

VIP Club Newsletter

VOLUME 24, NO. 10 www.geocities.com/vipclub2003 OCTOBER 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, October 06	Board Meeting, Roseville	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, October 13	Roseville, Pot luck & Program	6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 03	Board Meeting, Eagan	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, November 10	Eagan, Program & Social Time	7:00 p.m.

OCTOBER POT LUCK: ROSEVILLE

The evening begins at 6:00 p.m. with a pot luck dinner followed by Dr. George Erickson who will give a slide presentation and talk based on his best selling book titled *True North: Exploring the Great Wilderness by Bush Plane*. Dr. Erickson, a retired dental surgeon now living in Ely, has spent thirty summers flying in the far north and tells his story about a two week trip to the arctic in 2000 using a small 1948 antique float plane. (Some of the places you'll hear about were discussed last year from a canoeing perspective by Bob O'Hara.) Dr. Erickson presents travel and nature slide lectures to a wide range of audiences and will have a second book for sale at the meeting, *TIME TRAVELING WITH SCIENCE & THE SAINTS*, with the proceeds going to charity. What to bring for the pot luck meal is based on the first letter of your last name: A-F, Dessert; G-Q, Hot Dish, and R-Z, Salad. Program arranged by Jack Farber.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM: EAGAN

The evening begins at 7:00 pm with the election of officers for the upcoming year. For the November program Jeanie Johnston, from Sunshine Travel, will show slides and talk about a March trip to New Orleans and a May trip to Holland, Michigan. Matt Hoffman, from Collette Vacations, will present a May trip to Ireland. Come and experience the trips without actually going there. Brochures will be available at the meeting or call Roger Gillette to have one mailed to you (612-926-7214). You can also check the club web site for information.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From: Dale Phelps

Back by popular demand, our VIP Club held our September Program meeting at the Eagan Community Center, with Phyllis Salchow, a Registered Occupational Therapist, at the Phillips Eye Institute, giving an informative presentation on "The Aging Eye". Ms. Salchow described normal eye functions, common age-related problems and solutions, and eye diseases of concern to seniors – macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and cataracts. This is a subject of concern to all of us. Attendees were given valuable information and a chance to ask questions of concern.

The September VIP Club Newsletter included an updated VIP Club membership directory and information about the United Way. You are encouraged to support the United Way and I hope you will order a UNISYS Employee Cookbook for yourself and to give as gifts to your friends.

Election of VIP Club Officers and Directors will be held at the November VIP Club meeting. Please

contact Hank Dotzler, (952-892-0175), with your interest to serve. This is your opportunity to make a difference in the VIP Club.

It is not too early to plan for the VIP Club Christmas party to be held 9 December 2004 at the NCO Club. All members are invited to this gala event. Respectfully, Dale Phelps, VIP Club President

From the Editors



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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 2004/2005

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Oct 13	6:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Pot Luck – Program
Nov. 10	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program – Social Time
Dec. 09	5:45 p.m.	USAF	Christmas Party
Jan. 12	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program – Social Time
Feb. 09	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Mar. 09	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
Apr 13	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
May. 11	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
June 08	4:00 p.m.	Park	VIP Club Picnic
July 13	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program – Social Time
Aug 10	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program – Social Time
Sept 14	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program – Social Time

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

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mikkelsen, Hans C. Age 57, of Afton, passed away August 18, 2004. He is survived by his wife, Peg Nolz and son Paul. Hans was a 35 year employee of Unisys Corporation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLOODMOBILE INFORMATION

Bloodmobile Information from Marion Scott:

The August 25th blood drive at Lockheed Martin collected 90 units; volunteering were Jim Drabek, Millie Gignac, Nancy Gountanis, Bernie and Kathy Jansen, Keith Oliver, Dale Phelps and Ruth Sanford.

The September 2nd drive at the Unisys MACS collected 46 units; volunteering were Warren and Dorothy Becker, Hank and Geri Dotzler, Jim Larson, Marion Scott, and James and Murtice Sherek.

The two-day drive at Unisys Roseville collected 83 units; volunteering were Barney and Ardelle Buss, LeRoy and Loretta Dubois, John Dufour, Jim and Alice Montain, and Jim Roth. A big thanks to all.

CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE

The VIP Club Christmas party will be held on Thursday Dec. 09. See page 5 for menu and reservation form.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

With our annual election of officers and directors planned for the November meeting, Pres. Dale Phelps and your board of directors have appointed Lowell Benson, Hank Dotzler, and Bob Smith as a Nominating Committee.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

A 2005 membership renewal form
is located on page 5.

HEALTH ISSUES

With So Many Big Names Watching Over Us, How Can We Not Feel Secure?

The print press has been really active on health news this last month. The trouble is they only seem to find politicians and administrators to talk to, and some of the stunts being pulled would get ordinary people on a court docket. September started with news on the 4th of the 17.4% rise in monthly Medicare costs, followed by news on the 10th that health plan costs rose by 11.2% and that Governor Pawlenty and Secretary Thompson announced joint purchasing of prescription drugs for Medical Assistance recipients would save Minnesota \$14 million dollars.

Health and Human Services Secretary Thompson gave Minnesota permission to join with other states to do bulk purchasing of drugs for the 460,000 low-income recipients. The boys were so proud to announce a \$14 million saving on the \$400 million the state spends. The governor may be a dynamite politician and a mediocre lawyer, but he's not much with arithmetic. The \$14 million savings is only 3.5% on the \$400 million in costs. He should have asked if he could buy some of Thompson's drug discount cards to save 35% like the Medicare seniors - \$140 million would be real money, even more than he could jack from Minnesota Care.

But the big news is the Bush administration announcement of a 17.4% premium increase for Medicare enrollees, after last year's 14% increase, that ups the monthly payment \$11.60 to a total of \$78.20. This is the biggest increase in Medicare history and CMS director Mark McClellan, in a Washington Post article, cited rising medical costs, a need to build trust fund reserves, and expanded benefits. He said increasing payments to physicians by 1.5% rather than cutting payments by 4.5% was a large factor. An Associated Press article noted that the deductible for Part B services would rise \$10 to \$110 next year. A Washington Post article had a Bush spokesperson claim rising medical malpractice insurance is partly to blame for the higher care costs (even though only 0.6 to 2% of costs are attributable to malpractice settlements and the majority are settled for less than \$50,000).

Two New York Times articles identified \$1.75 of the increase to give subsidies to insurers to offer private plans. Also, some plans such as PacifiCare Health Systems and Universal Health Care plan to refund \$22 or more a month to their members. This

is just another instance of regional inequities becoming worse. An analyst said, "Bush...is going to do what he has to, to make the Medicare program a viable business opportunity."

If Dr. McClellan can justify a 17% increase to give insurers another \$1.75 per enrollee subsidy, give fee-for-service doctors a crummy 1.5% increase, and give the enrollees a Welcome to Medicare physical and screening, what kind of increases will we see with the additional costs associated with identifying obesity as a disease. And what will the increases be if mental health parity is added to Medicare. We have to be careful what we ask for in benefits or the geniuses in Washington will break Medicare as surely as pouring water in a bag will break the bag.

Written by Brian Berggren.

GOT GAS

The Hydrogen Economy is a cruel fiction. In spite of GM's ads and President Bush's wish for fuel cell vehicles, nothing much that affects us will happen in the next several decades. Two Scientific American articles (Oct 2002, May 2004) discuss many of the advantages and obstacles. However, Joe Romm's The Hype About Hydrogen gives us the reality.

Fuel cell vehicle cost is likely to be 40-60% higher, at most optimistic projection, than gasoline or diesel hybrids. Hydrogen fueling infrastructure would cost at least \$5k per vehicle. The only fuel cell technology suitable for vehicles is the proton exchange membrane (PEM) type; others, such as phosphoric acid, molten carbonate, or solid oxide cells generate excessive heat, operate at temperatures up to 1800 degrees F., or require heavy containment that make them un-attractive for vehicles.

The biggie is that current gasoline-electric hybrids are almost as efficient as projected fuel cell vehicles, and that diesel-electric hybrids would be at least as efficient as fuel cells. Plus, the hybrids would not require any significant infrastructure investment and could more easily use future bio-fuels. The real issue is reducing CO2 emissions and until fuels can be generated with renewable energy - wind, solar, geothermal, hydroelectric, or biomass - fuel cells are an expensive way to power vehicles. More next month. Written by Brian Berggren.

HAPPENINGS

The following article was submitted by Sally (Halvorson) Hafvenstein.

Many of you, no doubt, remember Dr. Sidney Rubens. Dr. Rubens is now recuperating from pneumonia in Rochester, New York, where his daughter, Debra, is a medical doctor, in charge of the Radiology Department at the University of Rochester.



Early in 1946, before ERA was formed, Sidney (Sid) Rubens was introduced to Dr. Engstrom and Bill Norris in Washington, D.C. Sid arrived in St. Paul, Minnesota in July 1946 and went to work on August 1st. The company was not incorporated until January 1947. Sid's first paycheck came from Northwest Aeronautical, where Johnny Parker was President. Johnny Parker became the first president of ERA in 1947.

Sid reported to C. B. Thompkins and John Howard. His first job as a Physicist/Engineer was working on the development of the magnetic storage drum and magnetic core memory. ERA shipped the first drum to the U.S. Navy and the first company using a drum in 1950.

In 1952 ERA merged with Remington Rand and Dr. Rubens became manager of the Physics Department. In 1955 Remington Rand merged with Sperry and became Sperry Rand and Sid was the Director of Research of the Univac Division of Sperry Rand, where he had 90 people reporting to him. About that time, Dr. Arnold Cohen moved to Roseville and his secretary, Lorraine Killion, became Dr. Sidney Rubens secretary.

In the 1960's R. E. McDonald sent Dr. Rubens on a recruiting trip to California and he was instrumental in getting Forrest Crowe and Gerald Probst to join Sperry Univac. Mr. Probst eventually took R.E. McDonald's place. Gerry Probst moved Dr. Rubens out of the Research Department and into Planning and he later became the Director of Special Projects for the Intelligence Committee of the DOD.

Dr. Rubens retired in April of 1975 at the age of 65. Not that he wanted to, but those were the rules at that time. He

did continue, however, to work under contract for the company on a large study with several other corporations. "Drawstring" was the name of the project and he spent one year in Palo Alto, CA on this project.

Until recently, Dr. Rubens lived in St. Paul in a lovely condo on the river near the old "Diamond Jims". He remained very active, getting together with many of his old friends from over the years. Since his wife, Julie, passed away, he had been alone, but was able to get out and around and enjoyed good meals at his favorite spots in the area.



I have stayed in touch with Dr. Rubens over the years. About the time I retired in March of 2001 from Lockheed Martin, I realized there was a file cabinet in the warehouse with his name on it. This was 26 years AFTER he retired. After receiving permission from Lockheed-Martin Security in November of 2002, my husband, Bob, and I took Sid to the warehouse to see this cabinet. He was very excited and hoped to find some special personal papers that he was missing, but did not find them. Sid did retrieve some of his personal effects and was thrilled to get them, as you can see by the photo.

Sid would truly enjoy hearing from his old friends. He will take phone calls at the nursing home and can receive mail at his daughter's house. Those of you, who do remember Sid, probably have another interesting story to tell about him. It seems like everyone does. He's such an interesting man with an uncanny ability to remember so many things from the past. If interested in talking with Sid or writing to him, here is the information: Dr. Sidney Rubens, c/o Dr. Debra Rubens-Weiss, 22 Currwood Circle, Rochester, NY 14618. His direct phone number at the Nursing Home is (585) 242-8838.

VIP CLUB APPLICATION AND RENEWAL FORM

Retiree Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____, _____, _____, _____
STREET ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP

Phone: () _____

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.

Check here if you do not wish to have your name listed in the VIP Members directory. (Directory distributed to members only)

ABOUT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

- 5:45 pm - 6:30 pm** **Initial social time with hors d'oeuvres**
- 6:30 pm - 7:15 pm** **Christmas Music Presented by
The North Suburban Chorus**
- 7:15 pm - 8:00 pm+** **Enjoy an elegant sit down dinner with your choice of
Filet Mignon, Burgundy Chicken or Salmon**
- 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm** **Dancing to the music you like by
The Connie Villars Quartette.**

VIP CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY, Dinner-Dance Reservation Form

Please reserve, at \$24.00 each, _____ place(s) for the Annual VIP Club Christmas Party, Dinner & Dance being held Thursday, December 09, 2004 at the NCO Club at the Air Force Base off Hwy 62. The social time begins at 5:45 pm, at 6:30 pm Christmas Music, at 7:15 dinner will be served and at 8:00 pm The Connie Villars Quartette will play music for your listening and dancing enjoyment. Please send in your reservations now, since seating is limited. **Your reservation must be received by Dec. 2nd.** If your reservation is for more than 2 persons, please attach a list of added names and you will be all seated together at a reserved table. **Picture ID required for entry to Air Force Base.**

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

Names: _____

Address _____, _____, _____

Entree selection(s) & qty.: Filet Mignon _____; Burgundy Chicken _____; Salmon _____

Please make your check or checks payable to: **VIP CLUB**

Mail to: Dorothy Becker
 8630 Queen Avenue South Phone: 952-881-3516
 Bloomington, MN 55431

**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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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

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Christmas..... Dorothy Becker #881-3516
Picnic.....Chuck Homan *699-5180

Metro Sr. Fed.....Brian Berggren *451-9009
John Dufour *639-8289
Jim Larson *698-3963

Sunshine.....Jim Larson *698-3963
Lynn Farris Lindholm *484-1030

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.