

# VIP Club Newsletter

**VOLUME 25, NO. 2      www.geocities.com/vipclub2003      FEBRUARY 2005**

**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, February 02 | Board Meeting, Roseville         | 10:00 a.m. |
| Wednesday, February 09 | Roseville, Program & Social Time | 7:00 p.m.  |

|                     |                              |            |
|---------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| Wednesday, March 02 | Board Meeting, Eagan         | 10:00 a.m. |
| Wednesday, March 09 | Eagan, Program & Social Time | 7:00 p.m.  |

## **FEBRUARY PROGRAM: ROSEVILLE**

Our intrepid world traveler Jack Farber will again share his slides and experiences. There are many places in the world today that are unsafe for travelers. For several years Israel has been one these places. This program is a visit to Israel and Egypt that occurred in 1996. We will visit many places in Israel including Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Bethlehem. We will drive through the Gaza Strip and cross the Sinai Peninsula to Cairo. The trip concludes with a visit to the pyramids of Giza, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

## **MARCH PROGRAM: EAGAN**

### **SPECIAL EVENT – SPECIAL AGENT**

Coleen Rowley, former FBI agent and outstanding American patriot, will speak on ethical behavior. In the week before the 9/11 attacks, a nationwide FBI law enforcement ethics presentation admonished the agents to “not puff, shade, skew, tailor, firm up, stretch, massage or otherwise distort statements of fact...” Special Agent Rowley found it difficult to forget afterwards. Maintaining ethical standards can become difficult, nearly impossible, for a whole host of reasons and in all kinds of professional settings and workplace dynamics.

## **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.

## **FINAL NOTICE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER**

**IF YOUR ADDRESS LABEL DOES NOT HAVE A “5” AFTER YOUR NAME, YOU ARE NOT PAID FOR 2005 AND YOUR NEWSLETTER WILL STOP. PLEASE USE THE DUES COUPON ON PAGE 5 AND SUBMIT YOUR 2005 DUES.**



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**From: Dale Phelps**

There isn't one of us who would want a medical emergency. If that time came, every precious minute will count. Patti McCauley, Education Coordinator and Paramedic from ALF Ambulance Service in Apple Valley told us about the “VIAL OF L.I.F.E.” program. The VIAL OF L.I.F.E is a way of making personal medical information available to paramedics or other first responders should they be called to your home. The medical information is stored in a plastic bag that is put in your refrigerator.

This information is extremely important at the time of an emergency. Medical forms were given out to complete and an explanation of the red sticker in the bag which is to be placed on the outside of the refrigerator door. Ms. McCauley also demonstrated the Automatic External defibrillators that are now in many public buildings. If we have helped to save just one life, this program has had its merits. You might want to check your own area ambulance service or police for more information.

I encourage you to renew your VIP Club membership for the newsletter. If you do not have a 5 after your name, you have not renewed for 2005. If you have an interesting article for the newsletter, we encourage you to submit it to the attention of your editors.

We are also discussing with Judy Cogna of Unisys the annual VIP Club Volunteer Recognition Breakfast which would be held the third week in April 2005. Volunteer Survey forms and firm information on the breakfast will be included in the March Newsletter.

Also, I want to announce a change of the month for our annual picnic. This year it will be held the 13<sup>th</sup> of July at Highland Park. Highland Park is being renovated and no June reservations were permitted. Chuck Homan did his yeoman duty in getting it reserved again. Thank you, Chuck.

Respectfully, Dale Phelps, VIP Club 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](mailto:vipclub2003@yahoo.com)  
**The Newsletter Editorial Staff:**  
 Bernie Jansen, e-mail [bjskj@hotmail.com](mailto:bjskj@hotmail.com)  
 Richard Lundgren, e-mail [rflundgr@aol.com](mailto:rflundgr@aol.com)  
 Don Naaktgeboren, e-mail [donfishn@juno.com](mailto: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 2005

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

## WELCOME NEW CLUB MEMBERS

**Arnold, Joyce** St Anthony MN  
**Ashland, Richard and Susan** U Fridley MN  
**Fling, Judy** LM Inver Grove Heights MN  
**Granberg, Lee** U Richfield MN  
**Huemoeller, Ron and Lois** LM Apple Valley MN  
**Klingner, Bill and Ginny** U Eagan MN  
**Kuehl, Gordon and Gladys** U St. Michael MN  
**Kunshier Donald** U North Oaks MN  
**Mc Carthy, Tom and Susan** U Arden Hills MN  
**Nicholls Ronald and Sandra** U Andover MN  
**Novotny, John and Lois** U St. Paul MN  
**Palquist, Terry and Gaye** U Brooklyn Park MN  
**Pawlicki, Don** LM St. Paul MN

**Revering, Wilford and Julia** U Ham Lake MN  
**Russell, Robert C. and Nancy** U Mesa AZ  
**Tumms, Paul and Roberta** U Fridley MN

U = Unisys B = Burroughs LM = Lockheed  
Martin D = Unisys Defense Systems

## **IN REMEMBRANCE**

**Blomberg-Orbke, Pearl V.** - Age 89 formerly of St. Paul, MN. Pearl worked most of her career as an Executive Secretary for Sperry Univac. She was preceded in death by her first husband, Charles Blomberg and her second husband, Edward Orbke.

**Graves, Gary A.** - Age 52 of Eagan. Passed away on January 6, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Amy. Gary was a long-time project manager at Unisys Corp. and later a self-employed businessman.

**Orcutt, Marilyn** - Age 68, formerly of Apple Valley. Passed away January 1, 2005. Marilyn is survived by her husband, Gerald. Marilyn was a Unisys (Eagan) retiree.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLOODMOBILE INFORMATION**

#### **FEBRUARY RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES.**

Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, Lockheed Martin, Eagan needs greeters and servers 9 a.m.-12 p.m. & 12 p.m.-3 p.m.

## **HEALTH ISSUES**

### **Lockheed Martin Retirees**

Did you look at your group insurance for retired employees 2003 Annual Report? The cover letter was dated 15 December 2004. The Basic Financial Statement lists 2003 Plan expenses of \$308,011,642, with Plan assets at yearend of \$494,334,563 vs. \$384,632,518 at the start of the year. This is an increase of \$109,702,045 in net asset value. The Plan saw employer contributions of \$250,307,234, employee contributions of \$79,081,734, and investment income of \$90,276,657, for a total of \$419,665,625.

I'm glad our Plan administrators are doing such a good job; a 28% growth in assets is very healthy and should have permitted an increase in employee contributions of less than the 15% national increase in health costs. The question is why our premiums went up over 350%. Is our local provider seeing unusually large expenses ahead for our risk pool? Our plan is partially insured and partially self-insured so future expenses beyond the national average should make for a smaller risk. Maybe accountants are at work building "reserves," but it's tough getting beaten up when you don't even know

who's swinging the club. Submitted by Brian Berggren.

## **Drugs, Canadian Style**

For those of us that get our prescriptions through Canadian mail-order pharmacies, things are about to change. After President Bush's visit with Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin last November, Health Minister Ujjal Dosanjh confirmed that the mail-order drug business was discussed. Dosanjh then drafted new regulations that will make it illegal for mail-order pharmacies to fill prescriptions for non-citizens without a face-to-face examination by a Canadian physician. (This policy could be made law by Canada's Liberal Cabinet without discussion and a vote by the House of Commons.) Canadian sources indicate our President got the Canadian policy change with trade concessions. Andy Trozak, a pharmacist and head of the CIPA (Canadian International Pharmacy Association) says, "This is Big Pharma's agenda and now it has George Bush directly negotiating on its behalf."

The Canadian Liberal Government has quietly supported the mail-order practice for four years and clearly recognizes the problems the loss of a billion dollar industry and 4000 jobs will have north of the border; 2400 of those jobs are in Manitoba alone. South of the border, some 2 million in the U.S. (mostly uninsured seniors) will see affordable drugs disappear; this is largely a group that has had difficulty buying the full regimen of drugs needed to control their conditions. Dosanjh claims that regardless of U.S. consumer health risk, the Canadian drug supply is at risk without a policy change. Yet most Canadians familiar with the issues discount any threat to the Canadian wholesale drug supplies because of supply ties to so many of the other drug manufacturing and supplying countries.

Our own FDA continues to say mail-order prescriptions have "substantial safety risks" and save little money; all who have used the Senior Federation program know this is totally false. "The Bush administration has maintained that re-importation would flood the U.S. market with mislabeled, out-of-date, and unreliable medications." It is sad that now, with sufficient votes in both the U.S. Senate and House to pass a drug importation bill, more pressure is being brought to block any vote to allow drug importation. Some see the administration pressure on the Canadians to eliminate drug importation as a way for both the President and Congress to avoid both discussion of the issue and the possibility of a vote or need for a veto.

With beef possibly one of the trade issues used for bargaining to eliminate the mail-order program, now

that a fourth cow has been found with Mad Cow Disease, it remains to be seen what the President's trade concessions are really worth to the Canadians – or us.

(I have used a press release from CIPA dated 4 January 2005, a 26 December 2004 Star Tribune article, a 30 December 2004 Pioneer Press article, and a 14 January 2005 National Coalition of Consumer Organizations on Aging conference call as sources.) Submitted by Brian Berggren.

### **More Medicare Messes**

Minnesota is the keystone state for the largest and least populated region in the 26 Medicare health plan payment regions. We are in the group with Iowa, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming. Ninety-one percent of the counties in this region receive the lowest possible Medicare reimbursement. Tommy Thompson's Wisconsin is a region all by itself, as is tiny New Mexico. All decisions seem to be political. As if 26 health plan regions weren't bad enough, 34 regions were created for administration of the new Part D drug benefit. You ask, "Is there good news?" Yes, Minnesota's drug and PPO regions are the same.

Further complicating Medicare, some Congressional players are looking to add means testing to the new Medicare program. Others are looking for ways to make it less expensive by limiting some of the new additions such as the defibrillator and obesity programs. Medicare and Medicaid are the programs with money problems, both in cost and funding; Social Security has neither and likely won't until after my children have retired (but that is an issue for another month). Submitted by Brian Berggren.

### **TRAVEL**

#### **COME JOIN THE FUN!**

The Delta Queen Steamboat Company is offering a 50% discount and FREE round-trip airfare from Minneapolis (there is a \$50 ticketing fee) for their 7-Night New Orleans Riverboat Adventure. The elegant Mississippi Queen sets sail on May 22nd, returning to port on May 29, 2005. Several cabins, both inside and outside, have been reserved for the VIP Club. Historical Old South stopovers along the route include Oak Alley, Baton Rouge, St. Francisville, Natchez, Vicksburg, and Houmas House. Stunning river scenery, sumptuous dining, award-winning entertainment, and pampering by the dedicated crew await. If you'd like, arrangements can be made to spend one or more extra days in New Orleans itself at the Courtyard Marriott, before or after your cruise. Inside cabins, including cruise, airfare and ticketing fee, start at \$1315.00 per person; outside cabins at \$1512.00 per person.

Hurry-all reservation deposits for our group must be in before February 8th. For brochures, or any other information, please phone or email me at 651-423-9196 or [ycecchini@juno.com](mailto:ycecchini@juno.com). Yvonne Cecchini, Carlson-Wagonlit Travel.

### **HAPPENINGS**

#### **EVENT REPORTS**

The Annual Uni-Hog/Uni-Turkey luncheon November 19th, 2004, was attended by 60 retirees and half-a-dozen spouses at the City View Convention Center (club house for the Lost Spur golf course in Mendota Heights). This year's 'Reminisce' program had many attendees sharing their interactions with Dr. Sid Rubens during the early days of ERA and UNIVAC. The Uni-Hog tradition started in the mid-60's with annual dinner meetings coinciding with Ground Hog Day. The group met at Jax Café for several years, then at Parish's on West Seventh, then at the Town and Country Motel near plant 5 before moving to the Lost Spur in 1985. The event was changed from February to the Friday before Thanksgiving in 1989 to accommodate participation by the Arizona, Florida, and Texas bound 'snowbirds.' The event planning committee is now led by Fred Vihovde (formerly at plant 1 and 4) and Bob Blixt (formerly at plant 1 and 8) - each has over 20 years volunteering. Two years ago, the committee changed from an evening dinner with speaker to a luncheon with participant recollections. Next year's date is November 18th at 11 a.m., again at the City View.

The Annual 'Old Timers' get together on December 2nd was attended by almost 300 retirees plus a couple of 'UNIVAC-ers' still working at plant 8. There is no formal program, just an annual opportunity for former co-workers to greet each other and chat over a coke, glass of wine or beer. The buffet lunch at the Fort Snelling Officer's club is always good, especially when eating with friends. Retired Sperry Defense Systems marketer and ex-Army officer John Markfelder initiated this First Thursday of December annual event in the early 80's. His arrangement and invitation cohort for many, many years was Dante (Dan) Maseratti, also a marketing manager and former Marine. For the last five years another Unisys retiree and former Marine officer, Earl Lillestrand, has coordinated the invitations – most now by e-mail! The 2005 date is December 1 – same place at about 11 a.m.

I've participated in most of these two annual fall events since the mid-80's, really enjoying the opportunities to mingle and talk with old friends and project teammates. Feel free to contact me if YOU aren't on the call or mailing lists, I'll send feedback

to the two planning committees – Submitted by Lowell Benson, email [labenson@usfamily.net](mailto:labenson@usfamily.net).

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**SMITHSONIAN PHOTO CONTEST**

In 2004 the Smithsonian Institution held its first photo contest. The picture of an aloe Vera plant, shown below, was a finalist in the Natural World category. It was taken in South Island, New Zealand by Seonacherie Sande, the wife of VIP member Gerald Sande



**THE LIGHTER SIDE**

A farmer named Clyde had a car accident. In court, the trucking company's fancy lawyer was questioning Clyde. "Didn't you say, at the scene of the accidents "I'm fine," asked the lawyer. Clyde responded, "Well I'll tell you what happened. I had just loaded my favorite mule, Bessie, into the ." "I didn't ask for any details", the lawyer interrupted. "Just answer the question. Did you not say, at the scene of the accident, "I'm fine!""? Clyde said, "Well, I had just got Bessie into the trailer and I was driving down the road " The lawyer interrupted

again and said, "Judge, I am trying to establish the fact that, at the scene of the accident, this man told the Highway Patrolman on the scene that he was just fine. Now several weeks after the accident he is trying to sue my client. I believe he is a fraud. Please tell him to simply answer the question.'

By this time, the Judge was fairly interested in Clyde's answer and said to the lawyer, "Id like to hear what he has to say about his favorite mule, Bessie." Clyde thanked the Judge and proceeded. "Well as I was saying, I had just loaded Bessie, my favorite mule, into the trailer and was driving her down the highway when this huge semi-truck and trailer ran. the stop sign and smacked my truck right in the side. I was thrown into one ditch and Bessie was thrown into the other. I was hurting, real bad and didn't want to move. However, I could hear ole Bessie moaning and groaning. I knew she was in terrible shape just by her groans. Shortly after the accident a Highway Patrolman came on the scene. He could hear Bessie moaning and groaning so he went over to her. After he looked at her, he took out his gun and shot her between her eyes.

Then the Patrolman came across the road, gun in hand, looked at me, and said, "How are you feeling?" "Now what the heck would you say?" Submitted by Anna Talatinick.

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Father Tim moved from Florida to Minnesota. He heard ice fishing was almost a religious experience for many Minnesotans, so he bought himself some gear and went out to try. As he drilled a hole in the ice, he heard a voice boom: "No fish there!" Father Tim looked around and saw no one, so he shouted to the heavens: "is that you, God?" "No!" the voice boomed. "The rink manager!"

| <b>VIP CLUB APPLICATION AND RENEWAL FORM</b>  |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| 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) _____<br>Renewing Member(s) _____ |
| Company: Lockheed Martin & Predecessors: _____; Unisys: Univac & Predecessors: _____; Unisys: Burroughs: _____  |   |  |   |
| <b>Please make check payable to the VIP CLUB and mail to address shown at right:</b>  | <b>VIP CLUB</b><br><b>Jack Farber</b><br><b>5700 Villa Dr.</b><br><b>Shoreview MN 55126</b> | <b>Annual dues: \$4 per Couple or Single. Note to new members: Your newsletters start after dues are received.</b> |   |
| <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 2004**

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:  
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& Joe Schwarz \*698-9698

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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.