

VIP Club Newsletter

VOLUME 27, NO. 06 www.geocities.com/vipclub2003 JUNE. 2007

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, June 06	Board Meeting, Roseville	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, June 13	Annual Picnic Highland Park Pavilion	4.00 p.m.
Wednesday, July 11	Board Meeting, Eagan	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, July 11	NO EVENING MEETING	

JUNE PICNIC: HIGHLAND PARK

COME OUT AND CELEBRATE! The VIP Club Annual Picnic will be held at 4:00 p.m. on June 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 are based on the first letter of your last name: A – D Desserts, E – L Casseroles , M – P Appetizers, and Q – Z Salads. Please include serving utensils for your dishes and mark them with your name.

JULY PROGRAM: EAGAN

NO MEETING SCHEDULED IN JULY.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE **From: Brian Berggren**

Our May program was another ad hoc adventure. The scheduled speaker was absent by unknown

cause and the 20-plus attending made do. The highlight was Ole and Lowell telling Norwegian jokes (it was better than it sounds), maybe a practice for the Syttende Mai Luncheon. Bernie revisited his eleven years coordinating the Volunteer Recognition Breakfast. The "open mike" let others bring up topics of interest as well. I hope to see you at our picnic on June 13th; on the program is food and friendship. Its a can't miss. Remember, there is no July program and our next newsletter will be a combined July/August issue delivered after mid-July.

Respectfully, Brian Berggren, VIP Club President

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

Please send permanent address changes to Lowell Benson addressed to the VIP Club at the address given on the label page of the Newsletter

**From the
Editors**



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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.

MEETING & EVENT DATES 2007

Date	Time	Location	Activity
Jan. 10	No Meeting		
Feb. 14	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
Mar. 14	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Apr. 11	8:00 a.m.	Rsvl.	Volunteer Breakfast
May. 09	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
June 13	4:00 p.m.	Park	VIP Club Picnic
July 11	No Meeting		
Aug. 08	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Sept. 12	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
Oct. 10	6:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Pot Luck Program
Nov. 14	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social time
Dec. 13	5:45 p.m.	USAF	Christmas Party

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

Bukovich, Mike L Rosemont, MN.
Lavers, John & Grace U Woodbury, MN.

Mier, Richard U Jackson, MN.
Munsch, David & Rose Ann L Poway, CA.
Wood, Paul & Nancy L Burnsville, MN.

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

IN REMEMBRANCE

Bleckner, Eileen B. - Age 82, of Burnsville, MN. Eileen is survived by husband, John. John is a VIP Club member and also a past president of the VIP Club.

Kauth, Theodore - Age 76, of Brooklyn Center, MN. Passed away on 4/10/07. Theodore is survived by his wife, Myrna. Theodore was a Unisys retiree and member of the VIP Club.



Tilford, Barbara Frankel - Born April 26, 1952. Died April 26, 2007. She is survived by her devoted husband, Ed. Barb retired from Unisys Semi Conductor facility.

Zustiak (Gnitka), Florence C. - Age 80, of Fridley, MN. Passed away May 2, 2007.. Survived by husband, Harry. Harry is a VIP Club member.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BILL EVANS NEW ORLEANS JAZZ EVENT

Mark your calendar for the first ever Dixieland Jazz Event at the Eagan Community Center! The Bill Evans New Orleans Jazz Band has played nationally, internationally, and locally. Ticket price includes admission, entertainment and light snacks. Beverages and an open bar will be available for an additional fee. This program is hosted by the Eagan Seniors.

Sunday, June 24 from 2:00 - 5:00 pm. \$20.00 per person on or before June 1. \$25.00 per person after June 1 and at the door. Information available at www.cityofeagan.com or 651-675-5500. Submitted by Millie Gignac.

11th ANNUAL OLD TIMERS PICNIC

Mark your calendar for the Old Timers Picnic on the 2nd Saturday of August (August 11th) from noon to 5p.m. at the same place as usual- 5 miles west of Hastings at Spring Lake Park Reserve/ Schaars Bluff. Golf prior to the picnic around 9am. More details will be in the July VIP Newsletter.

Contact Curt Anderson for questions or suggestions at anderscurt@comcast.net or call (651) 438-9851.

LEGACY NEWS UPDATE

Submitted by Dick Lundgren, rflundgr@aol.com.

MAJOR MEETINGS DRIVE LEGACY PROJECT

In the last month two major meetings have taken place to focus the legacy project and engage many more participants. The first meeting was a visit to LM-Eagan by Dr. **Thomas Misa**, director of the Charles Babbage Institute at the University of Minnesota, and **R. Arvid Nelsen**, CBI archivist. These guys are professionals in documenting the history of technology, and it was a pleasure to have them among us. Dr. Misa has written a history of the American steel industry as well as a recent book entitled *From Leonardo to the Internet* in which the interaction of political events and the evolution of technology over the last half millennium are superbly discussed. We are, of course, a part of that evolution, and Messrs. Misa and Nelsen are seriously interested in our legacy project (unique in the industry, by the way). We provided them with our current legacy status and they provided us with feedback. An interesting major hole in our legacy record is that of high tech manufacturing over the past five decades. The assembly line story of Henry Ford in the auto industry is well known, but the production processes for our high tech computers need to be detailed. It is understandable why companies did not publish proprietary information. But enough time has passed so that we could talk about **HI TECH Manufacturing**, such as for Plated Wire Memory. We know the resources are out there to help fill this gap.

The second meeting was an amalgam of active employees and retirees, again to provide legacy status/planning and a glimpse of future possibilities. Major contributors at the meeting were **Lowell Benson** (legacy website demo and artifact cataloging), **Gary Hokenson** (selecting and condensing archival material for transmitting to CBI), **Quint Heckert** (developing different legacy documents appropriate to different target audiences), **Harvey Taipale** (possibility/problems of creating a video documentary), and **Dick Olson, John Westergren** and **Dick Lundgren** (general legacy background and organizational/interfacing considerations). Many hard object and document artifacts were on hand for review, and as always sparked conversations. The storage and display of such artifacts, possibly as a rotating exhibit, were discussed in addition to the importance of documenting of the artifacts for their historical significance (as stressed by the CBI people). Artifacts need to be identified, with the contributor

(to receive proper credit), with the calendar time, and the Legacy Significance. One theme that was hard to miss among this group: "Our common Legacy is our common bond."

Short status summary: We now have career contributions from about 75 current and retired employees. When we started the Legacy Initiative Dr. Robert Monson projected that at 100 career summaries that we should have enough material for a book, and Dr. Arthur Norberg projected that at 200 career summaries that we should be able to reconstruct the history of our division. We are far enough into this Legacy Initiative that both projections appear to be accurate. Please consider adding your story to the overall picture. Inputs are welcome in all business areas, but we really need your help in business areas such as manufacturing, human resources, financial, and others. We also now have five recorded oral (video) histories of the original 18 people identified as key figures in building our division. Four more are on tap when the snowbirds migrate back north. The most recent oral history was **Jack Hill** whose career began with ERA. Jack, now 97, is one of the "First Friday" bunch who still meet monthly for lunch at the old Parrish's on West 7th in St. Paul. This group has been featured in an article entitled *The Original Geek Squad*, which appeared in *Minnesota Monthly* magazine. Several of the regular monthly attendees are an invaluable source for our early history.

RECENT CONTRIBUTORS TO LEGACY WEBSITE

(<http://www.usfamily.net/web/labenson/Legacy.htm>)
Recent contributions posted to the Legacy website have come from **Dennis Christ, Patricia (Bailey) Myhre, Mike Wold**, and others. Dennis traces his career from neophyte programmer to seasoned programmer on sophisticated systems, followed by upwardly mobile steps in marketing and program management for European programs, and ultimately culminating in the position of President of Unisys Electronic Systems, which included Eagan. When Unisys sold off its defense division to become part of Lockheed Martin, Dennis filled out his Unisys career in a very challenging position as President of Airline Systems. Pat Bailey launched her career (now 31+ years) in software test on the Iranian DD993 program in the mid-70s. That program fell victim to international political events, and Pat went on to work software test, expanded appropriately to include system integration, in various programs such as MATCALs, Underseas Engineering, RAN (Royal Australian Navy) DDG, CPF (Canadian Patrol Frigate), and ABCCC. She has many great stories of

the competent lady succeeding in the man's world including becoming "flight qualified" by the Navy for the P-3C MPA (Maritime Patrol Aircraft). Her competence also has taken her to never-imagined on-site assignments in Australia and Norway, the latter for the UIP (Upgrade Improvement Program, see last month's newsletter). Mike Wold had been a member of the "Tonkin Bay Yacht Club" before joining Sperry Univac in 1970. He tracks his career from early work in Navy Systems and ARTS Enhancement to MATCALs (Marine Air Traffic and Landing System) and the (originally black) B-2 program. Mike's quote, "We would kill ourselves making sure that we never let a customer down," can be compared to Lockheed Martin's corporate mantra, "We never forget who we're working for." Check out Mike's contribution to see the Eagan group characterized as a "national treasure."

ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS WELCOME

We need your help. Last month's summary of the Norwegian business legacy has now been posted to the Legacy website. If you worked any of the programs mentioned in any capacity, let us hear about it, and we'll add your contribution to the posting. We need to build as complete a picture as possible. The same goes for any of the programs mentioned in the previous paragraph. If you have additions or corrections, please email them to Lowell Benson, the Webmaster.

CLUB GOVERNANCE TIDBITS

(The fourth of a 2007 series):

The CLUB is a volunteer organization, i.e. there is no compensation paid to the Board or members for their activities in support of the Club. The board does review and approve re-imbusement of board and/or member costs incurred for the purposes of the Club, i.e. postage for communication between the board and members, food and refreshments for the annual picnic, set up costs for picnic and Christmas Party, condolences cards to families of deceased members, etc. Board members are not paid for mileage to/from events or meetings. We do provide honorarium checks to guest speakers and/or musicians at Club planned programs. Anyone willing to help the designated activity coordinator or function committee chair should contact him/her at the phone number listed in the newsletter. Substitutes are often needed to fill in when the lead person experiences adverse health situations or takes advantage of a travel opportunity.

TRAVEL

SPRING FLINGS

Submitted by Yvonne Cecchini.

Melting snow and Spring Fever--a combination that's sure to bring V.I.P. members' thoughts of fun in the sun. Here are a few tempting examples:

One-Day Tours:

*JUNE 21~DULUTH WITH TRAIN/Bus to Duluth, board train to Two Harbors, enjoy buffet lunch at Grand Superior Lodge, Duluth city tour. \$52.00

*JULY 11~MUSICAL AT THE NEW GUTHRIE "1776" Lunch at The Old Spaghetti Factory. \$49.95.

*OCTOBER 13~OCTOBERFEST IN NEW ULM~Tour the town and brewery, and then join the festivities at the Holiday Inn. \$37.95

Extended Tours:

*BRANSON CHRISTMAS TOURS begin Nov.5-9, thru Dec.4-8; 5 Shows \$599 per person (dbl.)

*MAY 7-11, AUG.27-31~DAKOTA GOLD TOUR BLACK HILLS including Badlands National Park, Mt. Rushmore, and more \$499 per person (dbl.).

*MAY 29-JUNE1/OCT.2-5~DOOR COUNTY stay at Deluxe Wagon Trail Resort \$579 per person.

*JUNE 15/17/AUG.24-26/SEPT.28-30~CHICAGO WEEKEND GETAWAY tours, 2 nights' hotel, 2 dinner shows, and more at \$429 per person dbl.

*NEW ENGLAND 12-DAY GUIDED TOUR THAT WON'T BREAK THE BANK! June 3-14/ July 8-19/ Aug.5-16 Boston New England Canada

Double: \$1299 pp ~ Sgl.\$1649 pp ~Trpl/Quad \$1229 pp. Please phone or email Yvonne Cecchini to hear about additional tours, and also world-wide cruises, including Alaska. Call Yvonne at 651-437-9278 or yceccchini@earthlink.net.

CURRENT ISSUES

PERSONAL HEALTH ISSUES

Our Congress has saved us again. We get no drug importation and we get no drug price negotiation, both of which would save people who need prescription drugs and all taxpayers tens of billions each year. Instead, we get more drug safety – not the kind Europeans have where drugs are dispensed to the consumer in factory-sealed packaging. All three topics were addressed in the Dorgan-Snowe bill that was defeated 49-40. This was to fix the prohibition of government to negotiate drug prices like the VA and allow importation from countries with drug safety standards as good as or better than ours – like Canada. With this new bill, we now have another law requiring drugs to be monitored for side effects-which we already have. We now have another law about reporting problems to the FDA-which we already have. And we now have another law giving the FDA authority to order label changes-which we already have. This bill passed 93-1, with only Vermont's Bernie Sanders voting against it.

GLOBAL HEALTH ISSUES

George Monbiot, a columnist for the Guardian, has written a book titled "Heat: How to Stop the Planet from Burning." Somehow, he takes an optimistic look at what might be done to limit changes. Monbiot's goal for the book is to demonstrate that a 90 percent reduction in greenhouse gases by rich nations by 2030 is possible without destroying economies or lifestyles. His introductory chapters on climate science and counter-science are very well annotated (48 pages of citations for the book). Other chapters discuss carbon rationing, homes, electricity, renewables, and transport. This volume is loaded with good facts, hopeful assumptions, and some delightful Faustian parallels.

Because carbon is at the crux of our global dilemma, we start with carbon dioxide production. Each citizen of China produces 2.7 tons of CO₂ per year, in the U.K., 9.5 tons, and in the U.S. 20.0 tons. At the extremes, Luxembourgnians emit 24.3 tons per capita and Ethiopians emit 0.06 tons per capita. (These are 2003 numbers from the U.S. Energy Information Administration.)

With only a 0.6 degree C average global temperature rise over the last century, we are seeing disintegration of sea ice, retreat of glaciers, melt of permafrost, wilt of coral reefs, and rainforests change to savannah. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimated in 2001 that global temperatures will rise by between 1.4 and 5.8 degrees C in this century. (A 2005 study put the maximum rise at 11.5 C.)

For those that think higher atmospheric CO₂ and rising temperatures mean longer growing seasons and better yields, think again. The International Rice Research Institute found rice yields fall by 15 percent with each degree of warming. And at temperatures above 35 degrees C the pollen of rice flowers becomes sterile after one hour.

Rising ozone levels are another fear. A 2005 study in Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society found ozone to reduce yields. In China, the expected ozone increase will reduce maize, rice, and soybean crops by over 30 percent by 2030. (A separate article said China has been losing 1900 square miles of arable land each year to desertification.)

Back to greenhouse gas reduction and carbon rationing. Global carbon emissions are currently estimated at 7 billion tons per year. Monbiot does some population estimates and reduction goals and arrives at 0.8 ton per person in 2012. Our personal carbon budget would be applied to fuel and electricity. Any other products would be priced to

include the carbon needed to produce it. This scheme tries to be much fairer than the smoke and mirror cap and trade programs currently being promoted.

Regarding housing, the U.K. has 25.5 million homes, builds 160,000 and knocks down 15,000 yearly. These homes use 82 percent of household energy for space and water heating. Monbiot recognizes that current housing is incompatible with a low-carbon life: a 30 percent cut would be intolerable, a 90 percent cut impossible. To get 50 percent of the heat from biomass for the U.K. would require 17.8 billion hectares of land; they have only 17 million hectares of agricultural land.

Transportation provides more interesting comparisons. Carbon dioxide emissions per passenger for car, train, and bus travel are 36.6kg, 5.2, and 4.3, respectively. Back in 1908 the Model T got 25 mpg, in 1983 the Peugeot diesel got 72 mpg, and today's Prius gets 51 mpg. Both airplanes and, surprisingly, high-speed trains have no future in a low-carbon world. A train at 35 mph uses more energy than an Airbus A321. Worse is the passenger ship; per passenger mile, the QEII uses seven times more energy than an airplane.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

Policeman testifies in Court

If you ever testify in court, you might wish you could have been as sharp as this policeman. He was being cross-examined by a defense attorney during a felony trial. The lawyer was trying to undermine the policeman's credibility...

Q: "Officer -- did you see my client fleeing the scene?"

A: "No sir. But I subsequently observed a person matching the description of the offender, running several blocks away."

Q: "Officer -- who provided this description?" A: "The officer who responded to the scene."

Q: "A fellow officer provided the description of this so-called offender. Do you trust your fellow officers?"

A: "Yes, sir. With my life."

Q: "With your life? Let me ask you this then officer. Do you have a room where you change your clothes in preparation for your daily duties?" A: "Yes sir, we do"

Q: "And do you have a locker in the room?" A: "Yes sir, I do."

Q: "And do you have a lock on your locker?" A: "Yes sir."

Q: "Now why is it, officer, if you trust your fellow officers with your life, you find it necessary to lock your locker in a room you share with these same officers?" A: "You see sir, we share the building with the court complex, and sometimes lawyers have been known to walk through that room." The courtroom erupted in laughter, and a prompt recess was called.

**VIP CLUB
P.O. BOX 131748
ROSEVILLE MN 55113-0020**

VIP CLUB OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS FOR THE YEAR 2007

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

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UNISYS Liaison, Roseville Sue Carrigan *635-7955 Lockheed Martin, Eagan Liaison ... Tierney Helmers *456-4963 Printing &
 Mailing UNISYS Print Shop, Roseville

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 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.