VIP Club Newsletter

VOLUME 39, NO. 05 September/October 2019 http://vipclubmn.org

NOTE: If your e-delivery message subject has membership list 2019 x \Rightarrow y; or if your address label has 2019 after your name, your membership expires on December 31st, 2019. Use the page 7 form to renew now!

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM Our Legacy and You!

September 17th, 9:30 AM to noon: All Club members are invited to join a Legacy status discussion and planning session at the Lawshe Memorial Museum in S St Paul. Discussion topics are on page 5. The Club will provide coffee, muffins, and sweet rolls.

Background: In October 2005, Richard 'Ole' Olson asked the Club's Board to document our Information Technology history. Volunteers formed a committee consisting of Club members and LMCO employees. The first meeting was January 2006 at the Charles Babbage Institute (CBI) where we set objectives of gathering artifacts and career summaries plus a goal of publicizing unknown stories of ERA and heritage companies. We started http://www.vipclubmn.org to make our stories public, then we did the 2008 Minnesota sesquicentennial displays. When LMCO decided to close their Eagan facility, Dakota County Historical Society (DCHS) agreed to become an artifact repository and permanent exhibit of our artifacts and pictures. Club volunteers began the arduous task of identifying thousands of images.

Current Activities: Through the fund-raising efforts of Dale Weeks, the Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA), et al' - Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) began documentary development about Minnesota's role in the Information Technology industry. TPT interviewed two dozen industry pioneers, half with direct heritage company experiences.

TPT is now in the second phase of documentary production. The Club board is in contact with TPT, our intent is to have an open house preview of the documentary in September or October. As we go to press a date and venue is yet to be set – stay tuned!

Future: At the September 17th meeting, we'll plan the Legacy parts of the 2020 VIP Club's 40th Anniversary celebrations. Send a note before 13 September to board@vipclubmn.org if you plan to participate.

By Lowell Benson

SEPTEMBER HAPPY HOUR Hors d' Oeuvres on Us!

September 18th, 1 \rightarrow **4 PM**: The Club Board is experimenting with a Happy Hour via an evite. Sorry for the short notice but space at Jensen's, 3840 Rahn Road in Eagan, is limited and we needed a quick count of interested people. Contact Keith Behnke if you have questions, keithbhnk@comcast.net. 651-894-2182

OTHER UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

September 11th – 9 AM Roseville retirees' 313th meeting at the New Brighton Eagles Club. Send a note to Marv Brown at mdbrib@comcast.net or call him 763-416-3903 before Sept, 7th if you plan to attend.

October 2nd - 10 AM *VIP Club* Board Meeting in the visitor's conference room at Unisys, Eagan. Club members are welcome to sit in, inform the President or Secretary the week before if you have an issue to raise. Your opportunity to volunteer for the 2020 board!

November 6th, 11 AM – Mark your calendar for the UNIHOGS and Technologists reunion at Casper's in Eagan. This annual gathering history pre-dates the VIP Club, originally a group of 1108 and 490 engineers who left UNISYS Roseville to form other companies, history is at http://vipclubmn.org/Social.html#Hogs. We are inviting a speaker from the Minnesota High Tech Association. Luncheon cost is just \$15 per person, pay at door. Email board@vipclubmn.org for a chair/table reservation and a pre-printed name-tag.

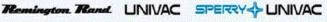
We will ratify the slate of 2020 Club Officers and Directors at this meeting. Event emcee will be 'head hog' Fred Vihovde.

December 4th – 10 AM *VIP Club* Board Meeting in Roseville at Lowell's home.

December 5th - 11 AM. Annual UNIVAC Old Timers' reunion at the Lost Spur; coordinators are Paul Hove and Steve Koltes.

2020 venues reserved – January 5th at the Lost Spur, April 8th at Joseph's, May 1st at the Mermaid, and May 15th at Casper's.











PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Grandpa? Have you ever answered the phone with a "Hello, and heard a childish voice saying "Grandpa" or "Grandma"? Of course, the natural response is to say "Evelyn" or whatever the name



of your most likely grandchild might be. Once you're engaged, there will follow a tale of woe that will end with an urgent and perhaps believable plea to send some money (usually secretly) to some odd place to rescue your grandchild from something bad.

Of course, it's a scam, but it's a successful one. I personally know of people who have sent thousands of dollars to Canada to "rescue" a grandchild. I have received the "Grandpa" call, and I played along, answering with the name of a fictitious grandchild. It was an elaborate scam, involving a callback from an "attorney" in Mexico. They dumped me as soon as I showed the slightest resistance to paying. When I called the Sheriff's office to report the scam, they said I was one of several hundred who had reported the same issue in the preceding week.

So, what does this have to do with the VIP Club? Over the past few months, several board members have received real looking emails from some other member, requesting some form of emergency payment (usually gift cards) with a promise of future reimbursement. While these have occurred occasionally in the past, they seem to have markedly increased of late.

You all need to know that the club doesn't do business that way. All club expenditures are authorized in advance by board action. There is no circumstance where an "emergency" disbursement is approved. If something were to pop up (which has not happened so far), the board can react quickly via an email meeting – without board approval, no action is authorized.

The club has a website, with some contact information exposed to the public, including to scammers. Many of you also have an online presence, which enables similar exposure. The consequences of this exposure, making all of us targets, have become a fact of modern life.

So, if you get an email from someone who wants you to run out and send some money, don't reply, trash it. When you hear "Grandma" on the phone, hang up or, if you feel frisky (rhymes with risky), ask who they are calling. Never give out anything related to your persona or respond to an out of the blue contact. Report scams to authorities or your Internet or phone provider, but in my experience, you'll get a Ho-Hum response. The much advertised "Do Not Call" registry

is ineffectual. As they used to close the morning briefing on the old Hill Street Blues TV show, "Be careful, it's a tough world out there."

On a happier note, come join us at our first Happy Hour get together at Jensen's. Sept 18th from 1-4 PM. Hors d'oeuvres are on us. No gift cards required, no wire transfers to Mexico, just an opportunity to get together. Cash bar – Drop in when you can and enjoy the company of fellow retirees who probably won't hustle you for money.

Harvey Taipale, VIP Club President.

CLUB CONTACT DATA

VIP Club 2019 Activity Coordination:

CBI Liaison; Dick Lundgren, rflundgr@aol.com
Golf Leagues; Keith Behnke, keithbhnk@comcast.net
Lawshe Museum Support;

- Exhibits; Keith Myhre kmyhre@lightblast.net
- Photo ID work; Bob Pagac <u>rpagac@hotmail.com</u> and Jon Simon <u>jcsimon1st@frontiernet.net</u>

Legacy Committee co-chairs; John Westergren, jwestergren48@gmail.com & labenson@q.com Membership database; Gish Devlaminck membership@vipclubmn.org

Old Timers' Annual Reunion; <u>paul@paulhove.com</u> or <u>steve.koltes@comcast.com</u>,

Picnic planning & volunteer staffing; John Westergren, jwestergren48@gmail.com

Roseville Good Old Days; Paul Dickson

<u>paul.dickson@comcast.net</u>

Syttende Mai: Dale Torgerson,

dale.o.torgerson@gmail.com

Sunshine Cards; Lynn Lindholm

lynnlindholm@comcast.net

UNIHOGS & Technologists; board@vipclubmn.org Volunteer Luncheon; Frank King, kingx063@umn.edu Webmaster; Jim Andrews, webmaster@vipclubmn.org

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

SOCIAL REPORTS & ARTICLES

Picnic next year? We've had many, many positive comments about the Eagan venue. And, a suggestion that we include a tour/visit of the adjacent UNISYS facility. Next year's board will take this and other feedback under consideration.

October 22, 2019 – Happy 99th to Millie Gignac!

Looking for an Outing? While the VIP Club has not sponsored many tours or group outings; many of you enjoy these activities with senior living communities, community groups or other organizations. If you're looking for ideas, check out https://www.mnfieldtriplibrary.org. This site has a comprehensive listing of tour organizers and attractions, many of which are also open to individuals.

Human Interest Stories: Our newsletters need articles to offset the continuing dearth of obit reports. As an example, Director Gish Devlaminck found a story about Judith Drenth, an LMCO co-worker. Her story could be an inspiration to each and all of us.

Judy started working for Sperry Air Traffic Control in Eagan 34 years ago as a software engineer. Over the years she has worked numerous defense programs such as Marine Air Traffic Control System (MATCALS), V-22 Osprey, YF-22, and P-3C Orion. She has worked at several locations. i.e. Vallejo & Los Angeles, CA; St. Louis, MO; and Owego, NY. Now, she is still working for Lockheed from her home in Burnsville.

A synopsis of the 20 June John Gessner article is: "Judy never considered herself to be athletic, but at the age of 40 she decided that weighing 190 pounds was too much. Joining a fitness club, she shed weight and developed a passion for power lifting, a sport distinct from the weightlifting with its "overhead press."

Twenty years ago, feeling sort of 'blah' and stressed while working long hours for Lockheed Martin, she joined Bally's Total Fitness in Eagan. Two years later at the age of 42, she entered her first competition then on her first "Deadlift" she set a state record. Judy placed first at the USA Powerlifting nationals last October in Spokane, WA.

That earned her a spot at the International Power lifting Federation's World Class Powerlifting Championships in Heisingborg, Sweden June 4th, 2019. As one of the five competitors in her division she won the gold medal for bench press with a lift of 132 pounds. Her total of 606 pounds for the three powerlifting competitions (deadlift, bench press and squat) earned her a silver medal plus bragging rights as the world's No. 2 in her division; behind Edith Guennec of France, who bested Drenth's dead lift with a world record.

Judy said, "One of my Minnesota friends that trains at Southside Athletic in Burnsville said, 'I feel bad that I broke your Minnesota record.' I replied, 'Don't feel bad. It's a positive sign.' What it means is women are really getting into the strength training earlier and focusing on this. I said I expect them to be broken."

Congratulations to Ms. Drenth on her accomplishments outside of the defense industry workplace. Thanks to Gish for sharing the article with us.



If you have something to share about a former coworker, email it to newsletter@vipclubmn.org.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER(s)

John & Melani Troini of Gilroy CA.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF

The obits hereunder are redacted from funeral home postings or Pioneer Press or Star Tribune listings.

Blumke, Jim Former Univac/Unisys software engineer passed away peacefully July 25th. Jim was last seen fishing with his bride Sandi on a small lake on the east side of heaven. He is survived by a brother, a sister, four children,



nine grand-children and one great-grandchild.

Bordson, Don - Age 84 of Maplewood, MN, died July 5th. His dementia diagnosis started 6 years ago. It has a been a painfully slow process until last week when we could see the rest of his body give up. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Teddie and many children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. This lovely, usually happy man retired from Unisys Corp after 47 years spent mainly in computer development. His great love was spending time at his cabin on Cross Lake with his family, and especially on the 4th of July.

Submitted by Daul Dickson

Fleishacker, Gary P. - Age 71, died peacefully at his Medicine Lake home on July 11 after 9 months living with pancreatic cancer. Born in Pierre, SD: Gary graduated from Riggs HS, the University of South Dakota, and University of Iowa (PhD). He is survived by his wife, Anne. He worked for FMC, Unisys (Sperry), and then Latitudes Group as a training and organization development consultant.

Ivey, William 'Bill' - Age 91, formerly of St Paul passed away on February 25, 2019. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Evelyn Adams Ivey, two sons, a daughter, two granddaughters and other relatives.

The country lost another member of the Greatest Generation. "Bill" passed away from natural causes. Born in St. Paul, Bill joined the Navy at 17 to fight WWII, serving in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters. He later served in the Army during the Korean War then remained in the Army Reserves as he pursued a highly successful career as a program manager at Sperry and Unisys. He is a former VIP Club member. From Nancy Gountanis-Meining,



Jones, Roy: Age 75 of Lansdale. Roy was found dead at his home July 1st. His wife Judy was away on business and unable to reach him. Security entered their home to find him deceased in the kitchen with pet puppy at his side.

I had met with him in late June. He was in good spirits, although he had

had a major issue earlier in the week. When I left, he was drinking his favorite Bourbon. I first met Roy in Roseville in the mid-70s. He had joined Univac from AT&T. Roy worked for Unisys Corporation for nearly 30 years as a program manager, and later created an IT consulting and services company. From Jim Davis

Kaphingst, Edmund – Age 82 died suddenly on July 4th. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Betty, and many other relatives. In addition to working at UNISYS and Lockheed Martin, Ed had served our country in



the Army Reserves. Submitted by car-pool friend, Harvey Taipale.



Lovell, Gary G. - Age 71, of Hudson, WI. Former Unisys and Edina Realty Employee, Gary passed away, Monday, July 1, 2019. Gary had worked in Human Resources in Roseville. Submitted by Paul Dickson.



Osiecki, Jerry - Age 80, of Inver Grove Heights Died on July 12, 2019, surrounded by his family. Jerry married Barb in 1962 and worked for the company that came to be known as Lockheed Martin for 40 years.

Smetak, Bessie - Age 91, Columbia Heights, passed

away Saturday, April 20, 2019. Bessie was born in 1928 in Chicago. After graduating from Willow River High School in 1947, she attended cosmetology school. She worked in a beauty salon at a large department store in



downtown Minneapolis for a short time, then switched to doing assembly work at Northrup King, General Mills, and lastly at Unisys where she was employed for 36 years, retiring in 1992.

Bess loved old-time music, dancing, reading, doing crossword and jigsaw puzzles, and spending time with She also loved animals and had a her family. wonderful sense of humor. From Mary Brown.



Van Eerden, Jim - Age 76, passed away peacefully at his home. on July 3, from complications of a stroke suffered on June 3. He was surrounded with love at his passing from his wife of 55 years, Shirley.

worked at Sperry and Unisys in Resources Mgmt. From Dick Lundgren

Waite, John Clarence Age 72, of Lauderdale, MN, passed away on Thursday, August 1, 2019. John graduated from Montana State University with a bachelor's degree in engineering and had a lifelong career at Unisys. John is survived by his wife of 34 years, Barbara Waite; brother, William Waite; niece, nephews, extended family, friends, and loving pet Sadie. From Paul Dickson & Boni Westberg.

LEGACY TIDBITS

Help Request: I am trying to help the battleship USS Iowa radio gang find information about their Sperry-Rand AN/USQ-69 data terminal (Sperry S-2049 I They would like to hook it up for think). communications demonstrations.

If anyone has a manual or experience that would help, please contact me and I'll get the info to the USS Iowa. Many thanks! Nick England, <u>nick@navy-radio.com</u>.

An April 26th, 1946 Star-Journal article:

Electronics Firm Formed in St. Paul

Establishment in St. Paul of a corporation to serve as a consulting and research organization in electronics and related fields for the army, navy and industrial firms, was announced today.

The new concern, Engineering Research Associates, Inc., expected to employ about 1,000, will be located in the plant of Northwestern Aeronautical Corp., 1902 W. Minnehaha avenue.

John E. Parker, president of the latter firm, was elected president of the new organization, which is to operate separately from Northwestern Aeronautical Corp.

About 40 scientists who worked as a navy technical team during the war will be associated with the new concern under present plans, Parker revealed.

Directors of the new firm, in

addition to Parker, are Nelson S. Talbott, Dayton; R. C. Lilly, chairman of the board of First National bank, and E. W. Dichman, both of St. Paul.

Certain naval officers are expected to be made directors after their discharge from service.

Bill Norris was one of these naval officers!

50 Years Ago, Man Walked on the Moon! UNIVAC/Sperry teams were part of this history: Read our on-line Legacy Anthology articles; http://vipclubmn.org/Articles/Apollo11Success.pdf, http://vipclubmn.org/Articles/Apollo.pdf, http://vipclubmn.org/Articles/EighteenBitRevB.pdf - pages 1, 5, 10, and 11.

And if you haven't viewed the TPT interview, https://video.tpt.org/video/apollo-11-memories-from-univac-engineer-steve-anderson-35714/".

Plus, enjoy this 'Weyrick' Dakota County Tribune Sun This Week newspaper article https://www.hometownsource.com/sun_thisweek/community/apple_valley/local-man-part-of-communications-efforts-during-apollo-mission/article_14d732d6-b48e-11e9-be70-2bd16ace00c5.html. From Keith Myhre, et al'.

NAC Preceded ERA: Harvey T. found this clip.

LOST AND FOUND, 8
LOST-2 crates of aircraft parts be- longing to Northwestern Aeronautical
1902 W. Minnehaha ave and 479
190, weight 283 the and No.
shipping dept. for reward NF 0001
LOST — Black & silver Parker "51" fountain pen. Engraved M. H. Kiss-
ling. Gift from brother in service. Reward. EL. 1653.

How many of us remember when phone numbers were two letters for the exchange and 4 digits for the phone? I found it interesting that the NAC St. Peter St. address was the location of the ERA plant 2, http://vipclubmn.org/Locations.html#Others.

Topics for Sept. 17th Legacy Discussions:

9:30 AM	Welcome, coffee pot is on!
9:40 AM	Museum, Summary of Artifacts.
10:00 AM	Photo ID initiative status.
10:10 AM	Web site anthology status.
10:20 AM	CBI collections summary.
10:30 AM	TPT documentary status.
10:40 AM	2nd cup of coffee.
10:45 AM	VIP Club's 40th in 2020; 45th in 2025?
11:00 AM	Legacy initiatives for 2020.
11:20 AM	Future of STEM in MN.
11:30 AM	Future of Legacy initiative after 2020.
11:55 AM	Next Legacy Committee mtg? Adjourn.

Visiting the Charles Babbage Institute (CBI):

Professor Elizabeth Semler is teaching a summer class, *Technology and American Culture*. On July 10th the class met at CBI for an introduction to documenting and archiving technology as presented by CBI Archivist Amanda Wick. Liz and Amanda led the class through the CBI storage facility beneath the Elmer L. Andersen Library, home to the U of MN's Archives and Special Collections research center.



1. Liz is at the right, telling students about the CBI storage facility.

In three areas of the classroom, the students wrote reports about some technology folders; technology history books; and an artifact area with couple of hardware calculators, an electronic logic wiring game, and this nonfunctional Apple II Machine.



The Students also looked at a few pre-selected technology history boxes in the archives. Page 7 has some snapshots of the archive contents.

Ms. Semler had requested help from the Legacy Committee, Lowell Benson brought a DOS based processor from the Lawshe Memorial Museum – shown here. The boot disc floppy unfortunately failed to read half-way through the class thus editing via the CRT and keyboard weren't demonstrated.



2. Sperry Model T3067 suitcase unit.

Article & snapshots Lowell Benson.

Business Signs of Note!

- Car Dealership: "The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment."
- ➤ Electric Company: "We would be delighted if you send in your payment on time. However, if you don't, YOU will be de-lighted."
- Electrician's truck: "Let us remove your shorts."
- > Funeral Home: "Drive carefully. We'll wait."
- Maternity room door: "Push. Push. Push."
- Muffler Shop: "No appointment necessary. We hear you coming."
- Non-smoking Area: "If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire and will take appropriate action."
- Plumber's truck: "We repair what your husband fixed."
- Propane Filling Station: "Thank Heaven for Little Grills."
- Restaurant window: "Don't stand there and be hungry; come on in and get fed up."
- Septic Tank Truck: "Caution This Truck is full of Political Promises.
- Veterinarian's waiting room: "Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"

Every day I beat my own previous record for the number of consecutive days I've stayed alive. [P. Hove]



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL or CHANGE FORM

Established in 1980	Please mark an X in the appropriate info/option boxes. Submittal Date:					
	Dues: \square \$7.00 1-year, or \square \$ 18.00 3-years, or \square free if age 90 or older.					
□Renewal, □New M	Member (\geq 55), \square A	ssociate member (<55).	□ Life (>89), or □	☐Information(Change.	
Name (Last, First, M.	I. – or attach an ad	dress label.)	Spouse's 1	Name		
Street Address or P.O	o. Box	City		State	Zip Code	
(
Primary Telephone N	umber	E-mail address				
Newsletter delivery d	efault is electron	nic or select 🗆 U.S. Ma	nil if you have no en	mail address.		
Employer is/was □UNISYS, □Lockheed Martin, and/or □predecessor company						
Include me in the Club's Directory? □Yes or □No. DIRECTORY is only available to Members and Associates!						
		: VIP Club - Membersh mation in our database	•		MN 55113-0020	

Snapshots from the Charles Babbage Institute's Archive Area.



John Westergren coordinated donations of many pallet loads of documents collected by the Legacy Committee from Lockheed Martin, UNISYS, Sperry Defense Systems, UNIVAC, and ERA retirees.



Dr. Peter Patton papers are from his UNIVAC and U of MN careers. In the 70s, he did AN/UYK-7 enhancement studies that aided the AN/UYK-43 cache memory architecture design.

The Honeywell versus Sperry Rand patent nullification papers are historical – the CBI collection includes a few hardware artifacts used during the trial in the 70s.



The Carl Johnson papers cover the Sperry/UNISYS Micro-1100 development technologies.



Burroughs and UNISYS ancestry tracks back to American Arithmometer Co., 1896.

The CBI racks and stacks of archive boxes are all in a sub terrain limestone cave beneath the U of MN west bank campus.



VIP CLUB Newsletter

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

Board of Directors - 2019

President Harvey Taipale	651-280-7332
Vice President Steve Koltes	651-303-9112
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Secretary Boni Westberg	651-429-2534
Director Dick Lundgren	952-288-5141
Director Gish Devlaminck	651-470-8905
Director Jim Andrews,	651-451-7502
Director Lowell Benson	651-483-3709
Past President Keith Behnke	651-894-2182

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Lowell Benson newsletter@vipclubmn.org
Dick Lundgren rflundgr@aol.com
Don Naaktgeboren donfishn@yahoo.com
Joe Schwarz jschwarzsr@centurylink.net

UNISYS Liaison

Kirsten Rasmussen; meetings, etc., 651-323-9543 Judy Bornetun; Eagan print shop, 651-635-6792

PERIODIC SOCIAL GROUPS

Monthly Breakfast Gathering

• 1st Thursday at 8 AM at the Capitol View Cafe, 637 Smith Ave. St. Paul.

Monthly Lunch Gatherings

- 1st Tuesday in Eagan at 11:00 AM Rickey's Café at Stark's, 3125 Dodd Road, Eagan, MN
- <u>2nd Tuesday</u> 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.
- 2nd Saturday of odd numbered months at 11:00 AM, Baker's Square, 1881 West Highway 36, Roseville. Coordinator Urho Rahkola, 651-429-3319.

Quarterly Breakfast Gathering

• 2nd Wednesday at 9 AM in the Eagles Club, Old Hwy 8, in New Brighton., Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. Coordinator Mary Brown, 763-416-3903