

VIP Club Newsletter

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VOLUME 29, NO. 9

<http://www.vipclubmn.org>

SEPTEMBER 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, Sept 02	Board Meeting, Eagan	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, Sept 09	Eagan, Program & Social Time	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 07	Board Meeting, Roseville	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, October 14	Roseville, Program & Ice Cream Social	6:30 p.m.

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.

OCTOBER ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND PROGRAM: ROSEVILLE

The October meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. with ice cream, pie, and coffee. The October program will be a slide presentation by Tom Turba documenting his travels in Cuba. Travel to Cuba has been restricted for many years and has been even more restricted over the last few years. Tom's trip to Cuba in 2002 was basically for humanitarian and information purposes and was part of a Minnesota State Delegation arranged by Augsburg College, Center for Global Education.

The delegation met with Cuban officials, toured schools, saw medical facilities, visited museums, went to

agricultural areas, stayed at a beach area, saw cultural presentations, and had the freedom to talk to local people and travel on their own in the Havana area. In this presentation, you will see slides from one of the last trips that was permitted for a Minnesota State Delegation. If you like seeing old cars, hearing about life in another kind of country and getting an inside view of something you normally can't see, plan to attend this fun filled evening.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From: Tom Turba

For those of you that could not make the August meeting, Beverly Gherity of the Better Business Bureau gave an excellent presentation on schemes and scams that seniors, as well as other people, should be aware of. Beverly is part of a proactive group that scans the media looking for scams, false advertising and other traps. She actively works with local businesses as a consumer advocate and helps to mediate problems when they occur. She is especially dedicated to helping seniors and welcome's calls from anyone who is suspicious of any kind of advertising or offer they have been given. The Better Business

Bureau is there to help you find out more about a business or charity and keeps a database on complaints received.

Be sure to mark you calendar for Wednesday, September 9th when we will have Tom Misa, director of the Charles Babbage Institute, talk about computer history in Minnesota and especially the ERA, UNIVAC connection. In, October we will have an ice cream social with slides showing an inside view of Cuba, from a trip I took to Havana in 2002 as part of a Minnesota State Delegation.

I hope to see you at one of the upcoming meetings. The Christmas party will be coming up on December 10th. Respectfully, Tom Turba, 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, from September through April, on the 4th Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. at Champs located at 35E and Larpenteur Avenue.

MEETING & EVENT DATES 2009

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Jan. 14, 2009			No Meeting
Feb. 11	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
Mar. 11	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl.	Program - Social Time
Apr. 08	8:00 a.m.	Rsvl.	Volunteer Breakfast
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 p.m.	Rsvl	Social 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

WELCOME NEW CLUB MEMBERS

No new members.
U = Unisys **B** = Burroughs **L** = Lockheed Martin **D** = Unisys Defense Systems

IN REMEMBRANCE



Hom, Daniel W. "Grandpa Whiskers" - Age 55 of Woodbury, MN. Unexpectedly passed away after a heart attack on July 8, 2009. Dan retired as Lead Security Officer from Lockheed Martin after 25 years of employment



Nelson, Walter Sidney - Age 96 of Minneapolis, MN. Walter died peacefully on June 19, 2009. He is preceded in death by his wife of nearly sixty years, Frances Nelson. Walter worked 24 years as a Material Control supervisor in Plants 1 and 3 during the booming 1960's and 70's before retiring in 1978. Walter was a long time VIP Club member.

Schaefer, Donald G. - Age 74 of Eagan, MN. Peacefully passed away at his home on Friday, July 10, 2009. Donald is survived by his wife, Maryellen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NO MORE MINNESOTA SENIOR FEDERATION (MSF)

The Minnesota Senior Federation has been dissolved and many of the services it had provided have been transferred to other organizations. However, several foundations and non-profit supporters recognized that the loss of the MSF leaves no one to speak to senior issues and have expressed willingness to financially support a new senior advocacy group. With this encouragement, many members of the old MSF issues committees are now organizing a new group to be called "Mature Voices Minnesota." Contributions will be solicited from past MSF members and associates, but the new group will not have a membership base that seeks help and services; instead, the MVM will be dependent on volunteers and contributions. The new group will advocate, educate, and lobby through all-volunteer committees for Healthcare and Prescription Drugs, Medicare Justice, Transportation, Utilities and Housing, Long-term Care and Services, Property Taxes, and Pension Rights. In addition, the group hopes to provide legal referrals and a limited prescription drug import service. Submitted by Brian Berggren.

HEALTH ISSUES

Actual healthcare reform seems to be absent from current legislation and expansion of insurance coverage seems to be the goal. A new pool of 50 million somehow and at some level newly-insured through mandates, tax credits, or subsidies has the for-profit insurance and drug companies energized. In all the "reform" discussions we tend to forget that for-profit free market, indefinable and excessive choices, and competition – not for individual benefit but for more efficient regional dominance – has brought us to our present state. (A recent AMA study said 16 states have a single insurer controlling more than half the market.)

Worse and most embarrassing, those advocating reform are speaking in so many differing voices that no consensus is likely to be reached. At a recent forum a panel of four doctors advocating reform, the ER doc thought that all real emergencies must be treated to best practices regardless of cost or insurance status, while the hospitalist doctor said we need full mental health coverage because 70 percent of patients with more than one chronic problem have a mental health issue. The HMO primary care doc thinks a state single-payer program that includes long-term care is a necessary first step for real reform, while a Mayo specialist with a national single-payer organization affiliation wants a better focus on so-far-ignored single-payer legislation.

Back in February the Dartmouth Atlas Project published another report in a 20-year series titled, "Health Care Spending, Quality, and Outcomes." This report identifies Medicare spending per capita by hospital referral regions across the U.S.; Minot, N.D., averages \$5,542, while Miami, Fl., averages \$16,352 – more than three times as much. Even worse, the report finds that higher spending did not result in better care quality, patient satisfaction, or survival. The paradox is "supply-sensitive" care; with more ICU beds, more specialists, and more MRI and CT scanners, Medicare spends more without improving care.

A recent forum at the U of M Medical School sponsored by Senator Klobuchar had leaders from the Geisinger Clinic in Pennsylvania and the Mayo Clinic. (Both, along with the Cleveland Clinic are cited by the Dartmouth Atlas as very good and efficient care providers.) The Geisinger Clinic has been able to significantly reduce costs and maintain the health of patients with chronic diseases by using specially trained physicians' assistants and nurse practitioners to call and visit patients. Such contact keeps patients on proper medications, reduces complicating problems, and relieves the primary care doctor and patients of unnecessary return clinic visits – and reduces specialist referrals.

Remember the 2003 Medicare Reform and Modernization Act that was passed in the dead of night and unread by most Congressmen? This is the bill that gave us the Part D Prescription Drug benefit, created the infamous "donut-hole," and prohibited the government from any negotiation of drug prices like the VA uses. The same Congressmen responsible for the 2003 MMA are again lead players and our biggest fear should be the damage they could do to the budget and the under-65 population with their idea of insurance coverage expansion, competition, and choices. Submitted by Brian Berggren.

OUR WEB SITE STATISTICS AND TIDBITS.

Internet users have been coming to our site at a rate of just over 1,700 hits per month for the last 18 months. During the first seven months of 2009, the most popular 10 pages visited are: Home; Systems, Missiles; Engineering, Memory; People; UNISYS Legacy; Computers; Links; Engineering; Computers, 30-bit; and LMCO Legacy. During the first seven months of 2009, the most common keywords used for searches are: rope memory, core rope memory, deceased people, vipclubmn.org, uyk-7, an/uyk-7, legacy, commercial processors, systems, and uyk-43.

Over the last month, i.e. from July 7th to August 5th:– 730 users have come to our site from Google, 310 readers have come from direct links from other sites, 100 have come from within the site, 75 have come

from bing.com [Microsoft's new search engine], and 50 have come from Yahoo. These were the top five.

For those of you who go onto the site to read or re-read newsletters linked from <http://vipclubmn.org/archive.aspx>, be sure that you have pop-ups enabled from the vipclubmn.org site because the newsletters will open in separate windows so that readers may have multiple issues open at the same time.

For those of you who have internet access but haven't signed up for electronic notification of new newsletter issues – send a YES message to newsletter@vipclubmn.org. If your access is just a dial-up link, downloading the newsletter pdf files may be slow so we recommend that you send us a NO message. To date 64 members have said NO, 364 have said YES, there are about 100 members for whom we have e-mail addresses who haven't said either Yea or Neigh!

If you are changing your e-mail address, please notify us so that we can keep our database up to date and be able to publish a more accurate directory next year. Submitted by L.A. Benson.

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>. Submitted by L. A. Benson.

MEMBERSHIP DUES HAVE INCREASED

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 L. A. Benson.

CHARITIES REVIEW COUNCIL

In today's economy, when charities are competing more than ever for public support, organizations are using a variety of ways to raise funds, including telemarketing and direct mail solicitations, to increase their likelihood of receiving a gift from you.

The Charities Review Council, which is a United Way Funded Agency, does not endorse or disapprove of any

organization. They do, however, have Standards of Accountability, which measure performance in four critical areas: Public Disclosure, Governance, Financial Activity, and Fundraising.

Before you donate, check out the organization with the Council at (651)224-7030 (toll free 800-733-4483), or visit them online at SmartGivers.org/GivingGuide.

In addition, be suspicious of drawings, raffles, or sweepstakes. Drawings that require payment to enter are raffles, and are illegal to conduct via the mail. Submitted by Millie Gignac.

UPCOMING FALL EVENTS:

October 9th, 9 a.m. to noon - Legacy display at the U of MN in the Computer Science Bldg atrium.

November 11th, 7 p.m. - Election of 2010 VIP Club Officers at the Eagan Community Center.

November 20th, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. UniHogs/UniTurkeys at the City View.

December 3rd, 11 a.m. to 2 Old Timers at the Ft. Snelling Officer's Club.

December 10th, 5:45 to 10 p.m. - VIP Club Christmas dinner & dance at the Ft. Snelling Service Club.

YOU WILL BE ASSIMILATED

In fact, you have been assimilated and you are still being assimilated! The Mother Ship has been and still is sending you powerful subliminal messages that are burned deeply into your memory, and even now the earliest ones can still be recalled. These messages come in coded phrases which, upon recall, trigger associations (i.e. conditioned responses) which you thought were long lost, buried and forgotten, but just see for yourself. Each of the following phrases will trigger a powerful identity response. Just try them.

"Say it with flowers"

"Think small"

"Look sharp, be sharp"

"Always a bridesmaid but never a bride"

"You can trust your car to the man who wears the star"

"Lifts and separates"

"Leave the driving to us"

"The king of beers"

"A diamond is forever"

"Fast, fast, fast relief"

"99 and 44/100% pure"

"The pause that refreshes"

"When it rains, it pours"

"The ultimate driving machine"

"You're soaking in it"

"A little dab'll do ya"

"Brusha...Brusha...Brusha..."

"You like it. It likes you."

Answers in alphabetical order (you still have to match them) are: Anacin, Bayerische MotorWerke (BMW), Brylcreem, Budweiser, Coca Cola, DeBeers, Florist Transworld Delivery (FTD), Gillette, Greyhound, Ipana, Ivory Soap, Listerine, Morton Salt, Palmolive, Playtex, 7-Up, Texaco, and Volkswagen.

LIGHTER SIDE

Seniors at Trailer Estates.

Two elderly people living in Trailer Estates, he a widower and she a widow, had known each other for a number of years. One evening there was a community supper in the big activity center. The two were at the same table, across from one another. As the meal went on, he took a few admiring glances at her and finally gathered the courage to ask her, "Will you marry me?" After about six seconds of 'careful consideration', she answered, "Yes. Yes, I will." The meal ended and, with a few more pleasant exchanges, they went to their respective places. Next morning, he was troubled. "Did she say 'yes' or did she say 'no'?" He couldn't

remember. Try as he might, he just could not recall. Not even a faint memory. With trepidation, he went to the telephone and called her. First, he explained that he didn't remember as well as he used to. Then he reviewed the lovely evening past. As he gained a little more courage, he inquired. "When I asked if you would marry me, did you say 'Yes' or did you say 'No'?" He was delighted to hear her say, "Why, I said, 'Yes, yes I will' and I meant it with all my heart." Then she continued, "I am so glad that you called, because I couldn't remember who had asked me."

"I fought the lawn,
and the lawn won".



The above picture is from this years Old Timers Picnic on 8-1-2009 at Spring Lake Park. Pictured above front row left to right: Karron Annonson, Clint Haggarty, Andy Annonson Dean Olson, Ernie Horning, Ron & Jean Hueomeller, Roger & Eddie Feichtinger, and Pete Peterson. Back row left to right: Bob Kroeger, Ed Nelson, Ray Gollon, Ray Milligan, Brian McNally, George Fedor, Jim Sprecher, Dave Meyer, Dick & Norma Roessler, Marian Anderson, and John Gorres. Not in picture: Vern Elverson and Curt Anderson.

**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:

OFFICERS

President Thomas Turba *489-0779
 Vice Pres Lowell Benson *483-3709
 Secretary.....Lynn Lindholm *484-1030
 TreasurerHarvey Taipale *748-5083
 Past PresBrian Berggren *451-9009

DIRECTORS

DirectorDale Phelps #831-7843
 DirectorQuintin Heckert *484-8729
 DirectorJoseph Schwarz *698-9698
 DirectorMarion Scott *455-7952

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Volunteer Recognition Breakfast
 Bernie Jansen *651-681-9988
 Red Cross Blood Drive
 Marion Scott..... *455-7952

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

Membership Quintin Heckert *484-8729
 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

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

ChristmasDorothy Becker #881-3516
 Picnic..... Jim Larson *698-3963
 Mat. Voices MN .Brian Berggren *451-9009
 Jim Larson *698-3963
 Sunshine Jim Larson *698-3963
 Lynn Farris Lindholm *484-1030
 Travel Opportunities
 Yvonne Cecchini at *437-9278

UNISYS Liaison, Roseville Sue Carrigan *635-7955 Lockheed Martin, Eagan Liaison... Tierney Helmers *456-4963 Printing & Mailing UNISYS Print Shop, Roseville

VIP CLUB DUES \$7 PER YEAR OR \$18 FOR THREE YEARS

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.