

# VIP Club Newsletter

Electronic Edition

**VOLUME 32, NO. 06** <http://www.vipclubmn.org> **JULY/AUGUST 2012**

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 04  
Wednesday, July 11

Board Meeting, Eagan  
No Program In July

Wednesday, August 01  
Wednesday, August 08

Board Meeting, Roseville  
Program and Social Time

10:00 a.m.  
2.00 p.m.

## **JULY NO PROGRAM:**

No program scheduled for July.

## **AUGUST PROGRAM: ROSEVILLE**

Whom is big brother watching? Who is big brother? Call a friend or two and meet him/her at Rosedale about 12:30 for lunch. Then about 1:40, drive to the Water's Edge Building on County Road C just east of Snelling for an escorted 2:00 pm visit of the Regional Traffic Management Center (RTMC) operated by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT).



Mn/DOT has over 450 closed-circuit TV cameras posted along 340 miles of metro-area freeway. Learn how they use these cameras to dispatch 'highway helper' pickups to vehicles in distress. Did you know that the state patrol's 911 response center shares these cameras and facility? The RTMC's computers also control the freeway

on-ramp meter rates using sensor inputs from over 4,500 loop detectors. Mn/DOT also allows local TV stations access to the camera video streams so that they can provide the public with up to the minute visual news about traffic accidents, congestion, etc. Send a note to [tnturba@comcast.net](mailto:tnturba@comcast.net) if you'll be coming so that Tom can pre-print visitor nametags. Thanks to Club President Turba for arranging this 'informative' visit; *LABenson*.

## **SEPTEMBER PROGRAM: EAGAN**

Kathryn Pearson is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Minnesota. She received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in 2005. Pearson specializes in American politics; her research and teaching focus on the United States Congress, elections, women and politics, and political parties. She has published several book chapters, and her research recently appeared in *The Journal of Politics*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *Politics & Gender*, and *Political Research Quarterly*. She is currently finishing a book titled *Party Discipline in the House of Representatives*. Pearson is a recipient of the Morse Alumni Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate. In 2002-2003, Pearson was a Research Fellow at The Brookings Institution, and from 1993 to 1998 she worked on Capitol Hill as a Legislative Assistant for two congresswomen, one Democrat and one Republican.

In her talk, she will provide a preview of the 2012 Elections, explaining how political scientists analyze the presidential campaigns and the most competitive congressional elections. She will analyze the role of voters, the media, political parties, and campaign finance.



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**  
**From: President Tom Turba**

The June picnic at Highland Park was another success with good food and camaraderie enjoyed by all, as can be seen by the pictures in the center of this issue; although, not everyone was captured by the photographer.

Next year's picnic is being planned as a super event that will be a grand reunion for anyone who worked for any part of our current or predecessor companies in the Twin Cities area. It will be open to anyone who wants to come. We probably will be taking reservations for this event as we will need to plan food and drink for everyone. If you would like to be involved in getting things organized or have ideas you would like to share, your input is welcomed. Reunions are fun activities that everyone seems to enjoy.

Our next program event will be a tour of the Minnesota Department of Transportation Control Center at their new Water's Edge building next to the old building Unisys occupied in the 1980's. If you are planning to go and have not already sent me a message, just drop me a line at: "TNTurba@comcast.net".

I'm looking forward to seeing you at one of the coming events. 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 Gina's Café at the Eagles Club, 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 2012**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Jan. 11, 2012			No Meeting
Feb. 08	2:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Mar. 14	2:00 p.m.	Eagan.	Program - Social Time
Apr. 18	9:00 a.m.	Gina's Cafe	Volunteer Breakfast
<b>May. 09</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Eagan</b>	<b>LM Walk Through</b>
<b>June 13</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Park</b>	<b>VIP Club Picnic</b>
July 11			No Meeting
Aug. 08	2:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program
Sept. 12	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
<b>Oct. 10</b>	<b>6.30 p.m.</b>	<b>Rsvl</b>	<b>Social Program</b>
Nov. 14	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social time
<b>Dec. 13</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>USAF</b>	<b>Christmas Party</b>

**Note: Rsvl = Roseville, Roseville; Eagan = Unisys MACS Bldg.; Park = Highland Park Pavilion, USAF = OFFICERS Club at Fort Snelling.**

**WELCOME NEW CLUB MEMBERS**

Beal, Curtis L	Blaine, MN.
Calvesio, Ray & Maureen U	Apple Valley, MN.
Christy, David & Tyra L	Apple Valley, MN.
Dietzler, Bruce & Joan L	Danbury, WI.
Hashizumi, Glen & Carol L	Lakeville, MN.
Kaminski, David & Barb L	Bloomington, MN.

Raycraft, Jan & Pat L Farmington, MN.  
 Rossow, Arlene L Burnsville, MN.  
 Schmidt, Walt & Marlene L Prior Lake, MN.  
 Stein, Mary L Afton, MN.  
 Stockman, Chuck & Char L Cushing, MN.  
 Weidenkopf, Tom & Ginny U NewBrighton, MN.  
 Wolske, Oscar U Inver Grove Hgts, MN.

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

## IN REMEMBRANCE



Cihunka, John - Age 88, of Richfield, MN. Passed away on July 4, 2012. Preceded in death by wife, Consuella. John was a Unisys retiree and a long time member of the VIP Club.



Ernst, Louis H. - Age 81, of Burnsville, Mn. Preceded in death by wife, Doris. Lou enjoyed a lifetime career as an engineer for Unisys. Lou was a long time VIP Club member.

Foley, Jeanette "Jan" - Age 80, of Maplewood, MN. Passed away peacefully on April 24, 2012. Jan was a former Unisys employee.



Haupt, Michael Lee. - Age 60 of Arden Hills, MN. Passed away May 27, 2012. He is survived by wife, Vicki. Mike worked for thirty-four years designing computer circuits at Unisys.

Hazel, Lawrence Michael of Lakeville, MN. Passed away peacefully on 6/24/2012. Larry is survived by his wife, Marilyn. Larry was a Unisys retiree.



Hoffman, Robert S. (Bob) – Age 86, of St. Paul, MN. Passed away peacefully at home on June 6, 2012. He is survived by his beloved wife of 60 years, Marian. Bob was a retired computer programmer at Unisys (Univac).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & REPORTS

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I'd like to thank all the VIP staff and individuals involved in putting together the great newsletter, the annual volunteer's breakfast, all the other events and coordinating the last Eagan facility tour. I'm sure that

many, many hours are spent in accomplishing this. Thanks again!! Brent Jordahl

### REPORT - PICNIC

We had beautiful weather for our annual picnic at Highland Pavilion. There were between 75 and 85 participants – we've never done a sign-in so don't get an exact count. A very special thanks is due to spouses of the Board members who pitched in to help with setup, cooking, serving, and clean-up! Pages 4 & 5 have a collage of some of the attendees. I've been able to label most of the people in the pictures – sorry if I missed your face with my camera. I can think of about half-a-dozen attendees who aren't pictured. Submitted by LABenson.

### REPORT - BOARD ACTION

Are you a nonagenarian? At our March Board meeting we passed a resolution that any current or former club member who has reached the magical age of 90 is designated as a Life Member hereinafter exempt from membership renewal fees. If you qualify or know of a former employee who is of that age, please inform any board member so that we can update our database. To date, four individuals whom we know of qualify – one is already a Member Emeritus. Submitted by LABenson

### REPORT – EMPLOYEE BADGE

This scanned image of a Northwestern Aeronautical

Corporation (NAC) BADGE illustrates a true history artifact! It is significant from two aspects: 1) NAC morphed into Engineering Research Associates (ERA) in 1946 as the NAC President, John Parker became the 1<sup>st</sup> Engineering Research



Associates President. John had hired personnel manager Ken W. Bush from Twin Cities Ordnance to be the NAC Industrial Relations manager, then brought him into ERA in 1946 to be their first personnel director. 2) Ken's son Tom, who donated the badge to our IT Legacy Committee, retired from UNIVAC/Sperry/UNISYS in 1992 after a 35 year career as a St. Paul manufacturing product manager in Plant 1 and as Director of the Unisys Material Management Center in Eagan. Ken's grandson, Tom's son Mark is a current Lockheed Martin employee making them one of a few three generation employees (continued on page 6)



Warren, Lynn, Nancy, Anne



Glenn

Caroline

Bob & JoAnn



Barbara

Ginny

Dale



Nancy

Frank

**VIP CLUB**  
Established in 1980  
Picture \*.jpg files are available – send a note to labenson@q.com



Marge, Martha, Marion



Ruth

Dale



Jim

Carol

Owen

Doris

John



Joanne & Gil



Don & Brian



Jane & Jim



Dale



Dick & Erlyne



Kathy, Marion, Nancy



Joe, Nancy, Anne



Mary & Chuck



Mary & Mel



Norb

Curt

Duane



Lynn

Brian



Owen

Curt

Eunice

Annual Picnic  
June 13, 2012  
Highland Park  
St. Paul, MN



Al

Don

Brian

Barbara



Tom

Gene



Dale

Paul



Vern

Mel & Marv

Keith

Sue



Jack, Eunice, Marjorie



Joe

Harvey

Anne

Sue

Keith

(continued from page 3)

of our Information Technology heritage. Mark has transitioned from Eagan to Clearwater FL.

This BADGE along with significance wording will become part of our Dakota Co. Historical Society Lawshe Museum history display this fall. Thanks to Tom B. for the badge donation.

Fathers, sons, brothers, sisters, husbands, wives, aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, in-laws – our heritage is more than computer lineages, we were and are family! Submitted by LABenson

### **WEB SITE REVIEW** by LABenson

This is the twenty-fifth in the Article-for-the-Month review series for Club members without immediate internet access.

**In July 2011**, we posted “**When Computers came to Minnesota**” - questions raised by Jim Ketchum in a paper left with Warren Burrell. This was to have been chapter 1 of Jim’s book which he began writing after retirement while volunteering at SCORE. Unfortunately, he passed away before writing subsequent chapters to answer the questions. I think that Gerald Pickering’s paper “CREATIVITY-SUCCESS-OBSCURITY, 'UNIVAC - What Happened?’” posted in April 2012 answered some of Jim’s questions.

**In August 2011**, we posted a “Video Library List.” Beginning when Dick ‘Ole’ Olson was the Legacy Committee co-chair, continued by John Westergren – the Legacy Committee has recorded 30+ history interview tapes to capture recollections of our ‘pioneers’. The interviewees are: Clyde Allen, Manny Block, Bill Butler, Tom Delaney, Abe Franck, Bill Geiger, Jay Gildemeister, Jack Hill, Chuck Homan, Gale Jallen, Bernie Jansen, Jim Kzaley, Frank Kline, Dave Kolling, Steve Koltas, Myron Lecy, Don Mager, John Markfelder, Ed Nelson, Howard Nissen, Phil Phipps, Chuck Proshek, Jack Ross, Sid Rubens, Marc Shoquist, Roy Valentini and Don Vizanko.

These tapes do need transcribing for publication as we have done with the Fred Hargesheimer and James Rapinac interviews [posted on the People, Oral Interviews web site page.] We ask that you contact John Westergren or Harvey Taipale if you are willing to try transcribing any of these interview sessions.

Your public library PCs are available to re-read previous ‘Articles for the Month’, which are linked from <http://vipclubmn.org/documents.html>.

**2012 Membership Directory** – We’ve had some printed for members who do not have an e-mail address. See Lowell or Tom at a Club program for a copy. If you didn’t get an electronic directory in May, send an e-mail to [labenson@q.com](mailto:labenson@q.com).

## **PENSION PLAN UNDERFUNDING**

A number of people have been noticing that many, if not most, defined benefit pension plans are underfunded. At last look, the Unisys pension plan is underfunded by 25% and the Lockheed Martin plan is not that bad off, but still caught in the trap that most defined benefit plans find themselves in. When looking at the Unisys plan, we see that the plan’s net assets have decreased 64 million over the past two years while the plan liabilities have increased 747 million in the same time period. In some ways it is understandable to see the decrease in plan assets as they are disbursed and the market has not produced enough earnings to replace them. It has only been a 1.8% decrease in net asset plan value. However, it is a 19.4% increase in liability. You may wonder, “How can this be?”

My first thought was that new people must have started drawing a pension and they had been added to the plan and therefore the liability had increased, but that is not the case. I did some checking with the plan people and everyone who will eventually be eligible for pension is already included in the numbers even if they are not already drawing pension. No one really knows what the end plan liability will be because we don’t know how long all the plan members will live. What is done is to estimate plan liabilities by using actuarial formulas. The increase in liability comes from the formulas that are used. One of the numbers used in calculating liability is the discount rate on bonds. This number is at historically low levels, which increases the projected liability. When the discount rate returns to a more normal level, the liability will come back down.

I talked to a financial analyst about pension plan underfunding and the liability growth, his comment was that it should not be a problem for any plan that is currently funded at a 75% level and that it should look better in a few years. He also said that if it was only funded at 40% or less, like some municipality funds, then you should be worried.

If the unthinkable happens, worse comes to worse, and the pension plan goes into default, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) would come into play. As long as you are over 65 years old and are not collecting more than \$55,840 a year in pension, you will be fully covered by the government’s Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC). So, I think we can all sleep soundly at night and not be too worried about the current underfunding. (To see the complete age-based limits for the government plan, just look up “PBGC Maximum Insurance Benefit”.)

Submitted by Tom Turba.

## WINNIPEG REUNION

Here's a reminder on the 2012 Winnipeg Reunion mentioned a couple of issues ago.

**AUGUST 10, 2012, Golf Tourney @** Players Golf Course, 2695 Inkster Ave, Winnipeg, MB

- **GOLF TOURNEY**, 9 and 18 holes, Tee Time 1:00 pm, Texas Scramble
  - Ticket prices \$49 for 9 holes, \$69 for 18 holes & Just the Steak Dinner \$19.00
  - Both rounds include a cart and steak dinner.
  - Dinner is to be served at 6:30 pm.
  - Must be confirmed and paid for by July 14th, 2012 to ensure that we get on the course.
  - Contact Chris Witoski to sort out the details.

Email: [chris.witoski@investorsgroup.com](mailto:chris.witoski@investorsgroup.com) :: cell number: 204-781-4800

**AUGUST 11, 2012, Main Event @** Sunova Centre, 48 Holland Road, West St. Paul, MB

- Located just north of Winnipeg's famous perimeter highway, see attached map for directions.

**Tickets are \$35 per person**

- For out of town guests the committee will reserve your ticket(s) and they will be held at the door. We do require payment in advance, no later than July 2, 2012; something about pesky liquor licenses.
- Please mail your cheques made payable to: **LM Reunion 2012**  
c/o Ms Rose Mah  
7 Roseglen Crescent  
Winnipeg, MB R3Y 1R4

### EVENING EVENT SCHEDULE

- **4:00 pm** - Memorabilia set-up
  - Bring logo ware like; smocks, hats, scarves, key chains, Frisbees, and souvenirs of your days at Sperry-Unisys-Paramax-Loral-Lockheed-Martin
- **5:00 pm** - Doors open with Meet and Greet at: Includes registration at the centre
- **6:00 pm** - Cocktails : Bar opens
- **7:00 pm** - **RECEPTION DINNER** buffet style commences
  - Opening Remarks & Grace
- Menu is:
  - *Juicy chicken (assorted pieces, lightly breaded & baked) Creamy Scalloped Potatoes or Garden Vegetable Medley*
  - *Cabbage Rolls Perogies*
  - *Beef Gravy Meatballs*
  - *Creamy Coleslaw*

- *Spiral Pasta Salad Dinner Rolls &*
- *Freshly Brewed Coffee & Tea*
- *Variety of Dainties*

- Should there be a requirement for a special meal please contact Ed Pogorzelec.
- **8:00 pm** - Stories and Speeches
  - History of Winnipeg - Sperry-Unisys-Paramax-Loral-Lockheed-Martin
    - Karaoke and "Open Mike" : Trivia challenge : Do you know?!
- **9:00 pm** - Line dancing and other entertainment
- **9:00 pm** - T-Shirt Derby
  - Get your autographs for the event; hunt down as many signatures as you can fit onto one small t-shirt..... T-shirts and Sharpies will be provided. You get to keep the shirt.
- **11:00 pm** - Midnight snack served :: Cold cuts, bread, dill pickles, cheese, and chips.
  - 50/50 Ticket Draw
- **1:00 am** - It is the next day, time to wrap up and close up

Anyone who wants to renew old friendships with our Winnipeg Operations is invited and should contact Ed Pogorzelec at: [pogorzelec@shaw.ca](mailto:pogorzelec@shaw.ca) . Just do so before 1 July12. It looks like it will be a great time.

### LIGHTER SIDE

A small group of people were walking in a rural area when one person in the group noticed a cow looking directly at him. He also noticed the cow was missing one eye. He said to the group, "look at that cow with one eye". Right away everyone covered one eye with their hand and they all looked at the cow with one eye. Submitted by Ardell Johnson.

### Will I live to be 80?

I recently picked a new primary care doctor. After two visits and exhaustive lab tests, he said I was doing "fairly well" for my age.

(I just turned sixty-something.) A little concerned about that comment, I couldn't resist asking him, "Do you think I'll live to be 80?" He asked, "Do you smoke tobacco, or drink beer, wine or hard liquor?" "Oh no," I replied. "I'm not doing drugs, either!" Then he asked, "Do you eat rib-eye steaks and barbecued ribs?" I said, "Not much... my former doctor said that all red meat is very unhealthy!" "Do you spend a lot of time in the sun, like playing golf, boating, sailing, hiking, or bicycling?" "No, I don't," I said. He asked, "Do you gamble, drive fast cars, or have lots of sex?" No, I said... He looked at me and said, "Then, why do you even care?"

