

VIP Club Newsletter

VOLUME 46, NO. 03
May/June 2026
<http://vipclubmn.org>

UPCOMING EVENTS ♦♦ SAVE THESE DATES:



✓ Syttende Mai ♦♦ May 15, 2026

✓ Annual Reunion Picnic ♦♦ June 17, 2026

✓ Roseville Good Old Days ♦♦ September 10, 2026

✓ Old Timers' Reunion ♦♦ November 5, 2026

Watch the website and your e-mail/evites for details as they become available

MEMBERSHIP

We have 439 paid members, 23 friends of the club, and 462 total active member units.

All members can check their membership expiration date at [PaidMembershipStatus.pdf](https://vipclubmn.org/ClubForms/MEMBERSHIP_FORM.pdf).

To **RENEW** your membership, mail your check, cash, or money order (dues is \$7 for one year, \$18 for three years) with your name and any change of address, phone number, or e-mail to the address shown below.

To **JOIN**, new members are asked to complete the membership form found at https://vipclubmn.org/ClubForms/MEMBERSHIP_FORM.pdf and mail it, along with the dues payment, to VIP Club MN, PO Box 21903, Eagan, MN 55121.

REPORT any change of address, phone number, or e-mail to membership@vipclubmn.org.

UPCOMING EVENT DETAILS

Watch your e-mail/Evites and the website [Activities](#) page for all event details as they become available.

Syttende Mai **May 15** at Casper's Cherokee of Eagan, 4625 Nicols Road. Doors open 11:00 a.m., lunch at 11:30.



✓ **IMPORTANT:** Reply to Evite or register with Dale Torgerson before **May 8** at dale.o.torgerson@gmail.com or text to 612-597-3714; need count for food quantities

✓ **COST:** \$28 for lunch; cash bar also available

✓ **FOOD:** Choose steak, salmon, BBQ ribs, or chicken for sit-down lunch that includes salad, side, vegetable, beverage (coffee, tea), and dessert

✓ **PROGRAM:** Speaker: TBD.

Dale Torgerson is coordinating.

VIP Club 2026 Scheduled Board Meetings:

June 10*, Aug 5, Oct 7, and Dec 2 at the Dakota County Historical Society Lawshe Museum, 130 3rd Ave North, So. St. Paul. Club members curious about club business may join us. Contact the president two days prior for access. ***NOTE date change for June meeting.**

Annual Reunion Picnic **June 17** at Eagan



Central Park Pavilion. Watch the website and your e-mail/Evites for details as they become available.

RSVPs are required one week before the event. We need a headcount to accurately provide enough soft drinks, bottled water, and food for the picnic. Remember, **NO** alcoholic beverages will be allowed or provided and you **MAY NOT** bring alcoholic beverages. Liquor liability insurance will not be purchased. *John Westergren coordinating.*

Roseville Good Old Days **September 10** at the Rosetown American Legion Post, 700 County Road C West in Roseville. *Dave Kleba et al are coordinating.*

Old Timers' Reunion **November 5** at the Lost Spur Golf and Event Center, 2750 Sibley Memorial Hwy in Eagan. *Boni Westberg and Harvey Taipale are coordinating.*

PERIODIC SOCIAL REPORT

First Tuesday

Drafting/Engineering Luncheon

This luncheon, held the first Tuesday of each month unless it falls on a holiday, was started 25-30 years ago when Engineering department coworkers started retiring. It was intended to keep friendships formed in the workplace active during retirement. Initially, approximately 30+ attended regularly; some were still actively working, but the location chosen provided a variety of good food at a reasonable price. The first location was the Old Country Buffet located in West St. Paul. Old Country Buffet closed in February 2016, and the luncheon location was moved to Stark's Bar & Grill in Eagan. There, a portion of the dance floor was used for an array of tables to accommodate the luncheon. The attendee numbers had dropped to approximately 20+ retirees. Stark's closed permanently during the 2020 COVID shutdown. The next location



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UNISYS

THE VIP CLUB IS FOR RETIREES AND FORMER EMPLOYEES OF OUR GREAT HERITAGE COMPANIES

chosen was Casper's Cherokee of Eagan, where the luncheon continues today. Over the years, death, illness, relocation out of the Twin Cities metro area, and loss of interest contributed to a continuing reduction in attendees. Today's attendance averages about 6-8, so we feel that opening it up to a larger group of former Engineering-related employees might be worthwhile to keep this casual social gathering going. An e-mail reminder is sent out each month to those showing an interest in being part of the group. Anyone interested, please send an e-mail to Keith Behnke at keithbhknk@comcast.net ASAP so we can determine the space we will need for the next luncheon. Include the expected frequency you may attend. The location of Casper's is 4625 Nicols Road, Eagan, at the intersection of Cliff Road (County Rd 32) and Nicols Road (old Cedar Ave). The luncheon begins every first Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. and lasts until about 1:00 p.m., or when the reminiscing ends.

Keith Behnke

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings! Temperatures are rising, the grass is turning green, and the plants are starting to grow. And the golf courses are opening!! Our Unified Legacy Golf League (ULGL) will begin play in early May. If you are a golfer and not playing in a league, you should check out the ULGL. The league is well organized and offers a number of options to play in tournaments and weekly leagues. Check out our website at <https://ulglmn.org/>.

The VIP Club board met on April 1 (no joke) to handle club business and discuss the club's future. Kudos to our treasurer, Eric Spring, for reformatting the Treasurer's Report. It gives us a better understanding of our finances as we work to stretch our money to keep the club going until at least 2030, which will be our 50th anniversary.

We are planning two social events for May and June. While details for these events are not yet available, check our website [Activities](#) page for the details as they become available, and check your e-mail for an Evite invitation to each event. A Syttende Mai celebration will be held on Friday, May 15, and our Annual Reunion Picnic will be held on Wednesday, June 17. We hope to see you at these events. Since we have discontinued the Volunteer Luncheon, the *Volunteer Extraordinaire* award will be announced at the picnic.

The club currently has 462 total active member units—439 paid members and 23 friends. We project that yearly income from dues will continue to decrease over time as many members have paid dues for three years, while others will reach the Life status and no



longer pay dues. There are 101 memberships that expire at year-end. Check your membership status at <https://vipclubmn.org/Temp/PaidMembershipStatus.pdf>.

With our goal to keep the club active until its 50th anniversary in 2030, the board discussed cost savings possibilities. The cost of mailing the newsletter has been one of our larger expenses and it was suggested that we reduce the club newsletter issues from bimonthly to quarterly. Since the number of printed newsletters sent by U.S. mail has been reduced to 48 copies (an expense under \$200/issue), the board decided that we can continue bimonthly issues at this time, but will reconsider this yearly.

Looking ahead to 2027, the board is planning a Pie and Ice Cream open house in the March time frame at the Lawshe Museum in South Saint Paul. Lowell Benson is organizing this event. Lawshe has a large exhibit that documents the contributions in computer development made in Minnesota, starting with Engineering Research Associates (ERA), then UNIVAC, Unisys, and Lockheed Martin. It is worth a visit.

Best wishes for good health and an enjoyable Spring!

Jim Andrews, VIP Club President

P.S. Keith Myhre is still in need of volunteers to help with the scanning of slides at the Lawshe Museum on Tuesday mornings. Please consider getting involved. Contact Keith Myhre at kmyhre@lightblast.net for more information, for training, or to volunteer.

YOUR STORY

Our *Your Story* section is sharing some 2026 VIP Club board member stories, introducing a couple new club directors, Mary and Bob Shutt. Enjoy their work and life stories, and remember, *Your Stories* are always welcome!



Bob Shutt Bio

I started my 40-year career at Lockheed Martin and predecessor companies after completing an Engineering degree from UW Madison in 1973. I started in Material Quality, then moved to Manufacturing new products proposals with the Design Team, then Product Planning on the AN/UYK-502 computer, then Marketing Sales. In the mid-1980s, I led the development of the Material Management Center and then went on to directing the Manufacturing Proposal Group and Manufacturing Systems Group, automating our factories. The 1990s brought me back to Capture Management on the Joint Strike Force (JSF) Integrated Core Processor and Joint

Direct Attack Munition (JDAM), and then assignments in Program Management, Strategic Planning, and a stint as Ethics Officer. I ended my career leading the production of Joint Tactical Radio with subcontractors at Northrup Grumman, Raytheon, BAE, and General Dynamics.

I met Mary Folk while working on designing and implementing an automated material handling facility which was built in Pueblo, Colorado.

Mary Shutt Bio

I started my career (as Mary Folk) in 1980 as an industrial engineer at the Shepard Road Sperry UNIVAC facility, and retired from Lockheed Martin as a contract manager when the Pilot Knob facility closed in 2012. Over the years I held positions in Manufacturing Automation, Proposal Management, and Program Management.

Retired life is busy with family, traveling, golf, and contemplating how time goes so quickly.

Bob says, what started out as a very professional relationship eventually evolved into something personal. Thirty-eight years and four children later, we both agree that that was probably the best job either of us ever had.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Allen & Roxanne Heiden, Phoenix, AZ
- Beth & Alan Olson, Mendota Heights, MN

Retirement Status and Benefits:

Numbers to call if you or your heirs have death benefit or pension questions – you will need an SSN and a PIN.

♦ UNISYS: 1-877-864-7972

♦ Lockheed Martin: 1-866-562-2363

****LMCO retirees:** If you are eligible for the health care supplement through VIA Benefits, submit your expenses to receive up to \$900 each annually for you and your spouse (Total \$1,800). Eligible expenses include copayments, Medicare premiums and insurance supplement premiums. For questions call **VIA Benefits** at 1-844-596-0460 or go to <https://my.viabenefits.com/>.

BITS & PIECES

Parlez-vous Français?

There was some discussion among VIP Club members about the Unisys French retirees' club link not working. Lowell Benson did some checking, found their site at <https://www.anciens-unisys.com/hatindex.php>, then corrected the link on our website's Contacts and Links page <https://vipclubmn.org/Contact-Links.html#Associated>. Out of curiosity, Lowell sent a note to their webmaster asking if they could link to our website—which they did! On the French retiree site, click the **On the WEB** tab to see access to our site.

Traveling via Snapshots

Lowell Benson says: At the latest board meeting, it was suggested that some retirees might be interested in cruises. Are you interested in taking a first cruise or perhaps another cruise? Gloria and I (Lowell) have had a plethora of world cruises and enjoy sharing our adventures with booklets.



There is so much to see and enjoy in this world of ours! Our *Pairs of the World!* Booklet at <https://vipclubmn.org/Temp/Vol3Book07b.pdf> is an example of eclectic snapshots taken during our life's adventures. Download <https://vipclubmn.org/Temp/Catalogue2025.pdf> for thumbnails of 120+ booklets. If you would like to read one or more booklets, e-mail me at la.gj.benson@comcast.net asking for the Volume and Book number(s).

Lowell Benson

LEGACY STORY

History Bits and Bytes

Unisys in the Suburbs

Here is the latest news from  Unisys associates in Minnesota!

On January 20, 2026, associates were welcomed into a new workspace at the Regus office located at 2640 Eagan Woods Drive, Eagan. The new spot sits less than a mile and a half north of the former location on Pilot Knob Road—a quick jaunt for anyone familiar with the neighborhood.

In the Regus office building, Unisys has 10 dedicated offices on the second floor, including

additional space for the Unisys office manager. One office is spacious enough to seat 12 associates, while the other 9 offices are designed to accommodate 3 associates each. All told, there are 39 seats ready for collaboration! Two conference rooms are available for meetings and brainstorming sessions.

It's optional for Unisys Minnesota-based associates to work from the Regus office, as associates are officially considered remote (work-from-home) employees. Still, many members of the ClearPath Dorado and OS 2200 Engineering team are choosing to come together at the new office, enjoying the opportunity to collaborate and innovate in person.

It is business as usual now in Woodbury, following the successful relocation of the Engineering Technology Innovation Center (TIC) lab from Eagan to the Iron Gate Data Center on July 31, 2025. This was no ordinary move—it was a large-scale, highly coordinated effort involving the heart of the Engineering development and test environment, including all associated servers and storage.

That move was executed through nine carefully planned phases, with detailed preparation beginning in April 2023, and the first physical relocation taking place in February 2024. The project reached completion on July 31, 2025, marking the culmination of months of disciplined execution. Many people contributed directly to the success of this project (including four project managers), affecting engineers involved in developing, testing, and supporting OS 2200 ClearPath systems. What makes this accomplishment truly remarkable is that the team carried out this complex transition while continuing to meet their normal day-to-day responsibilities. Throughout the process, system dependencies were thoughtfully identified and managed to minimize disruption and protect ongoing projects.

For a few team members, this move represented their second major lab relocation, following the earlier transition from Roseville to Eagan in 2017. For many others, it was their first experience participating in an effort of this scale. Together, the team demonstrated exceptional collaboration, resilience, and professionalism, turning a challenging undertaking into a standout success story.

Kris Wilmunen, Unisys Senior Solution Manager.

Faded Away

Prior Twin Cities facilities information is online at our Legacy Anthology Chapter 31 (<https://vipclubmn.org/TwinCities.html>) and in the February 1986 Sperry Twin Cities News (<https://vipclubmn.org/newsletters.html#Sperry>).

Wow, we were over 15 thousand employees working in 3.6 million square feet of facilities in MN before Burroughs bought us to form Unisys. *Paul*

Dickson extracted MN 1985 facility data therefrom, shown in the following table. Note: Does not include the 1985 Burroughs facilities nor the Eagan MACS building, which consolidated the former Burroughs groups in the Twin Cities.

1985 MN Facility Data			
Sq. Ft. Size	Facility	Location	Employee Count
1,365,900	Roseville Operations (three buildings)	2276 Highcrest Road, Roseville	5,460
520,000	Sperry Park, Defense Systems Division HQ	3333 Pilot Knob Road, Eagan	2,157
324,000	Shepard Road	2751 Shepard Road, St. Paul	2,300
319,000	Corporate Square	Neil Armstrong Blvd. & Apollo Road, Eagan	915
240,000	Semiconductor HQ	1500 Tower View Road, Eagan	637
167,000	Eagandale Business Center	1270 Eagan Industrial Blvd., 1285 & 1301 Corporate Center Drive, Eagan	611
164,000	Midway (Original ERA facility)	1902 W. Minnehaha Ave., St. Paul	264
140,000	Commercial Manufacturing & Software Development	1401 Sixth Avenue, Clear Lake	840
100,000	Waters Edge	1500 W. County Road B2, Roseville	494
85,000	Metro Park	3001 and 3050 Metro Park Drive, Bloomington	410
80,000	Earle Brown Center	6110 Earle Brown Drive, Brooklyn Center	255
61,800	Yankee Square	3410 Federal Street, 3459 and 3470 Washington Drive, Eagan	389
38,000	Jackson Commercial Manufacturing	Jackson, MN	400
31,000	ATC Operations	1385 Mendota Heights Road, Eagan	176
13,500	Bloomington Learning Center	2001 Killebrew Drive, Bloomington	23
11,000	Federal Systems	2535 Pilot Knob Road, Eagan	25
Totals at the beginning of 1986: 3,660,700 sq. ft. with 15,356 employees.			

Ramsey County Historical Society



The Ramsey County Historical Society (RCHS) Engineering Research Associates (ERA) Oral History *Project 2025* is a continuation of the RCHS ERA oral history *Project 2024*. As with the 2024 project, it was funded through an appropriation from the Minnesota Historical Society through the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage grants program to the RCHS.

The 2025 project focused primarily on the impact of ERA and various connections between it, its follow-up businesses and corporations, and departments at the University of Minnesota that trained many of the computer technicians and engineers who worked at our

computer companies. Information about the connections may also be found in the book, *A History of the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering, 1888-2006*, James R. Leger, ed., donated to this interviewee project by Dr. Mostafa Kaveh. Project 2025 narrators were:

- ◆ Deborah Rubens, the daughter of ERA pioneer Sidney Rubens.
- ◆ Donald M. Hall, the author of *Generation of Wealth: The rise of Control Data* and how it inspired an era of innovation and investment in the Upper Midwest.
- ◆ Mats Heimdahl, Distinguished University Teaching Professor in 2004, and head of the Department of Computer Science & Engineering since 2015.
- ◆ Mostafa Kaveh, a member of the faculty of the University of Minnesota College of Electrical Engineering, now Electrical and Computer Engineering, since 1975. He held the Centennial Chair in Electrical and Computer Engineering (2002-2014), and from 1990 to May 2005 was the head of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. From March 2005 until January 2018, he served as the associate dean for Research and Planning, and from 2018 until January 2022 as the dean of the College of Science and Engineering at the University of Minnesota.
- ◆ Richard Y. Kain, Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, 1975-late 1990s.

The narrators describe their memories of the work of ERA, Control Data Corporation, UNIVAC, Unisys, Cray Research, Medtronic, and related computer and medical technology companies. They also discussed the parallel growth of the Departments of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering at the University of Minnesota and the computer companies, the general impacts of the work of the companies on the university departments, and the general impacts of the growth of the university departments on the companies.

A summary of Project 2024 is at: <https://vipclubmn.org/PeopleInterview.html#RCHS>.

Barbara Sommer, RCHS Interviewer

Shadow Boxes at RCHS

As previously reported, the two sets of shadow boxes were transferred from the Unisys Eagan facility to the RCHS storage facility. There will not be an immediate display; rather, the boxes will remain in their secure facility until a plan is developed and funding is budgeted. That could be two to three years in the future.

Lowell Benson

Lawshe Catalogue Status

Keith Myhre shared with us that he can now see the light at the end of the tunnel! 13,000 35 mm slides have been logged with 1-2 thousand left to do. There have been 50,000 photos logged—caught up—however, new photos constantly arrive. Keith, Bob Pagac, Les Nelson,

or Jon Simon still need help with scanning on Tuesday mornings, 9:00 a.m. to noon. OJT is available and easy. To volunteer, see the second bullet of our website Contacts and Links page at <https://vipclubmn.org/Contact-Links.html>.

More than a Spinoff!

Product Development

Associates (PDA) was started in August 1994 by four former Sperry employees:



Paul Richardson, Dave Shelander, Tony Pascuzzi, and Bob Jablonski. Before incorporating, the subject of starting a company was discussed for 1-2 years prior. Paul Erickson participated in the initial discussions, with Tony Pascuzzi joining in the last year. Paul Erickson decided to start his own design and metal fabrication business. PDA's defined mission was to provide quality design, engineering services, and support to customers at a fair price.

Initially, the founders worked out of their homes. Paul and Dave were full-time employees; Tony and Bob worked other jobs, but worked part-time and managed the company. The first paying job was in 1995 for Architecture Technology Corporation (ATC) TRITICOM Division, which was run by Dr. Ken Thurber, a former Sperry employee. The job was for the packaging design and build of an ethernet performance monitoring unit. For the next 15 years, PDA primarily marketed to previous known contacts and eventually developed a business base with Sperry/Lockheed Martin (LM) Eagan; Cargill Kitchen Solutions (CKS); General Dynamics; Leonardo DRS; Research, Inc.; ITT/Delta Tech/Sensata; and other companies.

A major opportunity occurred in 2012 that changed PDA's business direction and growth. Lockheed Martin, who had owned the former Sperry facility in Eagan, MN, decided to close its Eagan facility and consolidate the LM Eagan Maritime business with their other locations across the country. Shortly thereafter, LM and DRS decided to terminate their teaming arrangement on future U.S. Navy Technical Insertion Hardware (TIH) Program contracts. In 2013, DRS approached PDA about teaming on the next TIH contract, making PDA the cabinet and console hardware design agent for the U.S. Navy submarine combat weapons and sonar server & display systems. With the closure of the LM Eagan (Sperry Eagan) facility, many experienced people became available. In September of 2014, DRS and PDA successfully won the TI16/18 TIH contract. Subsequently, DRS and PDA continued to develop and deliver the combat weapons and sonar server & display systems for the U.S. Navy through the TIH TI20/22/24 and TIH TI26 contracts. The U.S. Navy is generally on a two-year technology upgrade cycle (TI) for all

submarine upgrades and new builds where next generation technology equipment is used.

PDA has continued to expand its customer base since 2012 with the U.S. Navy, Lockheed Martin, Emerson, General Dynamics, Cargill, and others, while delivering engineering designs on systems supporting the MK 48 heavyweight torpedo, mine warfare, electronic warfare hardware systems, and radar distribution capabilities, among others. Over the years, PDA has also developed several products/unique machines for the U.S. Navy (the Tactical Communications and Audio Subsystem (TCAS) and the Parallel Phase Balancer (PPB)), and several for the commercial world, including an egg flipper for Cargill and a caramel apple dipping machine for Abdallah Candies.

Going forward, PDA continues to grow and mature its involvement and support of defense and commercial customers.

As the years have passed, PDA has expanded from 4 to 170 employees, and its management has transitioned—from Bob Jablonski, to Tony Pascuzzi, and currently to Jim Derks, former Sperry/Unisys/LM employee—and its mission and Sperry legacy has endured.

Robert Jablonski, retiree of UNIVAC, Weismantel Associates, Sperry, Unisys, LMCO, and PDA. Bob is also an original Unihog
(<https://vipclubmn.org/activities.html#Hogs>).

IN REMEMBRANCE OF:

The obits hereunder are redacted from funeral home postings or Pioneer Press, Star Tribune, or applicable local listings.

The VIP Club board extends its sympathies to the families and friends of those who have lost loved ones.

“A life that touches others goes on forever.”

David Allen Bohne — Age 79 of Eagan, MN passed away March 7, 2026 in Minneapolis, MN. David worked at the Sauk Centre Bohne's Hardware, owned by his parents, while in high school and college. He graduated from the U of MN, Morris with a BA in math and physics, then received a master's degree in math from the U of MN, Twin Cities Graduate School, where he also worked as a teaching associate in the physics and math departments. David then started a 37+ year career working for Lockheed Martin, Eagan and predecessor companies, holding many different positions (see <https://vipclubmn.org/PeopleDocImg/BohneDavid.pdf>), including management in marketing, engineering, and program management. He spent the last 15 years as an engineering director, leading hundreds in design, development, testing, and production. At times he was responsible for large engineering centers in Montreal, Canada and San Diego, CA. He was well-known for his



proposal writing and management skills, landing many high value (billion dollar plus) contracts. He also mentored many engineers who became accomplished managers and executives under his wise counsel, uplifting demeanor, and patience. At home, David raised his two children without a partner after his divorce from his first wife, Sherri Jo Gottschalk, until he met and married the love of his life, Sharon L. Hanson. Together for 31 years, they loved to travel, visiting 67 countries on six continents, all 50 states, and most of Canada. David provided generous good counsel and loving dedication to his family and all who knew him. At church he was an usher and on the global missions committee. He served on the City of Eagan Planning Commission, was an avid genealogist, and excellent gardener with his yard certified as a National Wildlife Federation wildlife habitat. David is survived by his wife, Sharon; a daughter, son, and stepdaughter; and other family and friends.



Arthur “Art” John Charlton — Age 87 of Wyoming, passed away February 13, 2026. At age 20, Art joined the Army, serving two years stationed in Schweinfurt, Germany, where his fondest memories were the variety of duties and the soldiers' camaraderie. After the Army, Art moved to the Twin Cities and began mechanical drafting for Thermo King, then found himself in the computer hardware field with Unisys. His work involved early manual layout design of printed circuit boards—a lengthy process, but one he really enjoyed. For over a decade, Art was a Unisys Photo Club member, partial to taking scenic North Shore and Duluth photos and participating in monthly competitions judged by outside professionals. A VIP Club member, in 2016 he donated a box of Photo Club history to the Legacy Committee; some of the documents are at the Lawshe Museum (<https://vipclubmn.org/Articles/PhotoClubEtc.pdf>). Art's final job was with an electronic manufacturing company, retiring in 2003. Art was an integral part of his apartment community; for 10 years he was committed to raising/lowering flags to half-staff for special events and was awarded a special plaque. He is remembered as sweet and gracious, funny, patriotic, very helpful, organized—the nicest guy there is!

Davis Lee Cronquist — Age 81 of Forest Lake, MN passed away at home March 17, 2026 following a brief illness. Davis served in the U.S. Army stateside during the Vietnam War repairing radar equipment. He went on to study at Dunwoody College and worked for Unisys for many years as a computer engineer. Davis enjoyed the outdoors as an avid fisherman, hunter, and frustrated golfer, and had many



stories of his time in the Forest Center, MN logging camp. He spoke fondly of and liked to visit family and friends and enjoy some wine or cold beer. Davis is survived by his wife of 56 years, Cherie (nee Nason), four children, and five grandchildren.

Robert James Hokanson — Age 87, of Edina, MN, passed away March 23, 2026. Bob graduated from the U of MN with a degree in physics. He blazed a trail in the nascent computer industry working for a series of companies from Emerson Electric Co. (EMR) to Sperry UNIVAC, Loral, and Lockheed Martin. Bob was both brilliant and kind and a gentle man with a dry sense of humor. He enjoyed tennis, golf, and bridge, playing with his wife, Marcia, and a group of friends from church and the neighborhood throughout his adult life. Bob and Marcia loved to travel nationally and internationally throughout their 50-year marriage, including trips with their sons to the East and West Coasts and Hawaii, among others. They also made numerous trips to Little Sand Resort in Park Rapids, MN with extended family, making memories of capturing crayfish, fishing for smallmouth bass, and canoe trips. Bob coached his boys in childhood hockey and baseball, and they later enjoyed summer visits with family and grandkids, including numerous trips to Disneyland, the Mall of America, a special trip to Hawaii, and many lunches at the American Girl Doll restaurant. Bob and Marcia had a tremendous cadre of family with fond remembrances of Christmas and birthday celebrations, and of friends whom they cherished and who cherished them. Bob was also devoted to his church where he volunteered as usher for decades. Late in life after Marcia's passing, Bob, a former VIP Club member, enjoyed time with his lady friend in beautiful places like the Arboretum, and was a beloved member of the communities where he lived. Bob was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Marcia, and a loving son, and is survived by a son; three grandchildren; other relatives, including nieces, nephews, and cousins; and friends.



Lynn Barry Keefer — Age 80, passed away peacefully February 27, 2026. Lynn was a graduate of Penn State University with a BS in aerospace engineering and science, after which he was a civilian geophysicist aboard U.S. Navy vessels, where he traveled the world measuring gravimetric and magnetic fields to support accurate aircraft navigation. He served as site manager in Pennsylvania for Sperry UNIVAC, and after moving to Minnesota continued to work with Unisys Corp., Eagan on international defense contracting across 16 countries. He later founded his own company, Sterling Design and Investment, where



his consulting work spanned many fields, and in later years he focused on financial planning and life insurance. Lynn also authored a book titled *Blue Food*. Lynn actively coached and supported his son's ice hockey and baseball, and his daughters' softball, high school plays, and theater. Some of his favorite moments were fishing and camping trips with family in northern Minnesota and The Boundary Waters. Growing up near Gettysburg, Lynn developed a lifelong love of history. His caring heart, dedication, creativity, and sense of humor shaped every chapter of his life—a life marked by curiosity, service, leadership, and a deep devotion to his family and community. Lynn is survived by his loving wife, Joan Keefer, three children, three grandchildren, and extended family.

Elwood Harry "Woody" Knight — Age 94, of Nixa, MO passed away peacefully at his home March 9, 2026, surrounded by family and friends. As a young man, Woody proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force for four years, and was honorably discharged due to contracting polio. His time in the military was a point of pride and helped shape the disciplined, dependable man his family and friends came to know and love. Woody and the love of his life, his wife Marcia, built a life centered on family for whom Woody worked hard to provide for throughout his life, always putting family first. Woody worked negotiating many contracts around the world. In the early 70s, he was the comptroller for MSD in Bad Godesberg, Germany (see Woody's last communication with the VIP Club, his input to the MSD posting at <https://vipclubmn.org/International.html#BadGodesberg>). When Sperry organized an Airlines Division for airline freight systems and airline reservation systems, Woody was their comptroller. He proudly worked on the NASA Apollo program to put a man on the moon (see a previous newsletter tidbit about Woody's NASA experiences on page 4 of <https://vipclubmn.org/Newsletters/Enews2409.pdf>). In retirement, Woody loved his work as a volunteer mentor for Senior Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) for over 35 years, mentoring small business clients worldwide. Woody is survived by four children, nine grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and other family.



Late Remembrance

George R. Smythe — Age 84, of Bloomington, MN went to be with the Lord August 27, 2017. George worked at Engineering Research Associates (ERA) starting in 1955, stayed through UNIVAC, and went to CDC in 1967, where he worked until 1989. He is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Joanne, three children, 10 grandchildren, and family and friends. George was active in Gideons and his church.



P. O. Box 21903
Eagan, MN 55121

VIP CLUB Newsletter

VIP Club MN P.O. 21903 Eagan, MN 55121

<http://vipclubmn.org/newsletters.html>

Board of Directors – 2026

President	Jim Andrews	651-451-7502
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Director	Al Douglass	651-492-4219
Director	Bob Shutt	952-807-3449
Director	Mary Shutt	612-269-1426
Past President	Harvey Taipale	651-280-7332

Newsletter Editorial Staff

Mary Beth Ruhland clubnewsltr@vipclubmn.org

PERIODIC SOCIAL GROUPS

Monthly Breakfast Gathering

- **1st Thursday**, 8 a.m. – **Capitol View Cafe**, 637 Smith Ave., **St. Paul** (corner of Smith and Baker). 651-222-2435

Monthly Lunch Gatherings

- **1st Tuesday Engineering Luncheon**, 11:00 a.m. – **Casper's Cherokee of Eagan**, 4625 Nicols Rd. (off Cliff Rd.) **Keith Behnke**: 651-587-2591.
- **2nd Tuesday**, 11:30 a.m. (Unisys/Burroughs group) – **Mall of America** 3rd floor North Food Court . **Paul Wennerstrom**: 952-854-7855.

CLUB CONTACT DATA

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