

VIP Club Newsletter

VOLUME 24, NO. 01 www.geocities.com/vipclub2003 JANUARY 2004

The Number to call for information on Unisys Retirement Status and Benefits: 1-800-600-4015.

The Number to call for information on Lockheed Martins Retirement Status and Benefits: 1--866-562-2363.

Wednesday, January 07	Board Meeting, Roseville	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, January 14	Roseville, Program & Social Time	7:00 p.m.

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

JANUARY PROGRAM: ROSEVILLE:

Phyllis Salchow, a Registered Occupational Therapist with the Phillips Eye Institute, will speak on "The Aging Eye." Using both video and graphic projections, Ms. Salchow will describe normal eye functions, common age-related problems and solutions, and eye diseases of concern to seniors – macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, and cataracts. She will also demonstrate adaptive techniques and equipment that can help to maintain independence when vision is compromised. Not one of us can expect to age without vision problems at some point; come and learn.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM: EAGAN:

The February program will be announced in the next newsletter.

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS:

Please send permanent address changes to Dick Mullins addressed to the VIP Club at the address given on the label page of the newsletter. Also please remember that for temporary changes the U.S. Postal Service will forward your mail.

IF YOUR ADDRESS LABEL DOES NOT HAVE A 4 AFTER YOUR NAME, YOU ARE NOT PAID FOR 2004 AND YOUR NEWSLETTER WILL STOP. PLEASE USE THE DUES COUPON ON PAGE 3 AND SUBMIT YOUR 2004 DUES.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From: Dale Phelps

The last social event of the year for the VIP Club was our annual Christmas Party held at the U.S. Air Force NCO Club. Ninety-seven members and guests enjoyed an evening of great food and entertainment. The Twin Cities Women's Choir under the direction of Mary Bussman sang, with some audience participation, songs of the Holiday Season. We then danced or just listened to the relaxing and enjoyable music of The Connie Villars Quartet.

Ann Thureen and her husband Jim, {representing UNISYS Liaison) gave a recap of what UNISYS is doing in the computer world. Invited guests Jim Commander and Judy Cognetta of UNISYS and Sheri Grone of Lockheed Martin were unable to attend. The VIP Club wants to thank UNISYS and Lockheed Martin for the contribution of chocolate-covered cookies and Abdallah candy on our beautifully decorated tables.

As your new President, I want to wish all of you a healthy and prosperous 2004 New Year. This is your

VIP Club and we want to continue to have quality programs and hope the VIP Club will be a place to renew friendships and establish a sense of camaraderie. In simple words, have fun. It is your participation that helps make the VIP Club successful. Respectfully, Dale Phelps, VIP President

From the Editors



Brian Berggren (651-451-9009) &
Joe Schwarz (651-698-9698)
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DINING CLUBS & GROUPS:

Breakfast groups and get-togethers:
One breakfast group meets monthly at 9:00 am 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 am 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 am 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 am 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 am 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 pm at Champs located at 35E and Larpenteur Avenue. For information call **763-786-1044**.

MEETING & EVENT DATES 2004:

Date	Time	Location	Activity
Jan. 14	7:00 pm	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Feb. 11	7:00 pm	Eagan	Program - Social Time
Mar. 10	7:00 pm	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Apr 14	7:00 pm	Eagan	Program - Social Time
May. 12	7:00 pm	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
June 09	4:00 pm	Park	VIP Club Picnic
July 14	7:00 pm	Eagan	Program - Social Time
Aug 11	7:00 pm	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Sept. 08	7:00 pm	Eagan	Program - Social Time
Oct 13	7:00 pm	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Nov. 10	7:00 pm	Eagan	Program - Social Time
Dec. XX	5:45 pm	USAF	Christmas Party

Note: Rsvl = Roseville, Eagan = Eagan Community Center, Park = Highland Park Pavilion, USAF = NCO Club at U.S. Air Force Base of Hwy 62

WELCOME NEW CLUB MEMBERS:

Bergen, William and Patricia **LM** Burnsville MN
Bort, Janard and Carol **D** Burnsville MN
U = Unisys **B** = Burroughs **LM** = Lockheed Martin
D = Unisys Defense Systems

IN REMEMBRANCE:

Johnson Gordon P.-Age 80, formerly of St. Paul. He is survived by his wife, June.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

BLOODMOBILE

Bloodmobile Information from Marion Scott:

JANUARY/FEBRUARY RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES.

Thursday, January 22nd, Unisys MAC Eagan needs greeters and servers 9 am-12 pm & 12 pm-3 pm.

Wednesday, January 28th. Lockheed Martin, Eagan needs greeters and servers 9 am-12 pm & 12 pm-3 pm

March 24th and 25th, Unisys Roseville needs greeters and servers 9 am-12 pm & 12 pm-3 pm.

All volunteers working in January will receive a white T-shirt displaying a frolicking skier. The Red Cross donated these shirts to the VIP Club. Please call Marion Scott at 651-455-7952 to sign-up.

MEDICARE BILL:

Almost daily, some new and obnoxious provision emerges from the just-signed reformed and improved Medicare bill. We already knew that of the \$400 billion, the pharmaceutical companies,

insurance companies, and for-profit HMOs would have their continued profitability assured. Employers are to get 88 billion in subsidies for maintaining coverage that many of us currently have.

Instead of correcting inequities, the new law aggravates the problem. The highest reimbursed county, the one in Louisiana that got \$8,099 per senior on Medicare in 2001, will now get \$9,014 – keep those free prescriptions, glasses, and hearing aids coming. Iowa, at the bottom with \$3,414 per senior, will now get \$3,997.

Prescription drug re-importation got stripped from the bill and the government is prohibited from negotiating with drug companies for Medicare beneficiaries as they do for the VA. Another quirk is the interim drug discount card program. Seniors will be allowed to select one card at enrollment, good for one company's products. The seniors can change once a year; the suppliers can change costs weekly, even remove drugs from the discount program.

Already, budget analysts are placing the costs of the program over 1 trillion, some up to 1.9 trillion. Of this, maybe 50 billion goes to help rural systems, a real need. Some much smaller amount will be used to provide catastrophic drug coverage to the poor, again a real need. Approximately 12 billion will be used to subsidize the six regional private pilot test programs that will unfairly compete with Medicare. The rest will ensure continued drug and insurance company profits.

The younger generation, those working and paying more in taxes are being told the seniors are getting what they want at the expense of those still working. Generations at war. The reality is that most seniors get very little in the way of a benefit; less than \$300 would be saved on a \$1,200 a year drug expense. In

this case, no bill would have been better than what was passed. And remember it was passed with the help of AARP, that stealth insurance company (royalty income from their health insurance policies totaled \$107.8 million in 2002).

Submitted by Brian Berggren (MN Senior Federation Medicare Justice Coalition co-chair)

HAPPENINGS:

WCCO Good Neighbor Award Nomination — Lou and Marie Cramer

Lou Cramer and his wife Marie came to the Arthritis Foundation several years ago to volunteer for a rose sale. Shortly after, Marie requested a small volunteer job at the Foundation. What started as a small volunteer job has turned into a full-time commitment for Marie. She has been coming into the Arthritis Foundation office five days a week to process and fulfill the information requests that come from the public. She also takes inventory of the educational materials, oversees the mailroom, and keeps thousands of pieces of information in "apple pie order".

Marie has also influenced her husband Lou to come to the office and provide service. For years Lou has been in charge of shredding boxes full of unneeded papers, and he sorts and disposes of empty boxes that constantly appear in the storeroom. When a conference is scheduled, Lou shows up to stuff hundreds of participant information bags. When a chair or piece of equipment needs repair, Lou fixes it, and he occasionally takes items home for his sons to repair! A hearty thanks to the Lou Cramer family for keeping the Arthritis Foundation in order!

Lou and Marie are members of the VIP Club.

VIP CLUB APPLICATION AND RENEWAL FORM			
Retiree Name: _____		Spouse: _____	
Address: _____, _____, _____, _____			
STREET ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
Phone: () _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if your address or phone number has changed	New Member(s) _____ Renewing Member(s) _____	
Company: Lockheed Martin & Predecessors: _____; Unisys: Univac & Predecessors: _____; Unisys: Burroughs: _____			
Please make check payable to the VIP CLUB and mail to address shown at right:	VIP CLUB Jack Farber 5700 Villa Dr. Shoreview MN 55126	Annual dues: \$4 per Couple or Single. Note to new members: Your newsletters start after dues are received.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if you do not wish to have your name listed in the VIP Members directory. (Directory distributed to members only)			

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

VIP CLUB OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS FOR THE YEAR 2003

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
OFFICERS**

President.....Dale Phelps #831-7843
Vice Pres.....Bernie Jansen *681-9988
Secretary.....Jim Larson *698-3963
Treasurer.....Jack Farber *785-9557
Past Pres.....Hank Dotzler #892-0175

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

VOLUNTEER CHAIRPERSONS

Courage Center Programs
Bernie & Kathryn Jansen *681-9988
Red Cross Blood Drive
Marion Scott.....*455-7952

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

Membership Dick Mullins *552-8837
Programs Eagan Dale Phelps #831-7843
Programs Roseville ... Jack Farber *785-9557
Newsletter Editors Brian Berggren *451-9009
& Joe Schwarz *698-9698

WEBMASTER

Joe Schwarz *698-9698
email address: vipclub2003@yahoo.com

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

Christmas..... Dorothy Becker #881-3516
Picnic.....Chuck Homan *699-5180
Historian Millie Gignac *454-0971
Metro Sr. Fed.....Brian Berggren *451-9009
John Dufour *639-8289
Jim Larson *698-3963
Sunshine.....Jim Larson *698-3963

Travel Opportunities

Roger Gillette +926-7214
& Yvonne Cecchini at *423-9196

UNISYS Liaison, Roseville Judy Cognetta *635-6563
Printing & Mailing UNISYS Print Shop, Roseville

Lockheed Martin, Eagan Liaison Sheri Grone *456-2210

Directions to Eagan Community Center. Take Hwy 35E south or north to Pilot Knob Road. Turn left (north) on Pilot Knob Road. Turn left on Central Parkway (which is also the North entrance to Lockheed). The Eagan Community Center is at 1501 Central Parkway.

Directions to Unisys in Roseville. Take Hwy 35W south or north to the Industrial Way / St. Anthony Blvd off ramp. If coming north or south on Hwy 35E go west on Hwy 36 which will take you to the Industrial Way / St. Anthony Blvd. off ramp of 35W (Hwy 36 becomes Hwy 35W where it joins Hwy 35W). Go north on St. Anthony Blvd. to Walnut St. (the first street on the right). Turn right and go to Highcrest which is the first place where you can turn left. Past the stop sign. Bldg 3 is on the right. Gate 5 is in the center of the building.

From Hwy 280 northbound, use left lane exit just past Cty Rd B for Terminal road access (St Croix St.). Turn left at Terminal Rd, then turn right at Highcrest Rd to building entrance.