

IT Legacy Project, since 2005

- **Goal:** Engineering Research Associates (ERA) began a remarkable story of technological innovation and contributions to the computer industry in 1946. We aim to relate this 77-year+ story as many of us have lived parts of it—most history book entries have limited defense industry information among the commercial computer system development stories.
- **Objectives:** First, is to **capture** whatever remaining material and information available; Second is to **catalog and archive** all the material collected; and Third is to **publish/publicize** our history and heritage in ways that interest industry and our fellow Minnesotans via the web and local institutions.
- **Accomplishments:** 1) Over 600 people have contributed to our Legacy Anthology, [www/vipclubmn.org/Legacy.html](http://www.vipclubmn.org/Legacy.html). 2) Supported the TPT documentary, Solid State: MN's High-Tech History. 3) Established an exhibit at the Lawshe Memorial Museum. 4) Supported the DCHS ERA memorial plaque commemoration at 1902 Minnehaha Ave. W. in St. Paul. 5) Provided info for Dr. Tom Misa's *Digital State* book.

History Tidbits

- Since 2007, former employees and systems users have contributed mini-bios to our IT Legacy Anthology—over 211 unique stories! <https://vipclubmn.org/People.html>.
- In 2008 more than 75 volunteer members participated in several Minnesota Sesquicentennial activities, chronicled in the Minnesota 2058 bi-centennial time capsule, vipclubmn.org/Articles/It'sAWrap.pdf.
- Eight of the 27 interviewees for the 2019 Twin Cities Public Television documentary; MN Solid State, High Tech History, vipclubmn.org/Articles/TPTclips.pdf.

P.O. Box 21903 Eagan, MN 55121
<http://vipclubmn.org>

2024 BOARD Contact Information

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Lawshe Memorial Museum Volunteerism Leads:

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VIP CLUB

Established in 1980

The **VIP CLUB** is a non-profit, social and services organization of retired and former employees from **Unisys**, Lockheed Martin, and legacy companies.

1946 TO TODAY

LEGACY COMPANIES:

ENGINEERING RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Remington Rand (1952)

Sperry Rand **UNIVAC** (1955)

Sperry **UNIVAC** (1973)

Sperry (1979)

Burroughs merger (1986)

Unisys Defense Systems (1986)

Paramax (1991)

Unisys, GSG Electronic Sys. (1994)

Loral (1995)

Lockheed Martin (1996-2012)

Leidos, PDA

ERA, World's First
Computer Company!



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We are proud of our Information Technology (IT) Legacy preserved for future generations at the Lawshe Memorial Museum in S. St. Paul, at the Charles Babbage Institute - U of MN in Minneapolis, and in our hearts and minds!



MAIL THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK TO:

VIP Club P.O. Box 21903
Eagan, MN 55121

APPLICATION/Renewal FORM: Dues: \$7, 1 year ___ \$ 18, 3 years ___ Free if ≥90.

Member __, or Friend __: Address Change __, New __, Renewal __.

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____
 First _____ M.I. _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Street Address or P.O. Box _____ City _____
 (_____) _____ @ _____
 Primary Telephone Number _____ E-mail address _____
 Newsletter delivery standard is Electronic ____, or U.S. Mail ____.

Employer is/was: UNISYS __, Lockheed Martin __, and/or predecessor company ____.

Include my data in the Club's Directory? Yes ___ No ___ DIRECTORY is only available to Members



VIP Club Member Eligibility: Retirees and spouses from **Unisys**, Lockheed Martin, and their MN legacy and successor companies. Active vested employees [and spouses] are also eligible. Successors include Leidos, PDA, et al'.

Life Members (seniors) Former employees aged 90 and above pay no dues!

Friends: Not an ex-employee but a legacy history supporter; CBI, CHAP, DCHS, RCHS, et al'



Club Origination

The VIP Club concept began in 1979 when our founder, Millie Gignac, was conducting pre-retirement interviews with Sperry employees. She saw that most employees were reluctant to rapidly break their ties with the company and in particular friends with whom they had many shared memories.

The first general meeting was held on September 3rd, 1980 with about 75 people in attendance. Officers were elected, plans were made for monthly meetings, and a constitution and by-laws were drawn up. Al Mueller, retired Antenna Coupler engineering manager, was elected the first President.

Membership Benefits

- Annual events participation; Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, Annual June Picnic, and January Holiday party & dinner.
- Club sponsored ZOOM meetings for membership.
- Contacts with former co-workers via the planned social activities and the Club Directory.
- Links to recreational activities; i.e. golf leagues, MN senior centers, etc.
- Opportunities to nurture friendships via Club committees and other volunteer activities.
- Periodic newsletters with event reports, new member recognition, obits, forms, program announcements, Legacy articles, etc..

Club Planned Social Activities

- January—Winter Party; Dinner and Holiday Gathering at the Lost Spur Event Center.
- April—Volunteers' Recognition Luncheon; at Joseph's in St. Paul
- May—Syttende Mai luncheon at Casper's in Eagan.
- June— Reunion picnic in Eagan; beer, brats, burgers, and great friendship stories.
- September—Roseville Good Old Days' gathering in the northern suburbs.
- November - Annual UNIVAC Old Timers' Reunion at the Lost Spur in Eagan
- Other specialty programs such as Happy Hours, open houses, local River Cruises, ..

VIP Club Newsletter

Encouraged Social Activities

- Numerous group meetings at breakfasts, lunch, and dinner venues around the Twin Cities; see web site Activities page, [Activities \(vipclubmn.org\)](http://vipclubmn.org)
- Recreation League combinations of retirees and current Unisys employees—i.e. Golf, PC & Electronics Club, Bowling, etc.