


UPCOMING EVENT ITEMS

 Engineering Research Associates 1946 - 2016	Our IT Legacy	September 7	10 AM – Board Meeting	UNISYS Eagan
		September 14	7 PM – Speaker & Social time	UNISYS, Eagan
		October 12	6:30 PM Program w/ Pie and Ice Cream	Location TBD
		November 18	11 AM Unihog/Uniturkeys	Casper's Eagan

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM Electioneering, etc.

Join us in the UNISYS Eagan visitor's conference room adjacent to the north visitors' entrance at 7 PM on September 14th. Our featured speaker will be Dr. Katheryn Pearson. She is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Minnesota. She received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in 2005. Ms. Pearson specializes in American politics; her research and teaching foci are on the United States Congress, elections, women and politics, and political parties. She has published several book chapters and her research has appeared in *The Journal of Politics*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *Politics & Gender*, and *Political Research Quarterly*. Katheryn is a recipient of the Morse Alumni Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate. In 2002-2003, Dr. Pearson was a Research Fellow at The Brookings Institution and from 1993 to 1998 she worked on Capitol Hill as a Legislative Assistant for two congresswomen, one Democrat and one Republican therefore she is quite bi-partisan. Some of you may remember the lively post-presentation discussions after she spoke to us in September 2012. *Bring your questions*; i.e. what are the key issues facing Hillary and Donald over the next four years? Or, as illustrated by this icon – what is different today compared to 60-years ago? Thanks to Dick Lundgren for the arrangements with Dr. Pearson. Thanks to my wife for this relic of our youth! By



LA Benson

Page 6 has GPS and direction information.

OCTOBER PROGRAM Drones, Drones, Drones

In addition to pie and ice cream, our October meeting will give you an opportunity to learn more about drones, see one up close, and hear how the technical ingenuity of Minnesotans is continuing to thrive. Drones have been in the news lately - conducting attacks on terror, spying on neighbors, and on sale at Target. These stories grab media attention, but the everyday world of drones is another story. Sentera, a local company with roots going back to Lockheed Marin in Eagan, makes small drones that help farmers make good decisions on managing their crops, and helps cell phone and broadcast tower operators stay on the air safely and efficiently. Sentera was recently described as the "premier" drone company in Minnesota by the local press. Join us for pie, ice cream, and drones on October 12th. **As of this printing the location for the October program has not been determined. Please watch for the location in the October issue of the newsletter.**

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newsletter Inputs: For the October newsletter issue; please send articles, recent obits, or lighter side items to Joe Schwarz before **September 1st**, see Contact Data section for US mail address.

Fall Calendar Dates: Oct 12, Program, Location TBD; Nov. 18, Unihogs/Uniturkeys luncheon at Casper's and our 2017 Board election; Dec. 1, Annual UNIVAC Old Timers' Reunion at the Lost Spur; and Dec. 8, Annual Christmas dinner at the Lost Spur.

Board positions are opening up! Past President Lowell Benson chairs our 2017 nomination committee. The Club Board seeks youthful people (under 70) to learn our processes and then provide leadership for future years! Please consider joining us as part of your retirement time allocations, 6-to-16 hours per month. Beginning January 2017, our next term needs are:

1. Secretary to take notes at board meetings and to distribute them to board members.

2. Chief newsletter editor (Director) to gather 'news' items from the board and club members, update boiler plate as needed, insert text and snapshot submittals, format for either 6 or 8 pages, coordinate text editing, and then send to print facility for US mail distribution. Also, send an electronic copy to the webmaster for electronic distribution messages and archiving.

3. Webmaster (Director) to convert .docx format newsletters to .pdf format, upload to the web, and then transmit electronic notifications to members with email addresses. Also, do fortnightly web page updates based on inputs from Legacy Committee members, Board members, and occasional notes from browsing public.

4. Volunteer Luncheon Coordinator to accept mailed and on-line surveys, tabulate those submittals,

coordinate with the recognition luncheon facility [Joseph's], and develop a program booklet.

5. Coordinator for the December Annual UNIVAC Old Timers' Reunion at the Lost Spur. This involves facility reservations, reminders to previous participants, name tag generation, lunch orders, etc.

6. Legacy Committee co-chair to coordinate gathering of new artifacts and to schedule occasional volunteer meetings in support of the Lawshe Memorial Museum, the Charles Babbage Institute, and the *tbd* destination of the UNISYS, Roseville Shadowboxes.

Phasing out board members Bernie Jansen (20⁺ yrs), Frank King (5- yrs), Joe Schwarz (17- yrs), and Lowell Benson (11- yrs) are willing to affect an orderly transition of these six activities to new volunteers during the November '16 to January '17 time period. Readers, please contact me labenson@q.com or club president Keith Behnke. Thanks, submitted by *LABenson*.

IN REMEMBRANCE



Lewis, James D. - Age 87 of Fridley, MN. Passed away July 27th, 2016. Survived by loving wife of 65 years, Lucille. James worked at Univac starting in 1951 and retired in 1979. James was a long time member of the

VIP Club.

Scott, Marion K. - Age 92 of Inver Grove Hts, MN. Passed away August 4th, at the Pillars hospice. Preceded in death by husband David M. Scott. Marion led an active life, was a friend to many, and loved by all. She worked as an Electronic Drafter for Unisys and after retirement was active in the retirees' VIP Club. Marion served on the VIP Club board for over thirty years and in many capacities. She also volunteered extensively with Reading Buddies, her church, her garden club, and coordinated blood drives with the Red Cross.



Shogren, Robert A. - Age 86 of Burnsville, MN. Passed away on July 28th, 2016. Preceded in death by his wife Karen. Bob worked in Eagan at Sperry and Unisys as an electrical

engineer.

Smith, Gerald R. "Jerry" - Longtime resident of New Brighton and McGregor, MN. Passed away July 9th, 2016 surrounded by his loving family. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Dorene. Jerry worked for many years at Sperry/ Univac.

Thompson, Martin Don - Age 79 of Burnsville, MN.



Passed away peacefully on July 7th, 2016. Martin is survived by his wife of 53 years, Buzz. Marty worked at Unisys, Roseville as a director of software development. Marty was a long time VIP Club member.

Willi, Dale R. - Age 84, of Hudson, Wis. Passed away on Monday, Feb. 1st, 2016 at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, Minn. Dale was preceded in death by his wife, Delores. Dale worked for years as a Technical Writer for the Sperry-Rand and Unisys Corporations.



Valley roll by. A turnaround just north of Hudson and a leisurely sail back to the dock in Stillwater closed a perfect day, a perfect cruise, and a great Club outing. Page 5 has a photo collage of pictures taken on the boat trip.

CONTACT DATA

2016 VIP Club Board:

Keith Behnke	<i>President</i>	651-894-2182
Orrin McGill	<i>Vice President</i>	763-755-7765
Frank King	<i>Secretary</i>	651-774-0997
Harvey Taipale	<i>Treasurer</i>	651-748-5083
Dale Phelps	<i>Director</i>	952-831-7843
Joe Schwarz	<i>Director</i>	651-698-9698
Gish Devlaminck	<i>Director</i>	651-470-8905
Tbd	<i>Director</i>	
Lowell Benson	<i>Past President</i>	651-483-3709

Newsletter Editorial Staff:

Letters to the Editor to: VIP Club, 1486 Fairmount Ave, St Paul, MN 55105 or e-mail to Chief Editor Joseph Schwarz: jschwarzsr@centurylink.net or Editor Bernie Jansen bjsjk@msn.com, or Editor Richard Lundgren rflundgr@aol.com or Editor Don Naaktgeboren donfishn@yahoo.com

Club Activity Coordinators:

CBI Liaison; Dick Lundgren, rflundgr@aol.com
Christmas Dinner; Bill Galle, wagalle@mac.com and Lynn Lindholm, lynnlindholm@comcast.net
IT Legacy Committee co-chairs; John Westergren, jwestergren@frontiernet.net and Lowell Benson labenson@q.com

Lawshe Museum Support/Coordination;

- Exhibits; Keith Myhre kmyhre@lightblast.net
- Photo ID work; Tricia Myhre pbm5454@hotmail.com and Jon Simon jcsimon1st@frontiernet.net

Membership; Gish Devlaminck gdevlaminck@comcast.net

Picnic Coordination; John Westergren, Frank King kingx063@umn.edu, and Jim Larson, j.jameslarson@comcast.net

Programs; Dale Phelps; drphelps416@gmail.com
Recreation Leagues; Keith Behnke, keithbhk@comcast.net

Roseville Good Old Days; Tom Turba tturba@comcast.net

Sunshine Cards; Lynn Lindholm lynnlindholm@comcast.net

Volunteer Luncheon; Bernie Jansen, bjsjk@msn.com and Frank King, kingx063@umn.edu

Webmaster; L. A. Benson, webmaster@vipclubmn.org

VIP CLUB Corporate Liaisons:

LMCO, Eagan – Steve Koltes 651-303-9112

NEW MEMBERS, AUGUST '16

Chuck Hobus Ron Ward Robert Nasby Eugene J. Bucci Richard M. Cooper Allen G. Mangnuson Raymond W. Mitchell James Paul Foster W. Poole William D. Seaton Ron Shursen Diane Shursen	
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SOCIAL ACTIVITY ITEMS

**Report on August 17th Program
St Croix River Cruise**

August 17th was a picture perfect day for spending a couple of hours on a leisurely cruise down the beautiful St. Croix River and that's just what 90 VIP club members enjoyed. Tom Turba, the trip organizer, obviously has a special in with the weatherman. We boarded the St Croix Boat Company's ship *Avalon* at 11:30 in Stillwater and headed down river toward Hudson. The *Avalon* is a very large boat, with plenty of room over three deck levels, allowing folks to be outside in the sun or shade or inside in air-conditioned comfort. The river was peaceful with very little other boat traffic - the biggest was a barge carrying huge concrete sections for the new St Croix River Bridge. The cruise route gave an opportunity for a close up look at this massive structure.

A delicious buffet lunch was served and the VIP's were able to enjoy lunch and conversation with old friends while watching the beautiful scenery of the St. Croix

Unisys, Roseville/Eagan – Sue Carrigan, 651-635-7712
Unisys print shop – Judy Bornetun, 651-635-6792

Retirement Status and Benefits: These are numbers to call if you or your heirs have death benefit or pension questions – you will need SSN and a PIN.

Unisys 1-877-864-7972
Lockheed Martin 1-866-562-2363

PERIODIC GROUPS

A Luncheon Group [engineering/ drafting] meets monthly on the 1st Tuesday in Eagan at 11:00 AM - Rickey's Café at Stark's, 3125 Dodd Road, Eagan, MN.

One Breakfast Group meets monthly at 8:00 AM on the 1st Thursday of each month at the Capitol View Cafe, 637 Smith Ave. St. Paul.

A Second Luncheon Group [Unisys and Burroughs] meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 11:30 AM at the Mall of America 3rd floor North Food Court. We sit at the tables between the elevator and Burger King. Contact phone is #952-854-7855.

A 3rd Luncheon Group: The UNISYS, Roseville ladies meet monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at 11 AM at the Green Valley Cafe, University & Mississippi. Coordinator is Gladys, #651-552-1465.

Another Breakfast Group meets monthly at 9:00 AM on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the Eagles Club, Old Hwy 8, in New Brighton. Coordinator Marv Brown's phone is 763-416-3903.

A Fourth Luncheon Group (SCF) meets in the odd numbered months on the 2nd Saturday at 11:30 AM at the Baker's Square on 3088 White Bear Avenue in Maplewood. Coordinator phone is 651-429-3319.

REPORTS, LEGACY ACTIVITIES

Thanks to William [Curt] Nelson for sending us the February 20, 1953 Orbit newsletter. We'll get it donated to the collection of ERA newsletters at the Charles Babbage Institute. One article therein caught my eye: "**Logistics Computer is Shipped to D. C.** The Logistics computer has been shipped to The George Washington University in Washington, D.C., where it is now being installed and tested by ERA engineers. The project engineer, Bob Erickson, as well as Ernie Wold, Jay Kershaw, Bill Johnson, and Bern Eklund were the ERA personnel sent with the equipment. Eklund, who did the mechanical design of the computer, supervised cabinet reassembly at the machine's new home. A Railway Express car equipped with special bearings and springing insured a smooth ride for the machine which was shipped last week." Submitted by Lowell Benson.

We have a web site? This is one of the comments received in response to the December Survey. YES; the VIP Club has and has had a web site. In 2002, Joe Schwarz created a Yahoo hosted Club web site. In February 2006, Lowell Benson started a Legacy web page on his personal site and then transitioned that page to a Microsoft hosted (free) Legacy site. In the fall of 2007 the two sites were merged as the <http://vipclubmn.org> URL. In 2011, Microsoft ended free websites so we transitioned to our current host, <http://www.webhostinghub.com>.

This year we have added two features to benefit our readers: 1) The home page, section 3 has a google mapping function to provide directions to the next event from the reader's entered address. 2) The home page and the Contact-Links page have a Google search function so that readers can quickly find who/what is mentioned where or who wrote what on which page.

Our site design structure and rules are described on page zero, <http://vipclubmn.org/SiteMap.html>. The primary page {Home/Club} has introductory information and sub-tabs associated with the Club business and activities. What would you like to read?

Between the Club page tab and Contacts/links tab are our Legacy topic selection tabs with the theme: Our IT LEGACY consists of PEOPLE who ENGINEERED COMPUTERS and SYSTEMS at FACILITIES in Minnesota and throughout the world. Over two hundred people have contributed items to this computer history anthology. There are a couple of pages with Blue Bell stories too. We still have room for your stories, either mini-career summaries or project stories. Submitted by *LA Benson.*

LIGHTER SIDE





Creative Memories
by
Nick Benson

DIRECTIONS TO ACTIVITY VENUES

Car-pool if possible to all events or contact a board member for possible 'ride-with' suggestions.

Directions to UNISYS in Roseville: Set your GPS unit to Roseville MN, 2470 Highcrest Road. From Hwy 35W north; exit onto W County Rd C to go west a mile, then turn left onto Walnut St. Then turn right onto Terminal Road for half a block, turn right at Highcrest Rd. to building entrance. From 35W south, exit on Industrial Way / St. Anthony Blvd off ramp, turn left, drive under the freeway, then turn right onto Walnut St. Follow it 0.8 mi north then turn left on Terminal Road. Go ½ blocks and enter the UNISYS parking lot on the right. From Hwy 36 east, drive west until 36 joins Hwy 35W just past Hwy 280, then exit at the Industrial Way / St. Anthony Blvd. off ramp of 35W. Go north on St. Anthony Blvd. to Walnut St. [the first street on the right]. Turn right onto Walnut Street.



Directions to Unisys MACS in Eagan: Set your GPS unit to Eagan MN, 3199 Pilot Knob Road. From Hwy 35E take the Pilot Knob Road exit ramp. Then go north on Pilot Knob Road about ½ mile to Tower View Road. We use the Unisys north parking lot and the visitor entrance thereby.