

# VIP Club Newsletter

**VOLUME 26, NO. 05**

**www.geocities.com/vipclub2003**

**MAY 2006**

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, May 03	Board Meeting, Roseville	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, May 10	Roseville, Program & Social Time	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, June 07	Board Meeting, Eagan	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, June 14	Annual Picnic Highland Park Pavilion	4:00 p.m.

## MAY PROGRAM: ROSEVILLE

**Global food shortage vs. global food surplus.** A contradiction in terms. What are the issues behind this situation. Experts would agree that there is more than enough food on the planet to feed everyone. In fact in a recent study, one expert calculated that there is enough food to feed every person 2800 calories a day. Yet, despite this, 1 billion people on the planet are malnourished, 40,000 children die every day from starvation and starvation related illnesses.

Our speaker for May is someone who deals with this problem on a regular basis. Brian Molohon, from Feed My Starving Children, a Christian international food relief agency, will discuss the many facets of the global hunger issue, as well as, share the Feed My Starving Children story and how they are positively impacting thousands of children by the meals they provide. Last year Feed My Starving Children shipped 16 million highly nutritious packaged meals, many prepared by volunteers in the Twin Cities, to children in 38 countries around the world.

## JUNE PICNIC: HIGHLAND PARK

**COME OUT AND CELEBRATE!** 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. 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 will be listed in the June issue of the newsletter.

## ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

Please send permanent address changes to Jack Farber 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: Bernie Jansen**

Our program on April 12th in Eagan featured a color presentation on the purpose, facilities, and programs of the Minnesota landscape Arboretum by Director, Peter J. Olin. Mr. Olin gave a very interesting and informative program that was very well received by the Club members. There were approximately 40 VIP Club members in attendance.

Unisys hosted the Annual "Volunteer Recognition Breakfast" for members of the VIP Club on Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at Unisys, Roseville. The response to the Year 2005 "Volunteer Hours Survey Form" was the best ever received. Approximately 70 members attended the Breakfast. A more detailed report on the Breakfast will appear in the June Newsletter.

The VIP Club Liaison to Unisys for many years has been Judy Coggnetta. Judy has retired and the Club extends her its Best Wishes. In acknowledgement of her excellent service to the Club we sent her a floral arrangement. The temporary Unisys Club Liaison is Sue Carrigan; she can be reached at 651-635-7955.

In support of the Lockheed Martin Legacy History project a coordination meeting with LM representatives was held on April 5<sup>th</sup>. See the "LEGACY NEWS UPDATE" on page 4 of the Newsletter for more information.

Respectfully, Bernie Jansen, VIP Club President

## From the Editors



**Brian Berggren** (651-451-9009) &  
**Joe Schwarz** (651-698-9698)  
**Address:** VIP Club, 1486 Fairmount Ave, St Paul MN 55105 e-mail: [vipclub2003@yahoo.com](mailto:vipclub2003@yahoo.com)  
**The Newsletter Editorial Staff:**  
 Bernie Jansen, e-mail [bj skj@hotmail.com](mailto:bj skj@hotmail.com)  
 Richard Lundgren, e-mail [rflundgr@aol.com](mailto:rflundgr@aol.com)  
 Don Naaktgeboren, e-mail [donfishn@juno.com](mailto:donfishn@juno.com)

## 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**.

**Both optimists and pessimists contribute to our society. The optimist invents the airplane, and the pessimist the parachute.**

## MEETING & EVENT DATES 2006

Date	Time	Location	Activity
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
<b>June 14</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Park</b>	<b>VIP Club Picnic</b>
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
<b>Dec. 14</b>	<b>5:45 p.m.</b>	<b>USAF</b>	<b>Christmas Party</b>

**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

**Althoff, Mike & Suzanne** LM Burnsville, MN.  
**Davies, Donald & Jean** U Green Valley, AZ.  
**Madson, Gregory** U Minneapolis, MN.  
**Hanson, Barbara** U Rosemont, MN.

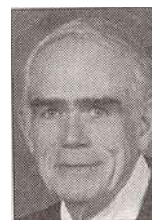
U = Unisys B = Burroughs LM = Lockheed Martin D = Unisys Defense Systems

## IN REMEMBRANCE

**Bohen, Thomas J.** "Tom" - Age 63, of North Branch died unexpectedly on March 28, 2006 while following his dream of piloting his own aircraft. Tom is survived by loving wife, Lynne. Tom worked for Unisys for 25 years before leaving to become a trained master electrician.

**Fredricksen, Ernest F.**, of Tampa, FL. passed away August 19, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Jayne Fredricksen. Ernest was a Unisys retiree and a long time member of the VIP Club.

**Johnson, Clarence A.** - Age 79 of Burnsville, MN. He is survived by adoring wife, Janice. Clarence was a Univac retiree.



**Mirsch, Marvin** "Marv" - Age 74 of Prior Lake, MN. He passed away on March 27, 2006. Marv was preceded in death by his wife, Pearl Anne (Walter). Marv retired after a 35 year career with Unisys.

**Morrison, Harry L.** - Age 72, of Prior Lake, MN. Harry passed away peacefully on March 15, 2006 after a courageous battle with cancer. He is survived by his loving wife, Kay. Harry retired after a 40-year career with Unisys.



**Wonsiewicz, Joyce May** –Age 65 of St. Anthony. Passed away on March 29, in her 65th year. Joyce retired from Unisys after 20 years of service. She is survived by loving husband of 46 years, Jerome.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLOODMOBILE INFORMATION**

#### **Bloodmobile Information from Marion Scott:**

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped at the March 31<sup>st</sup> blood drive at Unisys Roseville. 41 units of blood were collected. Volunteering were; Jim Montain, Alice Montain, Leroy DuBois and Loretta DuBois. Future blood drives are scheduled for August 23<sup>rd</sup> at Lockheed Martin and August 24<sup>th</sup> at MACS.

### **ANNUAL NORWEGIAN SYTTENDE MAI LUNCHEON PLANNED – MAY 12, 2006**

Celebrate your Norwegian heritage, or that of your friends or associates, by attending a luncheon in recognition of Norway's Constitution Day, Syttende Mai (May 17<sup>th</sup>). This event, a tradition for more than 30 years, will again be held at Casper's Cherokee Sirloin Room, 4625 Nicols Rd, Eagan on Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. The price of the lunch is \$13.00 which includes a delicious buffet, beverage (coffee, tea or milk), salad, rolls, and dessert, tax and tip. The buffet opens at 11:15, so come early. A great program is planned. Contact Dale Phelps (952-831-7843) by May 8 if you would like to attend.

## **HEALTH ISSUES**

### **The Voice of Our Last HHS Leader**

Former Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson has taken the time to share with us his wisdom on Medicare Part D and the dangers of imported drugs (30 March 2006 Pioneer Press). This is 2006 and he is using the ratty old unsafe drug script that the Deputy FDA Commissioner, CMS Commissioner, and Healthcare Leadership Council president have been reading from for the last couple of years – as updated by current FDA Commissioner von Eschenbach.

Tommy tells us "...there is clear evidence that the new Part D prescription drug benefit is providing our nation's seniors...with access to affordable, safe, and effective prescription drugs, without looking

beyond our borders." He cites Minnesota's Human Services Commissioner Kevin Goodno, "who recently said, '(Part D) is working.'" He follows with some assuring words from AARP: "the new prescription drug benefit provides seniors with a cheaper alternative to drugs advertised as 'Canadian'" and "they will likely pay less than they would in paying the full cost of drugs from Canada or elsewhere." He concludes his pitch by saying the Part D benefit "is growing every day, with enrollment exceeding expectations nationally and at the state level. Convincing evidence? The statements may be true in some situations and in some places, and just as surely false in many others.

Thompson proves himself more politician than administrator when he starts his unsafe drugs spin with the old and thoroughly discredited line, "FDA inspections have consistently found that a significant percentage of drugs advertised as 'Canadian' actually come from other countries." He then cites the FDA's "Operation Bait and Switch (Dec 16, 2005) which found that 85 percent of the inspected drugs that were advertised as Canadian in fact originated in 27 other countries." Our drug supply is of global origin and the Minnesota Senior Federation has a pretty good collection of manufacturers' containers from Ireland, England, France, Germany, Switzerland, New Zealand, Chile, Israel, Denmark, Australia, Puerto Rico. Some are even made in Canada and the U.S.

Thompson goes on to say that our "customs officials should be commended for diligently performing their job of confiscating illegal shipments of (Canadian) drugs." He then says the FDA chief considers the Canadian drugs as "of dubious origin, safety and efficacy." The truth is the Canadian drugs are in sealed manufacturers' containers, not repackaged, recounted, relabeled, and re-priced as in the U.S. Submitted by Brian Berggren.

### **Medicare Part D Last Chance**

On April 12, about two dozen Minnesota Senior Federation volunteers went to the TPT2 studio for the taping of the follow-up version of "Decoding Medicare Part D – Enrollment Countdown." The stress, naturally, was on the program enrollment period closing 15 May and not opening again until the next period starting in November; also emphasized was the 7% penalty imposed on those eligible to enroll but who chose not to by mid-May. Like the first program, this was hosted by Dave Durenburger and moderated by Fred de Sam Lazaro, with representatives from the medical, pharmaceutical, and senior communities; we were exposed to a hard sell and were given no chance to ask our questions.

The sell started with an attention getting: "You are one doctor visit away from catastrophic coverage."

This was followed by: “Anyone spending \$300 to \$500 will save money.” Were they talking about spending \$300-500 a year or a month? The former will not save money; but anyone spending \$300-500 per month will be in the 95% reimbursement group.

There was a brief mention of the income and asset limits for those under 150% of poverty and some discussion of the need to evaluate the formularies of all programs for needed drugs. But the emphasis was on getting people to enroll regardless of drug expenses, health histories, or age.

Two of us were selected to ask pre-written simple questions that had nothing to do with Medicare Part D. No questions about delaying the deadline, allowing imported drugs, having the government negotiate prices as done for the VA. Ex-senator Durenburger, the only non-health industry representative on MedPAC (Congress’ Medicare advisory group), told us to find one of the 57 insurance plans, enroll before the deadline, and save some money on your drugs – nothing is likely to change in the next few years.

I’m all for those in the low income-low asset group taking part in Part D; most of this group should have been enrolled automatically. I also think anyone with huge drug expenses should get in a plan that best covers the needed drugs. What doesn’t get mentioned is the senior with drugs that cost only a few hundred dollars a year, or who has a good family health history and no chronic conditions, or who is very old and doing ok without drug coverage. Figure out what might really help you rather than what someone wants to sell you.

We had started hoping someone would listen to our voices telling of all the things wrong with Medicare Part D, how some simple changes would save the government debt piles of money, and how the program could be made user-friendly and fair. We got conned. Submitted by Brian Berggren.

## **LEGACY NEWS UPDATE**

**A Sexagenarian in the Family** – 60 years ago J. Presper Eckert and John Mauchly gave birth (an odd situation) to ENIAC for the benefit of the U.S. Army. The 30 ton (oofda!) baby ENIAC, short for Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer, was one of the very early predecessors of the digital machines that launched the computer age. ENIAC was an 18,000 vacuum tube (that’s all they had in 1946) machine that could perform 5000 additions per second. It was also a decimal (at least one redeeming human feature) machine that would soon be superseded by the digital variety. ENIAC’s younger brother EDVAC (Electronic Discrete Variable Automatic Computer) followed shortly, and then came the most famous family member UNIVAC (Universal Automatic Computer). “What

hath Babbage wrought” evolved into “What hath Eckert and Mauchly wrought?”

The private company founded by Eckert and Mauchly in Philadelphia had marvelous engineering talent, but was undercapitalized and could not (in spite of clever machine names) survive on its own. An attempt to go public in 1947 bought a little time, but didn’t solve the undercapitalization problem. Finally, in February of 1950 the company was bought by Remington Rand Corporation, with orthodox decimalists, Eckert and Mauchly, undergoing a saving conversion to reformed binarism. The RemRand company name was followed by Sperry and Unisys, but the name UNIVAC was indelibly imprinted on our industry and on our legacy history.

What ever happened to the baby? ENIAC began calculating for the government beginning in postwar 1945, continued calculating for more than 80,000 hours without getting bored, and was laid to rest in 1955. Submitted by Richard Lundgren.

**“Common Roots” with NWA** – Our Company’s Twin Cities operations has shared some common history with Northwest Airlines. Most know that the computer industry in Minnesota began at the former glider factory at 1902 West Minnehaha in St. Paul. The glider factory was owned by Northwestern Aeronautical Corporation (NAC) that had begun manufacturing gliders for the war effort in 1942 using hangar space leased from NWA at the Minneapolis airport. By 1943 the hangar space was much too small, and NAC President John E. Parker, who was also on the board of directors of Northwest Airlines, was able to acquire the much larger facility on West Minnehaha. In 1945 the glider demand evaporated, but Parker, through connections and luck, sensed an investment opportunity in a classified business area. Parker’s financing group teamed with a technical group which included William Norris (later of CDC), and Engineering Research Associates (ERA) was launched in January of 1946. As the computers of ERA evolved, so did the name on the company sign from ERA to Remington Rand to Sperry and Unisys

Postwar headquarters for Northwest Airlines were located at 1885 University Avenue in St. Paul. New headquarters were built at the Minneapolis Airport, and the governing functions and personnel were transferred there in the 1959/60 time frame. When NWA moved out of 1885, Univac moved in. At least one NWA employee at 1885 went on to become a Univac employee (VIP Club founding member Millie Gignac) in the same building.

NWA also tracks its history and keeps a visual (and visit able) record of it at the NWA History Centre, 8101 34<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. in Bloomington, MN. It’s open M-F 11-5. More information is available at

[www.NWAHistory.org](http://www.NWAHistory.org). NWA has been a consistent Univac/Unisys customer for reservation systems and for Lockheed Martin heritage aircraft, such as the Lockheed Orion 9D, the Lockheed Electra 10-A and Superelectra 14-H, the Lockheed Super constellation 1049G, and L-188C Electra, and the Martin 202.

### **Response to Memory Jogger Question –**

Three VIP members responded to last month's Memory Jogger Question about the origins of Plant 1 (Shepard Rd). The responders were Jim Hyslop, Dave Durand, and Ed Michaud. Jim wrote that he "went to interview for a job with a company named Remington Rand UNIVAC in November of '56. The personnel office for said company was on Minnehaha Ave. between Fairview and Prior Aves, south side of the street. It was located in the Guard Shack for Plant 2." He was subsequently directed to start work at RRU's new facility on Shepard Road and W. 7<sup>th</sup> St. in early December. He added "I believe I was told that Plant 1 had opened for occupancy in late Sept., or early October."

Dave Durand started at Plant 1 in January of '57, working on the file computer punch units in a department called "Medium Digital Machines." Dave added, "At the start of summer the computers would shut down because of the heat. The test floor was on the south side of the building. Management had air conditioning units brought in so checkout could continue. I am supposing the lack of air conditioning in 1957 implies the plant was built (completed) in the fall of 1956." Dave also noted, "Bob McDonald used to wander the halls in his blue suit and red bow tie."

Ed Michaud provided even more detail. "The original Plant 1 at 1902 W. Minnehaha Ave, St. Paul was constructed sometime in the late 1800s and began its career as a horse livery. The second Plant 1 on Shepherd Road began construction in late 1954, completed in early 1956 and occupancy began and was essentially completed in 1956. It was sold to the Prudential Insurance Co. on a 25 year leaseback with a very lucrative buy back provision. At the time I worked in R&D Sales and Contracts which was one of the first departments to move into the new building. As it so happened I was also involved with the repurchase of that facility 25 years later."

## **HAPPENINGS**

VIP Club members Jerry and Nina Raveling each contribute hundreds of volunteer hours a year working at the Wright Brothers National Memorial located in Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina. This year Jerry was awarded the President of the United States Volunteer Achievement Award for accumulating over 4,000 hours of volunteer service to the Wright Brothers National Memorial. The

following is a newspaper article that ran on March 8, 2006 in The Virginian Pilot.

**VOLUNTEERS HONORED:** The National Park Service Outer Banks Group honored 590 volunteers who donated 32,232 hours in 2005 at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site and Wright Brothers National Memorial.

Bud Brown, Joe Hardman and Jerry Raveling, volunteers at the Wright Brothers National Memorial, each donated more than 4,000 hours of service and received the President of the United States Volunteer Achievement Award.

Barbara Adams, a volunteer at Cape Hatteras National Seashore on Ocracoke Island, received the Secretary of the Interior's Volunteer Service Award for donating more than 3,000 hours.

## **THE LIGHTER SIDE**

### **A Clear Picture**

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her class while they were drawing. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl said, "I'm drawing God." The teacher said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute!"

\*\*\*\*\*  
A Sunday school teacher was explaining the commandment to "honor" thy Father and thy Mother. She asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our siblings? One little boy replied, "Thou shall not kill?"

### **Final Requests**

\*\*\*\*\*  
An elderly woman from Brooklyn decided to prepare her will and make her final requests. She told her Rabbi she had two final requests. First, she wanted to be cremated, and second, she wanted her ashes scattered over Bloomingdales. "Bloomingdales!" the Rabbi exclaimed. "Why Bloomingdales?" "Then I'll be sure my daughters will visit me twice a week."

### **Pre-Planning**

\*\*\*\*\*  
A priest waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him to a vacant pump. "Father," said the man, "sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip." The priest laughed, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."

\*\*\*\*\*  
There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.

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

**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

**VIP CLUB OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS FOR THE YEAR 2006**

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:  
OFFICERS**

President.....Bernie Jansen \*681-9988  
Vice Pres.....Brian Berggren \*451-9009  
Secretary.....Lynn Lindholm \*484-1030  
Treasurer.....Jack Farber \*785-9557  
Past Pres.....Dale Phelps #831-7843

**DIRECTORS**

Director.....Lowell Benson \*486-3709  
Director.....Dick Mullins \*552-8837  
Director.....Joseph Schwarz \*698-9698  
Director.....Marion Scott \*455-7952

**VOLUNTEER CHAIRPERSONS**

Red Cross Blood Drive  
Marion Scott.....\*455-7952

**ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS**

Membership ..... Dick Mullins \*552-8837  
Programs - Eagan and Roseville .....  
Dale Phelps #831-7843  
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

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 Road. It 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.