

VIP Club Newsletter

VOLUME 25, NO. 3

www.geocities.com/vipclub2003

MARCH 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, March 02
Wednesday, March 09

Board Meeting, Eagan
Eagan, Program & Social Time

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

Wednesday, April 06
Wednesday, April 13

Board Meeting, Roseville
Roseville, Program & Social Time

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

MARCH PROGRAM: EAGAN

SPECIAL EVENT – SPECIAL AGENT -A DO NOT MISS PROGRAM-

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.

APRIL PROGRAM: ROSEVILLE

The April 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.

"VOLUNTEER SERVICE SURVEY"

Help the VIP Club participate in National Volunteer Month which is observed in April. Please complete and submit the "Volunteer Services Survey" form provided on page 5 of this Newsletter.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From: Dale Phelps

Now that the Ground Hog saw his shadow on February 2nd, 2005 in Minnesota, we can expect six more weeks of winter. The February VIP Club program was held in Roseville. Our intrepid world traveler, Jack Farber, shared his slides and experiences of his visit to Israel and Egypt. The presentation was very appropriate for the date of our program being Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Jack did an excellent job of narrating the slides and it did give us a better understanding of the happenings in this part of the world. Thank you Jack!!

UNISYS in Roseville will again host our annual VIP Club Volunteer Recognition Breakfast on April 20, 2005 at 8:30 AM. All VIP Club members who submit the survey form are invited to the recognition breakfast. Details for completing the survey are provided in the "Volunteer Hours Survey Form for the Year 2004" found in this Newsletter. We encourage everyone to send in your Survey Form by April 8th. Bernie Jansen will be coordinating this effort.

Our speaker for our March program meeting to be held at the Eagan Community Center will be Coleen Rowley, former FBI Agent and outstanding patriot. She will speak on ethical behavior and I encourage everyone to attend.

Stay warm and healthy the rest of the winter and we will all look forward to an enjoyable spring.

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

The Newsletter Editorial Staff:

Bernie Jansen, e-mail bjskj@hotmail.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 2005

Date	Time	Location	Activity
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
July 13	4:00 p.m.	Park	VIP Club Picnic
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
Dec. 08	5:45 p.m.	USAF	Christmas Party
Jan. 11	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
Feb. 08	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

WELCOME NEW CLUB MEMBERS

Chrysler, Barb LM W. St. Paul MN
Fairbrother, Geraldine and Gary U Prescott WI
Gambeski, Richard and Diana LM Maplewood MN
Grueschow, Robert & Barbara LM Apple Valley MN
Johnson, George A. and Mary U Apple Valley MN
Roehl, Ted and Darlene U Lakeville MN

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

IN REMEMBRANCE

Anderson, George died 11/14/04 in Redmond, Washington. George retired from Univac in the late 1980's as Manager of Failure Analysis in Plant 1 on Shepard Road.



Cooley, Philip A. Age 84, of Edina, formerly of Bloomington, passed away peacefully on Jan. 22, 2005. He is survived by his loving friend and companion, Barbara Montgomery. He was a computer programmer whose career began with the Air Force and continued with Sperry Rand/Univac until he retired.

Hiltunen, George R. (Bob). - Age 76 of Woodbury, MN. Passed away February 1, 2005. Bob is survived by his wife, Marge. Bob was a Univac employee for 28 years.

Oulicky, Robert James -Age 73, of Coon Rapids, MN. Passed away peacefully at home on 2/3/05. Robert worked his whole professional career as a computer engineer at Sperry-Univac. A computer his team designed is proudly part of the Smithsonian Collection. Bob was a long time member of the VIP Club.



Schreifels, Mathew N. Age 70 of New Brighton. Passed away Jan. 24, 2005 after a long illness. He is survived by his devoted wife of 47 years, Diann. Mathew was retired from Univac Roseville where he was Manager of the

computer center.



Thornton, James E. of St. Paul, died peacefully on January 11th, 2005. Jim was a computer pioneer and technology entrepreneur who helped engineer one of the world's first supercomputers. He was a Univac/ERA

employee in the 1950's. Jim is survived by his wife of 53 years, Gloria.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLOODMOBILE INFORMATION

Bloodmobile Information from Marion Scott:

The January 20th drive at the Unisys MACS collected 36 units. Volunteering were Jim Larson, Marion Scott, Nancy Gountanis, Millie Gignac, Dick Moseng and Jan Moseng.

The February 9th blood drive at Lockheed Martin collected 68 units. Volunteering were Dale Phelps, Ruth Sanford, James Sherek, William Madden, Jim Drabek, Gene Achterberg, Keith Oliver and Dick Moseng.

HEALTH ISSUES

On February 7th eight of us left the Senior Federation office to deliver Medicare and drug importation petitions to Senator Dayton, and Representatives McCollum, Kline, Sabo, Ramstad, and Kennedy. We talked to staffers about how the new Medicare law actually made regional payment inequities worse, how the new Medicare Part D drug benefit wouldn't help many of those who needed help, and how the new importation bills would help seniors without insurance afford their medications. Two of the staffers were almost 65 and took notes. All of a sudden the Medicare and Social Security programs

became more important to them. Sen. Coleman got his set of petitions in January and continues to be a sponsor of the ineffective Gregg Safe Import bill.

The Medicare Justice Coalition finally held a Congressional Roundtable, with National Institute for Health Policy (NIHP) chair Dave Durenberger providing an overview of the new Medicare law and its problems relating to the Upper Midwest with health staffers from Dayton's and Ramstad's offices moderating discussion, and health staffers from Sen. Dorgan, Snow, McCain, Wyden and others participating. The staffer's consensus was that any change to the Medicare law was unlikely this year and most efforts are being directed to modifying or guiding interpretations of the rules and regulations so that the providers and payers would have less trouble accommodating the new law's requirements with their business practices. Sen. Durenberger also released the NIHP white paper on the Medicare Modernization Act and its effect on the Upper Midwest; it is 20 pages of well-lawyered identification of the problems that the law imposes on us that are likely to be far worse than any prescription drug benefit we are likely to see.

A better hope for drug cost help is in the new Pharmaceutical Market Access bills introduced in the Senate as S. 334 by Dorgan, Snowe, Kennedy, McCain, Dayton and 24 other co-sponsors, and in the House as H.R. 328 by Gutknecht, Ramstad, Emanuel, and others. By introducing almost identical bills in both houses, the hope is to avoid a conference committee neutering. The house staffers also tell us a goal is to get 218 members to enable a "discharge petition" to force a vote over the objections of Hastert and DeLay.

On the Canadian side, CIPA president Andy Tozak said the issue of Canada being cut off from drug supplies seems to be less likely. More European Union countries are available as sources and CIPA has been working with Scottish pharmacist Don McArthur, who set up the E.U.s parallel trading structure, to coordinate the process. Tozak also said more members of the Liberal Cabinet have mentioned President Bush's visit and his open desire to get the Canadian government to stop shipment of drugs to the U.S. in exchange for beef, lumber, and other trade favors.

Next to last, a political statement. Have you seen the President's challenge that he would use his veto power for the first time to prevent any change to the Medicare drug benefit? That's the drug benefit to Pharma, not the old folks. The February 12 Pioneer Press quoted President Bush as saying, "I signed Medicare reform proudly, and any attempt to limit

the choices of our seniors and to take away their prescription drug coverage under Medicare will meet my veto.”

Lastly, for those of you who may have missed Doug Grow’s Star Trib column on February 8, here is a short synopsis. A woman who fell and broke her humerus (the bone between elbow and shoulder) received same-day surgery and later learned that the hospital and physicians billed Medica \$20,000 for the care. After requesting and receiving an itemized hospital bill (no physician charges) of \$11,374.52, she found that Medica had paid \$1,049 – the pre-negotiated price for repair of a broken humerus. The itemized bill included two penile prostheses, an ankle replacement kit, and a knee replacement kit. Many cannot afford insurance, but no one other than the destitute can afford to be without. Submitted by Brian Berggren.

Social Security

The panel on Social Security at the Iris Park Episcopal Home Saturday, 12 February, included Sen. Mark Dayton, MN AARP Pres. Skip Humphrey, AFL-CIO leader Bill Moore, Education Assn. Leader Larry Wicks, Macalester economics professor Ray Robertson, and MN Senior Federation Metro president Barbara Kaufman. The audience of 150 included home residents, AARP and Senior Federation members, union workers, social and health care services workers, and a couple of kids.

To a person, the panel admitted they were addressing the wrong audience. The consensus was that Social Security is not in crisis and must be maintained and protected for our children and grandchildren. Sen. Dayton told us that all the numbers are only forecasts and that the 2004 Social Security surplus was \$155 billion, an ongoing surplus that was planned for in 1983 by the Reagan-appointed bipartisan commission chaired by Alan Greenspan to take care of the baby boomer bubble that we will be facing. Dayton also said the 2004 Federal budget for the other government programs had a \$567 billion deficit.

AFL-CIO leader Moore said the privatization changes only shift the program’s risk to the working class. Larry Wicks observed that the privatization options make success dependent on market timing. Economist Robertson told us taking money out of the Social Security contributions would only make any future shortfall worse. The Senior Federation’s Kaufman said the progressive benefit formula provides guaranteed and predictable benefits to better support those at the lower end who have been less able to accumulate sheltered savings for retirement. Skip Humphrey stressed that Social

Security is an insurance program with one-third of its benefits going to survivors and the disabled in addition to its role as a basic support system for those in retirement.

For a little light reading, I suggest a trip to the library for the February 2005 “The American Prospect”. The magazine has a 23-page Special Report On Saving Social Security, Bush’s House of Cards: The Privatization Fraud. The articles are by 14 researchers and writers; some are social, some economic, and some political. Two are must-reads. Dean Baker’s piece goes through the numbers in plain English, while Norma Cohen tells us about Margaret Thatcher’s 1979 pension reform disaster and its similarities to current proposals.

Senator Rod Grams, writing about the Social Security surplus and trust fund in the February 15 Pioneer Press says, “There is no cash in the so-called trust fund. Washington has already spent that money and left IOUs behind.” Tell that to the Chinese and Japanese who hold the same U.S. Treasury bonds as the Social Security fund. Can our government write off hundreds of billions in past Social Security surpluses stored in U.S. bonds and think foreign governments that hold similar obligations will continue to finance our debt? The operative words are delusional and depression. Submitted by Brian Berggren.

HAPPENINGS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

"The VIP Club and staff are pleased to wish Lorraine McDonnell a belated Happy Birthday and continued good health on her 90th birthday which was celebrated last November. Lorraine was the nurse at Unisys Roseville for many years and has been a VIP Club member since her retirement! The VIP Club would like to recognize all members who have or will celebrate their 90th birthdays. Please send a note to the Newsletter editor or staff."

THE LIGHTER SIDE

Hospital regulations require a wheelchair for patients being discharged. However, while working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman--already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet--who insisted he didn't need my help to leave the hospital. After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator. On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him. "I don't know," he said. "She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown."

VIP Volunteer Services Areas with Samples of Organizations in each Category

<p>Code Service Area</p> <p>1 Community and Related Services AARP Volunteers Civic/Govt./County Support Services Senior Centers Community Services DARTS Scouts Minnesota Senior Federation United Way</p> <p>2 Health and Disaster Services American Cancer Society Arthritis Foundation Red Cross & Bloodmobile Services TAMARISK Hospital Support</p> <p>3 Meals, Food and Housing Services Meals on Wheels Loaves and Fishes Sharing and Caring Hands Dorothy Day Center Food Services / Senior Dining Habitat for Humanity</p>	<p>Code Service Area</p> <p>4 Music and Theatrical Services Guthrie Theater Church Singing Groups North Suburban Chorus</p> <p>5 Schools and Educational Services Volunteer Services in Schools Historical Societies Wright Brothers National Memorial</p> <p>6 Religious and Related Services Church Missions and Camps Related Charities Lutheran Church Support Presbyterian Homes General Church Support</p> <p>7 Other Services Animal Humane Society Law Enforcement Services Juvenile Court Guardian Small Business Consulting Veterans & Armed Forces Support VIP Club Mutual Interest Associations</p>
---	---

On your Volunteer Hours Survey Form select one of the above codes that best represents each Organization Served.

VIP Club Volunteer Hours Survey Form For Year 2004		
Member/Spouse Names _____ Your City _____ State _____		
Service Area Code (1-7) See Listing Above	Organization for which volunteer Services was performed	Member and Spouse Total Hours per line
<p>Cut out and Mail this form to: Bernie Jansen 848 Ivy Lane Eagan, MN 55123-2425</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total Hours _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***** Survey results will be published in the VIP Club Newsletter. The VIP Recognition Breakfast will be at 8:30a.m. on April 20th at Unisys, Roseville. Your Volunteer Survey Form must be received by April 8th for you to be listed in the Breakfast Program. Please indicate how many will attend the volunteer breakfast. Enter 0, 1 or 2:_____.</p>		

**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:
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

DIRECTORS

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
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.