

VIP Club Newsletter

VOLUME 37, NO. 03
May/June 2017
<http://vipclubmn.org>

VIP CLUB UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

OUR LEGACY ERA IN 1946 <i>through</i> UNISYS TODAY	May 12	Roseville Good Old Days	Mermaid in Moundsview
	May 19	Syttende Mai	Casper's in Eagan
	June 7	10 AM Board Meeting	Unisys, Eagan
	June 14	Annual Picnic	Highland Park in St. Paul
	August 2	10 AM Board Meeting	Roseville Library?

MAY & JUNE EVENTS

Please pre-register if you're coming.



Roseville Good Old Days: Our 10th annual gathering will be at the Mermaid in Moundsview on May 12th beginning at 10:30 AM – setup volunteers at 10 AM. Last year over 350 people were there. Tom Turba coordinates name-tag pre-printing to expedite attendee check-in, if you haven't already responded to the electronic notices, please send an email to tturba@comcast.net. He'll get name tags printed – still needs a few volunteers to work the check-in table. A \$1 donation is requested to defray the cost of the room rental. Cash bar available and lunch from their menu upstairs.

Directions: Address is Moundsview, MN - 2200 CR 10. From Roseville, Minneapolis, and other southwest points - take I35W north then at exit 28C take ramp right for CR10, cross the bridge then turn left onto Co. Rd H. From Eagan and southeast points - take I35E north to I694 West, then on I694 drive to exit North onto I-35W and follow the from Roseville note above.

Syttende Mai: May 19 @ 11 AM @ Casper's:



One of these gentlemen will be our speaker at the 2017 Syttende Mai luncheon. The well decorated gentleman on the left was not available due to demanding commitments of a regal nature. On the right is Samuel

Heins, the United States Ambassador (Ret.) to Norway from March 2016 to January 2017. Mr. Heins, a Minnesotan, was well accepted in Norway and served his country well. You can view a Norwegian TV (NRK) clip covering Mr. Heins's arrival in Norway at <https://tv.nrk.no/serie/dagsrevyen/NNFA19031016/10-03-2016#t=30m26s>. Interestingly, the clip includes quite a few segments filmed in Minneapolis where the spoken English is rendered in Norwegian subtitles for the Norske viewers. It includes interviews of Amy Klobuchar, Norway House personnel, Julie Ingebretsen and others at Ingebretsen's Scandinavian Shop, and even a clip of the George Tsunis hearing, and of course words from Mr. Heins on location in Norway.

All are welcome, Norwegian, part Norwegian, or friend of a Norwegian. This is a fun and interesting event, tracing its history back some 40 years ago when Dick (Ole) Olson, who plans to attend, and a few others started the tradition. The cost is \$18 for the delicious buffet which includes Norwegian meatballs. The program will start at 11:45. Reminiscing and socializing afterwards is open-ended and encouraged. Reservations requested by May 10th for 'food count'; email dale.o.torgerson@gmail.com or call him (612-597-3714) or call Dale Phelps (952-831-7843) drphelps416@gmail.com - Email is preferred. By line, *Dick Lundgren*



Directions: Address is Eagan MN, 4625 Nicols Road, From I35E, take the Cliff Road exit and go West to Nicols, turn left. From Cedar Ave, take the Cliff Road exit, go East to Nicols, then turn right.

UNISYS

LOCKHEED MARTIN



Annual Picnic Reunion: June 14th at 3:30 PM, rain or shine at the Highland Park Pavilion. Brats, Burgers, Buns, Beer, and BS'ing with old friends for \$5 p/p!



Please pre-register before June 5 so that our planners can order enough food, etc. – use the [form](http://vipclubmn.org/PicnicForm.html) on page 6 or print it from <http://vipclubmn.org/PicnicForm.html>. If you are willing to help with the planning, ordering, set-up, cooking, or clean-up – email or call John jwestergren@frontiernet.net 952-358-1174. Special treats for volunteers, last year we had sips of hard stuff. Dale Phelps arranged for shuttle bus rides to/from the pavilion from the Highland High School parking lot.

While at the picnic, you may bring mementos to trade, i.e. project cups and/or other company labeled trinkets. And, the Legacy Committee will accept old company documents and other hardware artifacts.

Take a moment to thank John Westergren and the volunteer team who make this event happen. Also, thank Frank King and Jim Larson who annually get to the St. Paul Parks office before 5 AM the first working day of January to reserve our June date.

Directions: Address is St Paul, 1200 Montreal Ave. From the Roseville area; take 36 to 35E going south through the city, exit at W 7th (Hwy 5) and turn right. After three blocks, angle right onto Montreal Ave and drive uphill ½ mile. The Pavilion is on the left. From the Eagan area take 35E north toward St. Paul, exit at W 7th (Hwy) 5 and turn left. Proceed to Montreal Ave angling right and drive ½ mile. From St. Paul, find Snelling Avenue, drive south to Montreal Ave then turn left. Drive ¼ mile to Pavilion on right.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

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 of the VIP Club who find time to volunteer and are happy to reward them with this luncheon.

Keith Behnke, VIP Club President.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 6, 7:30 PM: The Eagan Men's Chorus spring concert will be at Christ Lutheran Church 1930 Diffley, Eagan, MN 55122. A few may remember when this group began as the *Sperryaires*! \$10 adult, \$5 students, under 12 free – pay at door. *Jim Andrews*.

Last walk through! UNISYS, Roseville former employees are invited to walk through 'their old plant' for the last time. Chuck L. and Sue C. will be hosting cake and refreshments on Thursday, June 15th – time is tbd! The building will be vacated on 23 June; Monitor <http://vipclubmn.org> for the time, etc.

July Activities: None planned by the Board, we suggest that our members participate in one of the periodic gatherings listed on the back page of this newsletter. Note, the 2nd Wed. lunch address changed!

August Cruise: Mark your calendar, August 10th at 2:00 PM for a Minneapolis upper Mississippi river cruise. Details will be in the next newsletter; please email nturba@comcast.net, if you can help with planning, registrations, name tags, logistics, etc.

Fall Social Activity Dates: September 13, 1:30 - 3:30 PM. Open house at UNISYS Eagan to feature the Shadow Box* exhibit and selected Legacy information posters from the Lawshe Memorial Museum; refreshments & hors d'oeuvres too! October 12th, Pie and Ice Cream at (TBD). November 17th, Unihogs/Uniturkeys at Casper's in Eagan. December 7th, Annual UNIVAC Old Timers' Reunion at the Lost Spur in Eagan. Contact labenson@q.com to help with planning and implementation of these events.

Web Site Rebuild: The re-construction is intended to make our site easier to read with smart phones, etc. The Club pages' redesign is complete, the Legacy chapters are yet in process. Send corrections to webmaster@vipclubmn.org. Thanks, *Lowell Benson*

Newsletter Inputs: For the July/August 2017 newsletter issue; send articles, recent obits, or lighter side items to Joe Schwarz before **June 13th**. Use Joe's email address from back page box or the Club's US mail address at the bottom of pages 2 => 8.

*Twenty-three wall mounted displays show the system/hardware technologies developed during half-a-century of the ERA to UNISYS/LMCO era in the Twin Cities! Preview at <http://vipclubmn.org/Exhibits.html> or <http://vipclubmn.org/Articles/ATLASEvolution.pdf>.

IN REMEMBRANCE



Cleaveland, Gordon Whitney "Joe" - Age 92, long-time Edina, MN resident. He passed away peacefully at home in St. Louis Park on Feb. 1st, 2017. He was preceded in death by his wife, Teta in 2010. Joe's professional work included

stints with General Mills, Litton, and Sperry Univac. Many knew him as a camper and Boy Scout leader – they honored him with the prestigious Silver Beaver award. He was a VIP Club member until 2011.

Crampton, Gary L - Age 73, of Burnsville, died peacefully March 11th, 2017 after a 15-month battle with cancer. He was preceded in death by Beth, his wife of 52 years. He is also survived by his brother, 3 children, and 7 grandchildren. He was not a VIP club member.



Hansen, Robert O. – Beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather, Great-Grand-father, age 91, of St. Paul. Founder of Cybertronics, Inc. Joined his beloved wife Do on their anniversary January 27th, 2017 after a tragic fall. Bob was a long-time VIP Club member.

Heckert, Quintin I – passed away peacefully December 6th, 2016 in Sun City West, AZ - succumbing to the after-effects of a brain tumor removal. Preceded in death by his wife, Jo. Early in his career, he was aboard Navy ships debugging the Naval Tactical Data Systems using the CP-642 service test models. [we built 17 of those before the CP-642A production run.] Quint retired as a Lockheed Martin Fellow. Then he leapt heart and soul onto the VIP Club Board and the Legacy Committee. For the board, he maintained our database from 2007 to 2012, creating Excel formulae to calculate member statistics. Quint researched to create a 30th anniversary booklet for the club's celebration, <http://vipclubmn.org/Articles/30yrBooklet.pdf>. He also was a tireless volunteer during our Legacy artifact collections and exhibits. (tribute on page 7.)



Henkenius, Michael A. Sr. -Age 70 passed away on March 4th in Melbourne FL. Mike was a Marine 'Nam veteran and an engineering graduate of UND before a career at Sperry/UNISYS, etc. He is survived by his

wife Christine, now at their summer home on West Battle Lake, MN. They were not Club members.

Hodek, James A. - Age 74 of Shoreview, MN passed away at home with loved ones at his side on March 28th, 2017. Preceded in death by wife Linda. Jim retired from Unisys in Roseville where he was Director of Language Products. Graduate of the University of Minnesota. Jim was not a VIP club member.

Keding, Alvin L. - Age 88, of Fridley, MN passed away peacefully on February 11th, 2017. He was preceded in death by his loving wife Lillian. Alvin was a retired Electrical Engineer with Sperry Unisys and a long-time VIP Club member. Outside of work;



he was a devoted father, a fisherman, and an avid bridge player. Our archives have this snapshot of Al (left) taken on the Mille Lacs Lake ice with Bob Oulicky, his constant fishing and

bridge playing pal.

Longley, Lawrence Jr. – Age 86 passed away on Jan. 26th. Larry was preceded in death by his first wife Marlene and a son. He is survived by his loving wife Shirley, three children, 10 grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Larry proudly served our country for 34 years with the Air Force and the Army, retiring as a Master Sergeant. He then worked at Lockheed Martin before retiring again and joining the VIP Club.



Popehn, Phillip – age 74 of Eagan passed away March 29th. He is survived by his wife Mary, children and grandchildren. Mary had worked at UNISYS/LMCO; they were VIP Club members, 2006-09.



Turner, Sandra Charlotte 'Ann' (nee Nelson) - passed away unexpectedly in December. She was predeceased by husband, Gerald. They were VIP Club members.

We welcome reader articles, jokes, snapshots, or whatever you want to share with former co-workers.

NEW MEMBERS, March/April 2017

John Bass Ferrall	Bristol, TN
Paul Stripsky	St. Paul, MN
Arnold Schmidt	Inver Grove Heights, MN

SOCIAL ACTIVITY ITEMS

At The Villages, FL on Apr 6 - A lunch participant picture from Jeff. Jim & Gail Olijnek, left; Brian & Cathy Leininger, back; Paul & Maxine (orange overshirt) Flagg; Jeff (blue shirt) & Kathy (red shirt front) Parker; and Tom (behind Maxine) & Mari (in front of Jeff) Hansen. Six of these happy faces are UNISYS/LMCO retirees and three of the couples are VIP Club members. Hey Mari or Jeff or Jim or Tom - give Brian and Paul CLUB application forms! *L.A. Benson*



2017's First Golf Tournament: 98 people signed up for the two-some scramble on Apr 17th; there were no hole-in-one celebrations! If you haven't joined one of the five leagues, see <http://www.ulglmn.org/umgl/> for info about the playing sites and the teams therein.

Volunteer Recognition Luncheon Report:

We received 13 mailed survey forms and 53 electronically via our on-line form, 80% internet is not unusual for computer industry retirees. What is amazing is that if our pre-retirement wages were \$40 per hour, over \$1,000,000 of our time was donated to:

AARP Tax Service, American Legion, Boy Scouts of America, Burnsville City Hall, Burnsville Sr. Center, Catholic Church, Church of the Risen Savior Seniors group, Civil Air Patrol, Como Zoo, Dakota County 2-Cylinder Club, Dementia day care, Dorthey DAY, Eagan Men's Chorus, Eagan Rotary Ethics Workshop, Excelsior Men's Garden Club, Fairview Ridges Hospital, Fridley American Legion Post 303, Friends of the Inver Glen Library, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church & School, Help at Your Door, Jesuit Retreat House, K C's, Keystone Opportunity Center, Latin American Lutheran Mission, Lawshe Memorial Museum, Mahtomedi Area Food Shelf, Meals on Wheels, MN Valley Wildlife Refuge, Mobility Worldwide, Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Mountain

Vista Medical Center' Mesa, MSP Travelers Aid, North St. Paul Lions Club, Pheasants Forever, Pilot Knob Elementary School Eagan, Presbyterian Home, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Red Cross, Redeemer Lutheran Church, School District 199 Brain Boosters, Shepard of the Lake Church, St. Andrews Lutheran Church, VIP Club & Legacy Committee, Visiting Vets at V.A. Hospital, and Woodwinds Hospital. Our diverse interests gave 26,810 hours!

Thanks to Bernie & Kathy Jansen and Millie Gignac for staffing the check-in table on April 19th. A special thanks to Frank King who tabulated the survey submittals and liaised with Joseph's Café for luncheon menu planning. (Continued on Page 6.)

Volunteer Extraordinaire: The 2016 Annual Jansen Volunteer Extraordinaire certificate was presented to Don Weidenbach in recognition of his decade supporting of our Legacy initiative with ERA data, many years as a Volunteer Airport Guide, and now as a small appliance repair person for his 400+ unit retirement condo organization. He was instrumental in getting the ERA prototype drum from the Minnesota Historical Society's storage into their Greatest Generation exhibit and the Norris drum collage to CBI.



Don was nominated by Frank King and chosen by the Board. Thanks Don for your continuing volunteerism!

CONTACT DATA

Retirement Status and Benefits:	
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

2007 VIP Club Activity Coordination

CBI Liaison; Dick Lundgren, rflundgr@aol.com

Lawshe Museum Support;

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

Legacy Committee co-chairs; John Westergren, jwestergren@frontiernet.net and Lowell Benson labenson@q.com

Membership database; Gish Devlaminck membership@vipclubmn.org

Old Timers Annual Reunion; Lowell Benson

Picnic planning & volunteer staffing; John Westergren, jwestergren@frontiernet.net

Recreation Leagues; Keith Behnke, keithbhnk@comcast.net

Roseville Good Old Days; Tom Turba mailto:tnturba@comcast.net

Sunshine Cards; Lynn Lindholm lynnlindholm@comcast.net

Unihogs/Uniturkeys; Fred Vihovde fvihovde@juno.com

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

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

Please send a note to anyone of us if you are willing to help plan or set-up/work at an event.

LEGACY ACTIVITIES

Recent Legacy Stories: How many of you were participants in the various phases and parts of the Canadian Patrol Frigate program? Ed Pogorzelec, former Quality Engineer in our Winnipeg facility, sent us information that the Canadians had completed systems' updates to their 12th frigate. SHINPADS and AN/UYK-502s are all gone, BUT they are now using suites of AN/UYQ-70s. Details are on line, see January story: <http://vipclubmn.org/OurStories.html#2017>.



Thanks to Keith B. for this picture. By *Lowell Benson*.

ERA 1101 Tech Description – For the February 2017 Our Stories, we've posted a scan of a 1951 paper by

Frank C. Mullaney. He wrote about the reliability of the first unit in operation – didn't write where it was! There are several b/w pictures of the unit and hardware components including the drum memory.

Program/Product Management 1974 – For the March 2017 Story, we've posted a scanned book of personnel pictures along with 'what he/she was doing then' from several of the people in the booklet.

Hans Neukom is currently researching the ATECO (Automation of Telegram Exchange with Computers) project of the Swiss PTT in the early 1970s. The ATECO contract was given to the Swiss subsidiary of UNIVAC; the ATECO configuration used three UNIVAC 418-II computers working in parallel to achieve a very high reliability. If you have any experience(s) with this system of 418s or with the 18-bit sister computers UNIVAC type 1218/1219, please [email us a note](#). By *LABenson*.

History Tidbit – from the January/February 1991 SCOPE newsletter. “*Moving out: Waters Edge building to be vacated.* Over the next few months, more than 400 employees who are still located in the Roseville Waters Edge building will pack their files and supplies and move three miles across Interstate 35W to Roseville Buildings 1, 2, and 3.” ... now, 26-years later, the last Roseville building is being vacated!

Abe Franck & Document Archiving: Amanda Wick, Archivist at the Charles Babbage Institute, is presently cataloging 'banker boxes' of the life papers from Abe Franck, age 98. Abe is a VIP Club member. Mr. Franck was an ERA engineer then a designer of the BiTran-6 for Fabritek, Inc. Some of us recall that the U of MN IT department had a BiTran-6 as part of their EE classes in the early 60s. Over the years, Abe has been an occasional participant at the First Friday Lunches. His avocation is violin playing. Thanks to Abe for not shredding old papers! Byline *LABenson*

LIGHTER SIDE

Furnace Out? Go sit in the corner ... It's 90 degrees!

Uff Da: The waiter rushed to Lena's table saying, "Your husband just slid under the table, is he ok?" Lena replied, "No, my husband is just coming in the front door!"

OMG: To err is human, but to foul up with devastating results, at a high rate of speed, you need a computer or a smart phone. From *Orrin McGill*

VIP Club May/June 2017 Newsletter

Bernie giving volunteerism history to Keith. Bernie, Kathy, and Mille at check-in. Guest speaker Aaron Cordes from the Lockheed Martin Advanced Development Laboratory told us about the last LMCO group in MN. Dick Lundgren presented the Volunteer Extraordinaire certificate to Don Weidenbach, Jim Andrews spoke about the Sperryaires and Habit for Humanity. Guest Speaker Greg Oxley, DCHS trustee, spoke about preserving our Legacy.



REUNION PICNIC REGISTRATION FORM --

VIP Club members

I plan to attend (name): _____ \$5.00 per member

Spouse/Significant other will attend: _____ \$5.00

Non-member

I plan to attend (name): _____ \$10.00 per non-member

Spouse/Significant other/friend will attend: _____ \$10.00

My email address is: _____@_____.

Non-members may include a VIP Club membership registration form and dues to get the member price, i.e. \$12 for a one-year membership (2018) and the picnic.

Please mail w/check before **June 6th** to: VIP CLUB PICNIC P.O. Box 131748 - Roseville, MN 55113-0020

A Tribute to Quint Heckert:

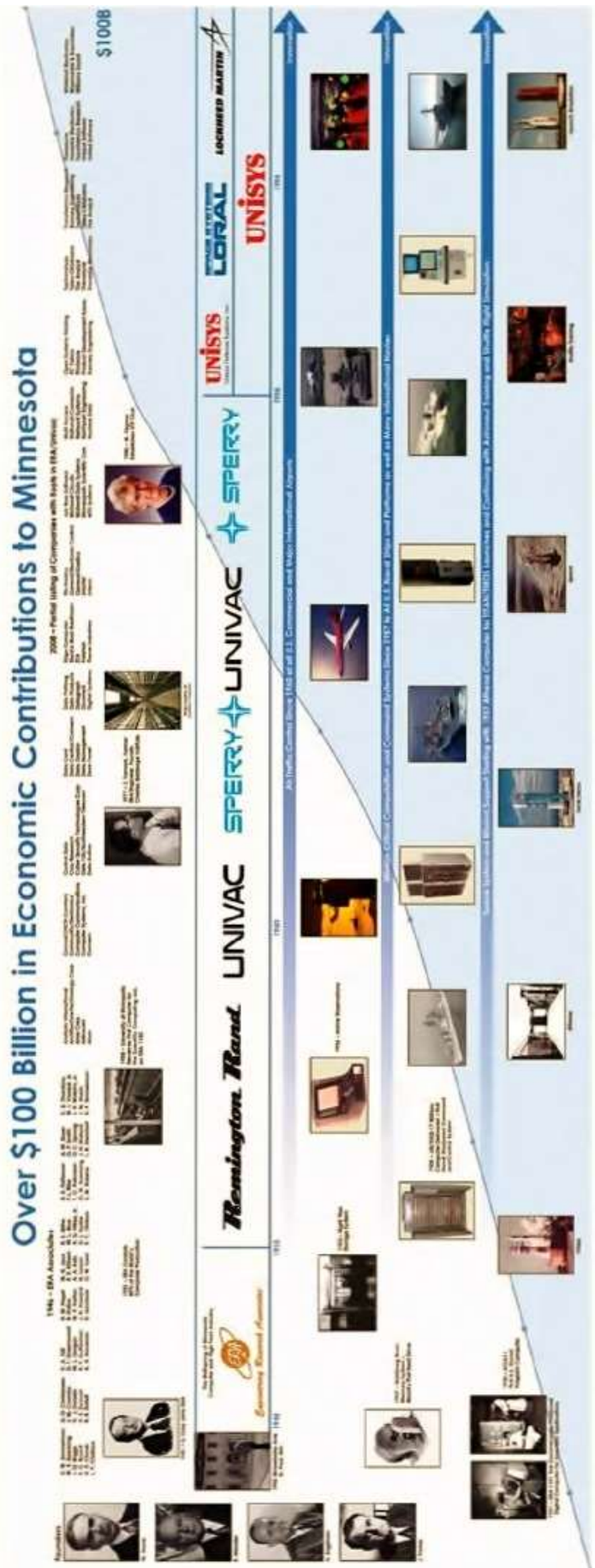
Quint was the lead creator of our two 2008 Minnesota Sesquicentennial posters; at the right is his illustration of our Information Technology Legacy which began with Engineering Research Associates (ERA) in 1946. He carefully researched economic business journals and manpower levels at ERA/UNIVAC/UNISYS to ascertain the \$100B economic cumulative contributions to Minnesota over a 60-year period.

- The time line across the chart's middle shows the corporate names beginning with ERA. Of note is **1986** when Burroughs bought Sperry to form **United Information SYStems**. UNISYS then sold their Eagan based defense operations to Loral in **1995** who in turn sold to Lockheed Martin in **1996**. UNISYS in Roseville & Eagan continues to provide commercial industry systems and services.
- On the poster's left are the four Engineering Research Associates 'founding officers' – the **1946** early employees are listed across the top left.
- At the top right is a listing of spinoff companies, the most significant of which was in **1957** when one of the founding officers, William 'Bill' Norris et al' formed Control Data Corporation.
- Above the time line are some of the significant milestones, i.e. the **1958** delivery of the University's first digital computer and Millie's founding of the VIP Club in 1980.
- The chart's lower half illustrates just a few of the many computer systems developed in St. Paul.

The second poster below shows the diverse computer systems' platforms that our technologies have been in.



Quint used his truck to transport these posters and our artifacts to/from several exhibit venues during 2008 and 2009. Bless you Quint, we appreciate what you have given to our Legacy! Byline *LABenson*





P.O. BOX 131748
ROSEVILLE MN 55113-0020

Established in 1980

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P.O. Box 131748, Roseville, MN 55113-0020
<http://www.vipclubmn.org>

Board of Directors - 2017

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UNISYS Liaison

Sue Carrigan; meeting rooms, etc. 651-635-7712
Judy Borneton; Roseville print shop 651-635-6792

PERIODIC SOCIAL GROUPS

Monthly Breakfast Gatherings

- 1st Thursday at 8 AM at the Capitol View Cafe, 637 Smith Ave. St. Paul.
- 2nd Wednesday at 9 AM in the Eagles Club, Old Hwy 8, in New Brighton. Coordinator is Marv Brown, 763-416-3903.

Monthly Lunch Gatherings

- 1st Tuesday in Eagan at 11:00 AM - Rickey's Café at Stark's, 3125 Dodd Road, Eagan, MN
- 2nd Tuesday at 11:30 AM - Mall of America 3rd floor North Food Court, we meet by the tables 'tween the elevator & Burger King. Coordinator is Paul Wennerstrom, 952-854-7855.
- 2nd Wednesday at 11 AM at Baker's Square, Northtown, 221 Co. Rd. 10 NE, Blaine MN. Coordinator is Gladys Langer, 651-552-1465.
- 2nd Saturday of odd numbered months at 11:30 AM at the Baker's Square on 3088 White Bear Avenue in Maplewood. Coordinator is Urho Rahkola, 651-429-3319.