

VIP Club Newsletter

VOLUME 24, NO. 11 www.geocities.com/vipclub2003 NOVEMBER 2004

The Number to call for information on Unisys Retirement Status and Benefits: 1-877-864-7972.

The Number to call for information on Lockheed Martin Retirement Status and Benefits: 1--866-562-2363.

Wednesday, November 03	Board Meeting, Eagan	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, November 10	Eagan, Program & Social Time	7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 01	Board Meeting, Roseville	10:00 a.m.
Thursday, December 09	Christmas Party, NCO Club	5:45 p.m.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM: EAGAN

The evening begins at 7:00 pm with the election of officers for the upcoming year. For the November program Jeanie Johnston, from Sunshine Travel, will show slides and talk about a March trip to New Orleans and a May trip to Holland, Michigan. Matt Hoffman, from Collette Vacations, will present a May trip to Ireland. Come and experience the trips without actually going there. Brochures will be available at the meeting or call Roger Gillette to have one mailed to you (612-926-7214). You can also check the club web site for information.

DECEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our annual VIP Club Christmas Party is on a Thursday this year; December 09 is the date and the NCO Club is the place. Following a social hour, the North Suburban Chorus will present a program of Christmas music. After dinner the Connie Villars Quartette will play music for listening and dancing. **REMEMBER TO CARRY A PICTURE I.D.** For those who would like to attend but are unable to drive at night, please give one of your officers a call; we may be able to arrange a ride. (See map to the NCO Club on page 4 and Christmas Party reservation form on page 5).

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.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From: Dale Phelps

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 the 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

From the Editors



Brian Berggren (651-451-9009) &
Joe Schwarz (651-698-9698)
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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 2004/2005

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Oct 13	6:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Pot Luck – Program
Nov. 10	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program – Social Time
Dec. 09	5:45 p.m.	USAF	Christmas Party
Jan. 12	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program – Social Time
Feb. 09	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Mar. 09	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
Apr 13	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
May. 11	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
June 08	4:00 p.m.	Park	VIP Club Picnic
July 13	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program – Social Time
Aug 10	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program – Social Time
Sept 14	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program – Social Time

Note: Rsvl = Roseville, Eagan = Eagan Community Center, Park = Highland Park Pavilion, USAF = NCO Club at U.S. Air Force Base off Hwy 62

WELCOME NEW CLUB MEMBERS

Voth, Vern and Alice U Scandia Park, NM
Witzman, Hal and Kathleen U/LM Richfield, MN
 U = Unisys B = Burroughs LM = Lockheed Martin
 D = Unisys Defense Systems

IN REMEMBRANCE



Skovran, John T. - 'Tom' Age 67, of Burnsville passed away on Sept. 25, 2004. Survived by his wife, Darlene. John was a Lockheed Martin retiree.

Wosmek, Wendell G. - Age 52 Of Elko Passed away on 9/20/04. Wendell was a Lockheed Martin employee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE

The VIP Club Christmas party will be held on Thursday Dec. 09. See page 5 for menu and reservation form.

THE ANNUAL OLD WATEVERS SOCIAL at the Fort Snelling Officer's Club will be on Thursday, December 2nd, starting at 11 a.m. There will be two cash bars and lunch will be available. We have been asked to keep our socializing out of the hall to minimize access problems of the regular members. There is no admission fee. If you have any questions contact Earl Lillestrand 952-884-7619.

UNIHOGS/TURKEYS & SPOUSES its time for the Annual Fall Reunion for acquaintances, old friends and colleagues from ERA, UNIVAC, UNISYS, Lockheed Martin, and the entire computer community in general.

The event will be held Friday November 19th at the CITY VIEW (was the Lost Spur) restaurant.

11:00 a.m. Social Hour - cash bar only

12:00 p.m. Lunch

Menu:

Spur Hamburger and fries or Caesar Salad

Includes coffee, tea, or milk.

Cost is \$15.00 per person (tax and tip included)

Following lunch there will be a program titled: "Memories in Review".

Reservations must be received by Saturday November 13th. Make checks payable to CITY VIEW and note on your check your meal choice(s). Send payment to Lowell Benson, 1040 Ingerson Rd., Shoreview, MN 55126. Lowell's Phone is 651-483-3709 or labenson@usfamily.net

ISSUES

Tax Cuts-Helps and Hurts

Average tax cut this year for Americans whose annual income is in the top 1% - \$78,460. Average tax cut this year for a household with annual income of \$57,000 - \$1,090. This is according to a new Congressional Budget Office report as printed in TIME Magazine. Also remember that unearned income like capital gains from stock is taxed at 15%, while earned income from wages is taxed up to 35%. Submitted by Jack Farber

Conservative on Medicare Increase

Before you jump to conclusions read this and have a great day! Have you seen the John Kerry commercial in which George Bush pledges to help seniors on Medicare and "the very next day imposes a 17% premium increase - the biggest in history"? That ad is a stroke of genius on the DNC's part and will surely gain Kerry many votes among the uninformed. As it turns out, the 17% increase was not imposed by President Bush but was mandated by the "balanced budget agreement" signed by President Clinton, voted into law by Senator John Kerry, and scheduled to come into effect during the next administration. President Bush had no authority to reverse what had been voted into law by Senator Kerry during the Clinton administration. Once again Kerry is counting on the ignorance

of the American people. Don't be duped by his mendacity. Submitted by Stan Bolin

Editor's Response

The 17.4% increase as explained by Prof. Susan Bartlett Foote, Director of Health Research and Policy at the Univ. of MN., is at least half the responsibility of the Bush administration and Medicare Commissioner McClellan. The balanced budget agreement Stan refers to requires enrollees to pay about 25% of actual part B costs through their monthly premiums; the remainder is paid out of general funds (taxes). Costs for the expanded benefits, trust fund reserve additions, and enrollee subsidies to for-profit insurers are all on the administration. My concern is maintenance of affordable health care. If enough people and politicians demand more or better Medicare coverage of such issues as mental health parity, implantable defibrillators, and drug coverage without the donut hole, the costs will again rise with double digit increases. Written by Brian Berggren

Political Health

At the Congressional District 2 Kline-Daly debate at Eagan City Hall the first week in October, I listened to John Kline spend most of his time on a Medicare question telling us the most significant provision of the Medicare Modernization Act was the Health Savings Account. This 401k-like provision is for the healthy, wealthy, and young; I have yet to meet a senior who can use it. In the same vein, Mark Kennedy in the 10 October StarTribune promotes the Health Savings Accounts as the way to put the individual back in charge of health care decisions and citing Medicare as a rule and regulation laden program that costs doctors in paperwork. He doesn't mention Medicare and seniors in the same sentence and ignores Medicare's 3% administrative costs versus the 12 to 30% administrative costs of for-profit insurers.

On 13 October, at the Maple Grove Community Center, the Minnesota Senior Federation held its state convention. Speakers included: Sen. Mark Dayton, Rep. Gil Gutknecht, Rep. Jim Ramstad, State Senator Majority Leader Dean Johnson, State Rep. Matt Entenza, with a keynote address by the U's pharmaceutical economics researcher

Dr. Stephen Shondelmeyer. Unless I missed something, none of the media covered the event. Written by Brian Berggren

Drug Reimportation

After Craig Westover’s 15 September editorial in the Pioneer Press showing his misunderstanding of the Dorgan-Snow and Gregg-Smith drug re-importation bills, I wrote a 700 word Viewpoint (which was not published). Part of that follows.

The Dorgan-Snow bill contains what Westover calls a “restraint of trade” provision and that is termed “anti-gaming” in the bill. Its intent is to prevent what Pfizer, Lilly, and others are now doing to the Canadian drug distribution system. This is “restriction of product” to distributors that service pharmacies that sell to U.S. citizens.

Westover’s claim that removing the drug companies’ ability to abusively charge in the U.S. market would devastate medical research is nonsense. The cost of pharmaceutical research is largely funded through NIH (National Institutes of Health) to the tune of better than 44 percent. The pharmaceutical companies spend about 18 percent on research versus over 30 percent for advertising and marketing. An example: with Prilosec going off patent and a desire to continue offering a very profitable drug, Prilosec was slightly modified and received a fresh patent as Nexium – with no increase in effectiveness. Of 24 new drugs introduced by the major pharmaceutical

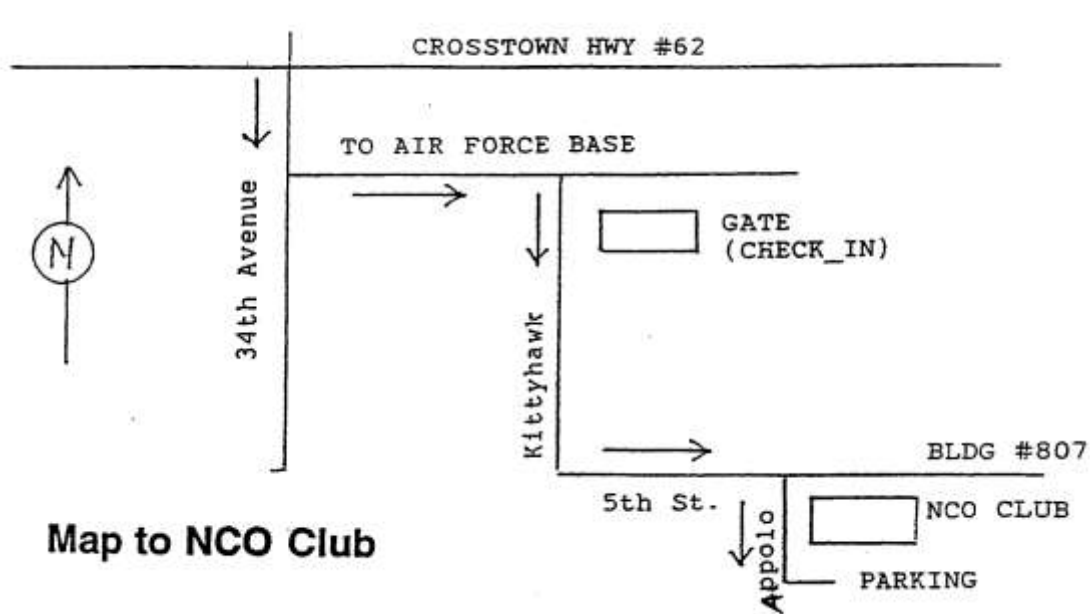
companies, only one was really new – the others were “me too” drugs, essentially copies. Written by Brian Berggren

THE LIGHTER SIDE

THAT CAKE

Alice was to bake a cake for the church ladies’ group bake sale, but she forgot to do it until the last minute. She baked an angel food cake and when she took it from the oven, the center had dropped flat. She said, “Oh dear, there’s no time to bake another cake.” So, she looked around the house for something to build up the center of the cake. Alice found it in the bathroom, a roll of toilet paper. She plunked it in and covered it with icing. The finished product looked beautiful, so she rushed it to the church.

Alice then gave her daughter some money and instructions to be at the Sale the minute it opened and to buy that cake and bring it home. When her daughter arrived at the sale! The attractive cake had already been sold. Alice was beside herself. A couple of days later, Alice was invited to a friend’s home where two tables of bridge were to be played that afternoon. After the game, a fancy lunch was served, and to top it off, the cake in question was presented for dessert. Alice saw the cake, she started to get out of her chair to rush into the kitchen to tell her hostess all about it, but before she could get to her feet, one of the other ladies said, “What a beautiful cake!” Alice sat back in her chair when she heard the hostess (a prominent church member) say “Thank you; I baked it myself.” Submitted by Skai Zarins.



VIP CLUB APPLICATION AND RENEWAL FORM

Retiree Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____, _____, _____
STREET 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)

ABOUT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

5:45 pm - 6:30 pm Initial social time with hors d'oeuvres
6:30 pm - 7:15 pm Christmas Music Presented by
The North Suburban Chorus
7:15 pm - 8:00 pm+ Enjoy an elegant sit down dinner with your choice of
Filet Mignon, Burgundy Chicken or Salmon
8:00 pm - 11:00 pm Dancing to the music you like by
The Connie Villars Quartette.

VIP CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY, Dinner-Dance Reservation Form

Please reserve, at \$24.00 each, _____ place(s) for the Annual VIP Club Christmas Party, Dinner & Dance being held Thursday, December 09, 2004 at the NCO Club at the Air Force Base off Hwy 62. The social time begins at 5:45 pm, at 6:30 pm Christmas Music, at 7:15 dinner will be served and at 8:00 pm The Connie Villars Quartette will play music for your listening and dancing enjoyment. Please send in your reservations now, since seating is limited. **Your reservation must be received by Dec. 2nd.** If your reservation is for more than 2 persons, please attach a list of added names and you will be all seated together at a reserved table. **Picture ID required for entry to Air Force Base.**

Check here () if you have attached _____ additional names.

Names: _____

Address _____

Entree selection(s) & qty.: Filet Mignon _____; Burgundy Chicken _____; Salmon _____
Please make your check or checks payable to: **VIP CLUB**

Mail to:

Dorothy Becker
8630 Queen Avenue South
Bloomington, MN 55431

Phone: 952-881-3516

**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:
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Programs Eagan Dale Phelps #831-7843
Programs Roseville ... Jack Farber *785-9557
Newsletter Editors Brian Berggren *451-9009
& Joe Schwarz *698-9698

WEBMASTER

Joe Schwarz *698-9698
email address: vipclub2003@yahoo.com

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

Christmas..... Dorothy Becker #881-3516
Picnic.....Chuck Homan *699-5180

Metro Sr. Fed.....Brian Berggren *451-9009
John Dufour *639-8289
Jim Larson *698-3963

Sunshine.....Jim Larson *698-3963
Lynn Farris Lindholm *484-1030

Travel Opportunities
Roger Gillette +926-7214
& Yvonne Cecchini at *423-9196

UNISYS Liaison, Roseville Judy Cognetta *635-6563
Printing & Mailing UNISYS Print Shop, Roseville

Lockheed Martin, Eagan Liaison Sheri Grone *456-2210

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.