

VIP Club Newsletter

VOLUME 29, NO. 7/8 <http://www.vipclubmn.org> JULY/AUGUST 2009

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 01	No Board Meeting	
Wednesday, July 08	No Program	
Wednesday, August 05	Board Meeting, Roseville	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, August 12	Roseville, Program & Social Time	7:00 p.m.

AUGUST PROGRAM: ROSEVILLE

“Be alert, Be wise, Be savvy” is the title of our August program. The presenter will be **Beverly Gherity**, the Senior Outreach Program Manager for the Better Business Bureau (BBB). Bev has been with the Better Business Bureau of MN and ND for 23 years. Recently she has developed the BBB’s senior program, called Silver Sage, and is dedicated to sharing her experiences and knowledge about common issues, scams and schemes that specifically target the **senior** population. She also talks about the Better Business Bureau’s mission and goals, how to resolve complaints with a company and how to use the BBB services if necessary.

Bev is a St. Paul native although her family moved north several times hitting Milaca, Mora, and then Biwabik (although never fleeing across the northern border). At that time the desire for “civilization” beckoned, and the obvious choices were Winnipeg and St. Paul. Bev returned to St. Paul, and although trained as a musician, she landed a job at the BBB in St. Paul, a stone’s throw from old Plant 1. In fact Bev had a cousin who worked in Plant 1. She is dynamic and enthusiastic about protecting vulnerable seniors who unfortunately often become the victims of endless scams. She hears daily of the tricks and temptations used on seniors who often call the BBB when it’s too late. A recent complaint: “I sent my \$100 application fee for the grant, but they never sent me the grant money.” We can all learn a lot from her program, for ourselves and for friends and relatives who may be in the risk group.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM: EAGAN

Dr. Tom Misa, director of the Charles Babbage Institute at the University of Minnesota, has just concluded a year long series of talks on the “Hidden History of Computing in Minnesota.” He has agreed to present the Hidden History’s “Origins in the Engineering Research Associates” on September 9th. Come and hear about the very significant role of our founding company, ERA. As Tom examines the pioneering efforts of ERA, he will address the question: Did a Minnesota start-up company create the country’s first stored-program computer? Organized in 1946, this St. Paul company was a seed-bed of innovative technologies and computer designs. ERA also helped create the modern computer industry, evolving into the Univac Division of Sperry-Rand as well as spinning off the notable Control Data Corporation. This talk surveys ERA’s accomplishments and discusses its legacy in shaping modern computing.

MEETING & EVENT DATES 2009

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Activity</u>
May. 13	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
June 10	4:00 p.m.	Park	VIP Club Picnic
July 08			No Meeting
Aug. 12	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Sept. 09	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
Oct. 14	6.30 a.m.	Rsvl	Desert & Program
Nov. 11	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program – Social time
Dec. 10	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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From: Tom Turba

The annual picnic at Highland Park was a great success. Although the weather looked threatening in the morning, it turned into perfect weather for a picnic in the afternoon. We had a wide and tasty variety of food brought in by everyone and the Angus burgers cooked by Jim and Paul were delicious. The best part of the picnic was just getting together with old friends, sharing memories, and talking about the good old days. Thanks to everyone who helped make it possible by getting everything there, setting up the shelter, putting out the food and cleaning up afterward. A special thanks goes to Jim Larson who for the third year in a row got up early on a cold January morning to go to downtown St. Paul to reserve the shelter. For about 20 years, this job was done by Chuck Homan, who was pleasantly surprised to be recognized with the Member Emeritus award at the picnic. Please see the article about him in this newsletter and enjoy the full-page picture spread from the picnic on pages 4 and 5.

Dale Phelps is again lining up speakers for our program meetings. A couple of those meetings you may especially want to attend. In August we have Beverly Gherity, the Senior Outreach Program Manager for the Better Business Bureau (BBB). Bev's talk is titled "Be alert, Be wise, Be savvy". In September we will have Tom Misa, director of the Charles Babbage Institute, talk about computer history in Minnesota. Also, in October our pot-luck dinner is being replaced by ice cream and treats with an inside view of Cuba, from a trip I took to Havana as part of a Minnesota State Delegation.

Respectfully, Tom Turba, VIP Club President.

WELCOME NEW CLUB MEMBERS

Cole, Merle H. L Apple Valley, MN.
Devlaminck, Ghislain & Virginia L

Apple Valley, MN.

Olson, Dean & Mitsu U Eagan, MN.
Grimm, Pam L Bloomington, MN.

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

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@yahoo.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, from September through April, on the 4th Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. at Champs located at 35E and Larpenteur Avenue.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Hackel, Robert (Bob) Joseph - Age 77 of Hastings, MN. He passed away suddenly on Sunday, June 14, 2009. Bob worked for [Sperry Univac](#) for over 35 years.

Johnson, Robert R. - Age 82 of Bloomington MN. Survived by loving wife of 54 years, Ruth. Robert was a Univac retiree.



McNicoll, Andrew Michael "Mick" - Age 88 of Minneapolis, MN. Passed away on June 20, 2009. He is survived by his wife and sweetheart, Marie. Mick was a Lockheed Martin retiree.



Miller, Gregory P. - Age 68 of Bloomington, MN. Passed away on May 31st. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Beverly. Greg retired from Lockheed Martin after 30+ years and was a VIP Club member.



Patrias, George R. - Age 67 Of Stillwater, MN. Preceded in death by his wife, Marlene. George died from brain cancer on Friday 5/15/2009. He was a Univac Subcontracts Manager when he retired in the 90's.

Pearson, Herbert A. - Age 76 of Roseville, MN. Passed away on 3/20/09. Navy veteran, retired from Unisys.

Schwartz, Glenn W. - Age 82 of North Oaks, MN. Passed away peacefully after a courageous battle with cancer on June 19, 2009. Preceded in death by his wife, Beverly Mae. Glenn worked at Rand Corporation, Sperry Univac, Sperry, and Unisys located in Roseville, MN. He was also a member of the VIP Club.

Wiesner, Robert - Age 81 of Hudson, MN. He is survived by his wife, Dorene. Robert was a Unisys retiree.

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE MORE

At the May board meeting, the Board voted to raise membership dues effective July 1, 2009. For new joiners or membership renewals, the fees will be \$7 per year or \$18 for three years. Members who have already paid the current rate for one or more years won't pay the new fee until their present membership expires. One member has already renewed at the new rate! Submitted by LABenson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HONORING THE HOMAN'S!

At the June Picnic, Club President Tom Turba presented the 'Member Emeritus' award to Chuck and Midge. The wording on the award certificate is: "Charles 'Chuck' and Midge Homan - in recognition of your significant *CLUB* participation and leadership; 6 terms of *CLUB* service as VP, President, and Past President; a dozen years coordinating the summer picnic, several years as a Director, and Midge's support of everything!. This 'Member Emeritus' award includes a free life-time *CLUB* membership and an Ex-Officio Director position on the *CLUB* board for as many years as you are willing and able to participate."



Thanks to Chuck also for his inputs to our Legacy web site and for continuing participation in the First Friday luncheon group – also known as the 'Original Geek Squad.' Submitted by LABenson

BLOODMOBILE INFORMATION AUGUST RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES.

Thursday, August 13th Lockheed Martin in Eagan needs greeters and servers 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Tuesday, August 25th Unisys MACS, Eagan needs greeters and servers 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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

E-NEWS STATUS

For those of you reading the newsletter electronically, we'd appreciate your feedback about the electronic versus U.S. Mail delivery, comments to newsletter@vipclubmn.org. There are still about 100 members who have not let us know whether he/she wishes to continue with Uncle Sam deliveries or that they'd like to go green with electronic deliveries. A few prior issues of our newsletters can be accessed at <http://vipclubmn.org/archive.aspx>



VIP Club Picnic
June 10, 2009



If you would you like an electronic file copy of these pictures, send an e-mail to newsletter@vipclubm.n.org
 Name the page, column and count – i.e. Weidenbach is page 2, column 2, 5th from the top.

13th ANNUAL FIELD SERVICE OLD TIMERS PICNIC

ERA / SPERRY / UNIVAC / UNISYS / LOCKHEED
WHEN: SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2009
(NOON TO 5PM)
WHERE: SPRING LAKE PARK RESERVE / SCHAAR'S BLUFF, (EAST SHELTER) LOCATED 5 MILES WEST OF HASTINGS ON COUNTY ROAD 42 AT IDELL AVE
WHAT: BRING YOUR OWN FOOD BUT BEER/POP/CHARCOAL WILL BE PROVIDED
COST: \$15 DONATION APPRECIATED TO COVER SHELTER RENTAL BEER/POP/ICE/CHARCOAL/POST-AGE
GOLF: 9 HOLES-BEST BALL STARTING AT 10 AM - RICH VALLEY GOLF COURSE - TAKE U.S. HIGHWAY 52 SOUTH TO COUNTY ROAD 42 THEN GO EAST ONE MILE TO RICH VALLEY - GREENS FEE IS \$15 / TROPHIES AWARDED-

CALL OR E-MAIL CURT FOR GOLF SIGNUP
PHONE: (651) 438-9851 E-MAIL anderscurt@comcast.net. Submitted by CURT ANDERSON

END OF AN ERA

Although it has been quite a few years since computers were built in Building #1 in Roseville, it's still sort of sad to see the building come down (see photo below).. Computer manufacturing moved to Roseville in the 1960's and continued there through the hay-days of mainframe computers until the late 1990's when it was moved to California. Tens of thousands of computers were built and tested in Building #1 and were the main profit source for an untold number of years. The building is now history, but the memories live on.



ROSEVILLE BUILDING 1

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Extend primary health care to all or expand insurance coverage options to further fund high cost drugs and specialist treatment? Health care reform is really about

two questions: How do we improve the healthcare we receive from our doctors and hospitals, and how do we pay for the health care the nation's citizens need? Our starting point should be that evidence-based health care is the only way to get to medical practices and procedures that result in good outcomes without unnecessary tests, unneeded specialist referrals, and unwarranted prescription drugs. All other labels are marketing phrases more about coverage, relationship, or organizational issues; these include patient-centered, value-based, quality-focused, and consumer-oriented variants.

Remember, 16 percent of the GDP is spent on health care and almost 50 percent of our health care spending is through government programs (Medicare, Medicaid, VA, etc.). Also remember, all other developed countries spend less than 10 percent of GDP on health care (alright, Switzerland spends 12 percent), care for all citizens, and have better results (the U.S. ranks 38th).

We also should remember that Medicare has a two percent overhead for administration. Non-profits such as Blue Cross, Kaiser Permanente, and HealthPartners have 10-30 percent overhead, and the for-profits such as Aetna, Humana, and Cigna have 20-40 percent overhead. When overhead costs are added to the cost of the 30 percent of medical procedures that are unnecessary, the first thought is that our system doesn't need any additional money. The even more disturbing number is the distribution of people taking money out of the health care system. Back in 1990 physicians and administrators were about equal in numbers; physicians numbers have since increased less than five percent while administrator numbers have increased more that 2000 percent.

The current health care reform discussion centering on whether to include a public option should not even be open to debate. A public option with demonstration funding for best chronic care programs and negotiated drug pricing should be the minimum under consideration. What could help most is a single basic coverage plan for all. Eliminate all the "options" that only complicate administration and billing and only raise costs in the name of choice and competition. The trillion dollar question is not about extending coverage to the un- and under-insured, it's about keeping the drug and healthcare lobby happy and money flowing to for-profit health companies and congressmen. Gov. Pawlenty's Healthcare Forum concluded that giving the uninsured healthcare would save almost as much as emergency room care for the uninsured costs our hospitals. As citizens, we need to ask our representatives better questions and make sure the answers do not include fine print that makes a "public

option” available only to the poor and chronically ill. Submitted by Brian Berggren.

TRAVEL TIDBITS:

CRUISES are an outstanding value right now. European destinations are going for about the same price as the Caribbean. And there’s still time to snatch up that dream cruise to Alaska this August. No fuel surcharges-lots of bonuses!

FALL MYSTERY BUS TOUR on Sept. 16th. Sure to fill up fast, but I can’t say where we’re going. Just \$25! Call soon! List available for other one-day tours thru 2009.

NORSE HOSTFEST, Sep.30-Oct. 3 - Is this the year you’ll finally make it? Includes bus, lodging, 2 days’ admission, concert tickets for Reba McIntyre & Ray Stevens’ performances, much more. Phone or email for a flyer. Just \$575 pp (dbl.)

BOATS, BIRDS & BLUE HERON, June 26-27 – Kayak/Pontoon Marsh Tour on largest US Cattail Marsh, plus Dells Duck Boat Tour. \$299 pp (dbl).

CASINO TOURS one day or several—too numerous to list them all here. Ask me for detailed flyer.

BRANSON CHRISTMAS 5-day tours start in November. Many include singer Daniel O’Donnell. \$659 pp (dbl.). Buses pick up at various places, such as Maplewood, Bloomington, Brooklyn Park, Richfield, Apache Plaza, South Robert Street, 94 & Hamline, Little Canada, as needed.

OBBERAMMERGAU, the Passion Play that occurs in Europe once every 10 years, comes in Summer 2010. Discover Croatia, Prague, Vienna, Medjugorje, etc. Yvonne Cecchini, your personal, full-service Travel Agent, 651-437-9278, email: ycecchini@earthlink.net

LIGHTER SIDE

A man was telling his neighbor in Trailer Estates, "I just bought a new hearing aid it cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art. It's perfect." "Really," answered the neighbor. "What kind is it?" "Twelve thirty."

Morris, an 82 year-old man, went to the doctor at The Trailer Estates Medical Clinic to get a physical. A few days later the doctor saw Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous young woman on his arm. A couple of days later the doctor spoke to Morris and said, "You're really doing great, aren't you?" "Just doing what you said, Doc: 'Get a hot mamma and be cheerful,'" Morris replied. To which, the doctor said, "I didn't say that, Morris." I said, "You've got a heart murmur. Be careful!"

Two Twin Cities’ curling teams, one of Norwegian descendants the other all Swedes, chartered a double-decker bus for a weekend trip to Fargo. The Swedes down below really whooped it up, having a great time – Sven realized that he had heard nothing from the Norse upstairs. He decided to go up and investigate. Upon reaching the top step, Sven found all the Norwegians staring straight ahead at the road, clutching the seats in front of them with white knuckles, cringing in utter fear! He shook the Norske by whom he’d stopped: “Vat the heck’s going on up here? We’re having a great time downstairs!” Ole looked up at Sven, swallowed hard and whispered ... “YEAH, BUT YOU’VE GOT A DRIVER!”

My Duck Is Dead!

A woman brought a very limp duck into a veterinary surgeon. As she laid her pet on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest. After a moment or two, the vet shook his head sadly and said, "I'm sorry, your duck, Cuddles, has passed away." The distressed woman wailed, "Are you sure?" "Yes, I am sure. The duck is dead," replied the vet. "How can you be so sure?" she protested. "I mean you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something." The vet rolled his eyes, turned around and left the room. He returned a few minutes later with a black Labrador Retriever. As the duck's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the examination table and sniffed the duck from top to bottom. He then looked up at the vet with sad eyes and shook his head. The vet patted the dog on the head and took it out of the room. A few minutes later he returned with a cat. The cat jumped on the table and also delicately sniffed the bird from head to foot. The cat sat back on its haunches, shook its head, meowed softly and strolled out of the room. The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry, but as I said, this is most definitely, 100% certifiably, a dead duck." The vet turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys, and produced a bill which he handed to the woman. The duck's owner, still in shock, took the bill. "\$150!" she cried, "\$150 just to tell me my duck is dead!" The vet shrugged, "I'm sorry. If you had just taken my word for it, the bill would have been \$20, but with the Lab Report and the Cat Scan, it's now \$150".

"The trouble with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard."

**VIP CLUB
P.O. BOX 131748
ROSEVILLE MN 55113-0020**

VIP CLUB OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS FOR THE YEAR 2009

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Marion Scott..... *455-7952

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Programs - Eagan and Roseville.....
Dale Phelps #831-7843
Newsletter Editors.... Joe Schwarz *698-9698
& Brian Berggren *451-9009
email address: vipclub2003@yahoo.com
WEBMASTER Lowell Benson *483 3709

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Travel Opportunities
Yvonne Cecchini at *437-9278

UNISYS Liaison, Roseville Sue Carrigan *635-7955
Printing & Mailing UNISYS Print Shop, Roseville.....

Lockheed Martin, Eagan Liaison..... Tierney Helmers *456-4963

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 Road. It 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.