

VIP Club Newsletter

VOLUME 24, NO. 07 www.geocities.com/vipclub2003 JULY 2004

The Number to call for information on Unisys Retirement Status and Benefits: 1-877-864-7972.

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

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

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

JULY PROGRAM: EAGAN

The Minnesota Senior Federation has prepared fresh presentations on “The Medicare Mess” and “The Drug Discount Card – Much Ado about Nothing” that Brian Berggren and Warren Becker will bring to the meeting. Those attending can help decide which to do first. By the time of the July meeting, some of you should also have some information to share on approaches to drug discounts and any actual savings.

AUGUST PROGRAM: ROSEVILLE

Our own Jack Farber will share his slides of a whirlwind tour of western and central Turkiye (Turkey). Jack will visit Ankara and share a little about Ataturk, “Father of the Turks.” He will take us to Cappadokia, where the wind has carved the landscape into strange shapes, and where people lived inside hills and underground centuries ago. He will show us Ephesus, where once was the second largest library in the world. Jack will then take us to Istanbul, one of the most interesting cities in the world. We will go into the harum in Topkapi and visit Dolmabace, the last palace of the last sultan.

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

It was picnic time for VIP Club members on June 9th at Highland Park in St. Paul. We never know what our Minnesota weather may be when we schedule a picnic; the morning of June 9th was no exception and it started with a heavy rain. However, as the day progressed the rain stopped and it turned out to be a beautiful day for our picnic. Rain or shine Highland Park has a wonderful shelter for us to enjoy. A special “thank you” to Chuck Homan, our picnic chairman and cook, along with Jim Larson, for those hamburgers grilled to perfection. Thank you to the kitchen crew who helped with setting up the food and cleaning after the picnic. Also, thank you to our photographers. Picnic pictures are included as an insert in this newsletter. Attendance was well over 100 people. It was great to see everyone having a good time renewing old friendships. Also, thank you to everyone bringing the delicious food.

I want to thank everyone who submitted his or her favorite recipes to be published in the UNISYS Employee Cookbook. I am looking forward to trying some of them.

The VIP Club presented a panel discussion on retirement to the employees at Lockheed Martin on Wednesday, June 16. The Lockheed Martin Diversity Council sponsored this event. Presenters were John Dufour, Joe Schwarz, Hank Dotzler, Brian Berggren, and Bernie Jansen, with me as moderator.

Hope everyone is having a great summer
Respectfully, Dale Phelps, VIP President

From the Editors



Brian Berggren (651-451-9009) &
Joe Schwarz (651-698-9698)
Address:-VIP Club, 1486 Fairmount Ave, St Paul
MN 55105 e-mail: vipclub2003@yahoo.com

The Newsletter Editorial Staff:

Bernie Jansen, e-mail bjskj@msn.com
Richard Lundgren, e-mail rflundgr@aol.com
Don Naaktgeboren, e-mail donfishn@juno.com

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 off Hwy 62

WELCOME NEW CLUB MEMBERS

Bahneman, Richard LM Buffalo, MN
Belfry, Keith L. LM Eden Prairie, MN
Carter, Dave and Kathy LM Burnsville, MN
Bidon, Carole LM Inver Grove Heights, MN
Hammang, Mary & Tom 0 LM Burnsville, MN
Long, Homer and Louise Dallas, OR
Terhaar, Roland F. Rogers, MN.
U = Unisys B = Burroughs LM = Lockheed Martin D = Unisys Defense Systems

IN REMEMBRANCE

Ericksen, Robert H. - Age 67, of Shell Lake, passed away Thursday, May 20. He is survived by his wife, Diane. Following a tour in the Air Force Bob worked for the Sperry Rand Univac as an electronic engineer.

Magnuson, Maynard - Age 68, formerly of Shoreview, passed away April 17. Survived by his wife, Barbara. Maynard was retired from Unisys Roseville with 38 years of service.

Mueller, Melvin L. - Age 76, of Roseville, passed away on May 31. He is survived by his wife, Donna. Melvin was a Unisys retiree.

Nelson, Robert "Bob" M. - Age 55, of Minneapolis, passed away unexpectedly on 5/16/2004. Survived by loving wife of 21 years,

Nancy. Bob was a Unisys employee working in the CAD design group in Roseville.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR EDITORS

We again request our readers to submit pieces that might be of interest to the members. We appreciate the thanks and encouragement we've received about the newsletter content. We also realize that not every piece is of interest to all. Some of the recent retirees might be able to share some information on what our companies are doing with current technology. Also, we hope some at the Medicare-eligible age of 65 will share how the companies intend to change the supplemental plans as rules and provisions of the Medical Modernization Act become better understood.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 are shown on page 5. Questions can be directed to Curt Anderson at 651-438-9851 or email anderscort@comcast.net.

BLOODMOBILE INFORMATION

Bloodmobile Information from Marion Scott:

SEPTEMBER RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES.

Wednesday, September 1st., Lockheed Martin, Eagan needs greeters and servers 9 am-12 pm & 12 pm-3 pm.

Thursday, September 2nd, Unisys MAC Eagan needs greeters and servers 9 am-12 pm & 12 pm-3 pm.

Wednesday, September 29th and Thursday, September 30th, Unisys Roseville needs greeters and servers 9 am-12 pm & 12 pm-3 pm.

Please call Marion Scott at 651-455-7952 to sign-up.

HEALTH ISSUES

The Medicare Bill: AARP and Congress

Have you burned your AARP card? Have you made a voodoo doll of your congressman? Two recent articles tell much about how a law so important to seniors was hijacked by inside-the-beltway interests and practices that largely ignored seniors.

The Seduction by Barbara T. Dreyfuss (American Prospect, June 2004, p18-23) describes AARP's fall

as a senior's advocate and Democratic ally. AARP was never really militant and was founded in 1958 as an insurance business. Insurance royalties provided 24% of its income in 2003 (39% in 2004). While AARP CEO Bill Novelli was letting Democrats think he was with them, his policy chief sent an email to a presidential health policy assistant suggesting "fairly moderate ways for handling the biggest issues." With the knowledge that AARP was so pliable, House Speaker Hastert and Senate Majority Leader Frist worked with AARP leaders to make the final bill.

Least surprised was Newt Gingrich who has spent the last nine years working on AARP. He states Novelli "has a long history of supporting individual responsibility in health care and doesn't want seniors dependent on government handouts."

Already by 1997 the Balanced Budget Act made program cuts and the major leap of opening Medicare to private insurers. It was in this period that AARP went from Democratic-leaning to bipartisan and worked closely with then-Speaker Gingrich. Remember, AARP was very quiet on health-care reform and Medicare prescription drug benefits, and gave very little support to the Clinton Health Security Act.

With Horace Deets thinking of retiring, he brought Novelli in to oversee public policy, communications, and advertising. With a boost from Gingrich and the feeling Republicans would soon be setting the agenda, Novelli was picked by the board to succeed Deets.

Novelli moved to isolate the central staff from regional offices and activists. No more "grass roots – it's dictated from the top, not from the bottom. To complete policy control, Novelli eliminated any connection between the board and the membership, and with it the national convention delegate's election role. A self-selecting nomination committee picks his board. AARP's support of the bad law shows it again as an insurance marketer with its own advertising arm, the magazines we expected to champion our issues.

The second article, Democracy on Drugs, is a frightening report from Common Cause. It is dated May 18, 2004, and subtitled The Medicare/Prescription Drug Bill: A Study in How Government Shouldn't Work. The report chronicles incidents that show "the Administration and Congressional leadership bypassing or undermining rules and laws that (were intended to) ensure an open and accountable government."

Our Constitution sought to give voice to the minority, even with a strong majority in control. But

bribery charges, delayed votes, censoring of cameras, withholding of cost estimates, and exclusion of those critical of the bill from the conference committee left the minority with no power. One house author was forced to step down and an administration official criticized for negotiating lobbying jobs while working on the bill.

Rep. Nick Smith was told \$100,000-plus would be given to his son's congressional campaign if Smith would vote for the bill. When the bill was up for the big vote, the House leadership held the vote open for three hours (15 minutes is more the rule) while leaders did their arm-twisting. During this period, the C-SPAN cameras were fixed on the Democrat's side of the House. Normally, the cameras focus on whoever is speaking or just scan the whole floor. There is now no visual record of who was talking to whom. Another atypical happening was the appearance of HHS Secretary Thompson on the floor to lobby for his bill.

Back in June of 2003, HHS chief actuary Richard Foster was predicting the prescription drug benefits would cost \$156 billion more than the \$395 billion working estimate. Foster was told under threat by Medicare administrator Tom Scully's assistant that no numbers were to be shared with Democrats. Following passage of the differing House and Senate versions of the bill, House Ways and Means Chair Bill Thomas said, "This (conference committee) meeting is only open to the coalition of the willing." He then excluded Rep. Wrangle and four other critical Democrats.

Within days after passage of the bill, Medicare chief Scully resigned to take an already-negotiated job with a law firm that represents hospitals and drug companies. At the same time, Rep. Billy Tauzin had negotiated a \$2 million a year package to lobby for PhRMA, the drug manufacturer's trade group.

Maybe crime doesn't always pay, but a really flexible set of ethical standards and an indifference to the well-being of the people our officials are supposed to serve seems to pay just fine.

Written by Brian Berggren

TRAVEL



Ever dream of an elegant steamboat cruise down the ole Mississippi, complete with Victorian-style cabin, gourmet dining, and fabulous Big Band entertainment? That dream can come true right now, at SALE prices! Check out the Delta Queen

Steamboat Company's Summer Special--a one-night "pre" or "post" hotel package in New Orleans that includes breakfast, dinner at a world-class restaurant, and one exciting city attraction. Add to that a 3-night, 3-stop cruise aboard the AMERICAN QUEEN, dropping anchor in Natchez, Baton Rouge, and St. Francisville. And don't forget the FREE round trip airfare! The total package with a "G" Inside Cabin costs just \$1020 per person, with sailings in July, August, & September. See the VIP Club travel web page at www.geocities.com/vipclub2003/index.html. Also available are 7-Night packages starting at \$1295. Questions? Phone or email Yvonne Cecchini at 651-423-9196 or ycecchini@juno.com

MENTORS NEEDED

Pilot Knob Elementary School in Eagan is looking for mentors. The school would like volunteers to work with individual students for the entire year. The time commitment is **one half hour per week**. (The school is located off Pilot Knob Road on Lone Oak Road just north of Lockheed Martin in Eagan.) This program has been in existence for the past five years and has been very rewarding for both the student and the mentor. If you have time and want to volunteer please call Terry Green, Family Support Worker Counselor, at Pilot Knob Elementary (**Phone 651-405-2790**) for more information or an application form. Forms are also available through Bernie Jansen (**Phone 651-681-9988**).

THE LIGHTER SIDE

Subject: Coffee Shop:

A guy comes into a coffee shop and places his order. He says, "I want three flat tires, a pair of headlights, and a pair of running boards." The waitress, not wanting to appear stupid, goes to the kitchen and says to the cook, "This guy out there just ordered three flat tires, a pair of headlights and a pair of running boards. What does he think this is an auto parts store?" No," the cook says. "Three flat tires means three pancakes, a pair of headlights is two eggs sunny side up, and running boards are slices of crisp bacon."" Oh," says the waitress. The waitress thinks about this, and then she spoons up a bowl of beans and gives it to the customer. The guy says, "What are the beans for?" The waitress replies, "I thought while you were waiting for the flat tires, headlights, and running boards, you might want to gas up."

I asked my wife where she wanted to go for our anniversary. "Somewhere I haven't been in a long time!" she said. So I suggested the kitchen.

Red Skelton

6/15/04

8th ANNUAL
OLD TIMERS FIELD ENGINEERING PICNIC
ERA / UNIVAC / UNISYS / LOCKHEED-MARTIN

WHEN: SATURDAY 7 AUGUST 2004 (NOON TO 5PM)

WHERE: SPRING LAKE PARK RESERVE / SCHAAR'S BLUFF (EAST SHELTER) LOCATED 5 MILES WEST OF HASTINGS ON COUNTY ROAD 42. TURN NORTH ON IDELL AVE (A SIGN READING "DAKOTA COUNTY SPRING LAKE PARK - SCHAARS BLUFF" MARKS THIS INTERSECTION) AND GO TO THE EAST PICNIC SHELTER.

WHAT: BRING YOUR OWN FOOD BUT BEER/POP/CHARCOAL WILL BE PROVIDED

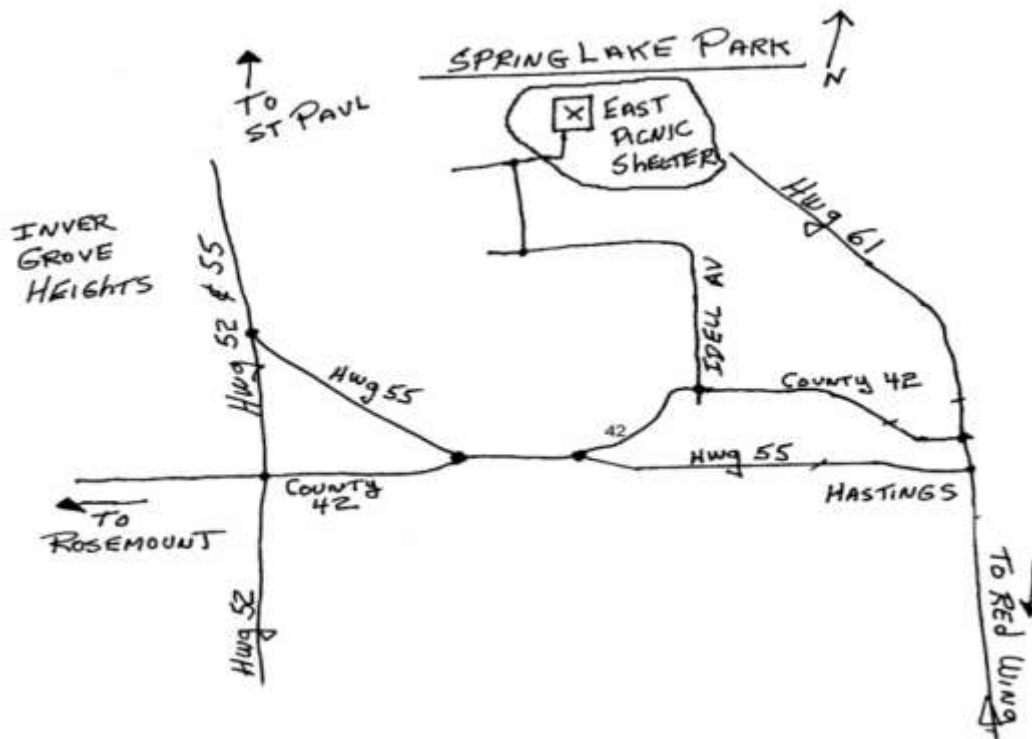
COST: \$10 DONATION APPRECIATED TO COVER SHELTER RENTAL BEER / POP / ICE / CHARCOAL / POSTAGE

PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD TO ALL OF OUR CO-WORKERS AND FRIENDS FROM ANYWHERE IN THE COMPANY - NOT JUST FIELD ENGINEERING. LAST YEAR WE HAD ABOUT 30 PEOPLE ATTEND SO LETS HAVE ANOTHER GOOD TURNOUT THIS YEAR.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND HOPE TO SEE YOU AND SPOUSES AT THE PICNIC.

CURT ANDERSON
63 JACKSON PLACE
HASTINGS, MN 55033
PHONE: (651) 438-9851

E-MAIL: anderscurt@comcast.flet



**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

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Joe Schwarz *698-9698
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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.