

VIP Club Newsletter

VOLUME 25, NO. 5

www.geocities.com/vipclub2003

MAY 2005

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, May 04
Wednesday, May 11

Board Meeting, Eagan
Eagan, Program & Social Time

10:00 a.m.
7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 01
Wednesday, June 08

Board Meeting, Roseville
Roseville, Program & Social Time

10:00 a.m.
7:00 p.m.

MAY PROGRAM: EAGAN

Peace Project founder Steve Lear, representing the Jewish Community Relations Council, will present a program on "Understanding the Middle East Conflict: A Hope for Peace." Mr. Lear will tell us why this information is so important to every person and help us understand the historical timeline of the issues. He will also share ideas regarding the creation of a Palestinian State and security for the State of Israel, promote acceptance of Religious Differences, and offer hope for a peaceful outcome to the Middle East situation.

JUNE PROGRAM: ROSEVILLE

The June program will be announced in the next newsletter.

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

Please send permanent address changes to Jack Farber 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.

Let us know what types of programs or topics we should try to schedule for upcoming meetings. If you have heard a speaker that would be of interest to our group, again let us know. Jack and Dale have been doing a great job but, like everything else, it's easier with help from those filling the chairs at the meetings.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From: Dale Phelps

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

From the Editors



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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 2005/2006

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

Crow, Alan and Roberta LM Bloomington, MN
Kurth, Duane and Cheryl B Sun City, AZ
Mark, Roger and Mary Ann U Roseville, MN
Mueller, Sylvia and William U Roseville, MN
Naseth, William and Kathleen U Red Wing, MN
Newell, Dean U S. Daytona, FL
Phillips, Michael J. and Lorene LM Erhard, MN
Syverson, Richard L U Eagan, MN

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

IN REMEMBRANCE

Bakke Willis M. Age 79 of Bloomington MN. Retired from US Army after 20 years. Willis was a Unisys retiree



Cramer, Louis 'Lou' – Age 79, passed away on April 2, 2005. He is survived by loving wife of 60 years, Marie. Lou was a Unisys retiree and a long time member of the VIP Club.



Saccoman, John A. Age 73, of Brooklyn Park,, passed away Tuesday, March 29, 2005. Jack worked for Unisys for 35 years. He is survived by his loving wife of twenty years, Shirley.



Sweere, Harry C. Age 70, of Minneapolis, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family on April 8, 2005 after battling cancer for six years. Harry is survived by his wife of 45 years, Jan. Harry was a former employee of Sperry Univac.



Taft, William James, Sr. Age 79, passed away on March 21, 2005. Preceded in death by his wife, Barbara. He was employed at Cargill for 16 years and then at Unisys for 18 years. William was a member of the VIP Club.

Wright, John G. – Age 71, passed from his earthly home in Forest Lake MN on March 24, 2005. John will be sadly missed by his loving wife of 46 years, Darlene. John was a Sperry employee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLOODMOBILE

Bloodmobile Information from Marion Scott: RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES SCHEDULE.

Wednesday, August 24th, Lockheed Martin, Eagan needs greeters and servers 9 a.m.-12 p.m. & 12 p.m.-3 p.m.

Thursday, August 25th, Unisys MACS Eagan needs greeters and servers 9 a.m.-12 p.m. & 12 p.m.-3 p.m.

Tuesday, September 13th, Unisys Roseville needs greeters and servers 9 a.m.-12 p.m. & 12 p.m.-3 p.m.

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

HEALTH ISSUES

Health Insurance Help

For those about to turn 65, for those over 65 and not aware of all the Medicare plans and supplements, and for those 65 or over with a low income who

haven't yet signed up for a Medicare-approved drug discount card, help is here. The Minnesota Senior Federation has just published the 2005 issue of Health Care Choices. If you've got a good handle on the 2003 Medicare Modernization Act and how it will affect you, stop reading now.

This 114 page guide for Minnesota seniors and their families provides information on Medicare, basic and extended "Medigap" supplements, Select, Cost, and Medicare Advantage Plans, and prescription drug options. Additional topics include special health care programs, health care directives, care-giving, long-term care, and wellness.

A Senior Federation membership is \$19 (\$29 for couples) and gets you Health Care Choices, the monthly newsletter, and access to both local and Canadian drug discount programs. The "biggy" will be the Medicare Drug Benefit supplement to be published this coming fall; this will be mandatory reading for understanding of the new Part D drug "benefit." Call 651 645-0261 or send your check to Minnesota Senior Federation, 1885 University Ave., Suite 171, St. Paul, MN 55104.

If you think your government is up to the task of giving you understandable and useful information about the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Benefit, just remember the FDA is still claiming imported drugs may be unsafe – even when the majority of drugs sold in the U.S. are manufactured offshore. And remember that Part D is paid for with your money.

I'll close with a bit about how we will be helped to understand our Part D benefit. On April 8, the Minnesota AAA (not the auto club; it's a branch of a national aging association) conducted a seminar for the state Department of Health and other senior support organizations on how to get Minnesota seniors signed up for Part D between 15 November and 15 May 2006. The approach is more faith-based than real: the "donut-hole" is to be referred to as a "coverage gap" and the monthly penalty for late enrollment is to be called an "opportunity to pay more." Nationally, the goal is to sign up 41 million Medicare beneficiaries in six months. With the Medicare discount cards, a tenth that many were signed up in 18 months. Be prepared. Submitted by Brian Berggren.

Medicare Costs and Benefits

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has announced that billings by physicians have risen by 15%, so the Part B premium for Physicians Services will go up \$11 to \$89.20 in 2006 instead of the \$87.70 initially forecast. This is on top of a 14%

increase for 2004 and 17% increase to \$77.80 this year. I had taken the Medicare deduction out 10 years at a 12% yearly increase and got to better than \$240 in ten years. If Commissioner Mark McClellan thinks 15% will be the better number, we'll get to \$240 quite a bit sooner. This is only for the Part B deduction; the Part D deduction won't start until 2006. Aren't projections fun?

Medicare costs are rising for two primary reasons: cost inflation and added coverage of procedures and devices. We don't want care to become unaffordable and at the same time we don't want to lose out on what medical progress can offer. Medicare benefits are slated to expand with additions such as percutaneous transcatheter angioplasty, implantable defibrillators, and counseling to quit smoking for those with smoking-related illness. Next is ultrasound aneurysm screening, maybe Boniva for osteoporosis, obesity counseling, or whatever some provider sees as a profit opportunity. In the case of the implantable defibrillators, costs run around \$30-35,000 to protect someone whose cardiologist thinks might benefit. The might benefit number is 500,000 Medicare enrollees (can you say billions). Why not save a little money and buy those 500,000 a portable unit at around \$2,000 a pop – or let those buy the unit with their money. This is carrying preventive care a little far. All this stuff is neat and good, except it has to be paid for by you – actually one-fourth by you and three-fourths by the general fund.

Medicare payments to physicians are also scheduled to be reduced by 4-5% because their costs are running higher than planned. The 2003 Medicare Modernization Act eliminated the 4% reduction planned for 2004 and actually gave physicians a 1.8% raise. But it didn't last. When your physician decides he or she has too great a percentage of Medicare patients to allow expenses to be covered, you had better hope your doc doesn't die or retire. You may have trouble finding a doc willing to accept you at Medicare reimbursement rates. Five internists have turned one of our volunteers down who lost her doc. Submitted by Brian Berggren.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

RETIREMENT IN A TRAILER PARK (Through the eyes of a child)

After a spring break, a teacher asked her young pupils how they spent the holidays. One child wrote the following: "We always used to spend the holidays with Grandma and Grandpa. They used to live here in a big brick house, but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Arizona. Now they live in a place with a lot of other retarded people. They live in a tin box and have rocks painted green to look

like grass. They ride around on big tricycles and wear nametags because they don't know who they are anymore. They go to a building called a wrecked center, but they must have got it fixed, because it is all right now. They play games and do exercises there, but they don't do them very well. There is a swimming pool too, but all they do is jump up and down in it with their hats on. I guess they don't know how to swim. At their gate, there is a dollhouse with a little old man sitting in it. He watches all day so nobody can escape. Sometimes they sneak out. Then they go cruising in their golf carts. My Grandma used to bake cookies and stuff, but I guess she forgot how. Nobody there cooks, they just eat out. And they eat the same thing every night, "Early Birds." Some of the people can't get past the man in the dollhouse to go out. So the ones who do get out bring food back to the wrecked center and call it potluck. My Grandma says Grandpa's worked all his life to earn his retardment and says I should work hard so I can be retarded someday too. When I earn my retardment I want to be the man in the dollhouse.

Then I will let people out so they can visit their grandchildren".

HOW TRUE THE TRUTH IS

A college student at a recent USC football game challenged a senior citizen sitting next to him, saying it was impossible for their generation to understand his. "You grew up in a different world," the student said loud enough for the whole crowd to hear. "Today we have television, jet planes, space travel, man has walked on the moon, our spaceships have visited Mars, we even have nuclear energy, electric and hydrogen cars, computers with light-speed processing. and uh.. "Taking advantage of a pause in the student's litany, the geezer said, "You're right. We didn't have those things when we were young; so we invented them, you little twit! What the hell are you doing for the next generation??"

ARMY/AIR FORCE

The Army Airborne major was used to harassment from Air Force fliers about crazy Army paratroopers jumping out of perfectly good aircraft. "Obviously the Air Force knows there's no such thing as a 'perfectly good aircraft,'" the irritated officer finally countered one afternoon, "because they pay you guys four times as much to stay in one as the Army pays its men to jump." "You've got it all wrong, Major," an Air Force sergeant replied. "The Army figures anyone dumb enough to jump out of an airplane voluntarily is gonna be too dumb to complain about the salary."

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION BREAKFAST & YEAR 2004 VOLUNTEER SURVEY RESULTS

On April 20, 2005 Unisys hosted a Volunteer Recognition Breakfast for the VIP Club members who performed Volunteer Services in 2004. A total of 108 Unisys and Lockheed Martin retiree members who responded to the *Newsletter* survey donated 23,455 hours to various charities in Minnesota, Texas, North Carolina, Georgia, and Wisconsin. Seventy members attended the Breakfast. The event was chaired by Dale Phelps, VIP Club President and Bernie Jansen, Volunteer Event Chairperson. Unisys sponsors who addressed the group included Jim Commander, Vice President Unisys ClearPath OS2200 Systems and Judy Cognetta, VIP Club Liaison for Unisys. Entertainment was provided by The Kitchen Kut-ups.

The following seventeen VIP Club members who together donated 11,032 hours were recognized for their outstanding service: Gordon and Teta Cleaveland, Marie and Lou Cramer, Dorothy Gilpin, Mike Huck, George and Barbara Kydd, Ed and Joan Michaud, Robert and June Myller, Jerry and Nina Raveling, Joe and Nancy Schwarz, and Donna Sylvester. The following ninety-one members also responded to our survey: Richard & Janet Acquard, Warren & Dorothy Becker, Brian & Barbara Berggren, Jeanette Bias, James & Shirley Brown, Barney & Ardella Buss, Helen & Bob Cartford, Dana & Sheila Doherty, Hank & Geri Dotzler, Jim & Jan Drabeck, Leroy & Loretta DuBois, John Dufour, David & Kay Duncan, Jack Farber, Robert Finch, Sam H. Fudenberg, Millie Gignac, Roger Gilette, Nancy Gountanis, Glen & Donna Hambleton, Robert & Shirley Hedlund, Bill & Jo Heer, Chuck & Midge Homan, Bob & Joanne Iverson, Bernie & Kathy Jansen, William & Harriet Kiffe, Archie & Vivian Lahti, Jim & Marge Larson, Lynn & Paul Lindholm, Robert & Lois Massey, Howard & Arlene Meier, Jerry & Marlene Merth, Jim & Alice Montain, Joyce Mortinson, Dick Mullins, Wilbur & Renee Nelson, Dick & Corky Nicholson, Dale Phelps, Phil & Ruth Phipps, Dick Roessler, Duane Sandstrom, Ruth Sanford, Jack Sater, Owen & Suzanne Scharf, Robert Scholz, Marion Scott, Vic & Norma Snider, Ed & Una Solheim, Robert & Elaine Sund, James & Janice Sullivan, Wesley Swanson, Jo Teare, Paul & Carol Thompson, Charles & Mary Wenz, and Earl & Darlene Westlund.

The Year 2004 Volunteer Activities performed by members and the hours donated to the various organizations summarized by Categories are shown in the following Table:

<u>Community and Related Services</u>	3,322 hours
<u>Health and Disaster Services</u>	3,997 hours
<u>Meals, Food and Housing Services</u>	1,804 hours
<u>Music and Theatrical Services</u>	1,009 hours
<u>Schools, Museums, and Educational Services</u>	3,331 hours
<u>Religious Support and Related Services`</u>	5,949 hours
<u>Other Services</u>	4,043 hours

TOTAL DONATED VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR YEAR 2004: 23,455

**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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President.....Dale Phelps #831-7843
Vice Pres.....Bernie Jansen *681-9988
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Director.....Brian Berggren *451-9009
Director.....Dick Mullins *552-8837
Director.....Joseph Schwarz *698-9698
Director.....Marion Scott *455-7952

VOLUNTEER CHAIRPERSONS

Courage Center Programs
Bernie & Kathryn Jansen *681-9988
Red Cross Blood Drive
Marion Scott.....*455-7952

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

Membership Dick Mullins *552-8837
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.