

# VIP Club Newsletter

**VOLUME 36, NO. 8**  
**October 2016**  
<http://vipclubmn.org>

## UPCOMING EVENT ITEMS

Our IT Legacy



1946 - 2016

October 5	10 AM Board Meeting	Unisys Roseville
October 12	6:30 PM Program w/ Pie and Ice Cream	Roseville Masonic Center
November 2	10 AM Board meeting	Unisys Eagan
Nov. 18	11 AM Unihogs/Uniturkeys	Casper's Eagan

## OCTOBER PROGRAM Drones, Drones, Drones

**6:30 PM, October 12:** In addition to pie and ice cream, our October meeting will give you an opportunity to learn more about drones, see one up close, and hear how the technical ingenuity of Minnesotans is continuing to thrive. Drones have been in the news lately - conducting attacks on terror, spying on neighbors, and on sale at Target. These stories grab media attention, but the everyday world of drones is another story. Our speaker will be Eric Taipale, president of Sentera which is a local company with roots going back to Lockheed Marin in Eagan, makes small drones that help farmers make good decisions on managing their crops, and helps cell phone and broadcast tower operators stay on the air safely and efficiently. Sentera was recently described as the "premier" drone company in Minnesota by the local press. Please join us for an interesting – fun evening.

**Directions:** Club Secretary, Frank King, has arranged the Roseville Masonic Center venue. For GPS users, it is located in Roseville @ 1321 Co. Rd B2 W. From the Mpls suburbs, take I35W north to Hwy 36 going east then exit onto Hamline Ave. to go ~ ½ mile north to Co. Rd. B2 and then turn right. The center will be on the left/north. From the southeast suburbs, take I35E north to Hwy 36 going west then exit onto Hamline Ave. to go ~ ¼ mi north to Co. Rd. B2 then turn right – the center will be on the left.

By the way, a little known factoid is that a local LMCO engineering team did the electronics for the Army's Desert Hawk drone – ask Eric about what they did.



## NOVEMBER PROGRAM Unihogs/Uniturkeys & Elections

**11 AM, November 18:** Again this year we will have our Club's board elections at the annual Unihogs/Uniturkeys luncheon.

This annual social gathering pre-dates the VIP Club's existence! Unihogs began with February dinner gatherings in the 70s when some 1108 and 490 design engineers left UNIVAC to form other companies such as COMTEN, Intec, Weismantel, ..., etc. Uniturkeys was added in the 90s when the planners changed to November to accommodate snowbirds and to luncheons for those who didn't like to drive in the evenings. Reservations and a \$19 check are needed; see

<http://vipclubmn.org/Tmp/Announcement2016.pdf>.

Our speaker this year will review: "Planning a Minnesota Computer and Technology Industry History Center" presentation by Dale F. Weeks, executive director for the State of Minnesota Computer and Technology Industry Initiative. They are looking to generate funds for a new museum to exhibit Minnesota's technical innovations which began with ERA in 1946. This initiative will include histories about a dozen other companies in addition to our ERA => LMCO Legacy at the Lawshe Memorial Museum and our ERA => UNISYS Legacy yet in Roseville.

**Directions:** Casper's is located at 4625 Nicols Road, Eagan, MN 55122 – Take the Cliff Road exit from I35E and go west to Nicols, turn left or take the Cliff Road exit from Cedar Ave and go east to Nicols, turn right. Their phone # is 651-454-6744.



# UNISYS

LOCKHEED MARTIN

**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

It is clear that the most popular VIP Club programs are the ones that are primarily social in nature. Currently they consist of the Roseville Good Old Days, the Syttende Mai, the Reunion Picnic, the Boat Outing, the Unihogs/Uniturkeys, the Pie and Ice Cream Social (October 12 at the Roseville Masonic Center), the Old-Timers Reunion and the Christmas Dinner. These will be our main focus in the future with some special timely events interspersed with them. Many times individuals or couples find themselves at these events not knowing many other people. We are suggesting that when you decide to attend, contact other former co-workers and make it a group gathering. Even if some of them are not currently VIP Club members they are welcome and might well decide to join. The reductions in both the Unisys and Lockheed employees located in the Twin City area means that we have fewer future club members that will be retiring and joining us so this will be a way to maintain our membership level and at the same time get reacquainted with friends from the past. See you there, **Keith Behnke**, Club President. A younger Keith Behnke shown above.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LOST?** Someone left a small video camera on a table at the June Picnic. Claim it from Lowell A. Benson by identifying the brand and model number."

**Newsletter Inputs:** For the November newsletter issue; please send articles, recent obits, or lighter side items to Joe Schwarz before **October 4<sup>th</sup>**, see Contact Data section for US mail address.

**Calendar Dates:** Dec. 1, Annual UNIVAC Old Timers' Reunion at the Lost Spur; and Dec. 8, Annual Christmas dinner at the Lost Spur. Signup or information and registration forms for these two events will be in the November and December newsletters.

**Board nominations!** We need a few replacements for phasing out board members Bernie Jansen (20+yrs leading volunteer recognition events), Frank King (5-yrs as secretary), Joe Schwarz (17-yrs as chief newsletter editor), and Lowell Benson (11-yrs as webmaster) who are willing to affect an orderly transition of activity leadership to new volunteers during the November '16 to April '17 time-period. Readers, please contact Club President Keith Behnke

or Past President Lowell Benson to discuss position talent needs and volunteer opportunities.

**September 15, 2016:** The Eagan and Roseville UNISYS facilities' employees paused this week for a small celebration with cupcakes and coffee. A similar recognition ceremony was held at all UNISYS facilities, marking 30 years since Burroughs bought Sperry to form UNISYS.

**Membership Renewal Time:** If 2016 appears after your name on the Newsletter address, your membership expires at the end of this year. Or, if the subject line of your electronic delivery has member list 2016 in it, your membership renewal is due. Please use the renewal form on page 5 for 1 or 3 years.

By the way, if your age is 90 or greater – just write NONOGENARIAN on the form and send it without a check! Club membership is free to those ERA=>UNISYS/LMCO retirees over the age of 90. We presently have eleven *Life* members.

**IN REMEMBRANCE**

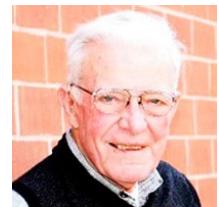
**Anderson, Gary** - Born December 8<sup>th</sup>, 1942 in St. Paul, MN. He is survived by his wife of fifty years, Val (Ehlers). His 45-year business career started with Univac, followed by Control Data and finally Seagate, where he was Vice President of Information Technology.



**Christensen, Curtis A.** - Age 86, of Mendota Heights, MN. Passed away peacefully on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Preceded in death by his first wife Patricia. Survived by wife Rosalie. Curt retired from Unisys in 1991 after a long career in designing computers. Curt was a long time member of the VIP Club.

**Arnold, Donald E.** - Age 88, of Hastings, MN. Passed away August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016. Preceded in death by wife, Lois. Arnold was a Unisys retiree and former member of the VIP Club.

**Eiden, John** - Age 91, passed away Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 after a long life lived with happiness and integrity. John is survived by the love of his life Annette. John spent 30 yrs at Univac and Unisys as an electronic technician.



**Jensen, Ralph Waldemar** - Age 83, went to heaven on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016. He is survived by Mary, his loving wife of 60 years. After a long career with Remington Rand and Unisys, Ralph's retirement was full of mission trips, BWCA canoeing, and bicycling



**Rainford, Diana Lynn** - Age 58 of Eagan, MN. Passed away September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. Diane is survived by her devoted partner Bob Krummel. Diana was an employee of Lockheed Martin and long time VIP Club member.

**Ross, Jack** - Age 86 of Lakeland, MN. Passed away on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Jack is survived by Marjorie, his wife of 50 years. Jack was a very active VIP Club member; emcee of the annual Unihogs/Uniturkeys luncheon, host of the First Friday luncheons, a volunteer at the Annual UNIVAC Old Timers' Reunions, and a participant at the Roseville Good Old Days gatherings.



**Sauer, Ralph Lavern** - Age 84, of Madison Lake, MN. Died Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016. Ralph is survived by his long-time loving mate, Carole Staelgraeve. Ralph worked at Unisys in Roseville until he retired.

**Sundem, Alan E.** - Age 86 of Gilbert, AZ, formerly Bloomington, MN. Passed away on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 of natural causes. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Nancy. Al worked for many years at Unisys and its predecessor companies primarily working on U.S. Department of Defense computer systems.



## NEW MEMBERS, SEPTEMBER '16

Donald Dupal	
Theodore P. Schoblocker	

## SOCIAL ACTIVITY ITEMS

### Report on September 14<sup>th</sup> Program:

University of Minnesota Political Scientist Kathryn Pearson packed the UNISYS, Eagan visitor conference room on September 14<sup>th</sup>. As she did four years ago with the prediction of the Obama win for a second term, she carefully built the case for the coming election. Political scientists have tons of studies and

tons of statistical data to work with plus 20-20 hindsight from past years election cycles. She discussed the often quoted polls and how they can be all over the map but that somewhere in the middle lies "reliable" data reflecting the minds (feelings, biases, whims, etc.) of the soon to be voters. She used the terms of "Republican-leaning" and "Democrat-leaning" as very significant voting indicators regardless of the claim that truly independent voters are really independent but they're not. She also talked of coming elections both at the presidential level and in the congressional level. With both presidential candidates at unbelievably low favorability ratings, still Clinton has the edge over Trump as slightly less unfavorable. Political scientists also use many computer models to predict outcomes based on such things as the incumbency factor, political experience, military service, strength of funding, and endorsements from high party officials. Not surprisingly, those models could not spit out Trump's win of the Republican nomination. Dr. Pearson also discussed the candidate appeal, or lack thereof, to certain voting blocs based on ethnicity, achieved level of education, and perceived condition of the economy.

In Congress, the mindless standoff and impossible ability to agree and actually get something done has become the new "standard of excellence," and it will very likely continue. Arguing endlessly requires little more than hot air. Accomplishing something actually requires hard work and compromise. Clearly following the easy path has been and will stay the norm. In the House of Representatives, the Republicans have a 30 seat advantage. Even the best case scenario of possible Democrat wins can't give them a majority there. In the Senate the Democrats have a decent chance, but just barely of picking up enough seats to break 50-50 or even get the 51-49 edge. Dr. Pearson described seats up for grabs, i.e., really contested races, as between known incumbent vs known (and well-funded) challenger or between incumbent and an essentially "invisible" candidate. A real example at the local level in Minnesota is the race for the 3rd district between Congressman Erik Paulsen and challenger, State Senator Terri Bonhoff.

The bottom line, per Kathryn's analyses, gives the nudge to Ms. Clinton, the nod to continued voluntary paralysis in Congress, and little reason to foresee any change to the messy international scene.

Submitted by R. Lundgren

**Hello Snowbirds and Arizonians:** If you would be interested in participating in a gathering in the Mesa area mid-February of 2017; send a note to Lynn Lindholm at [lynnlindholm@comcast.net](mailto:lynnlindholm@comcast.net). Also,

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let her know if you'd be willing to serve on a three person arrangements team. As stated in last month's President's Message, the Club will provide some financial support for a gathering venue. Some of you may recall some previous 'Minnesotans in AZ' gatherings arranged by Wally Emerson, et al' - let's do it for Valentine's Day!

<http://vipclubmn.org/LunchGroups.html#Snowbirds>

**Hello Snowbirds and Floridians:** If you would be interested coordinating a 2017 gathering in the Stillwater or The Villages areas somewhat akin to the AZ function, send a note to Club President Keith Behnke and he'll get an announcement into the next newsletter.

### Sports and Recreation

How about recognizing the people who make the ULGL (Unified Legacy Golf League) function so well. The ULGL is a combined Unisys & Lockheed golf league formed when Lockheed decided to significantly reduce their operations in the Twin City area. There are approximately 275 active members playing in 5 leagues at different area golf courses and participating in 10 tournaments each year that are also at a variety of courses. The tournaments use a variety of formats and have been averaging over 90 participants. The year-end banquet will be held at Mancini's in St. Paul in October. The current executive board consists of: President – Dan Warne; Vice President (next year's President) Tanner Thompson; Treasurer/Tournaments – Mike Podobinski; Tournaments – Larry Kane; System Administrator Eric Horner; Handicapper/Web site manager – Ron Shursen; Rules Committee – Jim Overocker; League Reps. – Rick Stensrud, Tim Nelson, John Beck, Denny Baxter & Keith Behnke. Consider joining us. (Check out the web site <http://www.ulglmn.org/umgl/>.) Keith Behnke

### CONTACT DATA

#### 2016 VIP Club Board:

Keith Behnke	<i>President</i>	651-894-2182
Orrin McGill	<i>Vice President</i>	763-755-7765
Frank King	<i>Secretary</i>	651-774-0997
Harvey Taipale	<i>Treasurer</i>	651-748-5083
Dale Phelps	<i>Director</i>	952-831-7843
Joe Schwarz	<i>Director</i>	651-698-9698
Gish Devlaminck	<i>Director</i>	651-470-8905
Tbd	<i>Director</i>	
Lowell Benson	<i>Past President</i>	651-483-3709

#### Newsletter Editorial Staff:

*Letters to the Editor* to: VIP Club, 1486 Fairmount Ave, St Paul, MN 55105 or e-mail to Chief Editor Joseph Schwarz: [jschwarzsr@centurylink.net](mailto:jschwarzsr@centurylink.net) or Editor Bernie Jansen [bjsjk@msn.com](mailto:bjsjk@msn.com), or Editor

Richard Lundgren [rflundgr@aol.com](mailto:rflundgr@aol.com) or Editor Don Naaktgeboren [donfishn@yahoo.com](mailto:donfishn@yahoo.com)

#### Club Activity Coordinators:

*CBI Liaison*; Dick Lundgren, [rflundgr@aol.com](mailto:rflundgr@aol.com)

*Christmas Dinner*; Bill Galle, [wagalle@mac.com](mailto:wagalle@mac.com) and Lynn Lindholm, [lynnlindholm@comcast.net](mailto:lynnlindholm@comcast.net)

*IT Legacy Committee co-chairs*; John Westergren, [jwestergren@frontiernet.net](mailto:jwestergren@frontiernet.net) and Lowell Benson [labenson@q.com](mailto:labenson@q.com)

*Lawshe Museum Support/Coordination*:

- Exhibits; Keith Myhre [kmyhre@lightblast.net](mailto:kmyhre@lightblast.net)
- Photo ID work; Tricia Myhre [pbm5454@hotmail.com](mailto:pbm5454@hotmail.com) and Jon Simon [jcsimon1st@frontiernet.net](mailto:jcsimon1st@frontiernet.net)

*Membership*; Gish Devlaminck

[gdevlaminck@comcast.net](mailto:gdevlaminck@comcast.net)

*Picnic Coordination*; John Westergren, Frank King [kingx063@umn.edu](mailto:kingx063@umn.edu) and Jim Larson,

[j.jameslarson@comcast.net](mailto:j.jameslarson@comcast.net)

*Programs*; Dale Phelps; [drphelps416@gmail.com](mailto:drphelps416@gmail.com)

*Recreation Leagues*; Keith Behnke, [keithbhknk@comcast.net](mailto:keithbhknk@comcast.net)

*Roseville Good Old Days*; Tom Turba [tnturba@comcast.net](mailto:tnturba@comcast.net)

*Sunshine Cards*; Lynn Lindholm [lynnlindholm@comcast.net](mailto:lynnlindholm@comcast.net)

*Volunteer Luncheon*; Bernie Jansen, [bjsjk@msn.com](mailto:bjsjk@msn.com)

and Frank King, [kingx063@umn.edu](mailto:kingx063@umn.edu)

*Webmaster*; L. A. Benson, [webmaster@vipclubmn.org](mailto:webmaster@vipclubmn.org)

#### VIP CLUB Corporate Liaisons:

LMCO, Eagan – Steve Koltes 651-303-9112

Unisys, Roseville/Eagan – Sue Carrigan, 651-635-7712

Unisys print shop – Judy Bornetun, 651-635-6792

**Retirement Status and Benefits:** These are numbers to call if you or your heirs have death benefit or pension questions – you will need SSN and a PIN.

Unisys 1-877-864-7972

Lockheed Martin 1-866-562-2363

### PERIODIC GROUPS

A Luncheon Group [engineering/ drafting] meets monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in Eagan at 11:00 AM - Rickey's Café at Stark's, 3125 Dodd Road, Eagan, MN.

One Breakfast Group meets monthly at 8:00 AM on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at the Capitol View Cafe, 637 Smith Ave. St. Paul.

A Second Luncheon Group [Unisys and Burroughs] meets monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 11:30 AM at the Mall of America 3rd floor North Food Court. We sit at the tables between the elevator and Burger King. Contact phone is 952-854-7855.

A 3rd Luncheon Group: The UNISYS, Roseville

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ladies meet monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at 11 AM at the Olive Garden, Northtown Village, 150 Coon Rapids Blvd NW, Coon Rapids. Coordinator is Gladys, 651-552-1465.

**Another Breakfast Group** meets monthly at 9:00 AM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month in the Eagles Club, Old Hwy 8, in New Brighton. Coordinator Mary Brown's phone is 763-416-3903.

**A Fourth Luncheon Group (SCF)** meets in the odd numbered months on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday at 11:30 AM at the Baker's Square on 3088 White Bear Avenue in Maplewood. Coordinator phone is 651-429-3319.

### REPORTS, LEGACY ACTIVITIES



**Save our Shadowboxes:** As most of you know, UNISYS will be vacating their leased Roseville facility by the end of 2017. UNISYS management realized that wherever their operations moved; they quite likely would not have exhibit space for their computer history shadow boxes – thus in April they contacted the VIP Club for some Legacy preservation assistance.

The first of 23 boxes has parts from the ERA/UNIVAC 1103, designed in the 50s. A task team of Paul Dickson, Nick Wander, Mike Svendsen, Tom Turba, Tom Curie, Leroy Larson, and Lowell Benson volunteered to work the issue(s). In August UNISYS Director Chuck Lefebvre informed the team that Roseville operations would be moving to the Eagan facility and that some of the boxes could go there. The team established contact with the Ramsey County Historical Society (RCHS) and expects to work with them on exhibit sites for the boxes that don't fit at the UNISYS, Eagan facility. The team inspected candidate sites in the Eagan facility on 9/14 and ascertained that the shadowboxes will fit in the hallway leading into the space(s) assigned to the Roseville operations. After the boxes are moved there from Roseville next spring/summer; Tom Currie and Leroy Larson have volunteered to do selective refurbishments before the wall mounting. RCHS remains available as a contingency destination. Submitted by LABenson.

Ps: More about the present shadowbox exhibit is on line at <http://vipclubmn.org/Exhibits.html#Unisys>.

\*\*\*\*\*C\*U\*T\*\*H\*E\*R\*E \*\*\*\*\*

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

If the address block of your Newsletter shows **2016** after your name *or* if the subject line of your Enews notification shows member list **2016**; your VIP Club membership and newsletter subscription expires on December 31, 2016.

### VIP CLUB

Established in 1980

Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address or P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter delivery preference is electronic (DSL or faster suggested) \_\_\_\_\_ or U.S. Mail \_\_\_\_\_.

Employer is/was UNISYS \_\_\_\_\_, Lockheed Martin \_\_\_\_\_, and/or predecessor company \_\_\_\_\_.

Include my data in the Club's Directory? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_. DIRECTORY is only available to Members and Associates!

**MAIL THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK TO: VIP Club P.O. Box 131748 Roseville, MN 55113-0020**

# VIP CLUB

Established in 1980

P.O. BOX 131748  
ROSEVILLE MN 55113-0020

## DIRECTIONS TO ACTIVITY VENUES

Car-pool if possible to all events or contact a board member for possible 'ride-with' suggestions.

**Directions to UNISYS in Roseville:** Set your GPS unit to Roseville MN, 2470 Highcrest Road. From Hwy 35W north; exit onto W County Rd C to go west a mile, then turn left onto Walnut St. Then turn right onto Terminal Road for half a block, turn right at Highcrest Rd. to building entrance. From 35W south, exit on Industrial Way / St. Anthony Blvd off ramp, turn left, drive under the freeway, then turn right onto Walnut St. Follow it 0.8 mi north then turn left on Terminal Road. Go  $\frac{1}{2}$  blocks and enter the UNISYS parking lot on the right. From Hwy 36 east, drive west until 36 joins Hwy 35W just past Hwy 280, then exit at the Industrial Way / St. Anthony Blvd. off ramp of 35W. Go north on St. Anthony Blvd. to Walnut St. [the first street on the right]. Turn right onto Walnut Street.



**Directions to Unisys MACS in Eagan:** Set your GPS unit to Eagan MN, 3199 Pilot Knob Road. From Hwy 35E take the Pilot Knob Road exit ramp. Then go north on Pilot Knob Road about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to Tower View Road. We use the Unisys north parking lot and the visitor entrance thereby.