

VIP Club Newsletter

VOLUME 25, NO. 12 www.geocities.com/vipclub2003 DECEMBER 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, December 06	Board Meeting, Eagan	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, December 08	Christmas Party, NCO Club	5:45 p.m.

Wednesday, January 04	Board Meeting, Roseville	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, January 11	Roseville, Program & Social Time	7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our annual VIP Club Christmas Party is on a Thursday this year; December 08 is the date and the NCO Club is the place. Following a social hour, The Twin Cities Women's Choir will present a program of Christmas music. After dinner the Connie Villars Quartette will play music for listening and dancing. **REMEMBER TO CARRY PICTURE I.D.** For those who would like to attend but are unable to drive at night, please give one of your officers a call; we may be able to arrange a ride. (See map to the NCO Club on page 4 and reservation form on page 5).

JANUARY PROGRAM: ROSEVILLE

Our world traveler Jack Farber will again share his slides and experiences. On this trip we will visit the Northern half of France. You will see the beaches of Normandy the week before the 60th anniversary of D-Day. Other highlights include some of the Chateaus of French nobility, the Gardens of Claude Monet, Paris and more.

YOUR NEWSLETTER WILL STOP

IF YOUR ADDRESS LABEL HAS 2005 AFTER YOUR NAME, YOU ARE NOT PAID FOR 2006. THE YEARLY RATE HAS INCREASED TO \$5. **SAVE MONEY AND RENEW FOR 3 YEARS FOR \$12.** PLEASE USE THE DUES COUPON ON PAGE 5 AND RENEW FOR 3 YEARS OR MORE AT A \$4 PER YEAR RATE.

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

It is time to think of Christmas as a time to remember, receive and rejoice. May your Christmas be blessed in every way. Our November meeting started with socialization and fellowship followed by a potluck dinner. Thanks to the many wonderful cooks who provided a fantastic array of foods. Following dinner the Election of officers, for the year 2006, was held and the results are as follows:

President - Bernie Jansen

Vice President - Brian Berggren

Secretary - Lynn Lindholm

Treasurer - Jack Farber

Past President - Dale Phelps

Directors – Dick Mullens, Marion Scott, Joe Schwarz and Lowell Benson. Congratulations to the VIP Club Board. New members to the board are Lynn Lindholm, and Lowell Benson.

For our relaxation and entertainment, the Barb Piper and Bill Hammond Duo gave us a musical rendition of some old and new songs. Barb Piper is the daughter of Hank and Geri Dotzler. We are fortunate to have some home grown talent like Barb and Bill.

Hope all of you plan to attend our annual VIP Club Christmas Party Dinner Dance to be held Thursday 8 December 2005 at the NCO Club. It is a gala event and we would like to see all of you there.

Respectfully, Dale Phelps, VIP Club President

From the Editors



Brian Berggren (651-451-9009) &
Joe Schwarz (651-698-9698)

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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**.

SIGN ON EDITORS DESK

Never be redundant – never, never, never.

MEETING & EVENT DATES 2005/2006

Date	Time	Location	Activity
Dec. 08	5:45 p.m.	USAF	Christmas Party
Jan. 11	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Feb. 08	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
Mar. 08	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Apr 12	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
May. 10	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
June 14	4:00 p.m.	Park	VIP Club Picnic
July 12	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
Aug 9	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Sept 13	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
Oct 11	6:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Pot Luck Program
Nov. 08	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

Charlton, Art U Forest Lake, MN
Crandall, Elwin and Ruth U Battle Lake, MN
Danneker, Don and Joyce LM Bloomington, MN
Grass, Darell and Helen LM Eagan, MN
Hartung, Richard and Kristine U Dresser, WI
Haupt, Larry and Carol LM Roseville, MN
Svensden, Mike na Joan U Bloomington, MN
Toomey, Paul and Daphne U Bloomington, MN
U = Unisys B = Burroughs LM = Lockheed Martin D = Unisys Defense Systems

IN REMEMBRANCE



Engstrom, Kenneth Robert - Age 71, of Eden Prairie, MN. Passed away peacefully on Nov. 3, 2005 after a yearlong struggle with melanoma. Kenneth is survived by loving wife, Marsha;



Knaak, John L - Age 71 of Northfield, MN formerly of Burnsville, MN. He is survived by his wife, Barbara. John was a long time employee of Lockheed Martin (Unisys).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DID YOU FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY ON DECEMBER 8TH. SEE PAGE 5 FOR RESERVATION FORM.

THE ANNUAL OLD WHATEVERS SOCIAL at the Fort Snelling Officer's Club will be on Thursday, December 1st, starting at 11 a.m. There will be two cash bars and lunch will be available. We have been asked to keep our socializing out of the hall to minimize access problems of the regular members. There is no admission fee. If you have any questions contact Earl Lillestrand 952-884-7619.

HEALTH ISSUES

Medicare Part D

In the past month I've attended a community center Part D presentation, a Part D Community Forum, and given a Medicare In Crisis program at a community center. All left the attendees with varying degrees of confusion, and a wonder at how Congress and Medicare administrators could devise such a complicated program.

The Minnesota Senior Federation's 2006 Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Preview lists 17 Medicare Advantage (HMO-type) plans and 40 Standalone Prescription Drug plans available in Minnesota. As I wrote last month, the plans have different monthly costs, different drug prices, different formularies, different co pays, and different deductibles.

The cheapest plan, at \$1.87 per month, requires use of select pharmacies and likely formulary restrictions. The most expensive plan costs \$99.90, has no deductible, and pays 70% of drug costs through the coverage gap (I think). Another plan has \$5 co pays through the gap for generics only.

I also better understand the 1% per month penalty. The penalty percentage is based on the number of months passed from 15 May 2006 to the next open

enrollment period (15 Nov. 2006), - 7 months/7 percent. A delay until the Nov. 2007 enrollment period would add another 12 months for a total of 19 percent. The dollar penalty is the total percent times the average national monthly premium. Every year forevermore the penalty percent will be applied to an ever-increasing average premium.

To sign up for a PDP, you can do it on line at either www.medicare.gov or www.accesstobenefits.org. You also can sign up on paper with a plan representative or by phone to the plan. You are never to sign up in response to a call from a plan representative; you must initiate the call to the plan's phone number. Payment for the PDP can be made either as a deduction from your social security or by check directly to the PDP.

This program, with all its options and variables, was designed to be complicated for seniors and do nothing to control drug costs. When the Forum presenter asked how many in the audience used or had access to the Internet, far fewer than 10% raised their hands. Most will be dependent on children or volunteers to find a suitable plan. And we as a country are borrowing money from our trading partners to pay the governments' part of this "benefit."

You are encouraged to use the Medicare and Access to Benefits websites for drug formulary and cost comparisons. Help by phone is available at the Senior Linkage Line at 1-800-333-2433 (M-F 8a.m.-7p.m., Sat. 8-12) or at the Minnesota Senior Federation at 651-645-0261 ext.145. Two additional websites for information are: Kaiser Family Foundation at www.kff.org/medicare, and Medicare Rights Center at www.medicarerights.org. Submitted by Brian Berggren.

Universal Healthcare

At the last Medicare Justice Coalition Public Policy meeting, we heard about the latest Congressional inaction on reimbursement cuts; the Senate wants to eliminate the scheduled 4% cut and add a 1% increase, while the House still has nothing planned. Similarly, no action on prescription drug importation or the bills supporting critical access hospitals and labs. Value based purchasing, a pay for performance initiative, is in a Senate Baucus/Grassley bill and would possibly help the Midwest reduce geographic inequity; we passed a resolution urging our delegation to support the bill.

Other discussions involved support of cost contracts versus risk contracts, and how the Medicare administrators mask profit and loss bookkeeping to the providers. Rural Minnesotans rely heavily on

cost contracts for HMO-type coverage and Rep. Thomas (R-Ca) wants them to go away.

The Consumer Group meeting was again amazed at the tinkering the Congressional bunch does and the responses the providers are obligated to make to stay competitive. Costs go up and the fixed-income bunch gets farther behind.

One of the progressive websites I frequently check has come out with a Healthcare for America policy. But it still uses an insurance model that generates money for the uninsured through a small value-added tax. It looks like just more complicated fixing of a defective vehicle. I hope a few of you listened to Pres. Clinton's talk from Northrup Auditorium. He stated so well what many have been saying for quite a while: the U.S. spends 15% of its product on health, while Canada and Switzerland spend 11% - and the other industrialized nations spend even less. Our health outcomes do not reflect the money spent on our sick system, and our overhead of 34% is far higher than the 19% or less spent in other systems.

Of the 34 industrialized nations, 33 provide universal care. Ours is the only one that is dependent on its citizens buying insurance. Submitted by Brian Berggren.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

Subject: Life explained

On the first day, God created the dog and said: "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years." The dog said: "That's a long time to be barking. How about only

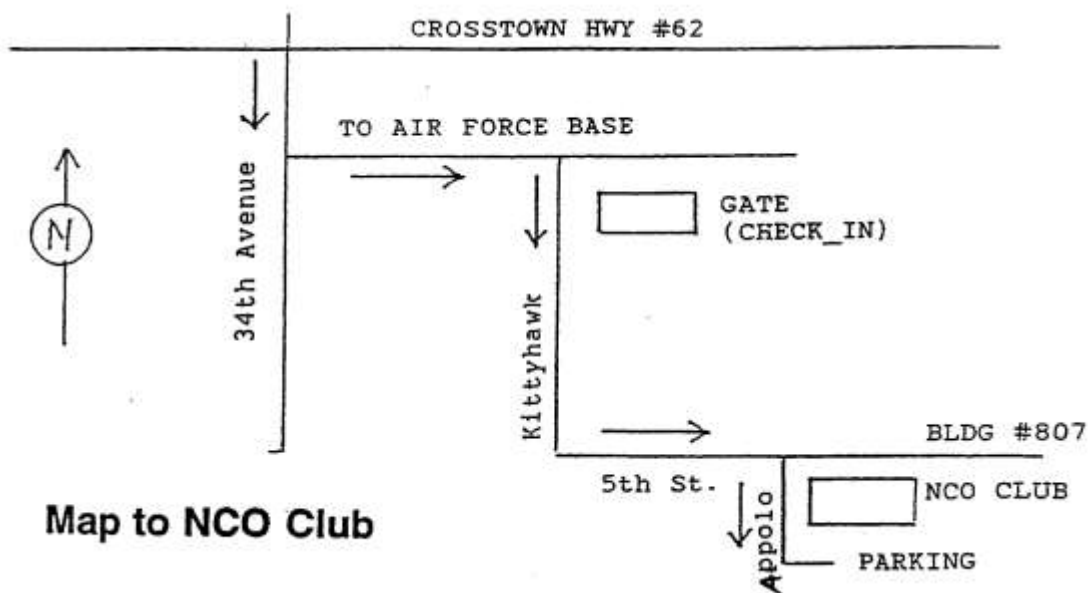
ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?" So God agreed.

On the second day, God created the monkey and said: "Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span." The monkey said: "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the Dog did?" And God agreed.

On the third day, God created the cow and said: "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years". The cow said: "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?" And God agreed again.

On the fourth day, God created man and said: "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you twenty years." But man said: "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?" "Okay," said God, "You asked for it."

So that is why the first twenty years we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next ten years we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren. And for the last ten years we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone. Life has now been explained to you.



ABOUT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

5:45 pm - 6:30 pm

Social Time

6:30 pm - 7:15 pm

Christmas Music Presented by
The Twin Cities Women's Choir

7:15 pm - 8:00 pm

Enjoy an elegant sit down dinner with your choice of Top Sirloin,
Champagne Chicken or Walleye Pike

8:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Dancing to the music you like by The Connie Villars Quartette.

VIP CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY, Dinner-Dance Reservation Form

Please reserve, at \$25.00 each, ____ place(s) for the Annual VIP Club Christmas Party, Dinner & Dance being held Thursday, December 08, 2005 at the NCO Club at the Air Force Base off Hwy 62. The social time begins at 5:45 p.m., at 6:30 Christmas Music, at 7:15 dinner will be served then at 8:00 The Connie Villars Quartette will play music for your listening and dancing enjoyment. Please send in your reservations now, since seating is limited. **Your reservation must be received by Nov. 30th.** If your reservation is for more than 2 persons, please attach a list of added names and you will be all seated together at a reserved table.

Picture ID required for entry to Air Force Base.

Check here () if you have attached _____ additional names.

Names: _____

Address _____, _____

Entree selection(s) & qty.: Top Sirloin ____; Champagne Chicken ____; Walleye Pike ____

Please make your check or checks payable to: **VIP CLUB**

Mail to:

Dorothy Becker
8630 Queen Avenue South
Bloomington, MN 55431

Phone: 952-881-3516

-----CUT HERE-----

VIP CLUB APPLICATION AND RENEWAL FORM

Retiree Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____
STREET ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP

Phone: () _____

Check here if your address
or phone number has changed

New Member(s) _____
Renewing Member(s) _____

Company: Lockheed Martin & Predecessors: ____; Unisys: Univac & Predecessors: ____; Unisys: Burroughs: ____

Please make check payable to
the VIP CLUB and mail to
address shown at right:

VIP CLUB
Jack Farber
5700 Villa Dr.
Shoreview MN 55126

Dues: \$12 for 3 years
Single year rate \$5. Note to new
members: Your newsletters start
after dues are received.

Check here if you do not wish to have your name listed in the VIP Members directory. (Directory distributed to members only)

SAVE MONEY ON DUES – PAY \$12 FOR 3 YEARS OR \$5 FOR ONE YEAR

**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

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

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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.