VIP Club Newsletter

VOLUME 24, NO. 03 www.geocities.com/vipclub2003 MARCH 2004

The Number to call for information on Unisys Retirement Status and Benefits: 1-800-600-4015.
The Number to call for information on Lockheed Martins Retirement Status and Benefits: 1--866-562-2363.

Wednesday, March 03	Board Meeting, Roseville	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, March 10	Roseville, Program & Social Time	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 07	Board Meeting, Eagan	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, April 14	Eagan, Program & Social Time	7:00 p.m.

MARCH PROGRAM: ROSEVILLE

The North Suburban Chorus with our own Jack Farber returns, featuring a program of spring music and Irish songs by their leprechaun, John Dunne. Jonathon Nye directs the chorus.

APRIL PROGRAM: EAGAN

Ms. Minnesota - Senior America Pageant will present "Show Case" of the various talents used in competition. Our own Marlene Merth will be participating. She was Ms. Minnesota 2003.

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

Please send permanent address changes to Dick Mullins addressed to the VIP Club at the address given on the label page of the newsletter. Also please remember that for temporary changes the U.S. Postal Service will forward your mail.

FINAL NOTICE

YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER

IF YOUR ADDRESS LABEL DOES NOT HAVE A "4" AFTER YOUR NAME, YOU ARE NOT PAID FOR 2004 AND YOUR NEWSLETTER WILL STOP. PLEASE USE THE DUES COUPON ON PAGE 7 AND SUBMIT YOUR 2004 DUES.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE From: Dale Phelps

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, in an attempt 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

From the Editors



Brian Berggren (651-451-9009) & **Joe Schwarz** (651-698-9698)

Address:-VIP Club, 1486 Fairmount Ave, St Paul MN 55105 e-mail: **vipclub2003@yahoo.com**

The Newsletter Editorial Staff:

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DINING CLUBS & GROUPS

Breakfast groups and get-togethers:

One breakfast group meets monthly at 9:00 a.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Tri-City American Legion, Old Hwy 8, New Brighton. Phone: **763-416-3903.**

Another breakfast group meets monthly at 8:00 a.m. on the 1st Thursday of each month at Joseph's Grill, 140 South Wabasha, (Wabasha and Plato) St. Paul. Phone: **651-222-2435.**

Luncheon Groups & Dinner Clubs:

One Unisys Luncheon group meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. at the Old Country Buffet, Holly Shopping Center, located at University Ave. and Mississippi St. just north of I-694. For information call **651-552-1465**

Another Luncheon group (engineering/drafting) meets monthly on the 1st Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. at the Old Country Buffet at 2000 S. Robert, West St. Paul. For information call **651-456-0750**.

And another Luncheon group (Unisys and Burroughs) meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. at the Mall of America 3rd floor North

Food Court. We sit at the tables between the elevator and Burger King. For information call **952-854-7855**.

Dinner Club. **A Unisys Dinner Club** meets monthly on the 4th Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. at Champs located at 35E and Larpenteur Avenue. For information call **763-786-1044**.

MEETING & EVENT DATES 2004

Date	<u>Time</u> L	<u>ocation</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Jan. 14	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Feb. 11	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
Mar. 10	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Apr 14	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
May. 12	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
June 09	4:00 p.m.	Park	VIP Club Picnic
July 14	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program – Social Time
Aug 11	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program – Social Time
Sept. 08	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program – Social Time
Oct 13	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program – Social Time
Nov. 10	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program – Social Time
Dec. 09	5:45 p.m.	USAF	Christmas Party
Note: I	Rsvl = R	Rosevill	e, Eagan = Eagan
Commu	nity Cente	er, Par	k = Highland Park
Pavilion	, USAF =	NCO (Club at U.S. Air Force
Base of 1	Hwy 62		

WELCOME NEW CLUB MEMBERS

Abicht, Ronald W. LM	Burnsville MN
Bollom, Bryce and Lynette LM	IGH MN
Brown, Hazel U	Minneapolis MN
Cherry, James and Diane LM	Long Prairie MN
Francis, Arthur and Anna LM	Appley Valley MN
Gacke, Dennis and Janet LM	Surprize AZ
Gountanis, Nancy U	Eagan, MN
Headley, Russell and Faye U	St. Paul MN
Huck, Mike LM	Minneapolis MN
Huss, Harold and Jeanne U	Edina MN
Iverson , Robert and Joanne U	Nelson WI
Johnson , Charles P and Pat U	Cottage Grove MN
Kiffe, William and Harriet LM	St. Paul MN
Kohout, Bob and Donna U	St. Paul MN
Lamuth, Jack and Carolyn LM	Minneapolis MN
McDonnell, Lorraine U	Woodbury MN
Moseng, Richard D. and Janet	U St. Paul, MN
Polta, Sharyn U Wi	nite Bear Lake MN
Riemenschneider,	
Marian and Gene U	Newport MN
Roegge. John A and Marilyn U	Naples FL

Marian and Gene U Newport MN
Roegge, John A and Marilyn U Naples FL
Schultz, Audrey St Paul MN
Skeie, Ruth Granite Falls MN
Spitzmueller, Woody and Barb LM Prior Lake MN

U = Unisys **B** = Burroughs **LM** = Lockheed Martin **D** = Unisys Defense Systems

IN REMEMBRANCE

Anderson, Donald L. - Age 83, of St. Paul On January 30, 2004. Preceded in death by wife, Cathryn 'Capi'. Don was the Defense System's Publications Manager from the mid-60s until his retirement in the mid-80s He was a mentor to many of us and a gentleman to all. Don was also an early VIP Club leader.

Duckett, Richard - Age 64, of Kill Devil Hills, NC. He is survived by wife, Marion. Richard started his career working for Univac and retired from Unisys after 28 years.



Johnson (Dado) Gloria A - Age 77. Retired in 1986 after 30 years with Sperry Univac. Gloria was also a past employee of Franklin Transformer Manufacturing and General Mills. She will be deeply

missed by her husband of 48 years, David.

Losen, Pierce - Age 83, of South St. Paul. Preceded in death by his wife, Norma. Pierce was a custodian and grounds keeper for Univac at Plant 2 in St Paul, MN.

Oliver, J. Ralph – Age 83 of St Paul. Loving Husband and Father, passed away Feb. 6, 2004. Ralph retired from Univac in 1981. He is survived by wife of 55 years, Patricia.

Rauchnot, Harold C. - 7/5/23 - 1/19/04 Korean & WWII Veteran. Preceded in death by wife, Inez. Harold worked in the parts crib at Univac Plant 1 in St Paul, MN.

Sibley Harry - Age 68, of Pine City, formerly of Anoka County. Harry was a 30-year employee of Univac. He retired from Unisys in 1993, where he was the scheduling supervisor in printed circuits and prototype. Harry is survived by his wife, LaVerne

Winter William P. - Age 82, of New Hope. Preceded in death by parents. William was a electrical engineer at Unisys and retired in 1982.

Wolf Felix Hans. - Age 78, of St. Louis Park, died January 24, 2004 after a long illness. He is survived by wife, Shane. Felix started at Remington Rand Univac in 1956 working on the Univac II as a mechanical engineer

Zobel, Donald – Age 79, of No St Paul. Preceded in death by wife of 58 years, Florence. Don started at Univac and retired from Unisys after a 30 year career.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLOODMOBILE

Bloodmobile Information from Marion Scott

Thanks to the following members for their service in January at the two Red Cross Blood Drives in Eagan. Helping at the Unisys MACS Building were: Bill Kiffe, Nancy Gountanis, Marion Scott, Dick and Jan Moseng and Chuck and Midge Homan. Helping at Lockheed Martin were: Keith Oliver, Dale Phelps, Ruth Sanford, Gene Achterberg, Roy and Rosemary Hain, Dick Moseng and John Winiecki.

Note: On January 22nd at Unisys a total of 53 units of blood were collected. On January 28th at Lockheed Martin a total of 65 units were

Please call Marion Scott at 651-455-7952 to sign-up.

HEALTH ISSUES

collected.

Health Issues 16Feb04 – Citizens Forum and Medicare Roundtable

Our country ranks 37th in the world in quality of health care (Canada ranks 5th) while spending 15% of our GDP. Almost all other first-tier countries provide universal coverage to their citizens using 8% or less of their GDP. In January I attended two of the Minnesota Citizens Forums on Health Care Costs. I also attended the Roundtable on the Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act with three other Senior Federation members. The Roundtable was co-sponsored by the U of Minn. and the University of St. Thomas through their National Institute of Health Policy partnership. Sen. Dave Durenberger chaired both forums.

Starting back in October, the Citizens Forum was given presentations by the Minn. Dept. of Health and other groups, solicited citizen input on their website, conducted town hall meetings throughout the state, and used an 800-contact phone survey. Collectively, this information provided forum members with both the concern citizens have over the growing health cost crisis and a multitude of suggestions for significant changes to the current health system in Minnesota. The goals were: 1) a healthy citizenry, 2) access to care, 3) quality care, and 4) affordable care.

Using the four goals, issue groups on citizen health, quality, access, and affordability were formed. Citizen health requires physical, mental, and social well being, with education given to minimize bad behaviors (smoking, chemical abuse, lack of exercise, etc.) and promote individual responsibility. Quality means universal participation with everyone having a primary care physician. Currently, only

one-in ten is getting "effective" care; half of the time the doctor or patient is not doing what should have been done. A standard form of sharing medical information between providers is also a major need; any discontinuity in care is harmful. This is especially true of citizens without that have long periods of employment or unemployment. Access requires a system that is understandable and useable to all. Disabilities, cultural differences, and language problems must not be impediments to care. Affordability requires that we know what treatment costs, and that the market system gives us more choices and products.

A bigger question should have been how could we avoid further segregating the health care market by ability to pay? Along with improving quality, we need transparency into costs and prices. For those of us with good insurance, the only real numbers we deal with are deductibles and co-pays. The uninsured see bills for services three to five times higher than for the insured, and they are increasingly expected to pay. Our health system doesn't even know how costs for services are assigned.

Some of the forum's preliminary general recommendations seem to have devolved from specific suggestions to what the Pioneer Press editorial on 8 February called "public rhetoric." Somehow, the forum uses "a universal system where everyone gets the health care they need" and "a private sector health care system that offers as much choice as possible" in the same sentence. Universal coverage and private sector competition with multiple choices and products are at opposite ends of the care spectrum and all the health professionals (and Sen. Durenberger) know it. The last forum conversation on 28 January was about risk pools and how to divide the insurance market. The state market has regional differences, age differences, and chronic disease differences. We would need pools for the poor and unemployed, students, elderly, the healthy working, and those with disabilities. You think costs and coverage are going to be fair and adequate for all? Some of these population groups don't have enough money to eat well. Only if we are all in the same national pool can we have anything close to universal coverage. All other pools will suffer rising costs and fail as the individual pool ages and sickens. The preliminary Citizens Forum recommendations are a little disappointing.

What was presented at the Medicare Roundtable was frightening. The roundtable members included the who's who of Minnesota's medical provider organizations and health policy researchers. These are the people we depend on to run our HMOs and hospitals. We learn that the 40-plus million

Medicare beneficiaries of today will exceed 80 million by 2030 and the unfunded \$400 billion cost projection over the next ten years (already corrected to \$534 billion) will be at least \$1 trillion in years 2013-2022.

We learn that the first "benefit," the drug discount card to help from the summer of 2004 through 2005, is of even less use than feared. For a \$30 annual premium, we knew that a 10%-25% discount would be available from the pharmaceutical benefit managers and drug companies. We also knew that we could only buy one card and that not all drugs would be offered through one card; only those drugs that the benefit manager or drug company list for the card would be discounted and are subject to weekly change. What we didn't know was that the discount cards are generally for older, off-patent drugs, that the prices are often inflated, and that the discount comes out of the pharmacies' bottom line. We also learned that the cost growth of drugs is all on the manufacturers' side; pharmacies are making 20% less in profits than they were 20 years ago. Also of interest was that mail order operations have the lowest rate of generic drug use and that the benefit managers that are supposed to negotiate for best discounts often fail to pass on much of the discounts to consumers.

We learn that the new Medicare Act preempts our state law against non-profits and will allow the huge for-profit outfits like Humana to operate with one-year contracts. Multi-state service areas are to be determined by politics, with five to ten big for-profit companies serving the entire country. The benefit is to be the same within a region, but no one expects the care in western N. Dakota to be the same as in Edina. One-quarter of the Medicare beneficiaries are in rural areas, as are one-half of the hospitals. How will the bigs compete with each other to hold down costs and still make a profit in the rural areas when the rural providers are already barely making it?

Regional inequities in Medicare reimbursements are getting worse. Medicaid rules are more restrictive and states will be limited in what the federal government reimburses. And we still have the prescription drug benefit that requires us to pay whatever price the makers ask, disallows any negotiation of discounted prices, prevents the importation of drugs from other countries, and prohibits us from buying supplemental drug insurance. This is the drug benefit that starts in 2006, that has the premiums and deductible that keeps the healthiest away, and that has the donut-hole with no coverage right where seniors could use the most help. Lewis Lapham in his Bad Medicine editorial in the February Harper's says the Medicare bill

"...allots as little money as possible to individual citizens and as much money as possible to the vested commercial interests." The MN Senior Federation has much more on "The Medicare Mess." Look for more information in their pamphlets, programs, and on the website (mnseniors.org).

Submitted by Brian Berggren (MN Senior Federation Medicare Justice Coalition co-chair)

HAPPENINGS

"What have you done since retirement from Sperry" by Connie (Schullo) Butcher and Bill Butcher.

When asked "what have you done since retirement from Sperry" the easy answer is "just enjoyed life". In reality, it has been a very busy fifteen years with most events and activities normally found at our stage of life. Very early we decided to move out of our home and relocate to a cost effective area of residence. After lots of examination we decided to move to Mexico. We had visited the Cancun area several times and decided to give it a try. Retirement in Puerto Morelos Mexico, (a small fishing village, just 15 minutes south of the Cancun airport), has been great for us.

The first few years we learned the customs, and procedures and just got acquainted with the people and territory. Turned out it was a very active and busy area. Often we asked ourselves, "How did we ever find time to work?" In the early days, just ordinary things like telephoning or grocery shopping took much of our time. For the first 5 years there was one telephone in our village, and a 200-mile drive to purchase chairs and furniture. Quite a change from the metropolitan area we had left. We moved into the area of the Mayan civilization, which fascinated us and our curiosity of this culture keep us busy. The Mayan civilization occupied hundreds of miles and provided the basis for local area travel. So, our activities gradually grew into travel and recreation.

Our early travels were through Mexico. We were surprised at the variety of the Mexican culture and landscape, Alpine mountains, meadows, plains, mountains and oceans and rivers. Very little desert scenery, but it is definitely there. Plenty of non-Mayan cultural ruins and structures, pyramids and artifacts.

Each year we took a month with friends and explored via caravan, Southern Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize finding exciting places and people of great hospitality and interesting, and as time moved along age caught up with us. Several health problems struck and made the caravan type trips less desirable. We had visited much of Central America,

places like San Cristobal, Oaxaca, Morelia in Mexico, and Antigua and Quirigua and Guatemala City in Guatemala, and many more. Many with names that were unpronounceable, as well as not easy to spell. Map reading was an art and subject to considerable discussion as well as interpretation.

During these times we made several trips to visit our children and relatives, and built lots of frequent flyer miles in the process. About every one and a half years a trip to the U.S. provided health care and renewal of our reason for living in Mexico. We developed several close relationships with local residents, and went to many quince años, baptisms, birthday parties and weddings.

And we watched the area grow. Grocery stores, hardware stores, hotels and resorts started surrounding us, and along with this the highways were improved, telephones arrived, and now in addition to the Mexican facilities, suddenly WAL-MART, SAM'S and COSTCO arrived. It remains to be seen what the result of these are on the plus or minus scale, but they are about 20 miles upstream from us.

While we were adjusting to these changes, the travel urge grew, and we felt a strong desire to do some serious travel. So, early excursions south were natural. This resulted in visits to Ecuador and Panama as well as a couple brief visits to Cuba.

With these various trips we acquired a considerable collection of various local unique articles, which led to a need for more living space, so we built a new residence. This took most of 18 months to complete.

Meanwhile, the travel bug remained active and we formulated a plan for an exciting trip, which went first to Helsinki, Finland, then by train to St. Petersburg, Russia where we caught a River cruise to Moscow. It was a fascinating trip and we did enjoy the trip very much. We continue to consider travel options and have participated in a bus tour through Europe, flights to Zurich, Paris and train travel to Germany, Austria, Italy and a trip to Alaska and a safari to Africa, and most recently a river cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest.

Down here there is a tendency to name your house, ours is Dos Flojos. (2 lazy or retired) And as one of our friends told me this morning, "you are enjoying life now after working hard for many years". And that is what we are doing. We do have a web site with photos of much of our travels and time in Mexico for these last 17 years. It is

www.dosflojos.com if any of you are interested in viewing it.

VIP CLUB Membership AS OF 2/16/2004

Total Membership	888
Memberships renewed for 2004	<u>760</u>
Members not renewed	128
Submitted by Jack Farber, Treasurer	

THE LIGHTER SIDE

Lost in a balloon

A man in a hot air balloon realized he was lost. He reduced altitude and spotted a woman below. He descended a bit more and shouted, "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago, but I don't know where I am."

The woman below replied, "You're in a hot air balloon hovering approximately 30 feet above the ground. You're between 40 and 41 degrees north latitude and between 59 and 60 degrees west longitude."

"You must be an engineer," said the balloonist. "I am," replied the woman, "How did you know?"

"Well," answered the balloonist, "everything you told me is, technically correct, but I've no idea what to make of your information, and the fact is I'm still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help at all. If anything, you've delayed my trip."

The woman below responded, "You must be in Management."

"I am," replied the balloonist, "but how did you know?"

"Well," said the woman, "you don't know where you are or where you're going. You have risen to where you are due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise, which you've no idea how to keep, and you expect people beneath you to solve your problems. The fact is you are in exactly the same position you were in before we met, but now, somehow, it's my fault."

VIP Volunteer Services Areas with Samples of Organizations in each Category

Code	Service Area	Code	Service Area
1	Community and Related Services AARP Volunteers Civic/Government/County Support Services	4	Music and Theatrical Services Guthrie Theater Northern Lights Variety Band North Suburban Chorus
Senior Centers Community Services DARTS Scouting Minnesota Senior Federation/VISTA	5	Schools and Educational Services Volunteer Services in Schools Historical Societies Wright Brothers Natl Memorial	
2	United Way Health and Disaster Services American Cancer Society Arthritis Foundation Red Cross & Bloodmobile Services Courage Center	6	Religious and Related Services Church Missions and Camps Related Charities Lutheran Missions Presbyterian Homes Basilica of St. Mary
3	Signet Health & Rehab. Center Meals, Food and Housing Services Meals on Wheels Loaves and Fishes Sharing and Caring Hands Dorothy Day Center Food Services / Senior Dining Habitat for Humanity	7	Other Services Animal Humane Society Law Enforcement Services Juvenile Court Guardian Small Business Consulting Veterans & Armed Forces Support VIP Club Mutual Interest Associations

On your Volunteer Hours Survey Form select one of the above codes that best represents each Organization Served.

VIP Club Volunteer Hours Survey Form For Year 2003			
Member/Spo	use Names	Your City	State
Service Area Code (1-7) See Listing Page 6	Organization for which volunt	eer Services was performed	Member and Spouse Total Hours per line
Cut out and Bernie Jansen Mail this form to: 848 Ivy Lane Total Hours Eagan. MN 55123-2425			
Survey results will be published in the VIP Club Newsletter. Only organizations with 100 or more hours will be listed individually. The VIP Recognition Breakfast will be at 8:30a.m. on April 21 st at Unisys, Roseville. Your Volunteer Survey Form must be received by April 8 th for you to be listed in the Breakfast Program. Please indicate how many will attend the volunteer breakfast. Enter 0, 1 or 2:			

VIP CLUB APPLICATION AND RENEWAL FORM			
Retiree Name:	Spouse:		
Address:	CITY	STATE ZIP	
Phone: ()	Check here if your address or phone number has changed	New Member(s) Renewing Member(s)	
Company: Lockheed Martin & Predecessors: ; Unisys: Univac & Predecessors: ; Unisys: Burroughs:			
Please make check payable to the VIP CLUB and mail to address shown at right:	VIP CLUB Jack Farber 5700 Villa Dr. Shoreview MN 55126	Annual dues: \$4 per Couple or Single. Note to new members: Your newsletters start after dues are received.	
Check here if you do not wish to have your name listed in the VIP Members directory. (Directory distributed to members only)			

VIP CLUB – MS 4003 P.O. BOX 64942 ST PAUL MN 55164

VIP CLUB OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS FOR THE YEAR 2004

* = A/C 651, + = A/C 612, @ = A/C 763, # = A/C 952

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:	VOLUNTEER CHAIRPERSONS	ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS
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	email address: vipclub2003@yahoo.com	
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Directions to Eagan Community Center. Take Hwy 35E south or north to Pilot Knob Road. Turn left (north) on Pilot Knob Road. Turn left on Central Parkway (which is also the North entrance to Lockheed). The Eagan Community Center is at 1501 Central Parkway.

Directions to Unisys in Roseville. Take Hwy 35W south or north to the Industrial Way / St. Anthony Blvd off ramp. If coming north or south on Hwy 35E go west on Hwy 36 which will take you to the Industrial Way / St. Anthony Blvd. off ramp of 35W (Hwy 36 becomes Hwy 35W where it joins Hwy 35W). Go north on St. Anthony Blvd. to Walnut St. (the first street on the right). Turn right and go to Highcrest which is the first place where you can turn left. Past the stop sign. Bldg 3 is on the right. Gate 5 is in the center of the building.

From Hwy 280 northbound, use left lane exit just past Cty Rd B for Terminal road access (St Croix St.). Turn left at Terminal Rd, then turn right at Highcrest Rd to building entrance.