

# VIP Club Newsletter

VOLUME 41, NO. 06  
November/December 2021  
<http://vipclubmn.org>



- **Old Timers' Reunion** **December 2<sup>nd</sup>** at Lost Spur Golf and Event Center, 11:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
- **Holiday Party** **January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022** at Lost Spur Golf and Event Center, 1:00–4:00 p.m.
- **Volunteer Luncheon** **April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022** at Joseph's Grill, set for noontime
- **Roseville Good Old Days** **May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022**, at The Mermaid Entertainment & Event Center, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
- **Syttende Mai** **May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

*See page 2 for additional details*

**VIP Club** 2021 scheduled Board Meeting: December 1, finally scheduled to meet in person at the Wescott Library, Eagan. 2022 scheduled Board Meetings: February 2, April 6, June 1, August 3; locations TBD. Club members may sit in if curious about club business. Contact the president 2 days prior for access.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

'Twas a great day! Of course, I am referring to the VIP Club's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, which actually took place 41 years after the real founding date. You all know why this was delayed, and this time I refuse to acknowledge that about which the rest of the world is still worried. My high school English teacher would like that sentence, but it still seems a bit old-fashioned.



It was great because a lot of you from different work generations got together to celebrate corporate and club longevity, renew old acquaintances and just enjoy a social get-together that has been so rare in recent times.

The history of the VIP Club is remarkable. Back then, Millie Gignac, a St. Paul Human Resources employee fresh back from a stint in Blue Bell, wanted to find a way for retirees to continue their work relationships after retirement. She proposed and spearheaded the company sponsorship of a retiree group, which became federally registered as an independent 503(c)(7) organization.

Think back to the context of 1980. An actor by the name of Reagan was elected President, Mt. St. Helens erupted and the Olympic games in Moscow were boycotted. Big headlines were Abscam, Cuban refugees, John Lennon's murder and surging inflation. Early 1980 also saw the Miracle on Ice: the U.S. hockey team winning Olympic Gold, the launch of CNN and

Post-it Notes. Oddly, when I look at the stories on our website (<http://vipclubmn.org/Legacy.html>), I don't find many stories about our company from 1980 (more later).

Millie, the first female to be promoted to a director level job, was quite a leader. Her retiree club initiative continues to today, and everyone who was there for our 40<sup>th</sup> (41<sup>st</sup>) Anniversary party, and even those unable to attend, should stop and give thanks to her vision.

And speaking of thanks, a couple of big shout-out "Thank You!" recognitions are due.

First, thanks to Keith Myhre, the leader of our legacy archiving crew, for his work in editing and pulling together the videos we screened at the party. Lots of material to choose from, a big effort to pull it all together and a completely enjoyable result.

Second, but far from last, an enormous "Thank You" to Keith Behnke. Keith led the effort to pull this gathering off, starting in 2019 when we were targeting a 2020 event. He did all the leg work to find a place and structure the gathering, only to have it overcome by events—events that had no predictable outcome—making it pretty hard to make plans. Keith kept following up with possible options and plan revisions to deal with all the evolving circumstances. I'm guessing Keith reconfigured this event about half a dozen times, with the final result that finally happened in September of 2021. Thanks, Keith! It wouldn't have been a success without your dedication and leadership.

Back to 1980. When I went to our website, the dearth of stories and references to the era of the 1980's was a pretty big surprise. I recall many interesting projects and events happening in the 1980's, yet not too many people have taken the effort to document them. You all have heard my previous pleas to get our history documented. 'Nuff said.

Meanwhile, VIP Club activities continue. I hope to see many of you at the Old Timers gathering in December, and think about signing up for the Holiday Party in January. *Harvey Taipale, VIP Club President*



THE VIP CLUB IS FOR RETIREES AND FORMER EMPLOYEES OF OUR GREAT HERITAGE COMPANIES

## SOCIAL REPORTS & ARTICLES

**Old Timers' Reunion Dec. 2, 11:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m.** Annual UNIVAC/Sperry/Unisys/LMCO reunion at Lost Spur Golf and Event Center, lower-level party room, 2750 Sibley Memorial Hwy, Eagan, MN 55121.

Donation of **\$2.00** per attendee is requested at the door to cover the room rental and name tag costs. Please register and order a sandwich sack lunch (none, beef, ham or turkey)—delicious at a mere **\$8.00**—before November 28<sup>th</sup> via response to evite. Pay for sandwich lunch when picked up at reunion. Don't have internet or e-mail? Mail your name, sandwich choice (none, beef, ham or turkey) and phone number to VIP Club MN – Old Timers, PO Box 21903, Eagan, MN 55121 before November 28<sup>th</sup>. Please come and reminisce! Many work friends will be at this party. Also, Keith Myhre will show the slides and videos shown at the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party. Club membership is not required to attend the reunion; however, it's encouraged!

Driving Directions: Set your GPS to St. Paul, 2750 Sibley Memorial Hwy, 55121 or take exit #98 off I35E onto Lone Oak Road. Go west across Pilot Knob Road and then down the hill to Hwy 13. Turn right and proceed north ~ ½ mile to the Lost Spur Golf and Event Center (City View) entrance on the right. Coordinators: VIP Club board members *Paul Hove and Steve Koltjes*; phone numbers on back page, if needed.

**Holiday Party/Concert Jan 9, 1:00–4:00 p.m.** Christmas/New Year's Holiday Party and Concert at the Lost Spur Golf and Event Center, 2750 Sibley Memorial Hwy, Eagan, MN 55121

### AGENDA:

- 1:00–2:00 Socializing & Cash Bar Available
- 2:00–3:00 Dinner: Salad, Entrée Choice Served with Whipped Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetable, Cheesecake Dessert

*Entrée choices:* ♦ Walleye ♦ Salmon  
♦ Sirloin Steak ♦ Nut Crusted Chicken

- 3:00–3:45 Holiday concert performed by the Eagan Men's Chorus

Cost is **\$25.00** per member (yes, your spouse or significant other is a member); **\$30.00** per person for nonmember guests attending with a member. Seating is limited, so send in your reservation as soon as possible. For the facility to have accurate entrée type counts, fill out the registration form found later in this newsletter, then mail it with your check payable to VIP Club – Holiday Party by December 15, 2021, to Boni Westberg, PO Box 644, Willernie, MN 55090. The registration form can also be found online at [Temp/HOLIDAY PARTY form 2022.pdf](#). Coordinators are VIP Club board members *Boni Westberg (651-429-2534) and Jim Andrews (651-451-7502)*; anyone with special dietary

requirements can contact them directly to accommodate specific needs.

**Volunteer Recognition Luncheon April 20, Noon** at Joseph's Grill, 140 Wabasha Street South, Saint Paul, MN 55107. Coordinator: *Frank King*.

**Roseville Good Old Days May 6, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.** at The Mermaid Entertainment & Event Center, 2200 Mounds View Blvd, Mounds View, MN 55112. Coordinator: *Paul Dickson* will be sending out an e-mail reminder in the first quarter of 2022.

**Syttende Mai May 13**, Coordinator: *Dale Torgerson*; more to come.

### So, This Finally Happened!

One hundred and two individuals celebrated the VIP Club's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on September 14<sup>th</sup> at the Royal Cliff Banquets and Weddings venue in Eagan. As Lockheed Martin employee Laura Traeger noted when posting pictures (one included here), "What a heritage of brilliant people with amazing accomplishments!" The video put together by Keith Myhre was great per attendee feedback. A special thank you to Keith Behnke and Keith Myhre for a wonderful event and all the hard work they expended over the last two years! The only disappointment was that 33 people who signed up weren't able to make it. Cost to the VIP Club was approximately \$40 per person. Board members did not hear of anyone who was unhappy. See more pictures online ([40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party Photos](#)).



### 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY PARTY



### And This . . .

The **2021 Unified Legacy Golf League (ULGL)**, the merged Unisys and Lockheed Martin golf league, has just finished its 10<sup>th</sup> year. We currently have 264 active members and continued with weekly leagues at Bunker Hills, Phalen, Emerald Greens and Southern Hills. We also had 9 tournaments at 8 different golf courses, between late April and early October, averaging 110 players. We finished off the season with representatives of the teams that won their league playing a ULGL championship match at Keller Golf Club and a traditional banquet at Mancini's in St.°Paul.

At the Keller event, the Bunker Hills league winners also won the ULGL championship. In the picture that follows are some of the league's executive board members who played at Keller.



**Front row:** Tim Clark, Mike Podobinski, Tay Sweitzer, John Beck; **Back row:** Larry Kane, Jeff Baron, Ron Shursen, Keith Behnke; **Members not shown:** Bill Peck, Rick Stensrud, Eric Horner, Greg Morey, Dean VanDeWalker

Anyone interested in joining the league next year contact Keith Behnke at [keithbhk@comcast.net](mailto:keithbhk@comcast.net). You can also visit our league website at: <https://ulglmn.org/umgl/>.

## CLUB NEWS

**VIP Club Membership** – The latest Membership Report shows 787 active member units; 318 members are due to renew the end of this year, of which 64 took advantage of 2021's free membership which ends Dec 31<sup>st</sup>. If your VIP Club newsletter subject line has "Nov/Dec VIP Club Newsletter for Membership List 2021," your membership will expire on December 31, 2021. If you receive your newsletter via U.S. Mail, the membership expiration year is shown after your name on the address label, e.g., John Doe 2021. Membership dues are one year for \$7, and three years for \$18. To renew, complete the form found at the end of the newsletter and mail it with a check made out to "VIP Club" to VIP Club – Membership, PO Box 21903, Eagan, MN 55121. **Update any membership status or personal information** by completing and submitting the online questionnaire found on the [VIP Club Membership \(vipclubmn.org\)](https://vipclubmn.org) page.

## LEGACY TIDBITS

**What is this Legacy 'STUFF'?** Sixteen years ago at the October 2005 VIP Club board meeting, visiting guest Richard 'Ole' Olson asked retirees to help Lockheed Martin document the Twin Cities corporate history. We formed a small committee, then Dick Lundgren arranged a January 2006 meeting with Dr. Arthur Norberg, original director of the Charles Babbage Institute at the U of MN. Dr. Norberg retired,

then Dr. Tom Misa became director of CBI and served as our advisor for 11 years. Our volunteers have donated thousands of hours over these 16 years, resulting in the following factual 'tell the story' information, all with numerous embedded links to articles, interviews, posters, videos, etc.:

- *Anthologies Tell the Story* is a history synopsis at <http://vipclubmn.org/Articles/Anthologies2Go.pdf>.
- Lawshe Memorial Museum Exhibits at <http://vipclubmn.org/Articles/ArtifactsOnDisplay.pdf> has more defense computer items than any other U.S. museum.
- See <http://vipclubmn.org/OurStories.html> for over 180 Articles for the Month since April 2007 by about 150 people.
- Twin Cities Public Television downstreaming of a documentary and outtake video clips, MN Legacy Grant managed by MHTA: <http://vipclubmn.org/Articles/TPTclips.pdf>.
- YouTube video links collection: [http://vipclubmn.org/Articles/CHAP\\_Summary.pdf](http://vipclubmn.org/Articles/CHAP_Summary.pdf).

We are not done yet:

- We are still in need of half-a-dozen micro/mini biographies (<http://vipclubmn.org/People.html>) to reach 200 goal.
- Articles for the Month needs new items.
- Cataloging at the Lawshe Memorial Museum needs new volunteers.

LABenson

### Retirement Status and Benefits:

Numbers to call if you or your heirs have death benefit or pension questions – you will need an SSN and a PIN.

♦ **UNISYS:** 1-877-864-7972

♦ **Lockheed Martin:** 1-866-562-2363

\*\***LMCO retirees:** If you are eligible for the health care supplement through VIA Benefits, submit your expenses to receive up to \$900 each annually for you and your spouse (Total \$1,800). Eligible expenses include copayments, Medicare premiums and insurance supplement premiums. For questions call **VIA Benefits** at 1-844-596-0460 or go to <https://my.viabenefits.com/>.

## IN REMEMBRANCE OF:

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

*The VIP Club board extends its sympathies to the families and friends of those who have lost loved ones.*

*We will grieve not, rather find strength in what remains behind.*  
~William Wordsworth~

**Burnell Van "Bernie" Adams** – Age 88 of Richfield, formerly Inver Grove Heights, West St. Paul, Mendota Heights, Cottage Grove and River Falls, WI, passed March 27, 2021. Bernie served four years in the USAF in Korea and worked for Sperry/UNIVAC/ Unisys for 36 years. He was an avid Barbershop Quartet member of the North Star Chorus, sang baritone in "The Premium Blend" quartet and spent many enjoyable hours entertaining people locally and around the



country. He was happily married for 62 years and together adopted and raised three children from Catholic Charities. Bernie was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Ann and a daughter, and is survived by two sons.

**Richard “Dick” Allen** – Age 79 of Forest Lake, passed September 2, 2021. Dick, a VIP Club member, retired from Unisys after 40 years as a computer engineer, and was involved with Lakes Area Woodcarvers. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, two children, three grandchildren and other relatives and friends.



**Marguerite Ann (Foley) Anderson** – Age 83, slipped peacefully August 24, 2021. After attending the College of St. Benedict, Marguerite moved to Minneapolis and soon met Charlie who worked as an engineer for UNIVAC while Marguerite raised their three children before going back to work as a legal secretary. She also volunteered as a group facilitator at Cornerstone Advocacy Service. She is preceded in death by her husband, Charles John Anderson, and is survived by three children, two granddaughters, many nieces, nephews, and friends.



**Gary L. Claude** – Age 83 of Lakeville, Gary, a VIP Club member, passed away in October. A service will be held sometime between Christmas and New Year’s.

**Francis Paul Dockendorff** – Age 74 of Garrison died August 31, 2021 at his home. He was a retired Unisys employee with 40 years of service in the IT department plus help supporting many community-related events. Francis is survived by his wife, Carol.



**David A. Duray** – Age 89 of Le Sueur, MN, formerly Minneapolis, died July 26, 2021. He served in the U.S. Army before traveling the world as an engineer with NASA, Sperry Rand, UNIVAC, Unisys and the U.S. Government in support of the original Apollo Space Missions. An avid sportsman and hunter, he will be remembered for his appetite for excitement in life. He is survived by three children.



**Lucille Jeanette “Lucy” Elms** – Age 87, of Fort Dodge, Iowa passed February 14, 2021. She was raised in Sioux City until her family moved to San Diego, CA. She Graduated high school in San Diego, then moved to Minneapolis, MN. For 34 years, she worked computer manufacturing at UNIVAC. Lucy is survived by a stepdaughter, five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, along with many stepchildren, nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her sons, as well as husbands Charles Knoss and Charles Elms.

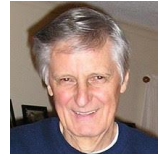


**Ellen Erickson** – Age 85, of Minneapolis, MN, passed September 4, 2021. Ellen was born in 1935 in Frankfurt am Main, Germany on the eve of World War II. Americans in Germany led her to MN. She met husband David while working at Remington Rand. When their sons were school-aged, Ellen began a new career with Minneapolis Public Schools, where she worked for over 30 years as an educational assistant. She was a proud naturalized citizen of the United States. Ellen is survived by husband David, two sons and two grandchildren.

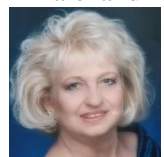
**Delbert Harley Foley** – Age 80, passed suddenly August 16, 2021. A VIP club member until 2019, Delbert was a retired UNIVAC/Lockheed Martin engineer and retired Army/National Guard MSG who served in Germany where he met and married Ursula, and served one year of duty in Pleiku, Vietnam. He enjoyed fishing, yardwork, loved to play chess, computer poker, was an avid watcher of football and WWE, and loved reading his favorite Clive Cussler books. He will be missed by friends and family and is leaving behind his devoted wife Ursula of 58 years, a brother and nieces.



**John A. Grundtner** – Age 89, of Stillwater, passed August 15, 2021. John worked for Unisys Roseville as a test manager; many club members knew and worked with John in his roles in Manufacturing. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Shirley, four children, seven grandchildren, a sister and nieces, nephews and friends.



**Dale R. and Diana J. (Noren) Harvego** – Dale and Diana made their home in Valley Park, located in Rosemount, MN, for over 50 years. **Dale R. Harvego** – Age 79, passed away



unexpectedly August 30, 2021 after a brief illness at Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park, MN. Dale was a programmer and spent his entire working career at Sperry UNIVAC/Unisys/LMCO. He was a good friend and VIP Club member; his family chose to celebrate his life at another of Dale’s favorite gatherings, the Minneapolis Gun Club in Prior Lake. **Diana J. (Noren) Harvego** – Age 75, passed away on Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021 at Methodist Hospital. She grew up in Fergus Falls, graduated from high school there, and married Dale, the love of her life, before moving to Rosemount. Diana loved to sew, bake, sing, cook and watch cooking shows. Diana worked at numerous jobs: the local school cafeteria, she did in-home day care, and then found a career as a pharmacy tech for HealthPartners until her retirement. Together Diana and Dale devoted a lot of time to their faith at their Lutheran

church in Rosemount. Diana was survived by her loving husband of 56 years, Dale, by only five months. Dale and Diana are survived by three children, seven grandchildren and five grandkids.

**Hazel Ellen (Caulkins) Hennessey** – Age 91, passed away August 31, 2021. Hazel married at 17 and worked her entire life, much at Sperry UNIVAC/Unisys, only to continue helping others upon retirement, never moving far from her childhood home in Willernie. She was preceded in death by former husband Richard Hennessey and is survived by 6 children, 9 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and countless friends and relatives.



**James “Jim” Anthony Inda** – Age 82, passed away September 22, 2021. Jim’s first and last job out of college was with Lockheed Martin, after many name changes to Sperry UNIVAC. As a retired senior system engineer, in 2015 he contributed [B-2StealthBomberStory.pdf](#) as a Legacy Anthology story. He enjoyed camping, fishing, and grilling, and made his own maple syrup and taught his technique to others in community education classes. He loved talking technology at the dinner table, and was a big part of the Apple Valley Athletic Association as a girls’ softball coach. After retiring, Jim and Babs did a lot of traveling, working on the land they owned “up north” and giving the grandkids rides behind the John Deere tractor. Jim is survived by his wife, Barbara (Bak), 5 children, 14 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.



**Archie Francis Manning** – Age 83, passed August 11, 2021 at the Minneapolis, MN VA Hospital. Archie worked in Quality at Roseville UNIVAC/Unisys and was Manning’s Cafe/Restaurant owner. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Catherine, and is survived by three sons and eight grandchildren.



**Garrett William Markin** – Age 38, passed away August 22, 2021. At a very early age, Garrett grasped and reveled in computers and technology, reading computer manuals and hosting LAN parties in high school. He graduated from UW Stout with a BS degree in Telecommunication Systems, then his passion for technology led him to a career at Lockheed Martin in Eagan, MN and San Diego, CA, followed by Target Headquarters, where he worked for several years in their technology department. His expertise in technology also landed him a prestigious role as chief technology officer of the Markin/Dundas households, where he graced family with such sage advice as “Have you tried restarting your computer?” Garrett enjoyed tinkering with computers, video games,



evenings out enjoying dinner, live music or stand-up comedy specials, and doting on his cat, Nova. Left behind are his father, mother, two brothers, nieces, nephews and numerous other relatives and friends.

**Robert Evans “Bob” Massey** – Age 86 of Roseville, MN passed away October 8, 2021. Bob attended the University of Colorado and moved to the Twin Cities to accept an engineering position at UNIVAC/Unisys where he worked his entire career. VIP Club members recall Bob working in Roseville Systems Quality Management, and still remember that he seldom wore a coat in the winter. Zero degrees and he was outside in his short-sleeved shirt! Bob was preceded in death by his wife, Lois Eileen Massey, and is survived by two sons and four grandchildren.



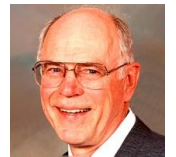
**Myron Meath** – Age 78, of Rosemount, MN passed June 25, 2021. Myron graduated from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, then worked 27 years at Sperry UNIVAC (Unisys) in Eagan and 12 years at Corrigan Electric in Rosemount. His true love was time with his children/grandchildren at their athletic events, and he was a loyal Rosemount HS sports fan and a regular at Irish games for the past 50 years. His hobbies were reading, helping with the grandkids, gardening and following his favorite sports teams (Packers, Badgers, Braves and Twins). Myron was preceded in death by a daughter and is survived by his wife of 53 years, Rose, 6 children and 15 grandchildren.



**Harvey R. Nelson** – Age 90, of Hudson, WI, formerly Oakdale, MN, passed September 23, 2021, at Red Cedar Canyon, surrounded by his family. Harvey enlisted in the U.S. Army, proudly serving during the Korean War; after discharge, he earned his associates degree from Brown Institute. Harvey worked for over 36 years at Unisys, primarily in logistics, and was delighted to work with all three of his sons, eventually retiring in 1993. Harvey and his high school sweetheart/bride, Emogene “Jean” McLouth, were the perfect match, and each other’s sidekicks throughout RV travels around the USA, Mexico, and Canada, and 23 winters in Donna, TX. He loved golfing, reading Western novels, sudoku and family softball, had a talent for tinkering and fixing things, possessed a strong work ethic, and was willing to help anyone. Harvey is preceded in death by his daughter, Karen Nelson, and is survived by his wife of 68 years, Jean, 4 children, 10 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and other family.



**Rodger H. Ness** – Age 86, passed March 27, 2021. Rodger grew up in Wolverton, MN, recently lived in



Roseville, but lived in St. Anthony for 44 years. Rodger received a B.S. from NDSU in electrical engineering and later a Master's degree from UMN in EE. For his 34-year Unisys career, he was a computer engineer building mainframe and navigation systems. Rodger enjoyed home improvement projects as well as spending time outdoors skiing, bicycling, camping and gardening. He loved singing in the church choir and playing with a brass ensemble. Rodger is survived by his wife of 56 years, Barbara, three sons and five grandchildren.

**Deboraha (Pulju) Olson** – Age 67, passed August 9, 2021. Deb faced her cancer diagnosis with rare courage, optimism, and grace, fiercely squeezing a two-year prognosis into five mostly good years instead. A graduate of Brown College, Deb enjoyed work in IT at Unisys for many years, followed by a decade of IT consulting in partnership with beloved husband, Dexter Olson (d.2015). Deb is survived by husband, Mike Aarestad, a son and other family.



**Raymond M. Olson** – Age 98, passed in hospice September 1, 2021. Raymond served as a Navy storekeeper in WWII and UNIVAC tool designer. He was preceded in death by wife, Betty, and granddaughter, Hannah Joy Olson, and survived by two children, four grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and other family.

**Charles A. Proshok (Chuck)** – Age 74, of Burnsville, MN passed September 2, 2021. Chuck spent his 45-year career as a Lockheed Martin Quality Engineer.



Chuck always made sure that family came first and taught his kids the same. He was active and successful in sports and later loved spending time watching his kids' and grandkids' sports and activities. He played softball as an adult for many years, which led to a team of forever family friends and campers. Chuck's love for hunting began with his father, then with good friends, and later teaching his sons to hunt and enjoy the outdoors. Chuck is survived by his wife of 55 years, Barbara, four children, nine grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and other family and friends.

**Patricia Ratajack** – Age 89, passed October 12, 2021. Pat was a lifelong resident of St. Paul's East Side. Steadfast and hard-working, Pat spent 40 years employed by Unisys Roseville. After "retiring" in 1994, she spent the next 16 years delivering prescriptions. She loved the freedom of driving around the Twin Cities. Pat loved working in her yard, mowing, shoveling and driving independently. Pat could often be found proudly cheering on her grandsons in sports or as they played instruments. She particularly enjoyed taking family to movies and to the local malt shop. She will be



remembered for her generosity and her joy in making treats for celebrations. Pat will be terribly missed by her daughter, grandsons, nieces, nephews and friends.

**Timothy M. Sather, Sr.** – Age 72, passed June 14, 2021. Timothy served three Navy tours during the Vietnam War, wrote the first operating system for Sperry UNIVAC, and was on teams that created cockpit systems for the Space Shuttle and data communications for the International Space Station. He is survived by his wife, Joanne, his three children and 5 grandchildren.

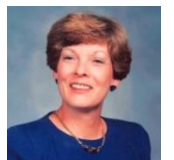
**Owen Thomas Scharf** – Age 88, of Bloomington, MN passed peacefully September 17, 2021. Owen enlisted in the Air Force in 1953 and soon after married and started a family. He was a proud graduate of the University of Minnesota and had a long and fulfilling career in computer development with Unisys Roseville. Many in Roseville and VIP Club members knew Owen well, as a "good guy." He served as the club president in 1993 and 1994, while his wife, Suzanne, was the club secretary from 1991 through 1996. Owen was preceded in death by son-in-law, John Amundson, and is survived by his wife, Suzanne, three children, six grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

**John Andrew Skonnord** – Age 80, passed September 2, 2021 in Fargo, ND. John graduated from Moorhead State College with his Bachelor's and Master's degrees, then received a Doctorate in Comparative Literature from the U of MN, while also a graduate assistant and an instructor.



He taught at Ottumwa Heights and Grinnell Colleges in Iowa before returning to Fargo for a new career in computers. He moved to St. Paul, MN, and was a technical report writer for Sperry Computer Systems, later Lockheed Martin, until his retirement in 2009. John loved learning and writing and was a voracious reader. He especially loved the Pelican Lake family cottage, built by his father, commenting, "If this isn't heaven, I don't know what is." John developed a love of woodworking from his father spending many summers working on his Ole Lind fishing boat, his sailboat, and his handmade canoe. He also loved fishing, hunting, golf and trap and skeet shooting, participating in the Lockheed Martin golf and skeet shooting teams. John's passion for old cars led him to restore his 1973 Hurst Oldsmobile, which is still in the family. John took great pride in his Norwegian heritage, as well as baking – his sandbakkels were the family's favorite Christmas gift! John is survived by his wife, Sally Miller, a sister, niece, nephews, and grandnieces/grandnephews.

**Diane Rose Ware** – Age 79, of North Branch, MN passed July 11, 2021 at the U of MN Hospital in Minneapolis. Diane is a Sperry UNIVAC retiree. She and her







P. O. Box 21903  
Eagan, MN 55121

**VIP CLUB Newsletter**

VIP Club MN P.O. 21903 Eagan, MN 55121  
<http://www.vipclubmn.org/Newsletters.html>

**Board of Directors – 2021**

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Vice President	Steve Koltes	651-303-9112
Treasurer	Paul Hove	651-738-4908
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	Arnie Schmidt	651-270-1547
Past President	Keith Behnke	651-894-2182

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Joe Schwarz [jschwarzsr@centurylink.net](mailto:jschwarzsr@centurylink.net)

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

**PERIODIC SOCIAL GROUPS**

**Monthly Breakfast Gathering**

- **1st Thursday**, 8 a.m. – **Capitol View Cafe**, 637 Smith Ave., **St. Paul**

**Monthly Lunch Gatherings**

- **1st Tuesday**, 11:00 a.m. – **Casper's Cherokee of Eagan**, 4625 Nicols Rd. **Keith Behnke**: 651-587-2591.
  - **2nd Tuesday**, 11:30 a.m. – **Mall of America** 3rd floor North Food Court between the elevator & Burger King. **Paul Wennerstrom**: 952-854-7855.
  - **2nd Saturday** of odd-numbered months, 11 a.m. – Baker's Square, 1881 West Hwy 36, **Roseville**. **Urho Rahkola**: 651-429-3319.
- Temporarily Suspended**

**Quarterly Breakfast Gathering**

- **2nd Wednesday**, 9 a.m. in Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. – Eagles Club, 563 Old Hwy 8 in **New Brighton**. **Paul Dickson**: 651-482-9934. **Temporarily Suspended**

**CLUB CONTACT DATA**

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