

VIP Club Newsletter

VOLUME 24, NO. 05

www.geocities.com/vipclub2003

MAY 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, May 05
Wednesday, May 12

Board Meeting, Roseville
Roseville, Program & Social Time

10:00 a.m.
7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 02
Wednesday, June 09

Board Meeting, Eagan
Annual Picnic Highland Park Pavilion

10:00 a.m.
4:00 p.m.

MAY PROGRAM: ROSEVILLE

For the May Program we are again happy to announce that Mr. Bob DeFlores returns with an excellent film program. Bob is a well-known collector of films that would be lost forever without his work of discovering and saving these often priceless films. One of the films, to be shown, is the only existing copy of a film that shows a Bing Crosby 1954 pilot TV film. In addition there will be other surprise film features.

JUNE PROGRAM: EAGAN

The VIP Club Annual Picnic will be held at 4:00 p.m. on June 9th. This event enjoys the largest attendance of any Club event each year. It will be held at the Pavilion at Highland Park. A map is given on page 5. The Club will supply hamburgers, buns, condiments, and soft drinks. Suggestions of what to bring for the potluck portion of the Picnic are based on the first letter of your last name: A-K, Hot Dish or appetizers; L-S, Salad; and T-Z, Dessert.

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.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From: Dale Phelps

April's VIP Club Program was held at the new Eagan Community Center. You either enjoyed or missed a wonderful opportunity to see and hear the Ms. Minnesota-Senior America Pageant, Cameo Club "Showcase" Performance. The various talents included singing, acting, dancing and speaking. Our own VIP Club member, Marlene Merth, sang "Mocking Bird Hill." The women were elegantly dressed in beautiful formal gowns. The program concluded with everyone singing "God Bless America". Coffee and cookies were served for refreshments.

The VIP Club Volunteer Recognition Breakfast was held at UNISYS in Roseville on 21 April 2004 at 8:30 a.m. See more details on page 5.

It is not too early to plan and mark your calendars for our VIP Club Annual Picnic to be held 9 June 2004, 4:00 p.m. at the Highland Park Pavilion in St. Paul. This event enjoys the largest attendance of any

Club event each year. Plan to come and enjoy good food and company.

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 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 2004

Date	Time	Location	Activity
Jan. 14	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Feb. 11	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time

Mar. 10	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Apr 14	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
May. 12	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
June 09	4:00 p.m.	Park	VIP Club Picnic
July 14	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
Aug 11	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Sept. 08	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
Oct 13	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Nov. 10	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
Dec. 09	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 of Hwy 62

WELCOME NEW CLUB MEMBERS

Wagner, Richard. & Elizabeth U/B W. St Paul MN.
U = Unisys B = Burroughs LM = Lockheed Martin
D = Unisys Defense Systems

IN REMEMBRANCE

Granberg, Alvina Lily - Age 83, of Richfield, died Sunday, April 11, 2004 at home. She is survived by her husband, Leland.

Sheets, Clifford D. - Age 64, of Zimmerman, formerly of Eagan. Passed away on April 9, 2004. Survived by his wife, Joanna.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLOODMOBILE

Bloodmobile Information from Marion Scott

Thanks to the following members for their service on the March 24th and 25th Red Cross Blood Drives in Roseville:

Geri and Hank Dotzler, Ray and Joyce Miller, Leroy and Loretta Dubois, Jim Roth, Arnie Schmalzbauer, and John Dufour.

Note: On March 24th 44 units of blood were collected and on March 25th 38 units of blood were collected.

HEALTH ISSUES

Health Issues for May 2004 – Medicare Improvement Architect Blows Smoke

Thomas Scully, former administrator of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and drafter of our new and improved Medicare law, performed for Senator Durenberger's National Institute of Health Policy on 5 April at the St. Paul Hotel. Peter Wyckoff, Howard Gochberg, and Brian Berggren represented the MN Senior Federation. Senator Durenberger, Howard, and Brian were the

only seniors present; the other attendees represented the Minnesota and Wisconsin health care industry.

I say Scully performed rather than presented. He is a Machiavellian superstar. His high-speed discourse is words without pause, like an un-punctuated text. Unlike Machiavelli, who only required an excuse be at hand for criticisms and errors, Scully comes with full rationale and philosophy for each and every question. In fact, the only way to interrupt his discourse is with another question. He is a remarkable man and very bright and facile. He is also bent and an un-indicted looter of future billions from the federal treasury, and who makes the misdeeds of the Enrons and Tycos seem like practice exercises - but that is just a personal feeling.

Scully did share some interesting numbers. As CMS administrator, he oversaw disbursement of \$600 billion for 71 million citizens. Medicare will spend \$300 billion for 41 million seniors and disabled; 11 million of those seniors have no Rx coverage and 10 million have poor coverage. Regarding overhead, CMS pays 0.5% to the individual state Blue Cross plans who add 9% to write the Medicare checks. He also said CMS has 5000 employees and only one pharmacist.

Now for the meat of his talk. Scully is proud of the low-income drug benefit, where poor seniors get \$1 generics with no gaps and no deductibles. He also explained the retiree "buyout," where employers will get \$3000 per head to maintain current retiree coverage. He says the drug benefit is worth \$1400 for rich seniors and \$4400 for poor seniors; we know it's not quite that simple. He stated that currently 11% of seniors are in HMOs and 89% are using fee-for-service providers. The GOP wanted PPOs (which 70% of non-seniors choose) added to the mix.

Scully stressed that Medicare will be the same but with a drug benefit and the regional for-profit PPO option. He showed a slide with 15 proposed regions identified. Minnesota will be with the Dakotas, Wisconsin and Michigan. His map has at least one urban center in every region; apparently, the bigger problem was getting Montana and Wyoming into a region and Denver got to be their urban center. These regions will have entities with pharmacy benefit managers that negotiate our drug prices. He said Medicare would be fixing prices if CMS did it for the whole country because Medicare is 50% of the drug market, and for some drugs seniors make 98% of the market. He never did explain why management as 15 regions was good and continued management through the 50 states or one federal scheme was not so good. He also thought Medicare payment inequities were no big deal. So one area gets 95% of costs covered and another area gets 82%

covered; all are still getting a great deal and most of their costs paid by the government. The old Medicare system "fixed" prices and the new Medicare with its PPO option will increase competition. When the "donut hole" came up, he said it can be fixed with money, but that is the new commissioner's problem. When funding problems for Medicare and Social Security came up, he dismissed those as only something in the future and said Social Security was only an income transfer system. He said the new program is really great for poor people and he said the health savings accounts are really great for rich people. But it's the people in the middle (middle class and mid-west) that get worked over.

Medicare Drug Discount Cards

The MN Senior Federation is supporting educational forums on the new cards at the following three locations: Thompson Park Activities Center (10:30 a.m.-12: p.m.), 127 W. Moreland, West St. Paul; White Bear Area Senior Program (1:00-3:00 p.m.), 2484 E. Cty Rd F, White Bear Lake; and Fairview Community Center (9:30-11:30 a.m.), 1910 W. Cty Rd B, Roseville.

Annual Norwegian Syttende Mai Luncheon Planned - May 14, 2004

Celebrate your Norwegian heritage--and that of your friends--by attending a traditional luncheon recognizing Norway's Constitution Day, or Syttende Mai ("17 May"). The 27th annual Syttende Mai luncheon will be held at the Cherokee Sirloin Room, 4625 Nicols Rd., Eagan, on Friday, May 14, from 11:15-12:15. This year's speaker will be an expert on the subject of Norwegian immigration to America, Odd Sverre Lovoll, Ph.D. Dr. Lovoll is a well known St. Olaf College professor, the author of several books, and a featured speaker at Syttende Mai events throughout the area. The topic of his talk will be changes in the celebration of Syttende Mai among Norwegian immigrants from the 1840's to today. Price of the luncheon is \$13.00, including choice of four entrées, beverage, and gratuity. Contact Dale Phelps (952-831-7843) by May 11 if you would like to attend. Everyone is welcome!

OLD TIMERS FIELD ENGINEERING PICNIC

Mark your calendars for the OLD TIMERS FIELD ENGINEERING PICNIC. This picnic will be at Spring Lake Park Reserve /Schaar's Bluff on the 7th of August from noon to five. This picnic is arranged and sponsored by Curt Anderson. More information and directions will be provided in future newsletters. Questions can be directed to Curt Anderson at 651-438-9851 or email anderscurt@comcast.net.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

At about the time our original 13 states adopted their new constitution in 1787, Alexander Tyler, a Scottish history professor at the University of Edinburgh, had this to say about the fall of the Athenian republic some 2,000 years prior: "A democracy is always temporary in nature; it simply cannot exist as a permanent form of government. A democracy will continue to exist up until the time that voters discover that they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury. "From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates who promise the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that every democracy will finally collapse over loose fiscal policy, (which is) always followed by a dictatorship. "The average age of the world's greatest civilizations from the beginning of history has been about 200 years. During those 200 years, these nations always progressed through the following sequence: From bondage to spiritual faith; From faith to great courage; From courage to liberty; From liberty to abundance; From abundance to complacency; From complacency to apathy; From apathy to dependence; and From dependence back into bondage."

More Food for Thought Stadium Nonsense

Do you know anyone who has seen a Vikings game from a seat inside the 40's, a Twins game from between the dugouts, or a Wolves game where you didn't see most of the game on the Jumbotron? The rest of us essentially subsidize the guys with the view thrice - once for using real money for marginal seats, twice for allowing public money to fund the facility, and then again for business entertainment expense tax deductibility for the sky boxes and pricey seats.

Why support major league anything with public money? The public doesn't benefit. An NFL team has eight home games good for 500,000 tickets; an AL/NL team has 81 home games good for maybe another 2.5 million tickets; and an NBA team has 40 home games for another 700,000 tickets. If the tickets were distributed one for each sport throughout the greater metropolitan area, only 15% of us could see a football game, 75% a baseball game, and maybe 20% a basketball game. Factor the number of seats by the number of good seats (20% too high?) and the number of us that could enjoy a game from a decent vantage would be closer to 3% for football, 15% for baseball, and 5% for basketball. But most of us can't get a good seat; the season ticket holders have a lock on them.

Anyway, games don't always sell out and most games are seen by repeaters, so the real number of

fans is probably less than 200,000. Out of three plus million - one in 20 maybe. More of us use the events as a number generator for betting games or topic for conversation. Speaking of numbers, these were provided by a consultant- but I'm sure they're 86.5% accurate.

That pro sports builds a sense of community is another fiction. Most big league sporting events are white guy happenings. There are not enough African-Americans, Hispanics, or Asians in attendance to be considered a presence. In fact, big-league sports even segregates white guys.

It's the sky boxes, those well-upholstered, coat-racked, quiet-flush-toileted, refrigerator-and-warming-pan-equipped living-rooms-away-from-home for the well-heeled and well-connected. Drink your wine from stemware, your scotch from crystal, then eat your catered snack from china. If you or I tried to walk in with a treat-in-a-basket and a bottle, we'd be lucky if the guardians-of-the-gates only took the stuff.

It's the sky boxes that isolate the privileged from the public. That each cost the price of a home. That give the "super fans" space and views and privacy, that they want us to pay for. A Caesar didn't have it so good at the Coliseum.

The public would be much better served by pro or semi-pro sports that didn't require the huge "revenue stream" of our current big league teams. Not that many of the fans even seem very interested in the game. Can you recall anyone within hearing making a guess on strategy? Will he bunt? hit and run? Most of the action is with swill vendors and schmoozers. When was the last time you weren't spilled on or stepped on?

THE LIGHTER SIDE

The mechanic and surgeon

A mechanic was removing a cylinder head from the motor of a Harley motorcycle when he spotted a well-known heart surgeon in his shop. The surgeon was waiting for the service manager to take a look at his bike. The mechanic shouted across the garage, "Hey Doc, can I ask you a question?" The surgeon, a bit surprised, walked over to the mechanic working on the motorcycle. The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked, "So Doc, look at this engine. I open its 'heart', take valves out, fix 'em, put 'em back in; and when I finish, it works just like new. So how come I get such a measly salary and you get the really big bucks when you and I are doing basically the same kind of work?" The surgeon paused, smiled and leaned over, and whispered to the mechanic, "Try doing it with the engine running."

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION BREAKFAST AND YEAR 2003 VOLUNTEER SURVEY RESULTS

On April 21, 2004 Unisys hosted a Volunteer Recognition Breakfast for the VIP Club members who performed Volunteer Services in 2003. A total of 110 Unisys and Lockheed Martin retiree members who responded to the *Newsletter* survey donated 22,487 hours to various charities in Minnesota, Texas, North Carolina, and Wisconsin. Sixty-five members attended the Breakfast. The event was chaired by Dale Phelps, VIP Club President and Bernie Jansen, Volunteer Event Chairperson. Unisys sponsors who addressed the group included Jim Commander, Vice President Unisys ClearPath OS2200 Systems and Judy Cognetta, VIP Club Liaison for Unisys. Ann Thureen, Vice President Unisys ClearPath OS2200 Systems and Sherri Grone, Director of Communications, Lockheed Martin were unable to attend. Mary Hall provided vocal and guitar music based on a Frank Sinatra theme.

The following twenty five VIP Club members who together donated 12,240 hours were recognized for their outstanding service: Art and Margaret Boehm, Gordon and Teta Cleaveland, Marie and Lou Cramer, John Dufour, David and Kay Duncan, Wally Emerson, George and Barbara Kydd, Jim and Lucille Lewis, Robert and Lois Massey, Jim and Marjean McGuire, Robert and June Myller, Jerry and Nina Raveling, Dick Roessler, Walter Strey, and Donna Sylvester. It was noted that there was a 51 % increase in the number of VIP Club members who responded to this year's survey and a 31 % increase in the number of volunteer hours reported as compared to the survey conducted for the year 2002.

The Year 2003 Volunteer Activities performed by members and the hours donated to the various organizations summarized by Categories are shown in the following Table:

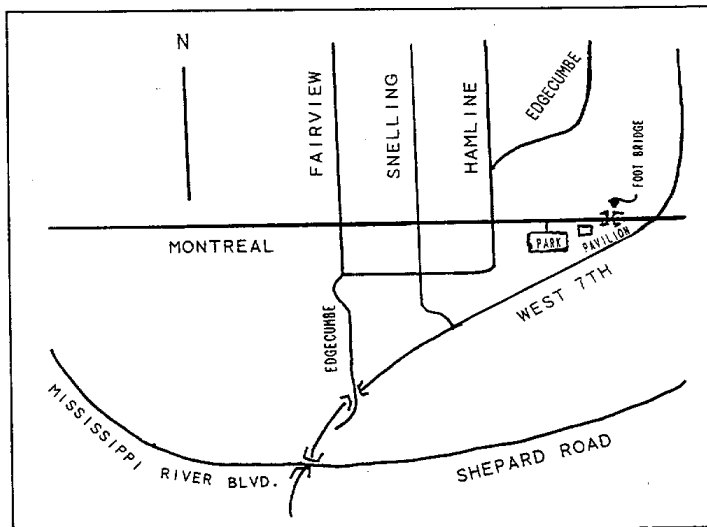
1.	<u>Community and Related Services</u>	3,448 hours
2.	<u>Health and Disaster Services</u>	4,540 hours
3.	<u>Meals, Food and Housing Services</u>	1,770 hours
4.	<u>Music and Theatrical Services</u>	630 hours
5.	<u>Schools, Museums, and Educational Services</u>	2,770 hours
6.	<u>Religious Support and Related Services</u>	5,610 hours
7.	<u>Other Services</u>	3,917 hours

TOTAL DONATED VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR YEAR 2003 22,487

MAP TO THE ST PAUL PAVILION IN HIGHLAND PARK

PLAN TO BE AT THE PARK BY 4:00 PM FOR THE PICNIC. DRESS COMFORTABLY AND EXPECT TO HAVE A GOOD TIME.

The entrance to the parking lot for the Pavilion (Highland Park Shelter building) is just west of the entrance to the park where the swimming pool is located. It is the first entrance on the south side of Montreal west of the foot bridge over Montreal.



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

VIP CLUB OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS FOR THE YEAR 2004

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
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Vice Pres.....Bernie Jansen *681-9988
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Treasurer.....Jack Farber *785-9557
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Director.....Dick Mullins *552-8837
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Red Cross Blood Drive
Marion Scott.....*455-7952

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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.