

VIP Club Newsletter

VOLUME 25, NO. 7

www.geocities.com/vipclub2003

JULY 2005

The Number to call for information on Unisys Retirement Status and Benefits: 1-877-864-7972.

The Number to call for information on Lockheed Martin Retirement Status and Benefits: 1--866-562-2363.

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Wednesday, July 06 | Board Meeting, Eagan | 10:00 a.m. |
| Wednesday, July 13 | Annual Picnic Highland Park Pavilion | 4:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday, August 03 | Board Meeting, Roseville | 10:00 a.m. |
| Wednesday, August 10 | Roseville, Program & Social Time | 7:00 p.m. |

JULY PROGRAM: HIGHLAND PARK

COME OUT AND CELEBRATE THE 25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIP CLUB! The VIP Club Annual Picnic will be held at 4:00 p.m. on July 13th. This event enjoys the largest attendance of any Club event each year. It will be held at the Pavilion at Highland Park in St. Paul. A map is shown on page 5. The Club will supply hamburgers, buns, condiments, coffee, and soft drinks. All attendees are requested to bring food items for the potluck portion of the picnic - suggestions of what to bring are based on the first letter of your last name: A - H Dessert; I - P Casseroles; Q - Z Salad.

We will have a Memorabilia Table displaying old Club photos and other items of interest. You are encouraged to bring items to display and share with your fellow VIP Club members.

AUGUST PROGRAM: ROSEVILLE

Do you want to learn a little more about Minnesota weather? Dr Mark Seeley, climatologist / meteorologist from the University of Minnesota Department of Soil, Water and Climate will speak to us on "Climate Trends in Minnesota - Some Implied and Documented Impacts". Recent climate trends in Minnesota show a pronounced warming in the winter months, biased contribution in warmth from minimum temperatures, higher frequency of tropical like dew points, and an increase in annual precipitation. The change in winter temperature has both frequency and

amplitude characteristics that have implications for soil and lake freezing. Minimum temperature trends have had impact on the biological environment as well as animal behaviors. Other consequential implications of these changes in climate characteristics will be discussed.

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

Please send permanent address changes to Dick Mullins addressed to the VIP Club at the address given on the label page of the newsletter. Also, please remember that for temporary changes the U.S. Postal Service will forward your mail.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From: Dale Phelps

Mark your calendar, July 13th at 4:00 PM will be our Annual VIP Club Picnic at the Pavilion in Highland Park (see map on page 5.). This year's picnic is a special occasion, as the VIP Club will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary. Let's really make it a celebration! I encourage those of you who have company memorabilia to bring it for display and share with your fellow VIP Club Members. A

special table will be set up for this memorabilia. All attendees are requested to bring a food item for the potluck portion of the picnic. Please refer to the July Program (page 1) for information on what to bring. Each member attending the picnic will receive a gift commemorating the VIP Clubs 25th anniversary. Hope to see you there for a time of fun and reminiscing.

The June Program meeting, presented by Eleanor Ostman, provided us with a history of best-loved restaurants in Minnesota starting in 1850 to the present with pictures of the buildings and their menus. Eleanor had her two books "Minnesota Eats Out" and "Always on Sunday" for sale and was willing to autograph them. These are two very interesting books.

"VIP Club elections for new officers and directors will be held in November, it is not too early to think about volunteering to become an Officer or Director of the VIP Club. Please talk to any of the present officers or directors if you have questions.

Respectfully, Dale Phelps, VIP Club President

It used to be only death and taxes were inevitable. Now, of course, there's shipping and handling, too.

From the Editors



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DINING CLUBS & GROUPS

Breakfast groups and get-togethers:
One breakfast group meets monthly at 9:00 a.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Tri-City American Legion, Old Hwy 8, New Brighton. Phone: **763-416-3903**.

Another breakfast group meets monthly at 8:00 a.m. on the 1st Thursday of each month at Joseph's Grill, 140 South Wabasha, (Wabasha and Plato) St. Paul. Phone: **651-222-2435**.

Luncheon Groups & Dinner Clubs:

One Unisys Luncheon group meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. at the Old Country Buffet, Holly Shopping Center, located at University Ave. and Mississippi St. just north of I-694. For information call **651-552-1465**

Another Luncheon group (engineering/drafting) meets monthly on the 1st Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. at the Old Country Buffet at 2000 S. Robert, West St. Paul. For information call **651-456-0750**.

And another Luncheon group (Unisys and Burroughs) meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. at the Mall of America 3rd floor North Food Court. We sit at the tables between the elevator and Burger King. For information call **952-854-7855**.

Dinner Club. A **Unisys Dinner Club** meets monthly on the 4th Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. at Champs located at 35E and Larpenteur Avenue. For information call **763-786-1044**.

MEETING & EVENT DATES 2005/2006

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Activity</u> |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| June 08 | 4:00 p.m. | Rsvl | Program - Social Time |
| July 13 | 4:00 p.m. | Park | VIP Club Picnic |
| Aug 10 | 7:00 p.m. | Eagan | Program - Social Time |
| Sept 14 | 7:00 p.m. | Rsvl | Program - Social Time |
| Oct 13 | 7:00 p.m. | Eagan | Program - Social Time |
| Nov. 09 | 6:00 p.m. | Rsvl | Pot Luck – Program |
| Dec. 08 | 5:45 p.m. | USAF | Christmas Party |
| Jan. 11 | 7:00 p.m. | Eagan | Program - Social Time |
| Feb. 08 | 7:00 p.m. | Rsvl | Program - Social Time |
| Mar. 08 | 7:00 p.m. | Eagan | Program - Social Time |
| Apr 12 | 7:00 p.m. | Rsvl | Program - Social Time |
| May. 10 | 7:00 p.m. | Eagan | Program - Social Time |

Note: Rsvl = Roseville, Eagan = Eagan Community Center, Park = Highland Park Pavilion, USAF = NCO Club at U.S. Air Force Base off Hwy 62

WELCOME NEW CLUB MEMBERS

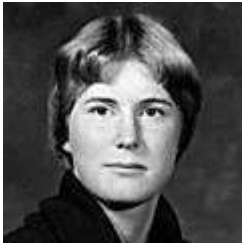
Semanko, James and Harriet **LM** Farmington, MN
Shepard, Arlin & Maureen **LM** Chisago City, MN
Telke, Terry and Marjean **LM** Eagan, MN

U = Unisys B = Burroughs LM = Lockheed
 Martin D = Unisys Defense Systems

IN REMEMBRANCE

Balfe, Herbert W. (Billy) - Age 76, of Inver Grove Heights MN, passed away on May 22, 2005. Survived by loving wife of 45 years, Sharon. Billy was a longtime employee of the Stockyards and Univac, and after retirement drove school bus for the SSP School District.

Haugen, Edward Lee - Born March 28, 1945 In Duluth, Minnesota. Died May 19, 2005 at the Pillars Hospice in Oakdale, Minnesota. Ed worked for the Ford Motor Company from 1970 to 1975 and for Unisys from 1976 until the present.



Hennes, Teresa Anne – Age 48 of St. Paul, MN. Teresa passed away, after a courageous battle with cancer, on Friday, June 10, 2005 at N.C. Little Hospice in Edina. Teresa was employed for 27 years at Lockheed Martin of

Eagan and its predecessor companies (Loral, Unisys, Paramax and Sperry-Univac.



Kovalevsky, Michael F. - Age 83, of St. Paul, MN. Survived by his wife, Olga. Michael was a 20+ year employee of Unisys.



Rosecrans, Dolores E. – Age 88, of Iron River, WI, died Tuesday May 3, 2005 In St. Mary's Medical Center, Duluth. Dolores had worked at Univac in St. Paul, MN. Dolores was preceded in death by her husband, Charles.



Rosa, James Rolland - Age 78 of Coon rapids, MN. Passed away peacefully Sunday, June 12, 2005 after a ten-year battle with cancer. Preceded in death by his wife, Bonnie. Jim was a long time employee for UNIVAC and

UNISYS in the Office Services Dept. Jim was also a VIP Club member.

Wilson, Charles M. - Age 68, born July 18, 1936 in Dayton KY. Died May 25, 2005 in Elko, MN of cancer. Charlie was a 25 yr Customer Engineering employee of Unisys and 8 yrs with Lockheed Martin. Charlie is survived by his wife, Kazuko.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OLD TIMERS FIELD ENGINEERING PICNIC

Mark your calendars for the OLD TIMERS FIELD ENGINEERING PICNIC. This picnic will be at Spring Lake Park Reserve /Schaar's Bluff on the 6th

of August from noon to five. This picnic is arranged and sponsored by Curt Anderson. More information and directions will be in the August newsletter. Questions can be directed to Curt Anderson at 651-438-9851 or email anderscurt@comcast.net.

A husband is someone who, after taking the trash out, gives the impression that he just cleaned the whole house.

HEALTH ISSUES

Social Security

The push to decrease benefits for the 50 and under crowd and add the private accounts seems to have faded a bit as an issue in the popular press. The realization that the Social Security funding shortfall is several decades away (and the projections are subject to revisions for all sorts of reasons) removes any sense of urgency for big changes. Most of us are appreciating a benefit that is not subject to market conditions and actually grows.

I got my HANDS OFF OUR SOCIAL SECURITY T-shirt at the state capitol rally on June 17 and spoke as a representative of the MN Senior Federation. The applause came when I said the real social insurance problem was with Medicare. Submitted by Brian Berggren.

Medicare

The president's visit to Maple Grove turned out to be a promotional effort for the Part D Prescription Drug benefit. Bush called it an early start to a "massive education effort." The education has to start with the Medicare officials. Robert Pear (StarTrib 5/22) wrote that the draft of the 2006 Medicare handbook had many statements that were "inaccurate, misleading, or incomprehensible, even to people who have worked on the program for decades." The handbook didn't even mention the coverage gap – the infamous donut-hole.

The Kaiser Family Foundation survey showed only 9 percent of the eligible seniors intend to enroll for the drug benefit (68% were not looking at the program favorably). In Minnesota, approximately 6 percent of the eligible seniors have incomes below 135 percent of poverty and have assets of \$6,000 or less, including burial plot; hopefully, this group will all sign up for no-cost drugs. The other three percent likely to sign up are those with the big prescription costs that get the 95 percent coverage. Bush is right. If he can't get the majority, or at least a respectable minority, the program's costs will go ballistic. What the president is really asking is that the children of seniors help their parents fill out the four-page Part

D application – but without trying to understand it any better than he does.

With the pharmacy benefit managers negotiating discounts and rebates from whatever prices the drug manufacturers set, it's a cinch that drug costs will continue to rise and enrollee premium costs will keep pace. Again, the big flaw with Part D is that the Congress has prohibited Medicare from negotiating drug prices with the manufacturers.

Here is another bit of nonsense from Medicare administrators. The health plans (like Medica and HealthPartners) have been told not to release information on their 2006 Medicare programs until October 1. Submitted by Brian Berggren.

Medical Education

On June 14 and 15 I attended the program on Consumer Focused Health Care: Beyond the Health Savings Account at the National Institute of Health Policy at St. Thomas. I was a little unsure of the consumer-health savings account part of the title. The emphasis was on chronic conditions and why we must change medical systems from the acute care model to the chronic care model.

The revelation was that 125 million Americans had a chronic illness in 2000, and the projection is for 157 million by 2020. Three million of us live with five or more chronic conditions, with a disproportionate number living in a rural area or in an ethnic or racial minority. Poorly managed chronic illnesses can lead to major disability and functional limitation, with very costly consequences. The average annual health care cost for someone with no chronic illness is \$1,105; the cost for someone with a chronic illness is \$6,032. Disabled individuals with a chronic illness have \$10,908 in health care costs, and individuals with functional limitations in addition to a chronic illness and disability have \$16,245 in costs.

One of the presenters said we have to “disrupt” the current system. Small changes and trying to keep all the current special interests happy is not going to lead to any improvement. I've got a load of information and hope to share more of it in future pieces. Submitted by Brian Berggren.

HAPPENINGS

THE BIRTH OF THE VIP CLUB

By Millie Gignac

After working at Sperry Univac Headquarters in Blue Bell, Pa., for five years, I was transferred back to St. Paul Defense Systems where I conducted preretirement classes for Defense and Roseville employees. As I worked closely with employees

getting ready to retire, I observed that many were reluctant to break the "Sperry-tie".

So, in the fall of 1979, I started to plan a clubroom for our retirees. Our Plant Engineering Department was asked to draw up floor plans with cost estimates. I was allotted approximately 1465 square feet in our Shepard Road plant. This plant was centrally located sort of "in the middle" of all our Twin City plant locations and was accessible by public transportation. Not only were top management supportive, but also our manufacturing management who gave up prime space in a manufacturing facility.

Action on these plans started in early spring 1980. The section of the plant to be used had to be completely renovated removing old walls, paneling, ceiling and replacing those with new. In addition, new wiring and plumbing had to be installed, and a fully equipped kitchenette designed and installed. Carpeting was laid, and furniture was selected and ordered. We had decided that we needed, in addition to the kitchen, a lounge area with a television, comfortable chairs and sofas, plus an area with tables for card playing, games, and writing letters. Our basic purpose was to provide a permanent base from which the employee club could operate, but leave it to the group's own initiative to plan activities, take trips and engage in projects. We had further envisioned that the Company's support would be limited to aid in the initial forming of the organization, providing the space and facilities without charge, a very modest budgetary contribution annually and continuing guidance and support from the Personnel Office as required.

While all this was going on, we had made no contact with the retirees. I simply assumed they would welcome the idea with open arms! In April 1980, I compiled a list of retirees--people who were enthusiastic about life and were receptive to new ideas, I selected a mixture of male, female, salaried and bargaining unit retirees, and invited them to lunch to discuss starting a Sperry Retiree Club. Needless to say, the group was ready to go! We continued to meet, and they compiled a letter which was sent to over 450 Twin City area retirees.

By June 1st we had received responses from 150 retirees who expressed an interest in forming a club. We sent a follow-up letter advising them that due to summer vacations, the first meeting would be held in September.

Meanwhile, the construction and furnishing of the club room was completed (at a cost of \$35,000). We planned a ribbon cutting ceremony for July 24, 1980 and I invited Bob McDonald, who had just retired as

President & Chief Operating Officer of Sperry Corporation, to take part in the ceremony and cut the ribbon (See picture below). He was delighted to be included. (He also came back some time later to speak at one of the Club's monthly meetings.)



VIP Club ribbon cutting ceremony, July 24, 1980. Shown from left to right: Al Mueller, Robert McDonald, and Millie Gignac.

The first general meeting was held on September 3rd with about 75 in attendance. Officers were elected; plans were made for future monthly meetings and a set of rules were drawn up. Club members were advised they would have to abide by Company regulations, but other than that they were on their own -- it was their club --even as far as clean-up was concerned. Our maintenance people (in fact, all employees) were not allowed in the room. It was not intended to be an employee lounge area. A well-written constitution and by-laws were drawn up

which protected the Club and the Company. The Club Room was open 24 hours a day.

In 1982 we were successful in getting the Club, as a group, involved in community volunteer work. They took on many projects, which resulted in the retirees being a good-will extension of the Company and an asset to our community.

In this year, our 25th anniversary, the Club continues to grow, and many of our members continue to be an asset to their community.

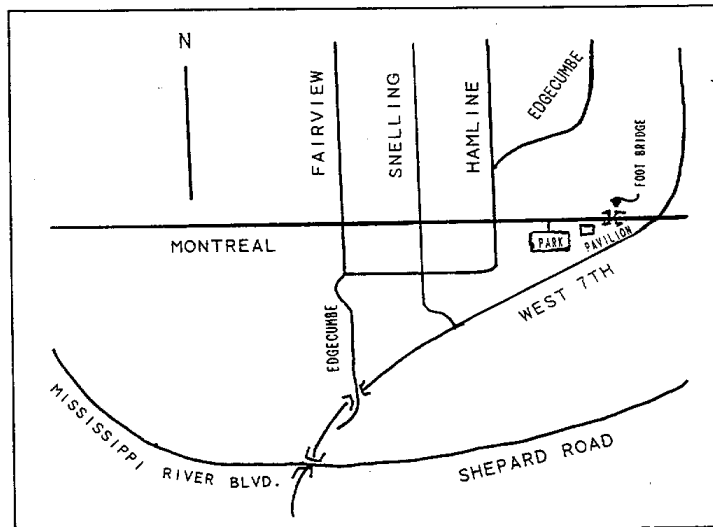
THE LIGHTER SIDE

An engineer was crossing a road one day when a frog called out to him and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful princess." He bent over, picked up the frog and put it into his pocket. The frog spoke up again and said' "If you kiss me and turn me back into a beautiful princess, I will a stay with you for one week." The engineer took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it, and returned it to his pocket. The frog then cried out, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a beautiful princess, I will stay with you and do ANYTHING you want." Again the engineer took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it and returned it to his pocket. Finally the frog asked, what is the matter? I've told you I'm a beautiful princess and that I'll stay with you for one week and do anything you want." Why don't you kiss me?" The engineer said, "Look, I'm an engineer. I don't have time for a girlfriend, but a talking frog, now that's cool."

MAP TO THE ST PAUL PAVILION IN HIGHLAND PARK

PLAN TO BE AT THE PARK BY 4:00 PM FOR THE PICNIC. DRESS COMFORTABLY AND EXPECT TO HAVE A GOOD TIME.

The entrance to the parking lot for the Pavilion (Highland Park Shelter building) is just west of the entrance to the park where the swimming pool is located. It is the first entrance on the south side of Montreal west of the foot bridge over Montreal.



**VIP CLUB – MS 4003
P.O. BOX 64942
ST PAUL MN 55164**

VIP CLUB OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS FOR THE YEAR 2004

* = A/C 651, + = A/C 612, @ = A/C 763, # = A/C 952

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
OFFICERS**

President.....Dale Phelps #831-7843
Vice Pres.....Bernie Jansen *681-9988
Secretary.....Jim Larson *698-3963
Treasurer.....Jack Farber *785-9557
Past Pres.....Hank Dotzler #892-0175

DIRECTORS

Director.....Brian Berggren *451-9009
Director.....Dick Mullins *552-8837
Director.....Joseph Schwarz *698-9698
Director.....Marion Scott *455-7952

VOLUNTEER CHAIRPERSONS

Courage Center Programs
Bernie & Kathryn Jansen *681-9988
Red Cross Blood Drive
Marion Scott.....*455-7952

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

Membership Dick Mullins *552-8837
Programs Eagan Dale Phelps #831-7843
Programs Roseville ... Jack Farber *785-9557
Newsletter Editors Brian Berggren *451-9009
& Joe Schwarz *698-9698

WEBMASTER

Joe Schwarz *698-9698
email address: vipclub2003@yahoo.com

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

Christmas..... Dorothy Becker #881-3516
Picnic.....Chuck Homan *699-5180

Metro Sr. Fed.....Brian Berggren *451-9009
John Dufour *639-8289
Jim Larson *698-3963

Sunshine.....Jim Larson *698-3963
Lynn Farris Lindholm *484-1030

Travel Opportunities
Roger Gillette +926-7214
& Yvonne Cecchini at *423-9196

UNISYS Liaison, Roseville Judy Cognetta *635-6563
Printing & Mailing UNISYS Print Shop, Roseville

Lockheed Martin, Eagan Liaison Sheri Grone *456-2210

Directions to Eagan Community Center. Take Hwy 35E south or north to Pilot Knob Road. Turn left (north) on Pilot Knob Road. Turn left on Central Parkway (which is also the North entrance to Lockheed). The Eagan Community Center is at 1501 Central Parkway.

Directions to Unisys in Roseville. Take Hwy 35W south, or north, to the Industrial Way / St. Anthony Blvd off ramp. If coming north or south on Hwy 35E go west on Hwy 36 which will take you to the Industrial Way / St. Anthony Blvd. off ramp of 35W (Hwy 36 becomes Hwy 35W where it joins Hwy 35W). Go north on St. Anthony Blvd. to Walnut St. (the first street on the right). Turn right and go to Highcrest which is the first place where you can turn left. Past the stop sign. Bldg 3 is on the right. Gate 5 is in the center of the building.

From Hwy 280 northbound, use left lane exit just past Cty Rd B for Terminal road access (St Croix St.). Turn left at Terminal Rd, then turn right at Highcrest Rd to building entrance.