picnic on January 3rd; 2). Jim Larson our head chef for cooking the hamburgers – he was ably assisted by Paul Lindholm with help from Lyle Olson and Lynn Lindholm. Also, Jim stores all the Club's cooking and serving utensils, coffee

Established in 1980 pot, plastics, utensils, and plates, etc. from year to year; 3). The Kitchen staff including Ruth Sanford, Marion Scott, Midge Homan, and Lynn Lindholm set up and supervised the food service and then later cleaned up the kitchen area; 4). Joe Schwarz, assisted by his wife Nancy and daughter, Anne covered all the tables with plastic cloths and set up and stocked the soft drink and water coolers with ice and later they cleaned up the whole pavilion dining area; 5). Dale Phelps for procuring the soft drinks, water, hamburger, and buns and delivering all of these items to the picnic – he was assisted by Warren Becker; 6). Brian Berggren procured the various condiments for the hamburgers; 7) Lowell Benson and Dick Lundgren for setting up and manning the Legacy History Project table and displays; and finally, 8). Nick Benson for taking the Picnic photos presented in the collage insert to this Newsletter. There were approximately 130 VIP Club members in attendance.

After more than 15 years as the Club Treasurer, Jack Farber has decided to resign effective the end of August 2006 due to health reasons. We thank Jack for his dedicated service and the thorough job he has done as Treasurer. We are actively seeking a volunteer to replace Jack and work with him to review his files and then take over from him as soon as possible. If you can help fill this important position please notify me or one of the other Board Members!

In support of the Lockheed Martin Legacy History project a coordination meeting with LM representatives is tentatively scheduled for July 12th at Lockheed Martin. See the “LEGACY NEWS UPDATE” on page 5 of the Newsletter for more information on the Legacy History project. Respectfully, *Bernie Jansen*, VIP Club President

July/August 2007: Our annual picnic at Highland Park started with the day’s high of 90, but no one seemed uncomfortable. With the light breeze and moderate humidity, I think only our grill crew of Jim, Chuck, Paul, and Tom worked up a sweat out in the sun. Attendance was at least 115 and Lowell got a photo of most of us; he was so busy shooting; I don’t recall seeing him eat. His much-appreciated effort is the two pages of photos included as an insert in this issue. As usual, the ladies put together a wonderful assortment of warm dishes, salads, desserts, and appetizers. With the cooling breeze, only a few of the appetizer plates blew off the table. Even Lowell’s Legacy display stayed put; he continues to find something new to put out. Along with old company and project lapel pins was a Legacy website sample. Ann Thureen and Ole represented Unisys and Lockheed Martin as guests, with no speeches required. Thanks to all of you who made the day special, a sorry you missed to those we’ve seen in the past, and an invitation to the new or irregulars to plan to attend the picnic next June.

Respectfully, *Brian Berggren*, VIP Club President

July/August 2008: Our annual picnic could have been better if we didn’t have a downpour after the burgers were on the grills and maybe if a few more had come to the park. But we sure got the alphabet groups right for those bringing the salads, desserts, hot dishes, and appetizers. The 90 or so attending enjoyed State Fair quality food, all attractive, tasty, and varied – a couple even had memorable zing, at least to my Norwegian palate. This is a special thanks to all who took part; I cannot recall a better potluck spread for super goodness and minimal duplication. On hearing the rainy forecast, Tom picked up two tent shelters from Unisys that let Jim, Paul, and Tom man the grills without getting soaked, and the rain

Established in 1980 lowered the temperature to a comfortable cool for the rest of us. Pictures from the picnic are shown on pages 4 and 5.

Dale has been working the phones and has lined up interesting and informative programs for the rest of the year. Check the program announcements and try to attend a couple. Also, your Sesquicentennial Committee has been asked by the State organizers to set up and man the exhibit at the State Fair. This will require a good bit of extra volunteer manpower and getting people to sign up for a shift would be appreciated. Even if you can't commit to a shift, try to visit the exhibit, and maybe stay another hour or so to help.

Respectfully, *Brian Berggren*, VIP Club President

July/August 2009: The annual picnic at Highland Park was a great success. Although the weather looked threatening in the morning, it turned into perfect weather for a picnic in the afternoon. We had a wide and tasty variety of food brought in by everyone and the Angus burgers cooked by Jim and Paul were delicious. The best part of the picnic was just getting together with old friends, sharing memories, and talking about the good old days. Thanks to everyone who helped make it possible by getting everything there, setting up the shelter, putting out the food and cleaning up afterward. A special thanks goes to Jim Larson who for the third year in a row got up early on a cold January morning to go to downtown St. Paul to reserve the shelter. For about 20 years, this job was done by Chuck Homan, who was pleasantly surprised to be recognized with the Member Emeritus award at the picnic. Please see the article about him in this newsletter and enjoy the full-page picture spread from the picnic on pages 4 and 5.

Dale Phelps is again lining up speakers for our program meetings. A couple of those meetings you may especially want to attend. In August we have Beverly Gherity, the Senior Outreach Program Manager for the Better Business Bureau (BBB). Bev's talk is titled —Be alert, Be wise, Be savvy. In September we will have Tom Misa, director of the Charles Babbage Institute, talk about computer history in Minnesota. Also, in October our pot-luck dinner is being replaced by ice cream and treats with an inside view of Cuba, from a trip I took to Havana as part of a Minnesota State Delegation. Respectfully, *Tom Turba*, VIP Club President.

July/August 2010: Summer is with us again. How fast the months seem to roll by. For those of you that missed the annual June picnic, we had delicious, barbecued Angus burgers and an array of pot luck delicacies with old time camaraderie. It was beautiful weather, and a great time was had by all. See pages 5 and 6 for pictures taken at the picnic.

If you could not make the June picnic, think about attending the August meeting which will be held at the Air National Guard Museum at the airport. This will be a somewhat different type of meeting, as there will be free food as well as a tour of the facilities and planes. It will be another chance to see old friends, get out and about, have a bite to eat, and see something interesting. Call a friend and plan on going together. See inside for further details, mark it on your calendar, and send in your information today so we will have an idea of how many will be attending. If this is the kind of thing you like to do, we'll see about having more outing events.

The September program should be another well attended meeting, with speaker Bud Kraehling and his wife telling us about things they have done. This will be followed with another ice-cream social meeting in October

Established in 1980 when we will be celebrating the past 30 years of the retirement Club.

I look forward to seeing you at the air museum in August, the program meeting in September, or the 30th anniversary party in October. Until then, have an enjoyable summer and keep thinking about the good things that are yet to come. Respectfully, *Tom Turba*, VIP Club President

July/August 2011: Your BOARD has been quite busy and is taking a break by doing this combined July/August newsletter issue. Your September issue will be out in mid-August. At that time we will have tallied your votes on the Constitution Ballot which was a part of the June newsletter. Thanks to each of you who took the time to vote electronically and by U.S. Mail. At that time we will also report on a By-laws update that perforce follows constitution changes. We won't have a board meeting in July, an item on our August Board meeting agenda is our 2012 calendar as we keep looking ahead. We'd welcome your feedback or feed forward as we discuss topics of possible program interest to our members. In the September newsletter, Keith Behnke will write about the LMCO and UNISYS golf leagues possibly merging for the 2012 season as both have had current and retired members playing during the summer months. You have read by now that the LMCO Eagan building sale is complete and will be vacated by March 2013. Our Legacy committee has a lot of document, photo, and artifact processing to complete „between now and then“.

I hope that you who were there, enjoyed our annual Highland Park picnic and camaraderie. This gathering always has over 100 participants and has been a wonderful opportunity to reminisce with former coworkers. A few picnic snapshots are on page 4. The recent Roseville „Good Old Days“ event

had a great turnout, the „Syttende Mai“ celebration at Casper's was interesting as we learned of troop winter training exchanges between Camp Ripley and Norway. If you missed these, there is a Field Service picnic coming up in August. In September committees will meet to plan the November election slate for the 2012 board, the November Unihogs/Uniturkeys luncheon, and the Ft. Snelling Old Timer's gathering in December. If you have a bit of time to help with any of these upcoming events, please send me an e-mail, webmaster@vipclubmn.org. Respectfully, *Lowell Benson*, VIP Club President

July/August 2012: The June picnic at Highland Park was another success with good food and camaraderie enjoyed by all, as can be seen by the pictures in the center of this issue, although not everyone was captured by the photographer.

Next year's picnic is being planned as a super event that will be a grand reunion for anyone who worked for any part of our current or predecessor companies in the Twin Cities area. It will be open to anyone who wants to come. We probably will be taking reservations for this event as we will need to plan food and drink for everyone. If you would like to be involved in getting things organized or have ideas you would like to share, your input is welcomed. Reunions are fun activities that everyone seems to enjoy.

Our next program event will be a tour of the Minnesota Department of Transportation Control Center at their new Water's Edge building next to the old building Unisys occupied in the 1980's. If you are planning to go and have not already sent me a message, just drop me a line at: TNTurba@comcast.net.

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I'm looking forward to seeing you at one of the coming events. Respectfully, *Tom Turba*, VIP Club President

July/August 2013: Apparently the grand reunion picnic was a great success. I was unable to participate due to a conflict with my annual fishing trip to Canada. The planners and volunteers contributed greatly to the success of this event. Further information is included in this newsletter, which I hope identifies the people who so richly deserve our thanks for a job well done. Respectfully, *Bob 'RC' Hanson*, VIP Club President

July/August 2014: Are you overwhelmed by history? You shouldn't be because we are part of history. I just read a new Nodin Press book: "Generation of Wealth – The rise of Control Data and how it inspired an era of innovation and investment in the Upper Midwest" written by Donald M. Hall. Don put a book timeline before the 'Contents' page, it begins with '1945 – World War II ends' and '1946 – Engineering Research Associates (ERA) formed'. His timeline ends with '2009 – Bear market low and Medtronic and St. Jude are industry leaders.' Mr. Hall's life is intertwined with his book; some of his research was done at the Charles Babbage Institute. I've also re-read Dr. Misa's latest book: "DIGITAL STATE – The story of Minnesota's Computing Industry" published by the University of Minnesota Press. Tom's book also includes a Control Data chapter and a chapter about the local medical industry. Both books are captivating and a wonderful review of how local history fits within ½ century of Minnesota and US history. Respectfully, *Lowell A. Benson*

July/August 2015: Remembering! I am saddened by the May closure of the Ft. Snelling Officers' Club. The Annual UNIVAC Old Timers gathering had met there the first Thursday of December for about three decades. Yes, for most of those years it was referred to as the

'Old Farts.' At the 2007 gathering, Earl Lillestrand announced that he and John Markfelder could no longer handle hosting and notifications. A few of us knew of Earl's announcement ahead of time; Fred Vihovde volunteered to be the host and I volunteered to handle the notifications. Thanks to Fred, the Old Timers gathering is now scheduled at the Lost Spur on December 3, 2015. Fred, Jack Ross, and I had met at the O' Club numerous times since 1999 to plan the Unihogs/Uniturkeys luncheons. While at those and Christmas dinner planning lunches, I had noticed Earl having lunch with Cam Smith and Ken Kangas – Ernie Lantto occasionally drove in from Dassel to join them. Personally, I was at over a dozen standby Selective Service Board training sessions at the O' club during the 80s and 90s as well as a few receptions with family friends. Each of you, our readers, quite likely have recollections of other meetings at the facility. We hope that head bartender Tim, server Barb, and catering coordinator Maureen can find new positions. Like the passing of old friends - good memories will be with us for a long time. Sincerely, *Lowell Benson*.

July/August 2016: Using the information received from the member's survey and other points of discussion at our VIP Club executive board meetings we are looking at ways to better serve the club membership outside the Twin City area. It looks like the events/programs that are social in nature are the most popular. Some examples are the Annual Reunion Picnic, Roseville's Good Old Days, the Old Timers gathering, the River Cruise and the Christmas Dinner Party. Obviously the members that live near the metropolitan area can attend many of our planned events. Members who live further away, and we have significant numbers in the Arizona and Florida areas, find it harder to attend them. Along with those that have

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permanent residences in these areas additional members spend significant time there during the winter months. We are looking for a way to sponsor an annual event for these club members but need to find a focal point (both an individual/s to coordinate and a convenient location to gather) to make it work. I will be contacting some candidates soon but if you are interested please let me know. *Keith Behnke*, Club President.

July/August 2017: As we enjoy our scheduled events for the rest of the year things are beginning to shape up for 2018. We are working on formulating a new version of our VIP Club Christmas Dinner Party. It appeared that attendance at the event may have suffered because of the large number of other family and group gatherings in December. Being considered is having something in mid/late January or early February to celebrate both Christmas and the New Year. In conjunction with this we are trying to provide a similar party for VIP Club members who winter in Florida and Arizona. While we have the addresses of those who permanently reside in those locations we don't know of those who are just there during the winter months. Please contact me or one of the coordinators listed below if you are in that category. The Florida event will be held in the vicinity of The Villages and the Arizona event will be held in the Phoenix area. Please communicate any thoughts you may have on this topic to help us put together enjoyable events for our club members. • Florida – Jeff Parker, jkparker1@yahoo.com, 651- 344-7028 • Arizona – Lynn Lindholm, 651-484-1030, lynnindholm@comcast.net. Roy Erwin and Larry Hoepner are assisting with the Arizona event. *Keith Behnke*, VIP Club President.

July/August 2018: Several our retirees (and those from other companies) have now

had the experience of going to the TPT studio, sitting in front of a producer, cameraman, sound technician, and being interviewed about their experiences in the computer industry. The impetus behind this is a project to capture enough information to secure the funding to generate a full-fledged documentary about the computer industry in Minnesota.

My big take away from this process is that we are just too modest about tooting our historical horn. While something known as SEAC is recognized as the first operating US stored program computer, it was a government laboratory program, first operated in April 1950. ERA delivered and installed a substantially faster, larger, more complex system by December of 1950. That machine was a Navy workhorse, helping to crack cold war codes for years. Many more impressive Minnesota originated computer technology milestones occurred in the ensuing years, but that history has been largely ignored.

Perhaps a TPT documentary will make a bit of a change, and there is something that we all can do to help that process. It's called a career summary. In January 2006, Dr. A. Norberg, then Director of the Charles Babbage Institute, indicated that if more than 200 people would provide a summary of their individual careers, historians would have as strong foundation upon which to build an accurate history of the innovative computer industry in Minnesota. The products to date are on our web site, and we don't have the 200 yet. What we do have has been applauded by the TPT researchers as a wonderful resource in their efforts. So far, we have 174 Career Summary/Life Story submissions, see who has contributed at <http://vipclubmn.org/People.html>.

So, this will be one last plea to everyone (myself included) - now is a great time to sit down and write that career summary you have

Established in 1980 been putting off. Then, when the TPT documentary is finally produced, you can feel proud that you contributed to overcoming just a bit of that ingrained Minnesota modesty. *Harvey Taipale* VIP Club President.

July/August 2019: Much to my regret later in life, I was not too much of a fan of history in high school nor college. To be sure, I took all the classes that were required - US, world, and state history (big secret – I grew up in Wisconsin and never really had to learn Minnesota history) and plodded thru like all my fellow students that just wanted to get the class over.

Over the years, I have come to regret my casual attitude to history. So many things happen in our society are the links of a chain that extends through time. Understanding those old links is important in understanding the present reality that we all must deal with, and I have come to understand that if you didn't get it back then, you might not get it now.

So, I need to confess that all mini philosophizing was evoked by the VIP picnic. This was a great time – lots of retirees reconnecting with former work associates, sharing old memories and stories (some of which were entertaining, but not printable) and just enjoying old relationships. Lots of remembering the tough problems solved and big projects completed. We had a visitor, photojournalist Jim Kron from TPT, who was shooting some video for their upcoming documentary about the early computer industry in Minnesota. Stay tuned for more data about that later this summer.

But back to history – listening to those conversations was listening to history that has been made by the folks who were a vital part of the process. Maybe not the kind of history

that gets memorialized into textbooks a hundred years from now but, the kind that moves forward in hundreds of everyday steps that together produced important changes for the better in our world. As a company, we were not perfect, but there was a collective drive to success, excellence, and fairness that I personally have never seen matched. Those picnic stories, at their heart, showed that most of you felt the same way. Amazing how a retiree picnic can make one feel so proud of their fellow workers. *Harvey Taipale*, VIP Club President.

July/August 2020: I'm guessing that by now, most of you are feeling a little bit overdosed on COVID-19 virus news.

I suspect most of you are getting as overloaded with COVID-19 dominating the news as I am, so I am going to be very brief on that topic. Two comments: First, we are keeping our remaining Club events on the calendar and will be scheduling regular events for 2021. Acceptable conditions for get-togethers are evolving, and if these events can occur and if there is membership interest in attending, then they will be held. If not, we typically will wait until 2-4 weeks before the event before announcing any cancellation. Second, there is a reality that even if it is permissible to hold an event, many of our members may feel uncomfortable attending. All of you electronically connected should have received an evite asking for your current interest in a VIP Club 40-year anniversary dinner party in September. Your responses help the board gauge your feelings about large group gatherings and will guide future board decisions to hold, cancel, or postpone an event.

The 40th anniversary celebration is an important milestone for the VIP Club, and we WILL celebrate, if not this year, then later. If Tokyo can reschedule the Olympics as the

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2020ne games, we certainly can consider a 40ne celebration!

On a more mundane note, I have been painting about 200 spindles on my deck. It's a boring job, so one's mind tends to wander in a variety of odd ways. I wandered back to Gish's vignette published last month. The actual job he was tasked to do was straightforward, but it showed focus and creativity in quickly solving a customer's problem. He made a friendly personal connection along the way. What could have been "just a job" became a mini adventure in life. I can't help but think that this sort of attitude and approach to work was common across the Minnesota contingent and beyond, creating a pretty good place to work.

I didn't fully realize it at the time, but in retrospect I was exceedingly fortunate to be a part of that environment. I never had a stinker of a boss – in fact, many of them were outstanding leaders. I never had a job where I struggled to go to work every day because work was unpleasant. I got to know many good people and made some lifelong friends. I worked with numerous other companies over the years, and never saw one that was more attractive overall. Not to be too Pollyanna about it, of course we had some "imported" upper management that didn't do us much good, but the working troops were generally great.

Bob Ragsdale, a longtime employee who finished his career working at Martin Marietta in Orlando as our liaison on the Communications Control Nodal Element (CNCE) program was always quick to remind everyone that "Sperry was the best place I ever worked." I think most of you would echo that sentiment. I believe our retirees could tell thousands of stories that would remind us how fortunate we were to be part of a great group of people at a great time in our industry. I

encourage you all to share some of them in writing to preserve some of that history. Like Gish, you have interesting tales to tell, and your fellow retirees want to read them. *Harvey Taipale*, VIP Club President.

July/August 2021: At last, it looks like we are on a real path to normalcy, whatever that turns out to be after all this disruption is over. The return of the VIP Club picnic (pictures in this issue) is the first "normal" club activity to be reinstated, and there will be more. Barring any big, unexpected change in the COVID situation, we are looking forward to our 41st (aka delayed 40th) Anniversary Party in September, the usual Unihogs and Technologists Reunion (and VIP Club Board elections) in November and the annual Old Timers' Reunion in December.

It looks like many of you are ready for some socializing, too. The number of picnic sign-ups was twice the size of previous years, and the turnout was equally strong. Perfect day, lots of good memories shared and good food. A big THANK YOU to all the volunteers who worked to get it organized and make the picnic a success. Getting together is one of the main functions of the VIP Club, and I hope this enthusiasm continues for all our future events.

Larry Bolton's fine survey of the early "parts" world brought back some memories (see <http://vipclubmn.org/Articles/ComponentQR.pdf>). This was the area I hired into when I started at UNIVAC. Today's world, where one can buy millions of highly reliable transistors on a single chip for literally pennies is a far cry from those early days when getting good components for our machines was a pretty complex undertaking. Collectively, this and many other disciplines were necessary to get the industry to mature to the technological wonder it is today, and you all contributed to the evolution of the computer industry in various ways. At the risk of sounding

Established in 1980 repetitive, all of you have stories about your part in growing this industry that should be documented, so please think about contributing an article to share.

Finally, a reminder that we will hold VIP Club Board elections at our November Unihogs & Technologists Reunion meeting. If any of you are interested in joining the Board or are interested in volunteering to help out with other club activities, feel free to contact any Board member. Currently, our meetings are conducted via Zoom (Unisys hasn't opened their facility yet), so if you want to check out a meeting, let us know and we'll get you linked in.

Meanwhile, get vaccinated if you haven't already done so, enjoy summer and stay safe!
Harvey Taipale, VIP Club President

AUGUSTs

August 2004: The July VIP Club meeting was held on July 14th at the Eagan Community Center. The program featured a slide presentation prepared by the Minnesota Senior Federation (MnSF). The presenters were Brian Berggren and Warren Becker, both of whom are Federation and VIP Club members. Brian is co-chair of the Medicare Justice Coalition (MJC) of the MnSF, which with the Federation is taking a national leadership role in the fight for equal benefits under Medicare. The very informative presentation described the planned changes to the Medicare Law, the features of the new "Drug Discount Card," and the impacts of these over the next several years. Brian also provided several handouts prepared by the MJC, which show the significant inequities in the cost of health care under Medicare for enrollees living in Minnesota vs. those in Florida. Thanks to Brian and Warren for their excellent

presentation on this subject which is of personal interest to all Club members.

Dale Phelps chaired the meeting. The new portable PA system purchased by the Club Board provided quality sound throughout the room and was a big help to all those listening to the speakers. Lockheed Martin provided refreshments at the meeting.

On a final note, please keep Dale Phelps and his wife, Ruth in your thoughts and prayers. On July 15th Dale underwent total hip replacement surgery at Fairview Southdale Medical Center. The surgery went well, and he is now recuperating at home. On behalf of the Club, we wish him a speedy recovery and a quick return to his active role as Club president! Respectfully, *Bernie Jansen, VIP Club Vice president*

August 2005: The Unisys/Lockheed Martin VIP Club commemorated a major milestone on the thirteenth of July celebrating its 25th Anniversary with a picnic in Highland Park. Past Presidents in attendance were Ray Miller, Millie Gignac, Warren Becker, Chuck Homan, Barney Buss, Bernie Jansen, John Dufour and Hank Dotzler. It was good to see the support for the club from these past presidents. A special gold imprinted VIP Club 25th Anniversary pen was presented to each member in attendance. Everyone had a chance to look at the collection of memorabilia that was displayed on a table - there was a lot of history for us to reminisce about. Even though it was a very warm July night, the attendance was the largest I have ever seen at a VIP Club Picnic. Everyone had a good time socializing and eating the wonderful potluck food along with the grilled hamburgers and soft drinks and 25th Anniversary cake provided by the Club. Special "thanks" are offered to: 1). Jim Larson, Chuck Homan, and Paul Lindholm for their preparation of 160 hamburgers in 90-degree plus weather; 2). Ruth Sanborn, Marion

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Scott, Dorothy Becker, Midge Homan, Geri Dotzler, and Lynn Lindholm for their layout of all the potluck items, table prep and the cleanup of the kitchen and tables after the picnic; 3). Nick Benson for taking photos of the picnic highlights; and 4). Chuck Homan for reserving the pavilion back in January. Picnic pictures are included as an insert in this newsletter.

I personally want to thank everyone who helped make this 25th Anniversary party a big success. I can say it was a big success with all the support we had. Our August program will be in Eagan with Dr. Mark Seeley who will be speaking on "Climate Trends in Minnesota – Some Implied and Documented Impacts".

Respectfully, *Dale Phelps*, VIP Club President

SEPTEMBERS

September 2004: Where has the summer gone? Our VIP Club just had the August Program Meeting at Unisys, Roseville on the 11th. Jack Farber gave an excellent slide presentation on his tour to western and central Turkey. The meeting was well attended, and Jack did an outstanding job narrating the slides.

We have had requests from our Lockheed Martin – Eagan members to repeat the eye program held at UNISYS last January. We are bringing back Phyllis Salchow, a registered Occupational Therapist with the Phillips Eye Institute, who will speak on "The Aging Eye." Our eyes are most important and a major concern for all of us, so let's come out and fill the room to gain knowledge about our precious eyes.

Included in this mailing, you will find an updated VIP Club Member Directory and some information about the United Way. It is my hope that the VIP Club members will help support the United Way in some way.

It is not too early to think about election of VIP Club Officers and Directors in November. We need members who would like to serve the club in the future. We would even like to see some competition for the positions. Please contact Hank Dotzler with your interest. This is your Club, and we want to give you an opportunity to serve.

I want to thank everyone for your prayers, telephone calls and cards during my recovery from the total hip replacement. I am progressing well and getting stronger every day. Positive encouragement and prayer really help the healing process. While in the hospital and rehab center I learned a new phrase: "I'll be right back!" Thanks to Bernie Jansen for writing the July President's Report and to all the board members for your concerns during my convalescence. Respectfully, *Dale Phelps*, VIP Club President

September 2005: Our August program began with short presentations by two guests.

Ms. Pauline Alfors, the United Way executive for Unisys, requested VIP Club members' help in two areas: 1). Financial support of the United Way Campaign which the Club has participated in for many years. A September mailing from Unisys will provide status and Fund Drive donation forms; 2). Direct support of the United Way Campaign "live auction" which be held the week of September 12th - members are asked to help by donating items for the auction and to attend and help staff the booths for the auction. Further details on this event are provided in the ANNOUNCEMENTS section on Page 2 of this Newsletter.

Mr. R.J. (Ole) Olson of Lockheed Martin spoke on behalf of the ongoing "History Legacy" project which seeks to gather historical information, records and artifacts from the predecessor, legacy companies to Lockheed Martin (MS2) in the Twin Cities. If anyone has

Established in 1980 information or artifacts they would like to donate, please contact Ole Olson at Lockheed Martin, phone number 651-456-3158.

The featured speaker at our August program meeting, Dr. Mark Seeley gave an excellent and lively presentation on Minnesota weather and climate. He presented historical data on Minnesota weather, temperatures, and climate trends in relation to national and global weather conditions. He discussed the resultant impact of these factors in terms of environmental, ethical, and political restraints. We hope all persons that attended got a better understanding of our weather changes in Minnesota and nationally.

The VIP Club is still looking for members to be an Officer or Director of the Club. I strongly encourage you to make a commitment to fulfill this request so your name can be on the ballot for our 2006 election which will be held at the November program meeting. Respectfully,
Dale Phelps, VIP Club President

September 2006: The Newsletter staff and your President have enjoyed the respite provided by not having a July deadline to issue the separate August Newsletter. We now plan on again issuing monthly Newsletters. The Board is considering for next year to reduce the number of Program meetings and the frequency of issuing the Newsletter. This subject will be discussed in more detail at our September Board Meeting. You will be notified if any changes are approved.

We have been fortunate this summer to have had two excellent Programs. On July 12th, Mr. Henry A. Oertelt recounted his experiences during the 1940's while growing up and living in Nazi Germany. He survived the Holocaust and endured living in two death camps at Auschwitz and Flossenbürg. His presentation was videotaped by TV channel 11 for later use

in a special TV program about Mr. Oertelt. His program was well received and discussed by the more than 50 members and friends in attendance. On August 9th our program featured a slide show on Northern Italy by Jack Farber, our Club Treasurer and World-traveler in his own right. Jack's well-done presentation including background theme music was enjoyed by the thirty members in attendance.

In last month's President's Message, I noted that Jack Farber our Treasurer had resigned effective the end of August. Board Director, Lowell Benson has volunteered to assume the Treasurer responsibilities and has also committed to run for this office for the 2007 Calendar year! The Club again thanks Jack for his many years of dedicated service and we extend best wishes to Lowell as he assumes the duties of Club Treasurer.

At the August Board Meeting, the 2007 Nominating Committee was activated under Chairman Past President, Dale Phelps. Dale has contacted all current officers and Board Members. He reports that Brian Berggren will run for President replacing me as the current President. Also, all other Officers and Directors will run for re-election to their current positions for 2007. The net result is we have two openings on the Board for 2007 – the position of Vice President and the Director position vacated by Lowell Benson. Please contact Dale Phelps if you would like to volunteer to fill one of these vacancies.

VIP Club members of the LM Legacy project Lowell Benson, Dick Lundgren, Harry Wise, and I participated in the Corporate Legacy Project review hosted at LM, Eagan on August 1st. Also, on August 2nd Dick Lundgren and Harry Wise took part in visits by the group to the Charles Babbage Institute and the Minnesota History Museum. Dick, Lowell, and Harry have received commendations from Eagan LM management for their efforts in supporting the

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LM Legacy Project: Lowell for his design and implementation of the Legacy Project Web Site; Dick for establishing the ongoing interface with the Charles Babbage Institute; and Harry for his leadership in explaining the technology of the Magnetic Drum which was crucial to the success of ERA 60 years ago! Refer to the "Legacy News Update" on page 3 for more information on the Legacy History Project

Respectfully, *Bernie Jansen*, VIP Club President

September 2007: The August program had many of the thirty in attendance feeling as though we were back in school. Immigration law attorney and William Mitchell College of Law lecturer Jerome Ingber had us taking notes and even gave us a little quiz in the hour and a half of his very interesting and fact-filled talk. Did you know the largest wave of immigration to Minnesota peaked around 1900, when 40 percent were foreign born? Did you know 103 languages and dialects are spoken in the homes of Minnesota's K-12 students?

Much of what makes the VIP Club and its meetings so interesting is what we each bring to the association. We enjoy the interaction and the opportunity to share interests and experiences, and we want to extend to you an invitation to help on committees and run for board positions. Some members of your current board have been doing the same tasks for years and would like to give others a chance to help. Many of you are so good at volunteering; please consider taking a bigger role in your club. Bernie is chairing this year's nominating committee of Lowell, Dale, and Tom, and would love to hear from some eager souls. Respectfully, *Brian Berggren*, VIP Club President

September 2008: Our hope is this issue will be read fresh from the mailbox and more

members motivated to volunteer to help our Sesquicentennial Committee man the exhibit at the State Fair. This is an opportunity to share the pride we have in our legacy and the technical, financial, and cultural impact resulting from the contributions of our "geeks." The very informative booth gives us a wonderful chance to talk about how significant our early industry was to both Minnesota and the development of computing.

Because this issue is going to the printer before the August program, I am hoping the Jack McKernan presentation on "Diabetes and Macular Degeneration" will be both well-attended and very informative. Macular degeneration is an eye disease that is one of the leading causes of blindness. Mr. McKernan is a volunteer with the Lion's Club and Fairview Southdale Hospital.

Your club has a new member directory that will be available at our upcoming programs. We also ask that you check the year after your name on the address page. If it is 2008, it's time to renew your membership. Next, mark your October calendar for the 11:30 a.m. Pot Luck at Unisys. Respectfully, *Brian Berggren*, VIP Club President

September 2009: For those of you that could not make the August meeting, Beverly Gherity of the Better Business Bureau gave an excellent presentation on schemes and scams that seniors, as well as other people, should be aware of. Beverly is part of a proactive group that scans the media looking for scams, false advertising, and other traps. She actively works with local businesses as a consumer advocate and helps to mediate problems when they occur. She is especially dedicated to helping seniors and welcome's calls from anyone who is suspicious of any kind of advertising or offer they have been given. The Better Business Bureau is there to help you

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find out more about a business or charity and keeps a database on complaints received.

Be sure to mark your calendar for Wednesday, September 9th when we will have Tom Misa, director of the Charles Babbage Institute, talk about computer history in Minnesota and especially the ERA, UNIVAC connection. In October we will have an ice cream social with slides showing an inside view of Cuba, from a trip I took to Havana in 2002 as part of a Minnesota State Delegation.

I hope to see you at one of the upcoming meetings. The Christmas party will be coming up on December 10th. Respectfully, *Tom Turba*, VIP Club President

September 2010: The August meeting, which was held at the Air National Guard Museum at the airport, was a great success with 74 people attending. Although the weather was warm, we had a good breeze flowing through the open hanger we were in along with plenty of ice-cold drinks. It was fun climbing up in the old planes and seeing some coworkers that I had not seen in 20 years or more.

The smell of the barbeque induced us into eating more than enough delicious burgers and hot dogs as well as cookies and condiments. Photos taken at the Air National Guard Museum are shown on pages 6 and 7.

There were many comments that this is the way meetings should be. It was generally felt that we should have more events where we get out and do something interesting. If you have an idea on what might be a good thing to do for a future meeting, let me know.

The September program, although it will be inside, should be another interesting and well-attended meeting. We will be having Bud Kraehling and his wife telling us about trips

they have taken and things they have done. Be sure to mark Sept. 8th on your calendar so you don't forget.

In October, we will be having another ice-cream social in Roseville when we will be celebrating the past 30 years of the VIP Club. We plan to have Tom Misa from the Charles Babbage Institute there to talk about the history of computing in Minnesota.

I look forward to seeing you at one of the upcoming program meetings or at the Christmas Party in December. Until then, enjoy the rest of the summer and keep thinking about the good things that are yet to come. Additional photos taken at the ANG Museum are shown on pages 6 and 7. Respectfully, *Tom Turba*, VIP Club President

September 2011: This month's obit section notes the passing of John Dufour. John is probably best remembered for the dark tam which he wore at most Club activities. Beneath that jaunty head cover, he served the VIP Club for a decade as a Director, Chief Newsletter Editor, VP, and President. As President, he led the Club during the 2000 merger of LMCO retirees with UNISYS retirees including a revised Constitution and set of Bylaws. On behalf of the CLUB, he had traveled to UNISYS, Blue Bell to „fight for“ the rights of Sperry retirees. At our 2008 Christmas Dinner, we recognized him as a Member Emeritus for his extraordinary service to Sperry and UNISYS retirees. John, thanks for your services to fellow retirees, may you rest in peace.

Thanks to each member who took the time to respond to the June Newsletter Constitution Change Ballot. Most of the responders replied „YES“ to the four ballot items thereby meeting the section VI change approval requirement of the Constitution. Thus, as of our August Board meeting we are operating under a revised constitution and an updated set of bylaws.

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One member voted electronically twice - we only counted the first. Another abstained, stating that there wasn't sufficient information for him to make a judgment. A third phoned with a question a month after the ballot due date. 60% of the responders used the internet, 40% returned via US mail. Both new documents are now available on line, linked from section 1 of <http://vipclubmn.org/About.aspx>. A major aspect of the new bylaws is an Associate Member (AM). This AM designation will facilitate continuing social interactions with those laid off from LMCO but still too young to officially retire.

Past President Brian Berggren will chair a nominating committee for November 2012 Board election. UNISYS, Roseville and UNISYS, Eagan are under-represented on the 2011 VIP Club Board. I urge CLUB members retired from those two heritage organizations to consider running for a board position to help guide our second year of transitioning from the decade⁺ of LMCO cosponsors. Contact Brian (651)451-9009 if you are interested in serving your former co-workers and friends. Respectfully,
Lowell Benson, VIP Club

September 2012: Our August program meeting, which was a tour of the Minnesota Department of Transportation Control Center at their Waters Edge facility was well received by everyone attending. People got to see horses being herded by cars on the freeway, a runaway dog being chased by state police cars, an exploding truck, people running from a stalled car on the freeway before it was demolished by a truck and many other traffic scenes that were captured by the video cameras placed along the major traffic arteries around the Twin Cities that can zoom in on what happens around us on a daily basis.

Program meetings give us a chance to come together with old friends and coworkers, to

learn something new and renew acquaintances. If you have any ideas of interesting program topics and places to visit, please share them with us so we can make them happen.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at one of the coming events. Respectfully,
Tom Turba, VIP Club President

September 2013: As usual the Board of Directors did not meet in the month of July. Our 7 August meeting included a review of the Grand Reunion Picnic to determine if we should change anything. The verbal responses from people that attended were very positive. In the last newsletter John Westergren requested comments from club members regarding ideas for future picnics. As of 7 Aug., we had received none. We will consider all suggestions. Respectfully,
Bob 'RC' Hanson, VIP Club President

September 2014: Did your 'technical' career start in High School? Mine did! Have you written a career summary for our Legacy website? One hundred sixty-seven former employees and a few readers have done so at the Legacy Committee's request. Thanks to each of you who took the time to record your 'company' experiences. The People pages of our web site have these summaries on-line for the world to read. Early on, Dr. Norberg, the 1st CBI Director, told our Legacy Committee that if we could inspire 200 people to write their career summaries, we would have the history of the company. Will your recap be one of the next 33? Thanks also to the 168 people who have contributed 375 project or program or equipment or facility sections to our other web pages.

WE ARE NOT DONE YET! Keith Myhre and the Lawshe Museum team are discovering this as they plan Lawshe Museum exhibits: there are more stories to tell. I herewith ask each of you

Established in 1980 to browse a few pages of the web site, then spend an hour to two jotting down a few of your personal history recollections. Respectfully, *Lowell A. Benson*

September 2015: *Life is the time space continuum of human interactions!* That is the subtitle of my career summary. When we formed the Legacy Committee a decade ago, little did I realize the resulting breadth of our continuum. In this Newsletter issue, we have Legacy articles about a 1952 ERA directory and the 1977 engineering organization. Both publications list dozens and hundreds of departmental, program, and project co-workers. Our most important current project is the Tuesday morning photo ID work at the Lawshe Memorial Museum, not obvious on paper is the camaraderie among those volunteers. Earlier this year, I joined some of them and two LMCO visitors during their lunch break at the nearby Coop sandwich shop. Bob Pagac, Scott Schmidt, Tricia & Keith Myhre, Les Nelson, Steve Koltes, Greg Oxley, and me. One of these days I hope to catch up with Jon Simon, Clint Crosby, et al' on their Tuesdays at the museum. When you are at the September program, thank all of them. Or better yet, ask how to be a part of their continuum! Sincerely, *Lowell Benson.*

September 2016: Let's talk about age. How many times have you been admonished to "act your age"? Your age is only a measure of time since you were born. Kenneth Shinozuka (Google him, you will be surprised) says "Owning your age is acting as though you have no age". In other words, don't let the number rule your life but take charge of what you do. You will be amazed at what you are capable of both physically and mentally. The VIP Executive Board is always looking for those who can bring new ideas as we plan the future activities for the club membership. The Board

meets 10 times a year to review club status and set the schedule for coming activities (we skip January and July). Please consider joining us even if you can only commit to a limited role.

Of course, after moving into retirement and finding activities that you enjoy on your terms, one of the foremost things is to find time to relax. Country music Hall of Famer Kenny Rogers who at the age of 78 is still active with a current performance tour of the US, Europe, and Asia. When asked about his preference to travel using a motor coach he said "I enjoy the bus. I have a flat-screen TV, a chair that leans back, a refrigerator and a toilet. What else can a man need?" *Keith Behnke*, Club President.

September/October 2017: I would like to talk about two volunteer opportunities. The first one is called "Road to Recovery" with the American Cancer Society. Cancer patients nearby are missing treatment related appointments simply because they couldn't get there. Some don't have a car, and others may be too ill to drive. But they all need the same thing: A ride. Unfortunately, demand for rides significantly exceeds the current volunteer capacity. To learn more please visit: www.cancer.org/drive.

Second is very significant to the future of the VIP Club and that is the need for new executive board members. We have a loyal group of board members that have served for multiple years, some as many as 15-20. Unfortunately, health issues and aging in general has taken a toll over the past few years. We have been lucky with our most recent additions to the board, Gish Devlaminck, Paul Hove and Boni Westberg. But we still have one open director position and other board members wanting to reduce their role and become associates, who provide support to the board. The Club has streamlined the board's primary functions by reducing meeting and newsletter frequency to

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bi-monthly, making these activities less burdensome. I would like to call on our membership to seriously consider stepping up to help the VIP Club continue to offer interesting and worthwhile information and events to our retired co-workers. Please contact me by phone (651-894-2182) or by e-mail (keithbhnk@comcast.net) for more information. Either communication method has plenty of capacity so I can take many, many calls without it being a problem. Please make that contact soon as we will be announcing the 2018 Executive Board assignments at the November 17th, Unihogs/Uniturkeys luncheon. *Keith Behnke*, VIP Club President.

September/October 2018: Believe it or not, the VIP Club does have a constitution, which (with our by-laws) is available on the club website. To quote from Article III: "GOALS: The CLUB shall provide an opportunity for social interaction of its members. The CLUB shall provide services and information appropriate to the interest of its members. The CLUB shall provide a mechanism for member services to the community. The CLUB shall provide a forum for information on the heritage and on-going action of the sponsoring business entities and their predecessors."

Over the past few years, membership and participation in various club activities has been on a gradual but steady downward path. Some of this is expected: both sponsors, Lockheed and Unisys, have significantly declined in employment in the Twin Cities, leading to fewer membership candidates. Culturally, the world seems to be gravitating to a population of non-joiners.

The Board regularly discusses the question of the future of the VIP Club itself. First, everyone should be assured that the club is financially solvent, has a full complement of leaders, and

expects to continue for the foreseeable future. However, if we are to fully meet the goals in our constitution, we may need to change some of our traditional thinking or activities.

I recall one of Earl Joseph's presentations on the science futurism. Basically, he said that a futurists job was to project the range of possible futures and then work toward choosing and implementing the one that is best suited to the organization. Consider this to be your challenge to imagine the future of the VIP Club. Then share your thoughts by contacting any board member with your thoughts so that our full range of futures can be considered in the ongoing life of the club. *Harvey Taipale*, VIP Club President

September/October 2019: Grandpa? Have you ever answered the phone with a "Hello, and heard a childish voice saying "Grandpa" or "Grandma"? Of course, the natural response is to say "Evelyn" or whatever the name of your most likely grandchild might be. Once you're engaged, there will follow a tale of woe that will end with an urgent and perhaps believable plea to send some money (usually secretly) to some odd place to rescue your grandchild from something bad.

Of course, it's a scam, but it's a successful one. I personally know of people who have sent thousands of dollars to Canada to "rescue" a grandchild. I have received the "Grandpa" call, and I played along, answering with the name of a fictitious grandchild. It was an elaborate scam, involving a callback from an "attorney" in Mexico. They dumped me as soon as I showed the slightest resistance to paying. When I called the Sheriff's office to report the scam, they said I was one of several hundred who had reported the same issue in the preceding week.

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So, what does this have to do with the VIP Club? Over the past few months, several board members have received real looking emails from some other member, requesting some form of emergency payment (usually gift cards) with a promise of future reimbursement. While these have occurred occasionally in the past, they seem to have markedly increased of late.

You all need to know that the club doesn't do business that way. All club expenditures are authorized in advance by board action. There is no circumstance where an "emergency" disbursement is approved. If something were to pop up (which has not happened so far), the board can react quickly via an email meeting – without board approval, no action is authorized.

The club has a website, with some contact information exposed to the public, including to scammers. Many of you also have an online presence, which enables similar exposure. The consequences of this exposure, making all of us targets, have become a fact of modern life.

So, if you get an email from someone who wants you to run out and send some money, don't reply, trash it. When you hear "Grandma" on the phone, hang up or, if you feel frisky (rhymes with risky), ask who they are calling. Never give out anything related to your persona or respond to an out of the blue contact. Report scams to authorities or your Internet or phone provider, but in my experience, you'll get a Ho-Hum response. The much advertised "Do Not Call" registry is ineffectual. As they used to close the morning briefing on the old Hill Street Blues TV show, "Be careful, it's a tough world out there."

On a happier note, come join us at our first Happy Hour get together at Jensen's. Sept 18th from 1-4 PM. Hors d' oeuvres are on us. No gift cards required, no wire transfers to Mexico,

just an opportunity to get together. Cash bar – Drop in when you can and enjoy the company of fellow retirees who probably won't hustle you for money. *Harvey Taipale*, VIP Club President

September/October 2020: First of all – Greetings! This is one of the oddest times I personally have experienced, and I suspect that's true for most of you as well. We "elders" are perhaps feeling more isolated than most of the general population, but I still see a sense of community. Our Zoom account is being used, I continue to see examples of our volunteers carrying on their passions as best they can, and I hear about long-standing relationships being preserved. On one hand, I'm not really surprised by this—we were always a cohesive group; but on the other hand, it's amazing. So many other organizations never developed the *esprit de corps* that Univac fostered. Be thankful and keep it up. The loyalty that was fostered between the employees was, and is, exceptional, and we should all appreciate the most fortunate environment that enabled our careers.

We all think back favorably about some folks that were particularly instrumental in our corporate lives. My own recommendation is to contact them, if they are still around, and thank them. As the Club president, I want to specially thank one of our benefactors, Millie Gignac.

Millie is an amazing person. Coming from a Minnesota newspaper family, she was a big supporter of a regular newsletter and also published her autobiography—a story of a challenging life. She rose through the environment of the 60's, 70's, and 80's to become the first female to achieve the title of "Director" at Sperry Univac, then an upper management position. She was the first female in Minnesota to put a crack in the glass ceiling.

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Millie also recognized the importance of providing retirees an opportunity to preserve personal relationships after retirement, and she was the igniting spark behind creating a formal retiree organization, which we now know as the VIP Club. I don't know where that name came from, but I suspect it stemmed from Millie's appreciation for all the contributions retirees made to the company's success. The early VIP Club had a dedicated club room in the Shepherd Road plant, where retirees could congregate and could periodically get a free lunch in the cafeteria. The club also began a long tradition of hosting various social and service events. Maybe some of you remember manning the phones on the air during the annual Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) fund drive.

This year, the memorable 2020, marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the VIP Club. We were planning on a big bash to celebrate, but, sadly, COVID-19 threw us a curveball. The board, respecting the higher vulnerability of our members, has decided to postpone the event until September of 2021. So, mark your calendars—we want you ALL there to help celebrate our remarkable anniversary!

Until then, we should remember our founder, Millie Gignac, who will turn 100 in October. Her story about the birth of the VIP Club can be found at <http://vipclubmn.org/History.html#Birth>. If you want to send her a thank you or a birthday card, mail it to the VIP Club P.O. Box (P. O. Box 21903, Eagan, MN 55121; you might mark "Millie" on the envelope) and we'll deliver it to her.

Thank you, Millie Gignac, for your energy, foresight, and your ongoing support of the VIP Club! *Harvey Taipale*, VIP Club President.

September/October 2021: COVID, COVID, COVID. I assume the rest of you are as tired of having this topic dominate our news and impact our "normal" lives as I am. Unfortunately, managing our collective safety has become a part of the new normal, and we must continue to deal with it, at least for a while yet. The latest resurgence of infection prompted a lot of discussion relative to our once delayed 40th Anniversary Dinner Party. Lots of decision-making conflict; we want our members to be safe, but our members also clearly want to resume some social activities. This was obvious from attendance at the June picnic, which was double that of our initial planning estimate. In the end, we decided to go forward, believing that most of you are vaccinated and that this can be a relatively low-risk event. If there are last-minute changes, you will get a notification by the Evite system or on the website.

2005 was a long time ago, but that's when Richard "Ole" Olson was tasked with doing something to capture our Minnesota company's legacy. One effort involved collecting and cataloging various documents and objects for posterity. Three retirees (Quint Heckert, Larry Bolton, and yours truly) were given space in the Eagan facility to do that. By 2010, when it became official that Lockheed Martin was closing Eagan, the effort became quite a bit more intense. We were joined by several others, including Bob Pagac, Les Nelson and John Westergren. Later, when the plant did close, the effort to collect and catalog was continued at the Lawshe Museum and we were joined by several others, including Jon Simon and Keith Myhre, who leads the work today.

What was collected was all the Publications and Design Services document and photo files, the original Eagan corporate photo files, and many documents and keepsakes from desk

Established in 1980 drawers, file cabinets and company files as people cleared out. Key documents and all photo negatives went to the Charles Babbage Institute at the University of Minnesota, where they have been professionally archived and put in their 250- year storage facility for researchers to use as they require. However, Babbage was not equipped to take everything, and over two truckloads of real objects, photo prints and other documents, which were not able to be cataloged before they had to be removed or they would have been trashed, went to the Dakota County Historical Society's Lawshe Museum in South St. Paul. Some of this stuff is on continuous display and anyone can drop in and see it without charge during the museum's open hours.

But the job is not done . . . Keith Myhre estimates there are still several years of effort remaining to fully catalog all the material. Without proper cataloging, future generations won't have a clue, as you and I do, about the significance of the various items and photos. We need YOUR help in this area, whether you're familiar with the items or not. The cataloging staff can use many more bodies to both physically catalog and digitize the material—easy to learn with minimal training. Help is also needed to identify and place all this material in the proper historical perspective if you know or can help identify its history. Speaking from experience, this is a very enjoyable and interesting activity, and a bit of a social event too. The crew needs more participants and I urge you to consider joining their efforts. They work on Tuesdays when the museum is closed to the public but is open to staff. Hours are quite flexible. If you can help, or are interested, contact Keith Myhre (kmyhre@lightblast.net) or me and we'll get you plugged in. *Harvey Taipale*, VIP Club President

OCTOBERS

October 2004: Back by popular demand, our VIP Club held our September Program meeting at the Eagan Community Center, with Phyllis Salchow, a Registered Occupational Therapist, at the Phillips Eye Institute, giving an informative presentation on "The Aging Eye". Ms. Salchow described normal eye functions, common age-related problems and solutions, and eye diseases of concern to seniors – macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and cataracts. This is a subject of concern to all of us. Attendees were given valuable information and a chance to ask questions of concern.

The September VIP Club Newsletter included an updated VIP Club membership directory and information about the United Way. You are encouraged to support the United Way and I hope you will order a UNISYS Employee Cookbook for yourself and to give as gifts to your friends.

Election of VIP Club Officers and Directors will be held at the November VIP Club meeting. Please contact Hank Dotzler, (952-892-0175), with your interest to serve. This is your opportunity to make a difference in the VIP Club.

It is not too early to plan for the VIP Club Christmas party to be held 9 December 2004 at the NCO Club. All members are invited to this gala event. Respectfully, *Dale Phelps*, VIP Club President

October 2005: Autumn Greetings! The month of September was a busy month for the VIP Club. We participated in the Red Cross Blood Drive and the United Way Campaign at UNISYS. We also held our monthly program meeting featuring Gordon "Porky" Lee, from the Our Gang (Little Rascals) movie series. In an interview format with VIP member Roger Gillett, Gordon spoke about his experiences

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working as a child actor on a movie set about 70 years ago. We watched two of his movies that evoked some memories, and he had pictures for sale that he autographed.

Pauline Alfors, UNISYS, coordinated the United Way Campaign Auction at the MACS building in Eagan and at UNISYS, Roseville. Many items were donated by members of the VIP Club and were sold at the live auction. Professional auctioneer and VIP Club member, Garry Smith, did an excellent job of getting some high bids. His VIP Club helpers were Joe Schwarz, Warren Becker, Jim Larson, Marion Scott, and Dale Phelps. It was an enjoyable time for all of us workers and Thank You to all who donated items to make this a successful event.

Please reserve 12 October for our next program meeting to be held at the Eagan Community Center. Rick Ambrose, Lockheed Martin Vice President & General Manager, will give a presentation. See October Program for more details. As I have said in a previous newsletter, the VIP Club is still looking for members to serve as an Officer or Director of the club. I strongly encourage you to make a commitment to fulfill this request so your name can be on the ballot for our 2006 election which will be held at the November program meeting. Please contact Hank Dotzler, at 952-892-0175.

It is also time to renew your membership for 2006 and start thinking about the Christmas party. Respectfully, *Dale Phelps*, VIP Club President

October 2006: (Report from pres.-in-training, Brian) Your October newsletter has both membership and Christmas Party coupons on page 5, and a repeat of information about the October potluck. Through the coordinating work of Warren and Dorothy Becker and Hank Dotzler, our per-

person cost for the Christmas Party will be \$25 – same as last year. Help us by not waiting until the last week to mail in your reservation.

We still need candidates for Vice-President and one Director position. The time commitment is only two hours a month, with free coffee. Most of us have suffered through less interesting meetings with less pleasant people for much of our careers.

Lowell Benson has designed VIP Club business cards that we can carry to give to older current employees or non-member retirees to encourage membership. Also, our LM Legacy Project members Bernie, Lowell, Dick Lundgren, and Harry Wise met with the real Lockheed Martin Corp. project executives, and all are very pleased with the progress. Lastly, we should all appreciate our good fortune. The September program had Lee Peterson, author of “When the Merry-Go-Round Stops,” sharing her story of ups and downs both financial and physical with humor and strength.

Respectfully, *Brian Berggren*, VIP Club Vice President

October 2007: Our September program, introduced by Cindy Krachner, started with an historical video of our postal service beginning with a pre-revolutionary war Ben Franklin and his pigeon-hole sorter. Mail clerks did the sorting at stations and in rail cars until the coding and scanning technology took over. Ms. Krachner, before getting her Customer Relations assignment, worked with the databases and said our mail is now sorted for each carrier’s route. Because of the several Unisys-Lockheed Martin postal programs, Cindy had a knowledgeable audience and did her best to answer our questions, reminding us the best source of information is usps.com.

Again, your board of directors and the nominating committee want to see some new faces and hear some new ideas at our board

Established in 1980 meeting. Give us a test – come to a board meeting and get free coffee, then stay for one of these low-priced lunches we so fondly remember. Even if you choose not to be nominated, you are still welcome and may find a committee through which to volunteer. Also, don't be shy about submitting articles for publication in the newsletter or suggesting topics for future programs. Many of you remain technology junkies and could help with cell phone, HDTV, and computer information. Respectfully,
Brian Berggren, VIP Club President

October 2008: Fall is coming fast and with it is the election, not only for government offices, but also for the officers of our VIP Club. For any club, it is always good to have new blood join the ranks of the officers or rejuvenated blood from those that have already served and are ready to do so again. If you are interested in being on the Club Board of Directors, or know someone that might be, please contact Past President Bernie Jansen, head of the nominating committee. His contact information is on the back page of this newsletter

This year we had a great exhibit at the State Fair as part of Minnesota's Sesquicentennial celebration. It was visited by thousands of people who were interested in ERA, UNIVAC, and the follow-on companies that led the way in computers in Minnesota and the world. Many of the visitors had a personal connection through a parent or relative, worked for one of the companies themselves, or were simply interested in the technology. It was really a great event! Thanks to everyone that manned the booth and put it together. More information is contained in the Legacy News Update section of this newsletter.

For those that missed the September program meeting, it was a great look into China and India through the eyes Dr. Walter Benjamin, an

80 some year-old Hamline professor emeritus who looks, acts, and thinks like someone in his fifties, or younger. The talk was full of history, culture, art, economic development, people, environmental impact, and much, much more. It was a program well received by everyone that attended.

I look forward to seeing you at our October 11th potluck luncheon and program. The potluck luncheon is at Unisys in Roseville. See October Potluck on page 1 for more details.

Respectfully, *Tom Turba*, VIP Club Vice President

October 2009: Tom Misa, director of the Charles Babbage Institute, gave a very interesting talk on the computer history in Minnesota and ERA, our founding company. The program was very well attended but if you couldn't make it, the program was recorded and will be made available once we have it transferred to a more distributable media. The talk covered the history of how ERA was founded, it is original stake holders, the trials and tribulations of the computer industry at the time, and many insights into why things happened the way they did. A copy of the slides used in the presentation can be found at <http://www.tc.umn.edu/~tmisa//MHHC/>, as well as slides for other related presentations.

In October, don't forget we'll have an ice cream social on the 14th at 6:30 p.m. in Roseville with slides showing an inside view of Cuba from a trip to Havana in 2002.

I hope to see you at one of the upcoming meetings; and remember to mark your calendar for the Christmas party on December 10th. Respectfully, *Tom Turba*, VIP Club President.

October 2010: The September program meeting was full of Blue Skies, Black Birds, and roses as Bud Kraehling, his wife Shirley Lockwood and their accompanist Marilyn

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entertained everyone with old time music and stories from the early days of radio and television from the Twin Cities. It was a well-attended event, and if you know of any similar people you would like to have at a future meeting, please let us know. The program meetings should be as entertaining, enjoyable, and informative as we can make them.

In October, mark your calendar for Wednesday, the 13th, when we will be having another ice-cream social in Roseville. We will be celebrating the past 30 years of the retirement Club and will have Tom Misa from the Charles Babbage Institute there to talk about the history of computing in Minnesota. This should be another fun-filled event with lots of members present.

It's amazing how fast the time roles by. Before we know it, it will be December and time for the Christmas party, which will again be at the Fort Snelling Service Club (i.e., NCO Club). Mark your calendars for Thursday the 9th and be sure to send in your reservation early. We will again have great hors d'oeuvres, music, and a good meal to enjoy with friends.

I look forward to seeing you at one of the upcoming events. Until then, enjoy life and keep thinking about the good things that are yet to come. Respectfully, *Tom Turba*, VIP Club President

October 2011: Six years have passed since Richard „Ole“ Olson approached the Club Board (Oct. 2006) with the idea of a Legacy Committee. I volunteered to be a Club Director candidate, pledging to co-chair the committee with LMCO representative Ole. Dick Lundgren spoke up, volunteering to join this committee. Ole and I first met in the fall of 1963 when I was a computer operator in the Plant 1 Military Computer Center, and he was a programmer. Dick Lundgren and I first met in 1970 in

Hengelo, Holland when he came to teach an 1830B maintenance course and I was the on-site installation engineer. The first committee activity was when Dick L. arranged a meeting with Dr. Arthur Norberg at the Charles Babbage Institute (CBI) - John Skonnord joined us representing LMCO. Then Ole's persuasion skills started a stream of career summaries and product/project descriptions/stories. I started a web page, later merged with the Club site as a repository for these stories. Almost 200 of you have contributed an item; prolific writers submitting items for multiple sections have been Dick Erdrich, Lyle Franklin, Dick Lundgren, Don Mager, Jim Rapinac, and Harry Wise. Dr. Tom Misa replaced the retiring Dr. Norberg as Director of CBI, as such he holds the U of MN Engineering Research Associates Land Grant Chair for History of Technology. Tom became an advisor to our Legacy Committee.

Dick Lundgren identified the Minnesota Sesquicentennial as an opportunity to take our „story“ public. A great team came together: Larry Bolton, Quint Heckert, Bernie Jansen, Dick Lundgren, John Skonnord, Ron Q. Smith, Harvey Taipale, Tom Turba, and John Westergren (Ole retired and John seamlessly became co-chair of the committee.) After we presented the „heretofore untold“ story on the Capitol Mall during the Bicentennial Celebration, we were invited to tell the story at the Minnesota State Fair – over 70 volunteers staffed our booth there and half-a-dozen made presentations during our 2-hour technology seminar. Then the ERA to UNISYS & LMCO basic story went into the Minnesota time capsule to be opened during the 2058 Bicentennial.

Since January 2009 a stalwart group (Harvey, Larry, & Quint) has met twice a month at LMCO to catalogue 400+ hardware artifacts/trinkets, 1200+ documents, and are now working on processing 6000+ images/photos. In January

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2013 we will no longer have storage space nor working space in the closing LMCO plant – thus we now have a little over a year to finish the cataloging chores, get documents transferred to CBI, and find repositories for our hardware artifacts. If you think that you'd have some spare time to help, please stop and talk to me or another Legacy Committee member after the October Program meeting.

To focus my 2012/13 volunteer time on converting the web site to a Legacy anthology book draft, I've decided to not be a candidate for a second term as Club President. *LABenson*

October 2012: For those of you that couldn't make it, the September program meeting by Kathryn Pearson from the University of Minnesota gave an interesting, nonpartisan view into the world of American politics that is now playing out every day in the media around us. Her insight was that of a political scientist, looking at the numbers and surveys, watching how things unfold and people and parties work around whatever is put in front of them. A good time and interesting conversations were had by all.

Although we don't have the Christmas Party form in this Newsletter, be sure to mark your calendar for Wednesday, December 13th. The party will again be at the Fort Snelling Officer's Club and be at a reasonable price with good food. It will be a good time to get together with old friends and coworkers in a friendly atmosphere, so talk to your friends and plan to come as a group.

Our next meeting in October will also be a fun event with pie, ice cream, and a very interesting talk by Bill Rohde. I hope to see you there, but also remember that the Club elections are coming up in November as well as the national elections. We still need a

couple volunteers for open offices.
Respectfully, *Tom Turba*, VIP Club President

October 2013: During our September Board of Directors meeting the planning for the Christmas Dinner / Dance heated up. I hope that many VIP members will consider attending this year. Look for details which will be included in this newsletter and future ones.

The "wine and cheese" social provided the attendees with a chance to see the start of the display of the legacy project of the ERA to Unisys/Lockheed contribution to the computer industry. The Dakota County Historical Society did an excellent job of planning and providing this social. A letter of Thanks has been sent to the Historical Society.

Respectfully, *Bob 'RC' Hanson*, VIP Club President

October 2014: Two topics this month, database, and avocations. Keith Behnke does monthly updates to our membership database, a fair-sized Excel workbook with multiple tabs and intertwined formulae. Since transitioning our membership database from Mapper to Excel in 2007, we've added several data columns. In 2008 we added email addresses and a code for electronic newsletter distribution. A few years ago, when Quint Heckert was database manager; he added a column to identify which Twin Cities' County a member lived in then set up formulae to count quantity of members living in which state, in which county, how many are paid thru the current year, how many are paid through which future year, etc. Keith just added another column to recognize and tabulate 'real' member counting. Heretofore we've counted line entries as our membership count (1032 as of 8/14). Our by-laws clearly state that a retiree and his/her spouse are both members, thus with Keith's new column - we have 1,827 members. Our database has sixteen nonmember entries, coded as **Frnd**.

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We include the board of the Blue Bell retirees' organization in the electronic newsletter distribution as well as our liaisons at the local Unisys facilities and the LMCO facility.

Avocations! I received an e-mail from a former Univac employee, Roscoe Evavold, who sings in a traveling choir; immediately recalled that we used to have the Sperryaires – they still get together and sing as retirees. Then I thought about the former Pig's Eye jazz band that Bob Blixt and Roy Prohovsky played in. The August issue of the Minnesota Street Rod Association's (MSRA) Line Chaser has this 'Super 88' on the cover. How many of us pause every June when we see a few of the ~12,000 old cars registered for the Back-to-the-50's car show at the State Fairgrounds? How many of us appreciate the work that goes into restoring an old automobile? ½ of 1% of our VIP Club members are listed in the MSRA annual directory. This 'Rocket 88' Oldsmobile belongs to Bill Corson who did some 'rocket' launch and guidance software many years ago. The Line Chaser article about the Oldsmobile also states that Bill used to do some weekends drag racing!

There are many others of you who have or had a 'life' outside of the company hours. For future newsletters, we'd enjoy printing tidbits about what our members are doing in retirement, send a note to any Board member. Respectively, *Lowell A. Benson*

October 2015: We have just started the planning for next year's VIP Club Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. This recalls the fact that many retired persons do volunteer their time to help others in many ways. In my discussions with other retirees, I find that there are those that do volunteer work but don't acknowledge it by submitting their volunteer hours to the VIP Club each year. I know that some feel that they don't need any

special recognition for the things they do but the VIP Club would like to be able to show how much their members contribute in this way. At the last Volunteer Recognition luncheon, I talked briefly about the company volunteer activities in 1985 when we were still Sperry. We had a committee assigned to promote and coordinate volunteer activities of those who were still working full time with a significant number of participants. I would like to ask you as members of the VIP Club to take the time to keep a log of the volunteer time you spend during 2015 so that you can submit that information when we request it early next year. Let's try to increase the amount of volunteering we do and increase the reporting. The new recognition luncheon arrangements we made this year turned out to be very well received and we would like more of you volunteers to join us next year. Sincerely, *Keith Behnke*, vice president.

October 2016: The most popular VIP Club programs are the ones that are primarily social in nature. Currently they consist of the Roseville Good Old Days, the Syttende Mai, the Reunion Picnic, the Boat Outing, the Unihogs/Uniturkeys, the Pie and Ice Cream Social (October 12 at the Roseville Masonic Center), the Old-Timers Reunion and the Christmas Dinner. These will be our focus in the future with some special timely events interspersed with them. Many times, individuals or couples find themselves at these events not knowing many other people. We are suggesting that when you decide to attend, contact other former co-workers, and make it a group gathering. Even if some of them are not currently VIP Club members they are welcome and might well decide to join. The reductions in both the Unisys and Lockheed employees located in the Twin City area means that we have fewer future club members that will be retiring and joining us so this will be a way to maintain our membership level and at

Established in 1980 the same time get reacquainted with friends from the past. See you there, *Keith Behnke*, Club President.

NOVEMBERS

November 2004: Autumn Greetings! Good food and entertainment always seem to attract people. That was no exception at our annual potluck and program meeting held 13 October 2004 at Roseville. Thanks to all who brought the delicious food for all to enjoy. A special thank you to those who helped get everything organized and set up. A very informative talk and slide presentation was given by Dr. George Erickson based on his best-selling book titled *True North: Exploring the Great Wilderness by Bush Plane*. His adventures are quite unique.

A reminder that your VIP Club dues are due for 2005. For \$4.00, where can you get such a bargain?

The annual VIP Club Christmas Party Dinner-Dance will be held Thursday 9 December 2004 at the NCO Club. This is a great opportunity to socialize with your fellow VIP Club members. I hope we will see all of you at the party!

You still have an opportunity to serve as a VIP Club Officer or Director. Please contact Hank Dotzler, (952-892-0175) with your interest to serve. Respectfully, *Dale Phelps*, VIP Club President

November 2005: Wishing you a bountiful Thanksgiving. We have so very much to be thankful for here in America.

Rick Ambrose, Lockheed Martin Vice President and General Manager, was to be our speaker for our October VIP Club program meeting at the Eagan Community Center. However, due to two major international jobs that needed his urgent attention, he was unable to come and speak. Lee Meyer gave an outstanding presentation in his absence. Mr. Meyer gave

us an update of current business activities in the various interest areas, Lockheed Martin's interest in the VIP Retirees Club and a request for retirees to submit material to the Legacy History Project. Lee Meyer stayed and answered questions and socialized with the retirees, which was excellent.

The VIP Club will host our annual potluck dinner for November's program meeting in Roseville. What to bring for the potluck meal is based on the first letter of your last name (see November program). Election of officers will be held that night. You still have time to contact Hank Dotzler (952-892-0175) to submit your name for an officer's position. After the great potluck supper, our entertainment will be a musical program by the Barb Piper and Bill Hammond Duo. This will be a good time to relax and enjoy the rest of the evening.

VIP Club membership renewals are due. You can save money on dues by paying \$12.00 for 3 years instead of \$5.00 for one year.

Remember the annual VIP Club Christmas Party Dinner Dance to be held on Thursday, December 8th, 2005, at the NCO Club at the Air Force Base. Also, remember to bring your driver's license for ID when entering the guard gate. The Christmas party is a great opportunity to socialize with your fellow VIP Club members. Hope to see all of you at this gala event! Respectfully, *Dale Phelps*, VIP Club President

November 2006: As noted in the September Issue of the Newsletter, the Board is considering for next year reducing the number of Program meetings and the frequency of issuing the Newsletter. This subject will be discussed in more detail at our November Board Meeting. You will be notified if any changes are approved. At the October Board Meeting it was decided that we will

Established in 1980 issue a regular December Newsletter but that we will combine the January and February 2007 issues. This joint Newsletter is expected to be delivered to members around the middle of January 2007. This was done to allow more time for the editing and enhancing of the many digital photos that will be taken at the December 14th Christmas Dinner and Dance; these photos will be published in the January/February Newsletter.

We have two openings on the Board for 2007 – that of Vice President and the Director spot vacated by Lowell Benson. Thomas Turba, a recent retiree from Unisys Roseville has volunteered to run as a candidate for the position of a Board Director for 2007. Please contact Dale Phelps if you would like to volunteer to be a candidate for one of these vacancies. Elections for 2007 Club Officers and Directors will be conducted at the November Program Meeting on November 8th. Please plan to attend!

The VIP Club Potluck Dinner held at Unisys Roseville on October 11th was a great success. We thank Unisys for providing the coffee and rolls to complement the hot dishes, salads and desserts brought by the members. Approximately 45 members attended. The program, “Music That Tickles” was provided by J. Shawn Sweeney, a nonstop entertainer with a fine voice and unique recall he knew all our first names by the end of the evening.

Respectfully, *Bernie Jansen*, VIP Club President

November 2007: The October program potluck was missing a bean hot dish, but other than that the 34 in attendance enjoyed a tasty and colorful spread of salads, hot dishes, and desserts. We hope not too many of you missed the announcement in the VIP newsletter that was in the big white envelope with the United Way solicitation. MNDOT started a project on

Hwy 280 that closed a lane before rush hour ended and made getting to Unisys from I94 a real challenge. Barb Piper and Bill Hammond delivered a wonderful mix pop, jazz, and country songs in an intimate concert. Bill commented that it was a treat to play to an audience that was quiet and attentive (I was thinking the lights should be dimmer and I should have a glass in my hand).

Next month we have a two-part program. First, we have our election of officers and directors; come and show your support. Second is the presentation by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representative Mark Davidson. I also encourage all to check out our new website at vipclubmn.org. Lowell has set up a very attractive and user-friendly site in Microsoft Office Live that should get much use. In closing, please get your Christmas Dinner-Dance reservation in early. Respectfully, *Brian Berggren*, VIP Club President

November 2008: If you like —The Old Lamp Lighter||, —I Left My Heart in San Francisco|| and other music sung by Tony Bennett, Frankie Lane, Pat Boone, Frank Sinatra, and even the more —modern|| ones sung by Elvis Presley, you would have really enjoyed the program Jim Berner provided for the potluck luncheon meeting in October. It was really enjoyed by all who attended. There were very good eats ranging from hamburger, sauerkraut casserole to Halloween decorated chocolate brownie pie, with a good variety of salads and other things thrown in.

We have three other topics that only members can do. First, if your newsletter address has 2008, you are in a group of several hundred that have not yet renewed. Second, we need you at the November meeting to vote for your officers and board of directors; we should all be practiced by the time of the program meeting. Last, our annual Dinner/Dance at the NCO Club is getting closer, and Dorothy and

Established in 1980 Warren would appreciate early signups (it seems we get almost half our signups after Thanksgiving).

Respectfully, *Brian Berggren*, VIP Club President.

November 2009: We had a very good turnout, over 40 people, for the October program meeting. Ice cream and pumpkin pie were served during the social time before the program. The program was a well-documented presentation on life in Cuba as seen on my trip there a few years ago. Everyone enjoyed getting a glimpse of what life is like in a country only 90 miles away from the U.S. but with a life style that is a half century or more away from what we are used to, and in a place most of us cannot legally visit.

Our next program meeting will be in November in Eagan. This is the meeting where the election of officers for next year's VIP Club officers will be held. If you know of anyone that wants to fill an officer's position, we would be glad to add their name to the list of candidates.

With the arrival of the first snow, we know that the seasons are changing, and that the Christmas party will soon be here. If you have not already done so, mark your calendars for Thursday, December 10th, send in your reservation form, (see page 7), and tell your friends that you are looking forward to seeing them at the annual, fun filled, VIP Club Christmas party. Respectfully, *Tom Turba*, VIP Club President.

November 2010: The October meeting was a big success. The pumpkin pie and ice cream were just a topping to a wonderful evening.

The meeting celebrated the past 30 years of the VIP retirement Club. The Club's founder, Millie Gignac, was present and was presented a rose in memory of her efforts in establishing

the Club and turning it into a vibrant organization.

Everyone present enjoyed looking at the history book that was put together by Quintin Heckert. If you weren't there, a limited number of copies are still available and will be at the next Club meeting.

Marion Scott was presented the Member Emeritus award for her work coordinating the Red Cross blood drives for the past 30 years. During this period over 1,300 gallons of life saving blood have been collected.

The main program for the evening was given by Tom Misa, (shown below) Director of the Charles Babbage Institute at the University of Minnesota., who talked about the early days of computing in the Twin Cities and how it originated with Engineering Research Associates. Many of his pictures and stories brought back memories and further enhancements from Club members in the audience who had been participants in the making of the history.

Our next program meeting will be in November in Eagan. This is the meeting when the election of officers of the club will be made for next year. If you know of anyone that wants to fill an officer's position, we would be glad to add their name to the list of candidates.

Before you know it, Christmas will be here. The VIP Club Christmas Party is always a fun event, with music, eats and camaraderie. Talk to some of your friends and plan to come as a group. The party will again be at the Service Club (i.e., NCO Club) at the airport. More information is needed for the guards this year, so be sure to fill out the form and send it in early. We will again have great hors d'oeuvres, music, and a good meal to enjoy with friends.

I look forward to seeing you at the November meeting or Christmas Party. Until then, keep safe and remember all the good times you've

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had. Respectfully,
Tom Turba, VIP Club President

November 2011: Where are your priorities? A question occasionally heard during business meetings or spouse discussions. From age 55 to 63 my 1st priority was earning a living. Then my older son suggested that number one retirement priority should be personal health! So, number one is now dentist, clinics, meds, diet, and exercise. What else should take up personal time and mental focus? My opinions are that number two priority should be urgencies and emergencies associated with immediate family as they deal with their number ones. Number three priority should be maintenance of assets, i.e., financial accounts, home, vehicle, honey do list, boats, cabin, etc. as this maintenance minimizes the stresses of priorities one and two. Number four then are others such as hobbies, travel, friends, and volunteerism – giving of one’s time and talents for the benefits of others. Yes, my VIP Club activities are a fourth level priority! What about golf and fishing? Golf is part of an exercise program while fishing is a hobby.

As you consider your *number four* priorities for 2012, please think about becoming a member of a VIP Club committee! We need a backup webmaster, a backup for newsletter electronic distribution, program committee help, an occasional substitute secretary, and a backup for Old Timer’s coordination – each is from two to eight hours per month, training available.

Respectfully, *Lowell Benson*, VIP Club President

November 2012: For those of you that missed our October program, Bill Rohde had a great presentation which gave us an informative view into the world of what life is like living on a sailboat. He and Judy explored the waterways from Duluth to the Atlantic Ocean, then down the east coast to the

Bahamas, and then on to Puerto Rico. We got a glimpse of what it is like to have boating friends from around the world, explore beaches no one else is on, and to see the world from the perspective of a sailboat. It was a fun and educational experience topped off with pie and ice cream, chatting with friends and the opportunity to ask questions and delve into a world most of us could only imagine. We had over 60 people at the program meeting.

Our next big event will be the VIP Club Christmas Party, be sure to mark your calendar for Wednesday, December 13th and send in your form, see page 7. Get some of your friends together and come as a group. The party will again be at the Fort Snelling Officers’ Club and be at a reasonable price with good food. It will be a good time to get together with old friends and coworkers in a friendly, Christmas atmosphere.

Our next meeting in November is when we elect officers for the coming year. There is still time to volunteer or at least think about it for next year. I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming meeting. Respectfully, *Tom Turba*, VIP Club President

November 2013: The October Directors meeting included discussions on many subjects. First - the Christmas Dinner / Dance menu will be Prime Rib, Chicken, or Walleye. The cost will be 20 dollars per person, same as last year. RSVP required. Second - the picnic we will again have it in Highland and provide a bus; also, RSVP is required to ensure that an accurate amount of food will be bought. Third - there is a need for volunteers to join the Board of Directors, the election is November 13th. Respectfully, *Bob ‘R C’ Hanson*, VIP Club President.

November 2014: Last month we asked for planning feedback for next year. If there are no major objections, the board intends to make a

Established in 1980 few changes to better serve our membership: 1) Instead of program/speaker meetings the 2nd Wednesday of most months, we will switch to the 2nd Tuesdays thereby avoiding conflicts with mid-week church activities, golfing, etc. 2) Our annual April 'Volunteer Recognition' event will be a luncheon instead of a breakfast and will be at a more hospitable site instead of in a room with a bar. 3) We will look for opportunities to facilitate at least one co-activity with our Legacy artifact repositories, the Lawshe Museum and the Charles Babbage Institute.

Next year is an anniversary year! We've already set 2015 event dates and venues for the Roseville Good Old Days, the Annual UNIVAC Old-timers Reunion, and the Club's Christmas dinner/dance. If you, the reader, would like to suggest as to a special way to celebrate, send a note to me. If you and a former co-worker would like to present a topic or an issue to the Board, we are open to suggestions. Respectively, *Lowell A. Benson*

November 2015: First, a public thank you to Harvey Taipale who did most of the Lawshe Museum interfacing to make a successful September Wine and Cheese event. Secondly, thanks to VP Keith Behnke for penning the October President's Message and running the September board meeting. Apparently, the meeting went quickly because I was not there to 'micromanage'. Thirdly, thanks to Tom Turba who orchestrated the August Mississippi river cruise – so well attended that it or a similar outing could occur next year; St Croix or the Padelford again? Fourthly, thanks to Nick Benson for snapping pictures at the Lawshe Museum and for doing another nice newsletter collage. His volunteer luncheon collage in the June newsletter and picnic collage in the July/August newsletter

illustrated our social event camaraderie quite well.

We have had good turnouts for most of our social events this year, especially those that had food and/or drinks available. However, the experiments of trying Tuesday evenings instead of Wednesday evenings did not significantly increase member participation. Thus, as we plan the 2016 calendar, we will not be doing Tuesdays. We would appreciate any member suggestions for speakers or group outing destinations in 2016. Sincerely, *Lowell Benson*, 2014/15 president.

November 2016: It has been over 60 years since the corporate name “Remington Rand Univac” was used to identify the part of Sperry Rand where many of us worked. Recently while channel surfing to avoid the tiresome political ads bombarding us on television, I ran across a channel called BUZZR, which is 220 on Comcast (<http://buzzrplay.com/>). BUZZR TV is new and replays old game shows from the producers Goodson/Todman circa 1950's - 1980's. On a replay of “What’s My Line” the commercial was the commercial shown when it was originally aired. I've seen a few other Univac commercials with some other shows, so apparently Remington Rand Univac was one of their regular sponsors. See these at the following web sites: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GeON080qw8> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SVWQPbaT4Wo>.

At the time Remington Rand’s claim to fame was electric shavers and typewriters. With the advent of the “computer age” we became the heart of an industry that has gone way beyond what anyone envisioned back in those days. The merger of Engineering Research Associates and Eckert–Mauchly Computer Corporation created the first commercial electronic computers, which eventually led to

Established in 1980 the computer world that we know today. *Keith Behnke*, Club President.

November/December 2017: As you can see from the January program above we have revamped what was our traditional Christmas Dinner Party to broaden its appeal. First, we moved it to the first week of January to avoid conflicts with the Christmas events many of us participate in. Then we scheduled it at mid-day on Sunday to make it easier to drive to and home again (you never know what winter in Minnesota might bring us) and which is to many the traditional Sunday dinner time. Also, in the spirit of the season we will be honored after dinner by a performance of the Eagan Men's Choir who will present a variety of holiday tunes. I invite you all to join us to cap off the holiday season.

My two-year term as President of the VIP Club has been very rewarding. I hope that others of you would take the opportunity to serve in some capacity on the Club's executive board. The upcoming Unihogs/Uniturkeys lunch gathering on November 17th (<http://www.vipclubmn.org/Temp/Announcement2017.pdf>) is when/where we have the election of 2018 officers. Please let us know if you are ready to join the executive board in planning the future for the club so we can enter your name in nomination.

I would also like to personally commend Lowell Benson for his work restructuring the VIP Club web site, which provides an improved format for navigating the myriad of sections capturing the history of our legacy companies and co-workers. If you haven't looked at it lately please visit the site at <http://www.vipclubmn.org/> *Keith Behnke*, VIP Club President.

November/December 2018: Jim Larson's family recently gave the club some

ERA lapel pins, which we have passed on to DCHS and one of the historians working on the computer history project. The ERA logo on the pin (an electron spinning around a nucleus) made me think back to 68 years ago, when the ERA troops must have been working frantically to get their first stored program machine up and running. Historians have not really dug into the actual timing of events then, but we do know that the fall of 1950 ATLAS I was delivered to the Navy CSAW organization in Washington DC. It was installed, checked out, turned over to the Navy and the crew was home for Christmas. While there are many "first" computers, this was undoubtedly the first arm's length sale of a modern computer, pioneering the model adopted by the commercial computer industry. This machine (classified until the 1970's) and its successors were very reliable and were instrumental in helping to crack the military codes of our cold war adversaries. CSAW was ultimately detached from the Navy and became the National Security Agency.

Also, in this time of the year in 1952, the presidential election was hotly contested, and on election night, a UNIVAC computer was the first to predict an upset victory for Dwight Eisenhower. Because of the surprising prediction, UNIVAC became synonymous with extraordinary intelligence, and computers were held in awe by the public. Things have changed today - computers are everywhere and the one running my cell phone has several times the power of ATLAS I or that machine of 1952.

Speaking of elections (will the TV ads ever be over?), our Constitution requires annual elections of officers and directors. This will take place on November 14 during our annual Unihogs/Uniturkeys get together at Casper's in Eagan. There will be NO campaigning, just a short meeting, a time to see old friends, and to

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hear from Dr. Jeff Yost, Director of the Charles Babbage Institute. Details are on page 1, so make your reservation now. *Harvey Taipale*, VIP Club President.

November/December 2019: Solid State – Minnesota’s High-Tech History. That’s the name of a new TPT documentary a bunch of us got to preview in early October. By now, most of you in the Twin Cities have had a chance to see it on TPT. For the rest of the world, the streaming link is listed on our website home page. Worth a watch – a good deal of attention is given to the early ERA/Univac days.

Of course, the “solid state” tag is a double entendre – referring not only to the high-tech image of electronics, but also to the solid citizens of Minnesota. The film (if that’s the right term anymore) documents how innovation and a great workforce came together to create the early technology industry in Minnesota. For all of us who were a part of this history – which includes virtually everybody in the VIP Club – it’s a pleasant look at our origins. I have always felt that the Minnesota computer industry was overlooked in the history of computing, and this project is an excellent first step in correcting this oversight.

As I was watching the film, I was struck by all the stuff that wasn’t there. As the producer, Kevin Dragseth of TPT remarked, his biggest challenge was parsing from all the material they collected into a 56-minute video, a typical TPT time slot. Lots of important stuff didn’t get included, either because the sources just weren’t there (there were practical limits to the number of people they could interview) or because there just wasn’t time available in the film. There was no time to talk about how the early computer and system architects learned their craft nor about all the effort to secure reliable parts needed to make reliable

systems; not to mention a lot of stuff in between. There was no real discussion about the hundreds of small spinout and supplier companies that were spawned by ERA/Univac and others, which is another big historical story. Our Stories #259 & #260.

All of this leads to a plea – please take some time to add a career summary to our web anthology. The term “career summary” might be a bit daunting to some. From a legacy standpoint, it does not necessarily have to be a blow-by-blow account of your work history (although that is more than welcome), but all of you participated in some significant projects, recall some important events or people, or had some key insights about the company during your career. It’s important to capture and document these so that future Minnesota technologists can appreciate their “solid” historical legacy.

The VIP Club also has another legacy – next year we will celebrate our 40th anniversary. The club founder, Millie Gignac, had a vision that this organization would allow the (dare I say “solid”) relationships developed at work to continue after retirement, and that’s what the VIP Club has been doing for the last 39 years. If we are going to make 50 years, our “solid” members need to pitch in for the future – if you are willing to help coordinate an event, work on the newsletter, serve as a board member, or have a new idea, please contact any one of the current board members. It’s not a huge time commitment and leads to more “solid” relationships for retirees. *Harvey Taipale*, VIP Club President.

November/December 2020: Although the world of seniors seems a little smaller these days, there are a couple of things that are happening with the VIP Club.

First, check out the FREE year of membership. The VIP Club is organized as an official 503(c)

Established in 1980 (7) organization, which is the non-profit designation for social, educational and senior organizations. Well, we are a senior organization, we try to have several social events, and occasionally have educational events, too. 2020 has not been too kind to any of those, so the board voted to take a time-out on collecting dues. So, if you know of someone who might like to check out the VIP Club for a year, let them know—all they must do is register and they will be a member through 2021. For those of you who have already paid for 2021, fear not, we are extending the memberships of everyone by a year.

Second, members are finding ways to still stay in touch. Lots of folks use Zoom (the club has an account any of you can use) or Facetime. Many people seem to be managing their bubbles, keeping in personal contact with their close friends and family. And some retiree activities continue; Keith Behnke reports that the Golf League had a busy socially distanced season of matches and tournaments with no cases of COVID reported. The Electronics club meets monthly over Zoom, as do a bunch of lunch groups.

The VIP Club board continues to meet bimonthly via Zoom. With no immediate prospects of group gatherings, our agenda is getting shorter, but meetings are not. We are cautiously optimistic that a 2021 picnic will be the start of a resumption of our regular face-to-face activities.

Thanks to our now not-so-new editor, Mary Beth Ruhland, we keep producing a newsletter. If any of you want to see a topic covered, or (better) want to contribute an article, let us know. There are lots of stories out there worthy of sharing with fellow retirees.

Our website (vipclubmn.org) is updated every month. We are still hopeful that all of you will contribute your career summary or interesting recollection to add to the collection there. As our members age and our history evaporates, this is a great place for anyone to add to the permanent picture of the beginnings of the computer industry.

A loyal crew of retirees continues to sort and catalog material at the Dakota County Historical Society's Lawshe Museum. Over the past eight (yes 8) years since Lockheed Martin closed in Minnesota, they have been sorting through the 18 pallets of historical material sent to DCHS. So far, over 6,500 documents have been cataloged, and over 20,000 photos have been scanned at DCHS. Also, over 20,000 negatives and thousands of documents were cataloged by volunteers and sent to the Charles Babbage Institute at the University of Minnesota prior to the beginning of the effort at DCHS.

Finally, the documentary "Solid State: Minnesota's High-Tech History," which includes early Engineering Research Associates (ERA) history, continues to air occasionally on Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) and is available online. Check it out if you haven't had the opportunity to see it. (Solid state video)

So, the VIP Club keeps doing what it can under the limitations of our times, looking to when we can resume normal events. In the meantime, stay safe everybody! *Harvey Taipale*, VIP Club President.

November/December 2021: 'Twas a great day! Of course, I am referring to the VIP Club's 40th Anniversary celebration, which took place 41 years after the real founding date. You all know why this was delayed, and this time I refuse to acknowledge that about which the rest of the world is still worried. My

Established in 1980 high school English teacher would like that sentence, but it still seems a bit oldfashioned.

It was great because a lot of you from different work generations got together to celebrate corporate and club longevity, renew old acquaintances, and just enjoy a social get-together that has been so rare in recent times.

The history of the VIP Club is remarkable. Back then, Millie Gignac, a St. Paul Human Resources employee fresh back from a stint in Blue Bell, wanted to find a way for retirees to continue their work relationships after retirement. She proposed and spearheaded the company sponsorship of a retiree group, which became federally registered as an independent 503(c)(7) organization.

Think back to the context of 1980. An actor by the name of Reagan was elected President, Mt. St. Helens erupted and the Olympic games in Moscow were boycotted. Big headlines were Abscam, Cuban refugees, John Lennon's murder and surging inflation. Early 1980 also saw the Miracle on Ice: the U.S. hockey team winning Olympic Gold, the launch of CNN and Post-it Notes. Oddly, when I look at the stories on our website (<http://vipclubmn.org/Legacy.html>), I don't find many stories about our company from 1980 (more later).

Millie, the first female to be promoted to a director level job, was quite a leader. Her retiree club initiative continues to today, and everyone who was there for our 40th (41st) Anniversary party, and even those unable to attend, should stop and give thanks to her vision.

And speaking of thanks, a couple of big shout-out "Thank You!" recognitions are due.

First, thanks to Keith Myhre, the leader of our legacy archiving crew, for his work in editing and pulling together the videos we screened at

the party. Lots of material to choose from, a big effort to pull it all together and a completely enjoyable result.

Second, but far from last, an enormous "Thank You" to Keith Behnke. Keith led the effort to pull this gathering off, starting in 2019 when we were targeting a 2020 event. He did all the leg work to find a place and structure the gathering, only to have it overcome by events—events that had no predictable outcome—making it hard to make plans. Keith kept following up with possible options and plan revisions to deal with all the evolving circumstances. I'm guessing Keith reconfigured this event about half a dozen times, with the result that finally happened in September of 2021. Thanks, Keith! It wouldn't have been a success without your dedication and leadership.

Back to 1980. When I went to our website, the dearth of stories and references to the era of the 1980's was a pretty big surprise. I recall many interesting projects and events happening in the 1980's, yet not too many people have taken the effort to document them. You all have heard my previous pleas to get our history documented. 'Nuff said.

Meanwhile, VIP Club activities continue. I hope to see many of you at the Old Timers gathering in December and think about signing up for the Holiday Party in January. *Harvey Taipale*, VIP Club President

DECEMBERS

December 2004: Election of officers and directors was held at our November program meeting at the Eagan Community Center. NO ONE NEW stepped up to the plate to pinch hit, not even for a single or a home run!!!

Elected were the following for 2005: President, Dale Phelps Vice President, Bernie Jansen Secretary, Jim Larson Treasurer, Jack Farber

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Directors are: Hank Dotzler, Past President Brian Berggren Dick Mullins Marion Scott Joe Schwarz Please consider serving as an officer or director (an office) for 2006 as we need new people to help support our club. I have enjoyed serving you this past year.

Our November program presented opportunities for travel. Jeanie Johnston, from Sunshine Travel, talked about a March trip to New Orleans and a May trip to Holland, Michigan. Matt Hoffman, from Collette Vacations, presented a May trip to Ireland.

Hope you plan to attend our annual VIP Club Christmas Party Dinner-Dance to be held Thursday 9 December at the NCO Club. It is a gala event, and I would like to see you there.

Respectfully, *Dale Phelps*, VIP Club President

December 2005: It is time to think of Christmas as a time to remember, receive and rejoice. May your Christmas be blessed in every way. Our November meeting started with socialization and fellowship followed by a potluck dinner. Thanks to the many wonderful cooks who provided a fantastic array of foods. Following dinner, the Election of officers, for the year 2006, was held and the results are as follows: Officers; President - Bernie Jansen, Vice President - Brian Berggren, Secretary - Lynn Lindholm, Treasurer - Jack Farber, and Past President – Dale Phelps. Directors – Dick Mullens, Marion Scott, Joe Schwarz, and Lowell Benson. Congratulations to the VIP Club Board. New members to the board are Lynn Lindholm, and Lowell Benson. For our relaxation and entertainment, the Barb Piper and Bill Hammond Duo gave us a musical rendition of some old and new songs. Barb Piper is the daughter of Hank and Geri Dotzler. We are fortunate to have some home-grown talent like Barb and Bill. Hope all of you plan to attend our annual VIP Club Christmas Party

Dinner Dance to be held Thursday 8 December 2005 at the NCO Club. It is a gala event, and we would like to see all of you there. Respectfully, Dale Phelps, VIP Club President

Directors – Dick Mullens, Marion Scott, Joe Schwarz, and Lowell Benson. Congratulations to the VIP Club Board. New members to the board are Lynn Lindholm, and Lowell Benson.

For our relaxation and entertainment, the Barb Piper and Bill Hammond Duo gave us a musical rendition of some old and new songs. Barb Piper is the daughter of Hank and Geri Dotzler. We are fortunate to have some home-grown talent like Barb and Bill.

Hope all of you plan to attend our annual VIP Club Christmas Party Dinner Dance to be held Thursday 8 December 2005 at the NCO Club. It is a gala event, and we would like to see all of you there. Respectfully, *Dale Phelps*, VIP Club President

December 2006: At the November 1st Meeting, the Board again considered for the year 2007 reducing the number of Program meetings and the frequency of issuing the Newsletter. This subject will be finalized at our December Board Meeting. You will be notified if any changes are approved. However, the Board did decide to cancel the January 2007 Program Meeting and as noted in the November issue of the Newsletter, we will combine the January and February 2007 issues of the Newsletter. This joint Newsletter is expected to be delivered to members around the middle of January 2007. This issue will include the photos taken at the December 14th Christmas Dinner and Dance.

The election of Officers and Directors for the VIP Club for 2007 was held at the general program meeting of November 8th, 2006. We will have one new face on the Board for 2007. Thomas Turba, a recent retiree from Unisys Roseville was elected to the position of Vice

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President for 2007. Brian Berggren, our Vice President was elected President and Dale Phelps, our Past President was elected to the position of Director for 2007. Lowell Benson was re-elected Treasurer, and Marion Scott, Dick Mullins and Joe Schwarz were all re-elected as Directors for 2007. I will also serve on the Board as Past President. I thank Dale Phelps and Hank Dotzler of our Nominating Committee for contacting members, preparing the slate of candidates, and conducting the election.

Our Program on November 8th featured Carl R. Hansen, Jr., M.D. who discussed his "FAST" Program of Good Health. The "FAST" System relates to: Food Selection, Activity, Supplementation, plus Treatment. Dr. Hansen and his wife provided handouts on his "Campaign Good Health" which touted the MEND Solutions Products and Price List. Approximately 25 Members attended the meeting.

Also at the November 8th meeting, Dorothy Becker, Our Christmas Party Chairperson reported that 40 paid reservations for the dinner/dance on December 14th have been received. Those of you who have not yet sent in your reservations are encouraged to do so before December 4th. I especially invite those of you who have not attended before to consider attending with a special group of your friends, Dorothy will arrange for you to be seated at a separate table if you so request. Please see the reservation form on Page 5 of this Newsletter!

Since this is my last "PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE" Newsletter column as VIP Club President, I take this opportunity to extend Best Wishes for Happy Holidays and Good Health to our Club Members and their families and those of our corporate sponsors. Respectfully,
Bernie Jansen, VIP Club President

December 2007: Army Corps of Engineers gave us a graphic tour of the civilian side of the corps work in flood management, channel maintenance, environmental restoration, and many other tasks. Mr. Christenson had spent four months in Iraq supporting reconstruction and others from this district have also worked on projects such as New Orleans levee repair and improvement. His associate John Lyman prepared the tailored PowerPoint Presentation that included many photos of corps projects in Devil's Lake, Grand Forks, Granite Falls, Rushford, and many others – all sized and supported by senior eye-friendly fonts.

With our annual Dinner/Dance coming up soon (Thursday, December 13th), I am encouraging any that have not yet sent a check to Warren and Dorothy to do so quickly. We always have good music, good food, and good company at the NCO Club. Also consider attending the Minnesota Senior Federation's Congressional Forum on Medicare on December 1st at the Minnetonka Community Center (9 to noon).

The November meeting is our annual exercise of the democratic process, such as we conduct it. Tom Turba did the ritual "are there any nominations from the floor?" before asking confirmation of the same old faces plus Quint Heckert. Dick Mullins, our Mapper man and keeper of the membership list for many, many years, will turn over the list duties for Quint to manage in Excel. I thought the best reason for being re-elected was to keep Bernie available is the invaluable past-president.

Lastly, have a safe and happy holiday season with your family, friends, and co-workers, and remember that we will not have a January program and that your next newsletter will be a combined January/February issue.

Respectfully, *Brian Berggren*, VIP Club President

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December

2008: Dan Karvonen, a U of M professor of Finnish, gave us a very educational, enthusiastic, and enjoyable presentation on Genetic Genealogy. Dan is a participant in the National Geographic Genographic Project and introduced testing of mitochondrial DNA from females and Y chromosome DNA from males to place individuals in haplotype groups with sets of matching DNA markers associated with global emigration patterns and distributions within ethnic groups. His sharing of the DNA heritage of his male and female relatives made his ancestry personal and connected well with the 50-plus in the audience.

I had falsely thought the great crowd was in response to my request for a good turnout for our November election of officers. Bernie introduced our slate, with Tom Turba for president, Lowell moving from treasurer to vice president, Harvey Taipale joining us as the treasurer candidate, and Lynn continuing as secretary; our board remained unchanged with Dale, Quint, Joe, and Marion. Dale did the ritual — “are there any nominations from the floor?” before asking confirmation of your new board for 2009. I get to be a past-president and continue appreciating the ever-improving website, the legacy project, the content and look of the newsletter, our programs and events, and the help of so many members. Thanks to all who have made the last two years so memorable and so quickly passed.

With our annual Dinner/Dance coming up soon (Thursday, December 11), I am encouraging any that have not yet sent a check to Warren and Dorothy to do so quickly (see page 5). We always have good music, good food, and good company at the NCO Club.

Lastly, have a safe and happy holiday season with your family, friends, and co-workers, and remember that, like last year, we will not have a January program and that your next

newsletter will be a combined January/February issue. Respectfully,
Brian Berggren, VIP Club President.

December 2009: The election of officers for the VIP Club for next year was held at the November meeting and congratulations are given to the current set of officers who will remain in place for another year.

We had an interesting program on the history of Dayton’s store that focused on what they had done for Christmas over the 100 years they were with us and the people that made it happen; from animated window displays, the train kids could ride in the store, the giant storefront decorations and the memorable Christmas packages they always had for boxing gifts. For those that missed it, a somewhat similar historical presentation on Christmas in the Twin Cities will be given at the James Hill House in St. Paul on Dec. 8th.

Our next program meeting will be the Christmas party on Thursday, December 10th. If you have not already sent in your reservation, clip out the form in the Newsletter right now and send it in with your check. We will again have good hors d’oeuvres, an open bar, good food, good fellowship and music and dancing. Have someone you used to work with come with you and share a table. This is always a fun event. I look forward to seeing you there.

Respectfully, *Tom Turba*, VIP Club President

December 2010: The annual elections were held at the November meeting. The Board and officers pretty much remain the same. Lowell Benson will now serve as President, and I will stay on as vice-president; otherwise, everything is the same.

If you missed the meeting, we had a very informative speaker, Dennis Probst. (No relationship to Gerald Probst former CEO of Sperry.) Dennis, who works for the

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Metropolitan Airports Commission, showed us what the plans are for expansion and renovation at the Minneapolis St. Paul airport and gave us insight into what things will probably look like 5, 10, 20 years and beyond.

Our next program meeting will be the Christmas Party, which will be held Dec. 9th at the Service Club (i.e., NCO Club) at the airbase. This is always a fun event, with music, eats and camaraderie. I hope you have talked to your friends and plan to come as a group. We will again have great hors d'oeuvres, music, and a good meal to enjoy with friends. I look forward to seeing you there. Until then, remember all the friends and good times you've had.

Again, we will not have a program meeting in January. Enjoy the Holidays and be safe. Respectfully, *Tom Turba*, VIP Club President

December 2011: In national politics there's a term „Lame Duck” president, the period between the November election and the January swearing in ceremony. The „Lame Duck” term is usually equated to indifference as to what happens with the country or organization. „Lame Duck” does not apply to any of the former VIP Club presidents because our Club constitution states that the past president is a member of the board. Furthermore, many former Club presidents have continued to work functions for the Club well past their tenure as Immediate Past President, i.e., Warren Becker, Hank Dotzler, Millie Gignac, Chuck Homan, Bernie Jansen, and Dale Phelps.

There are others too who keep this CLUB operating! Have you looked into the kitchen area at the annual picnic to see Board member spouses Barbara Berggren, Geri Dotzler, Kathy Jansen, Ruth Sanford, Nancy Schwarz, and Ginnie Turba plus Lynn, Marion, and Millie putting out the food and cleaning up? Sue

Carrigan at UNISYS, Roseville and Kim Loskota at UNISYS, Eagan and John Westergren, LMCO have arranged meeting rooms for the Club. Former Club Secretary, Jim Larson (a Board Associate), is at the St. Paul Park & Recreation at 5 am the first business day of January to secure the Highland Pavilion for our annual picnic. Board Associate Dick Lundgren has aided the program committee with many suggestions and arrangements. Keith Behnke joined us as Board Associate to coordinate the LMCO recreation leagues future associations with the Club.

A sincere thanks to all of these „behind the scenes” people, the entire 2011 board, and the Roseville UNISYS print shop for their support of my 2011 presidency year. Hope to see many of you on December 15th at the dinner.

Respectfully, *Lowell Benson*, VIP Club President

December 2012: The November program meeting, although lightly attended, was a very insightful view into the governmental world that is controlling what is happening with Medicare and many other government programs which affect our lives and what we get to pay for. The end takes out, at least from what I heard, and which is probably not surprising to any of you, is that the people we elected to office have not been doing the best things for any of us for a long, long time.

The next big program event is the Christmas Party on December 13th, if you have not sent in your form to attend I encourage you to do so. Come together with some friends as a group. The party will again be at the Fort Snelling Officer's Club and is only \$20 per person, not a bad deal.

Our next program meeting won't be until February, but it sounds like it will be an interesting talk on fracking and the oil and gas that is coming out of the North Dakota

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Williston Basin. I hope you can make it. It will be in the afternoon, so no nighttime driving. Respectfully, *Tom Turba*, VIP Club President.

December 2013: This has been a great year; over 100 'new' members joined the club via our June picnic special. The election resulted in the following: I will become the past president with Lowell Benson moving to President. Tom Turba will continue to manage the Good Old Days event. The remainder of the board is unchanged. Thus, we need to find a person for Vice President.

The December events are the Old Timers Reunion at the Officers club on 5 December. If you plan to attend and haven't received an email or phone call, please notify Lowell Benson by November 29th. The December 12th Dinner\Dance requires an RSVP to Warren Becker by December 2nd. (See page 7.)

Respectfully, *Bob 'R C' Hanson*, VIP Club President

December 2014: A 3rd term as the 2015 volunteer Club President! I am still passionate about promoting our Information Technology Legacy and the Club's social interaction events. Others with similar passions have led before me – nine 2-term presidents and three 3-termers: Warren Becker, Bernie Jansen, and Tom Turba. The Club's longest serving Director is Joe Schwarz, now 16 years as the newsletter chief editor.

I'm very pleased at the willingness of the other elected Board members, our board associates, and members emeriti to continue serving our membership for 2015. I invite each of you to look at our rich club history on the web page, <http://vipclubmn.org/History.html>. [No home internet access? Please use the library, only 19% of our 1,000+ membership don't have email.]

Board challenges for 2015 are to: 1) increase member participation at program meetings, 2) stimulate more members to volunteer at the Lawshe Museum, 3) to entice more UNISYS Roseville retirees to serve on future VIP club boards, and 4) find a backup webmaster. Respectively, *Lowell A. Benson*

December 2015: Reflecting! This is the 31st newsletter message typed on my PC keyboard and my last as the Club's president. My good luck wishes to our incoming 21st President Keith Behnke and VP Orrin McGill as they provide leadership for 2016 and beyond. Joe Schwarz is beginning his 17th year as a director and chief newsletter editor. Harvey Taipale begins his 8th year as Treasurer and Dale Phelps begins his 8th year as Program Coordination Director. Frank King begins his 4th year as Club Secretary. John Westergren has resigned as a director, however, will continue to support picnic planning as a Board Associate - he joins Associates Dick Lundgren, Bill Galle, Lynn Lindholm, and Jim Larson who, along with a plethora of spouses and member emeriti, work behind the scenes to make us a successful and smooth operating organization. John W. and Lowell will continue as co-chairs of the IT Legacy committee. John and I are appreciative of the many hours spent by the teams working on Tuesdays at the Lawshe Memorial Museum. Thanks to all for making 2015 a good year.

Looking Ahead: January 2016 marks 70-years since Engineering Research Associates (ERA) opened their business doors on Minnehaha Avenue in St. Paul. Perhaps 2016 will give us the insight to predict when the IT Legacy Committee can wrap up 'telling-the-story' of our heritage companies' innovations. Best Regards, *Lowell A. Benson*, Club President 2011/14/15.

December 2016: As we reach the end of 2016 here are a few reminders. Check the date

Established in 1980 on either the subject line of the e-mail distribution of our newsletter or the mailing tag of your USPS mailed newsletter for your membership expiration year. We want you to remain part of the VIP Club so don't forget to renew.

As you collect the information on your volunteer activities for this year we will simplify the input process for the VIP Club data collection. You will just need to report your total volunteer hours and list whatever organizations you supported. We use this information to communicate to the rest of the world the outstanding job our members do in

supporting worthwhile activities. And finally, one of the most important things that we must address is maintaining an effective VIP Club management board. As you will see elsewhere in this issue Paul Hove has joined the board, but we are still looking for additional candidates to fill open or soon to open positions. Please consider joining us. *Keith Behnke*, Club President.

In 2017 we started combining the November and December newsletters.

EPILOGUE

Why a year-by-year chronology within each month? These messages illustrate the transition from 12 meetings and newsletters per year to ten and then to six. Most president's messages reflect decisions about what will be happening within a finite timeframe of time, i. e. the past and next few months. If you have read every word of these 83 pages; you have read only about 5% of the ~1,500 newsletter pages published since 2004.

We can only hope that future historians find this paper as well as the Ryan Barland interviews at the Minnesota Historical Society helpful in understanding what has happened with this social club in Minnesota.

Personally, I have a sense of urgency as our newsletters of the last two years all have over a page of obits thus we are losing too many people without their legacy participations being recorded for posterity. Hopefully some of the younger retirees from Unisys, Lockheed Martin, etc. will join the Club and keep it viable for many more years!

Best Regards,

