VIP Club Newsletter

VOLUME 38, NO. 01 January/February 2018 http://vipclubmn.org

| UPCOMING EVENT ITEMS - 2018 | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Our IT Legacy | January 7 | 1 PM – Dinner and Choir Concert | Lost Spur in Eagan | |
| Engineering Research Associates $1946 \rightarrow Today$ | April 11 | 11 AM – Volunteer Recognition Luncheon | Joseph's in St. Paul | |
| | May 4 | 10:30 AM – Roseville Good Old Days | Mermaid in New Brighton | |
| | May 18 | 11:00 AM – Syttende Mai | Casper's in Eagan | |
| | June 1x | 3:30 PM – Annual Picnic & Reunion | Highland Park, St. Paul | |

JANUARY EVENT Holiday Party & Choir Concert

January 7th, 1 PM - at the Lost Spur in Eagan: This is a new location and time for 2018. This event replaces previous mid-December Christmas dinner/dance that had had various venues over the last two decades.

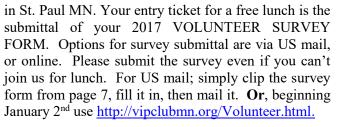
- 1 to 2 PM; Socializing & Cash bar
- 2 to 3:15; Dinner entree choices are steak, walleye, or chicken Cordon Bleu. Also, a salad and desert served at your table.
- 3:30 to 4:15; Holiday music concert performed by the Eagan Men's chorus, some may remember when they were the *Sperryaires*.

Member cost will be \$20 per member [yes, your spouse is a member.] \$25 p/p for non-member guests attending with a member. Use the registration form from page 7 then mail it with your check by 27 December so that the facility will have entree type counts and we can create attendee name tags.

<u>Driving Directions</u>: Set your GPS to St Paul, 2750 Sibley Memorial Hwy, 55121 or take exit #98 off I-35E onto Lone Oak Road. Go west across Pilot Knob Road and then down the hill to Hwy 13. Turn right and proceed north ~ $\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the Lost Spur (City View) entrance on the right. Coordinators are *Keith Behnke and Boni Westberg.*

APRIL PROGRAM Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

April 11th, 11:00 AM: April is National Volunteer Month; our Club's Recognition Luncheon honors all VIP Club members who perform volunteer services wherever they reside. Please join us at Joseph's Grill



Unisys and Dakota County Historical Society representatives are invited to be our event guests; they'll give us organization status update briefs.

Last year 65 Unisys and Lockheed Martin retiree members responded to the 2016 hours' survey with 26,810 hours of service to various non-profit organizations in Minnesota, and several other states. Last April fifty members and guests attended the Luncheon as we honored Don Weidenbach with the third annual Bernie & Kathy Jansen *Volunteer Extraordinaire* award. For those of you who were not at the 2017 luncheon, look at the entries on web page: <u>http://vipclubmn.org/History.html#Milestones</u>. Please send nominees for this year's award to Vice President, Steve Koltes, <u>koltess@leidos.com</u>. Event coordinators are Associate *Frank King* and Past Pres. *Keith Behnke*.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Our VIP Club Founder, Millie Gignac, celebrated her 97th birthday on Oct. 22, 2017. She was the first female director at Sperry and has been a VIP Club Member Emeritus since 2008. Best wishes to her!



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME REMINDER Use the page 7 form if 2017 is on your address label or in subject line of the electronic notice.



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Greetings, and though it's a bit early, I wish you all a Happy New Year. We all need to say, "Thank You" to Keith Behnke for his past service as VIP Club President, VP, and Director (continuing to serve on the board as immediate past president), and Orrin



McGill, who has retired from the board. We also welcome new Board Members; Steve Koltes (Vice President), Boni Westberg (Secretary), and Jim Andrews (Director). Together with the returning Board members, we happily begin the new year with a full slate of officers.

I recently attended a series of classes relating to people finding their motivations to propel them into the Third Chapter of life - the time when one is no longer constrained by one's vocation, but is free to pursue one's avocation(s). The VIP Club is certainly an organization for that third chapter time. We are officially a non-profit social organization, and one of our goals is to promote opportunities for retirees to continue to maintain those enjoyable people connections we developed in our working careers. Structuring these events is not difficult and is enjoyable, but it does take some time, and we do depend on members to volunteer to pitch in. So for all you third chapter folks with some spare energy, I would like to once again extend the invitation to volunteer to participate in helping with club events or for future Board positions.

Finally, we should be happy to hear that the Minnesota Historical Society, TPT, CBI, and the Dakota County Historical Society are collaborating to develop a documentary around the history of the computing industry in Minnesota. They have received a grant and hired two researchers, who are working on pulling the history together. They have been to the Lawshe Museum, and thanks to all those who have worked (and are still working) to catalog all the legacy material there, were extremely happy to find an organized source of information and photos that will make their job easier. The Lawshe continues to accept historical materials relating to the legacy of ERA, and volunteers continue to work every Tuesday, and would welcome involvement of anyone who is interested.

Harvey Taipale VIP Club President.

Where to in August? We need your opinion!

The last three years we've organized an August river boat outing. This year we'd like to try the highways, i.e. a bus ride. The VIP Club is considering the possibility of organizing a day trip to a Minnesota museum or a historic site, most of which may be outside the metro area. The cost, not including a meal, would normally be \$25 or less. The four places presently under consideration are:

A) <u>Fagen Fighters Museum</u> - Granite Falls, from Eagan estimate total tour time is nine hours. <u>http://www.fagenfighterswwiimuseum.org/</u>. *Could also include a stop at the Volstead House https://volsteadhouse.org/ also in Granite Falls*.

B) <u>Glensheen</u> - Duluth, from Eagan estimated total tour time is ten hours. <u>http://glensheen.org/</u>

C) <u>Hinckley Fire Museum</u> - Hinckley, from Eagan estimated total tour time is eight hours. <u>http://hinckleyfiremuseum.com/</u>

D) <u>Spam Museum</u> - Austin, from Eagan, estimated total tour time is eight hours <u>http://www.spam.com/museum</u>

Let us assume that the most popular venue voted on by members is the Fagen Fighters WWII Museum in Granite Falls. We would start the day by meeting at 8:15 AM at the Eagan Unisys parking lot where a Northfield Lines bus would pick us up to depart for Granite Falls, MN at 8:30 AM.

This is a 56-passenger Motor Coach featuring large panoramic windows, large multiple video monitors, a DVD system and AM/FM stereo with CD player. The bus seats are comfortable cloth reclining seats with leather headrests and footrests, personal reading lights, and a spacious restroom in the rear of the bus. For those of us with walkers or wheelchairs there is plenty of space in the luggage compartment and the bus kneels to bring the steps down low making it easier to enter and exit for those of us with mobility issues.

The bus would arrive at Tille's restaurant about 11:15 AM. After lunch the bus would take us to the Museum. About 3 PM we would board the bus, arriving back at Unisys 'between 5 PM and 6 PM.

The other three destinations would have a similar plan. Choices B & C could include a 2^{nd} pick-up/drop off location in the Roseville area. The box below is a brief survey to help us determine our membership interest in doing an August road trip.

Road Trip Survey Form

Are you interested in taking a bus trip to one of these locations outside the Twin Cities' Metro area?

- Fagen Fighters Museum, Granite Falls, MN
 Yes No
- Glensheen Mansion, Duluth, MN Yes No
- Hinckley Fire Museum, Hinckley, MN
 Yes No
- Spam Museum, Austin, MN Yes No

PLEASE, RESPOND BEFORE JANUARY 31st.

1. Clip the survey box from the newsletter, fill it in, then mail it to: VIP Club – Go to survey, P.O. Box 131748 Roseville, MN 55113-0020 **OR**

2. Send an email to <u>newsletter@vipclubmn.org</u> with subject line 'Road Trip Survey' and the message as a filled in copy of the survey form.

We'll put the survey results in the March/April newsletter then a sign-up form in the June/July newsletter and on the website. Byline *Gish Devlaminck*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2018 Board Election Results: Volunteering to serve our membership next year are: *Harvey Taipale*, President and Lawshe Memorial Museum Liaison; *Steve Koltes*, Vice President; *Keith Behnke*, Immediate Past President and events coordination; *Paul Hove*, Treasurer; *Boni Westberg*, Secretary; *Ghislain Devlaminck*, Director and Membership Database; *Joe Schwarz*, Director and Chief Newsletter Editor; *Lowell Benson*, Director and Webmaster; *Jim Andrews*, Director at Large. This board is supported by Associates as listed in the CONTACT DATA section.

Newsletter Inputs: For the March/April 2018 newsletter issue; send articles, recent obits, or lighter side items to Joe Schwarz before February7th. Use Joe's email address from back page box or the Club's US mail address at the bottom of pages $2 \Rightarrow 7$.

Membership Renewal Time: If 2017 appears after your name on the Newsletter mailing address, your membership expires at the end of this year. If the subject line of your electronic delivery has member list 2017 in it, your membership renewal is due. Please use the renewal form on page 7 for 1 or 3 years.

By the way, if your age is 90 or more – just X on form's "Life (>89)" and then send it without a check! Club membership is free to those ERA=>UNISYS/LMCO retirees over the age of 90. We presently have twenty-nine *Life* members.

Another Happy Birthday! On October 30th, Don Weidenbach celebrated 96! He joined ERA in 1946.

NEW MEMBERS, Oct./Nov. 2017

Craig D. Hanson

IN REMEMBRANCE

St. Paul, MN.



Cuellar, Norberto "Bert" of Brooklyn Park, MN passed away peacefully at his daughter's home surrounded by family on November 11th, 2017. Preceded in death by wife, Oralia Cuellar. Bert was an Air-Force veteran and retiree of Unisys

Corporation.



DuPont, Jerome William - Age 89, died peacefully on November 9th, 2017. Bill was preceded in death by his soulmate, Jan. Upon his return from military service, Bill began a long career in information technology serving in various operational and

managerial roles with Remington Rand, Sperry Rand and eventually Unisys. Bill retired from Unisys in 1989.

Koski, Duane R.- Age 83, of Burnsville, MN. Returned to his heavenly home on Nov. 13th, 2017 after a valiant battle with a long illness. Duane is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Jan. Duane served his country in the US Army



during Korea. Duane retired after 38 years as an electrical engineer with Lockheed Martin.



Owens, Roy Lee - Age 88, passed away peacefully at his home on November 2nd, 2017. Roy leaves behind a loving wife, Charlene, of 65 years. Roy retired from Sperry Univac in 1997.

Peters, Thomas "Tom"- Passed away suddenly of a massive heart attack on August 21st in Florida. He is survived by his wife Carol that, sadly, is being treated for Alzheimer's at a facility in Florida. Tom was a VIP Club member and worked for Unisys as a software engineer until his retirement.

OLSON, Richard David, "Ole", - Age 77, formerly

of Northfield, MN. Passed away Monday, October 30th, 2017. Ole is preceded in death by his wife of 54 years, Lela Ione Wermager. Richard was employed for 46 years in the Defense industry by Lockheed Martin and predecessor companies. He was involved in the acquisition of



significant contract wins and held many engineering roles. Richard was extremely proud of his Norwegian heritage and upbringing. He was loved by his family and friends from all phases of his life and will be missed by all. We credit him with initiating the UNIVAC Syttende Mai celebrations and starting the Legacy Committee initiative. Ole was a long time VIP Club member.

Rowe, Richard D. "Dick" Age 69, of Apple Valley, MN. Passed away peacefully on Sunday, November 26th, 2017 after a five-year battle with PSP Parkinson's disease. Survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Charlotte. Dick was a 38-year employee of Sperry/Unisys/Lockheed-Martin as a Systems Engineer.



Thompson, Carol E.- Age 85, of Roseville, MN. Passed away November 12th, 2017 from complications of Parkinson's Disease. Survived by husband, Paul. Carol was an avid square dancer and a dedicated member of her church.

Carol was the wife of Paul Thompson, a UNISYS Roseville retiree The Thompsons are long time VIP club members.

CONTACT DATA

2018 VIP Club Activity Coordination

CBI Liaison; Dick Lundgren, <u>rflundgr@aol.com</u> *Lawshe Museum Support*;

- Exhibits; Keith Myhre <u>kmyhre@lightblast.net</u>
- Photo ID work; Tricia Myhre <u>pbm5454@hotmail.com</u> and Jon Simon jcsimon1st@frontiernet.net
- Legacy Committee co-chairs; John Westergren, jwestergren@frontiernet.net and labenson@q.com
- Membership database; Gish Devlaminck membership@vipclubmn.org

Old Timers' Annual Reunion; <u>labenson@q.com</u>

- Picnic planning & volunteer staffing; John Westergren, jwestergren@frontiernet.net
- *Recreation Leagues*; Keith Behnke, keithbhnk@comcast.net
- Roseville Good Old Days; Paul Dickson paul.dickson@comcast.net

Sunshine Cards; Lynn Lindholm lynnlindholm@comcast.net

Unihogs/Uniturkeys; Lowell Benson and tbd. Volunteer Luncheon; Frank King, <u>kingx063@umn.edu</u> Webmaster; L. A. Benson, <u>webmaster@vipclubmn.org</u>

Retirement Status and Benefits:

Numbers to call if you or your heirs have death benefit or pension questions – you will need SSN and a PIN. Unisys 1-877-864-7972 Lockheed Martin 1-866-562-2363

SOCIAL ACTIVITY REPORTS

Unified Legacy Golf League: The Unified Legacy Golf League (the combined Unisys and Lockheed Martin leagues) has completed its 2017 season with a banquet at Mancini's in St. Paul late in October. Eighty-nine members of the league attended. The league has 253 members that play in 5 different leagues and 10 tournaments utilizing different formats during the year (we averaged approximately 100 per tournament in 2017). Our Vice President, Mike Olinger coordinated the banquet and will take over duties next year from this year's President, Tenner Thompson, with Greg Johnson taking on the office of Vice President. New individual members or teams are invited to join us for 2018 which will start with a tournament in late April and league play the first week of May. Contact Keith Behnke <u>keithbhnk@comcast.net</u> for more information. Byline *Keith Behnke*

UNIHOGS/UNITURKEYS: November 17th was a blustery day in the Twin Cities. Only 30 guests gathered for a delicious luncheon at Casper's in Eagan. Unfortunately, our invited speaker, Dr. Jeffery Yost – Associate Director of the Charles Babbage Institute – had to cancel because of illness. Head Hog, Fred

Vihovde announced that he had had a stroke last year and that the doctor told him the next would not be good news. Toward



that end, Fred and Lowell would like someone to step up and coordinate the event next year. If no one does so by the April volunteer luncheon, there won't be another UNIHOGS/UNITURKEYS luncheon. Lowell took snapshots and created the attendee collage on page 6. Byline *Lowell Benson*

What's new with the VIP Club since 2016?

1) The Club no longer meets at the UNISYS, Roseville facility as it closed in June 2017; 2) We started alternate month newsletters thereby reducing our volunteers' work load; 3) The website was re-vamped to provide clarity between Club activities and the Legacy anthology. 4) We've started to promote a winter gathering of FL and AZ retirees/snowbirds; 5) Our associated Blue Bell retirees group disbanded at the end of 2016 because no 'younger' members volunteered to join and lead their board; and 6) We've continued a transition from evening programs to noon/afternoon events.

What continues with the Club in 2018? 1) The dedication of a small group of volunteers cataloguing old photos at the Lawshe Memorial Museum; 2) The annual volunteerism survey and April recognition luncheon; 3) The annual May Roseville Good Old Days; 4) The annual June summer picnic at the Highland Park Pavilion; 5) The annual December UNIVAC Old Timers' Reunion; 6) The collection of career summaries and project/program stories for our website Legacy Anthology; 7) We are monitoring and providing information to a TPT (Twin Cities Public Television) legacy grant to develop a MN technology history video; 8) The 2018 board is seeking ideas for a gala event to celebrate our 40th year in 2020; and 9) Former board members helping with our events.

We welcome Steve Koltes (below left) and Jim Andrews (right) to the VIP Club's Board for 2018.



Micro-bio from Steve Koltes: In June of 1977, I was hired as a young man of 19 into Sperry Univac – Navy Systems Customer Service Engineering group lead by Bob Hedlund. After 4 weeks of maintenance training of various NAVY equipment (AN/UYK-7, UYK-20, OJ-174, 1532, and 1540 to name a few), I started my career are a field engineer.

My first company trip was with John Bly aboard the USS Ajax to refurbish the UYK-5 system (1218, 1540, CRIPI, and HSP). Little did I know at the time that I would eventually visit every destroyer, cruiser, and aircraft carrier through my future field engineering years supporting all type of UYKs and peripherals we provided to the NAVY. Along with ship visits I also had several site deployments including a three-year stint in Pascagoula Mississippi Ingalls shipbuilding supporting the DD-993 class and the last of the Spruance class build and a 1-year effort supporting the S3A aircraft flight-line in Burbank, CA.

In 1994 through 1996 I transferred to the Air Traffic Management group in Eagan where I led the deployment of the Common ARTS systems in Dallas TX and Denver CO and supported the STARS pursuit. Back to Field Engineering in support of our new product, the Q-70. Along with Larry Cude, I was the original field engineer in support of Q-70 deployment. I spent numerous hrs between the factory and sites assuring our product would integrate with the various platforms. This was the first effort in integrating COTS into shipboard fire control and weapons systems. I supported the tiger teams on the USS Hue City and USS Vicksburg in the integration of Q-70 into the AEGIS Weapons System as well as the supporting integration into the SQQ-89 and NAVY avionics platforms.

In June 2009, I transferred to the Air Traffic Group as the Operations Manager supporting all the IS&GS Lockheed Martin activities in Eagan. In December 2012, we moved from 3333 Pilot Knob to our new site at 1303 Corp Center Drive. In August 2015, Lockheed Martin divested our organization. Thus, on August 16, 2016 I became an employee of Leidos Corporation's. Air Traffic group. By **Steve Koltes**. **Micro-bio from Jim Andrews**: I started my 43-year career with Univac in 1967 in the Automated Design department. Over the next 18 years, I wrote programs to aid the design and documentation of next generation Navy computers. My next 2-years were in Human Resources teaching management development courses, automating the MAPPER training enrollment and record keeping system, and helping staff to overcome their fears about making productive use of the PC. After HR, I worked on the Canadian Patrol Frigate project and then spent a few years in the Information Technology(IT) group as liaison between Engineering and IT. My career finished as a Systems Engineer in the Subsurface Q-70 group which developed computer and display systems for use on submarines.

Since retirement, I've pursued a passion for music and enjoyed my wife's passion for travel. I play several musical instruments and sing in the Eagan Men's Chorus and church choir. My volunteer hours are with Habitat for Humanity and our church's Caregivers team. We enjoy spending time with our six grandchildren who all live in the metro area. Retirement is wonderful! – *Qim Andrews*

The Old Timers met on December 7th at the Lost Spur. As usual for all our events, the attendance was down again this year. 107 pre-registered, ordering 52 bag lunches with beef being the most popular with 19 and Turkey the least with 15. Do you remember the days at Ft. Snelling when we had over 200 participants? Any ideas on how to increase numbers? A photo collage will be included in the March/April issue. Byline *LABenson*

LEGACY ACTIVITIES

Computer History Archives Project: Dr. Mark Greenia sent us. "Of possible interest to former UNISYS folks and others, I uploaded a brief presentation highlighting early Sperry Rand computers and their support of the Apollo program.

This barely touches on the wealth of information and history that is part of the Apollo program, but it gives a place to start for some folks. Someone with more resources will do a more in-depth professional documentary someday. It is a short presentation, both video clips and photos. Hope you find this interesting. (Looks good on a big screen TV.) Here's the link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nsy2QAboRzE.

From Belgium: My name is Dominique Carlier. I contact you because for three months I've been trying desperately to repair my UTS 40 Sperry Univac unit, <u>http://www.zeltrax.com/classiccmp_forum/2.jpg</u>. If you (the reader) have any technical documents about

the UTS 40, send a note to <u>webmaster@vipclubmn.org</u> – he'll arrange transfer of your specific information.

LIGHTER SIDE

Lexophile - is a word used to describe those that have a love for words, such as "you can tune a piano, but

you can't tuna fish" or "to write with a broken pencil is pointless."

There is an annual lexophile competition held in an undisclosed location. This year's winner is "When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate."

Unisys, Roseville former facilities are in the dust to dust process. Photos 12/2/2017 by *Paul Dickson*.



UNIHOG/UNITUKEY participants on November 17th.



2017 VOLUNTEER SURVEY FORM

Please fill out this form and mail to VIP Club - Survey, P.O. Box 131748 Roseville, MN 55113-0020.

| Your Full Name: email if any Your total volunteer hours in 2017. Main recipient of your time? Name of Spouse/Sig Other: Her/his total volunteer hours Main recipient of his/her time? How many will be attending the luncheon (0, 1, or 2) | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| HOLIDAY PARTY: SIGN UP NOW Please reserve, at \$20 each place(s) for the VIP Club Holiday Party & Concert Dinner being held on Sunday, January 7th, 2018 at the Lost Spur Country Club . Send in your reservations now, since seating is limited. Your form and check must be mailed by <u>December 27th</u> . If your reservation is for more than two persons, please attach a list of the added names and you will be seated together at a reserved table. | | | |
| Full Name: Address Full Name: | | | |

Address

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

Entrée selection(s) & Quantity: Steak ___; or Chicken Cordon Bleu ____; or Walleye _____.

Make your check payable to: VIP CLUB

Mail to: Keith Behnke 4652 Westwood Lane Eagan, MN 55122

----- CLIP Here ------ CLIP Here ------

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL or APPLICATION or CHANGE FORM

VIP CLUB Established in 1980

Please mark an X in the appropriate info/option boxes. Submittal Date:

Dues: □\$7.00 1-year, or □\$ 18.00 3-years, or □ free if age 90 or older.

□Renewal, □New Member (≥55), □Associate member (<55), □Life (>89), or □Information Change.

MAIL FORM WITH CHECK^{*} **TO:** VIP Club, Membership P.O. Box 131748 Roseville, MN 55113-0020 *not required if only changing information in our database or if renewing at age 90⁺.



ROSEVILLE MN 55113-0020

VIP CLUB Newsletter

Official publication of the VIP CLUB P.O. Box 131748, Roseville, MN 55113-0020 http://www.vipclubmn.org

Board of Directors - 2018

| Harvey Taipale, President | 651-280-7332 |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Steve Koltes, Vice President | 651-303-9112 |
| Paul Hove, Treasurer | 651-738-4908 |
| Boni Westberg, Secretary | 651-429-2534 |
| Joe Schwarz, Director | 651-698-9698 |
| Gish Devlaminck, Director | 651-470-8905 |
| Lowell Benson, Director | 651-483-3709 |
| Jim Andrews, Director | 651-451-7502 |
| Keith Behnke, Past President | 651-894-2182 |

Newsletter Editorial Staff

Joe Schwarz, lead jschwarzsr@centurylink.net Dick Lundgren rflundgr@aol.com donfishn@yahoo.com Don Naaktgeboren

UNISYS Liaison

Sue Carrigan; meeting rooms, etc., 651-635-7712 Judy Borneton; Eagan print shop 651-635-6792

PERIODIC SOCIAL GROUPS

Monthly Breakfast Gatherings

1st Thursday at 8 AM at the Capitol View Cafe, 637 Smith Ave. St. Paul.

Monthly Lunch Gatherings

- 1st Tuesday in Eagan at 11:00 AM Rickey's Café at Stark's, 3125 Dodd Road, Eagan, MN
- 2nd Tuesday at 11:30 AM Mall of America 3rd floor North Food Court, we meet by the tables 'tween the elevator & Burger King. Coordinator is Paul Wennerstrom, 952-854-7855.
- 2nd Wednesday at 11 AM at Baker's Square, Northtown, 221 Co. Rd. 10 NE, Blaine MN. Coordinator is Gladys Langer, 651-552-1465.
- 2nd Saturday of odd numbered months at 11:30 AM at the Baker's Square on 3088 White Bear Avenue in Maplewood. Coordinator is Urho Rahkola, 651-429-3319.

Quarterly Breakfast Gathering

2nd Wednesday at 9 AM in the Eagles Club, Old Hwy 8, in New Brighton. Sept., Dec., Mar., & June. Coordinator Marv Brown, 763-416-3903