

VIP Club Newsletter

VOLUME 39, NO. 01
January/February 2019
<http://vipclubmn.org>

ALERT: 2018 Club memberships expire(d) on December 31st. Your expiration year is after your name on the address label of US Mail deliveries. For electronic deliveries, expiration year appears in the email subject line.

JANUARY PROGRAM Holiday Party w/Concert

January 6, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM: Christmas/New Year's Holiday Party at the Lost Spur in Eagan. The Lost Spur is located at 2750 Sibley Memorial Hwy (State Hwy 13), St Paul, 55121. This event is the same as we had last year except for a small food selection change - the chicken preparation recipe is different.

- 1 to 2 PM; Socializing & Cash bar available.
- 2 to 3:15; Dinner - entree choices are sirloin steak, crusted walleye, or chicken w/peppercorn champagne sauce. Also, a salad is served before the entrée and a cheesecake dessert after the meal.
- 3:15 to 4:00; Holiday music concert performed by the [Eagan Men's chorus](#), formerly the Sperryaires.



Cost is \$20 per member [yes, your spouse or significant other is a member] \$25 p/p for non-member guests attending with a member. Use the page 7 registration form then mail it with your check **by 27 December** so that the facility will have entree type counts and for the board to create attendee name tags. The registration form is also at <http://vipclubmn.org/Temp/Jan6Form.pdf>.

Anyone with special dietary requirements? Please contact coordinators Keith Behnke 651-894-2182 or Boni Westberg 651-429-3524 directly so that we can accommodate your specific needs.

Our thanks in advance to the chorus director, Kathy Andrews, wife of Club Director Jim Andrews.

FEBRUARY & MARCH PROGRAMS The Club has planned none, BUT!

The bottom right of this newsletter's back page lists several periodic social groups. We urge you to participate at one or more of these social gatherings.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **February 6** – 10 AM Board Meeting in the visitor's conference room at Unisys, Eagan.
- **February 7** – March/April newsletter inputs due, send to newsletter@vipclubmn.org or mail to the US mail address at the bottom of pages 2 – 7.
- **April 3** - 10 AM Board Meeting in the visitor's conference room at Unisys, Eagan.
- **April 10** - 11 AM, Volunteer Recognition Luncheon at Joseph's in St. Paul. Lead planner is Frank King. The volunteerism survey form will be in the March/April newsletter. The on-line survey page/form will be active in mid-January.
- **May 3** – 10 AM, Roseville Good Old Days at the Mermaid in Moundsview – Lead planner is Paul Dickson.
- **May 17** – 11 AM, Syttende Mai celebration at Casper's in Eagan – Lead Planner is Dale Torgerson.

June Picnic: The Club is considering moving the picnic venue to Central Park in Eagan at the corner of Pilot Knob and Central Park Dr. The pavilion has only 49 parking spots thus carpooling would be greatly appreciated. There will be overflow parking at the Unisys employee south lot which is North of the pavilion. Please, before February 5th let us know how you feel about changing our Annual Picnic location by sending an email to webmaster@vipclubmn.org. AND, if you are willing to help with setup, cooking, etc. contact coordinator jwestergren@frontiernet.net.

Welcome New Member(s)

- Fredrick W. Mackley of Roseville, MN



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I had a very enjoyable time at the Dec. 6th Old Timers' Reunion. There were lots of great remembrances, many familiar faces and many I had not seen for a while. Represented were three or four "generations" of retirees, roughly corresponding to the eras when the company was in a big-time hiring mode. As I was driving home, a couple of thoughts crossed my mind.



First, we collectively were fortunate in many ways. The days of the "old timers" were an exciting time in the computer industry, filled with many challenges. We had a great cadre of fellow workers, contributing at all levels from nuts and bolts to top management, fully capable of meeting those challenges, often excelling. While there were certainly ups and downs, I recall the underlying tone was generally one of collegiality and cooperation. There was an idea that we were in this together. That feeling fostered a sense of family, and I saw that same sense continuing in the camaraderie that was so obvious at the reunion. I really don't think today's corporate employee often gets to feel the same sense of community in the workplace.

Second, I think the creativity of those days is generally under-appreciated. As people talked about past projects and programs, one couldn't help but respect the diversity of the undertakings - lots of electronic stuff for sure, but also networking technology, software innovation, Minnesota's first (maybe only) integrated circuit plant, and complex systems in ships, planes, submarines, and land bases. Behind all of these was a robust research activity and a whole layer of ingenuity in the factories and field service groups that delivered products and kept customers happy. Many of our business processes were outstanding. All of this was the output of smart, committed, and inventive people.

So, my final thought was that, although I would probably have never thought so at the time, I was extremely lucky to be a part of this era. I hope you all appreciate your good fortune too.

Happy Holidays to all of you!

Harvey Taipale, VIP Club President

IN REMEMBRANCE

We include obit clips, pictures, etc. of former employees and spouses that are reported to us by our membership. And we post links to the annual summary lists at <http://vipclubmn.org/deceased.html>.

Barfknecht, Robert Leo 83, of Savannah, TX, passed away May 15, 2018 in Denton, TX. Bob was born October 30, 1934 in Lake Mills, WI to Edward and June Barfknecht. Robert married Shirley Chellis on October 11, 1985 in Excelsior, MN. He was a graduate of Milwaukee School of Engineering then employed by the Federal Systems Division of UNIVAC in St. Paul in the early 70s. Bob was regular at the Old Timers until retiring in Texas.



Blackmer, John 'Jack' Ryan, 76, of Morristown, MN died September 3rd at his home after an extended illness. He graduated from Faribault HS in 1959 then, in '61 married his high school sweetheart, Judith Evelyn Kolling.



After his 1966 US Navy discharge, he became systems engineer, initially in Maryland then in Minnesota, where he retired from Lockheed-Martin in 2007. In 1998 he received Lockheed's highest honor, the Nova Award, for outstanding company and community contributions. Jack was a VIP Club member and a Legacy career summary contributor - <http://vipclubmn.org/People1.html#Blackmer>.

Brings, Gerald Raymond - age 88 of Bloomington, passed away on 11/29/2018. He graduated from Cretin High School class of 1948 and had an electrical engineering degree from the University of Minnesota. He started a career in the pioneer days of computers, his first job was at Univac and final was at Control Data. He worked in UNIVAC/UNISYS Manufacturing Management. Gerry was a VIP Club member.



Button, James 'Jim' - Went to be with his Lord 91 years after being delivered by his grandfather, Dr. Arthur J Button in Greenbush, MN on July 28, 1927. Preceded in death by his wife of 61 years, Martha. He served his country in WWII and Korean conflicts. Civilian volunteerisms include the City of Woodbury Planning Commissions, Washington County Parks and Recreation and the Woodbury Arts Connection. Jim worked for many years in marketing support before retiring from Sperry in the 80s.



Cecchini, Yvonne M. (nee: Pitts) Age 81, of Apple Valley, died peacefully Nov. 24, 2018. After she retired from UNISYS, Yvonne joined the VIP Club then worked several years for a travel agency arranging group tours.

Dressell, Barbara K. passed away on November 15, at age 77. Barb graduated from Washburn High School in Mpls. in 1960. In 1967, she began what would become a nearly 40-year career at Unisys Corporation where she worked as an Executive Admin until her retirement in



2006. She made many lifelong friends at Unisys. Barb was a club member and regular participant at the spring Roseville Good Old Days gatherings.

Durand, Dennis F. age 78, of Spring Lake Park passed away on October 25. Preceded in death by wife, Bonnie; and sister, Joan. Survived by his loving companion, Gail; children, and grandchildren. As a VIP Club member, Denny participated at many of our social events and was a Legacy contributor. He worked on the AF system using 1218M computers, <http://vipclubmn.org/Articles/AFmobileSystem.pdf>.



Haider, Francis "Fran" - Passed away October 31, 2018 at the age of 72 years. Formerly of Shoreview, Fran was currently a resident of Gold Canyon, AZ and Danbury, WI. He began a 17-year job at Audio-ronics in New Brighton while pursuing his degree. In 1968, he received a Mechanical Engineering degree from the University of Minnesota. In 1983, he joined Unisys Corporation in Roseville where he rose to Director of Engineering Operations at the time of his 2008 retirement. In 1989, he met Kathy Nelson at Unisys and they were together until his death. Kathy is a long-standing member of the VIP Club.



Kimball, Donald James age 82, of Prescott, WI passed away April 13, 2018 at United Hospital in St. Paul. Don served in the U.S. Air Force. On November 23, 1955 he married Carol Velure in Hastings, ND. He was a computer engineer for UNISYS retiring in 1991. Part of his career was as an instructor in the Sperry training department.



Kourajian, John - Age 86, St. Cloud, MN, died November 28, 2018 at St. Benedict's Therapy Suites, Sartell, MN. He worked for Univac/ Unisys Corp., Eagan, MN, 1959-1988. Survivors include his wife, Myrna Kourajian; children, and grandchildren. He was a VIP Club member.



Kydd, George Emil – age 88 passed away on October 8th. George was born December 31, 1929 in Canada. He served in the United States Navy from 1947-1951. He married Barbara Krocak on June 20, 1953 in Minneapolis. The couple lived in Brooklyn Center and Minneapolis prior to moving to their retirement home on



Briggs Lake. George worked as a Computer Engineer for Unisys, retiring in 1987 – one of his accomplishments was designing the I/O control logic for the CP-901 computer. He was a VIP Club member and an avid participant at the UNIVAC Old Timers'.

Martin, Dale, Age 59, formerly of the Twin Cities Metropolitan area, passed away November 9, 2018 at his home in Naperville, IL. Dale is survived by wife Betsy and children. Dale attended St. Paul Academy, Gustavus Adolphus College, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Thomas University, and Walden University. Dale worked at Sperry/Unisys, Cargill and Temple & Associates.



Moriarty, John M. of Willow River formerly of Ham Lake passed away July 15, 2018 at the age of 82. John was a beloved husband, dad, grandpa, great-grandpa and friend to all. Preceded in death by wife, Ilaine. John retired from UNISYS, Roseville and was a long time VIP Club member.



Ness, Luther 84, of Mesa, AZ, and formerly of Eagan, MN, passed away peacefully on November 8, 2018.. He earned a bachelor's degree from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. Luther served in the US Army during the Korean conflict. He was married to the love of his life, Eleanor Mae (Opperud) for 61 years, she survives him. Luther had a 30+ year career in computer technologies at Unisys Corporation.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Class of '59 - info from Jack Metzger: Our annual gatherings started out with 17 people who all started the same day; 15 June 1959. We only meet once a year around our 6/59 anniversary. Jack Sater scheduled the luncheon until his 2018 passing. Bruce Klugherz requested that I (Jack) continue sending out invitations. Attendees in June '18 were: Bruce Klugherz, Bill Geiger, Walt Schmidt, Bob Anderson, Bob Scholz, and Jack Metzger. Tom Sollar and Glen Hambleton had schedule conflicts.



Technologists Reunion (TR) - November 14th was a continuation of the Unihogs/Uniturkeys tradition with a luncheon at Casper's in Eagan. To promote participation, the Club had moved the day a week earlier, changed the title name, and changed to an Express Lunch order at \$15 instead of a \$17 fixed dinner plate choice. Did the changes work? Only 22 'UNIHOGS' came to the luncheon to hear Dr. Jeffrey Yost give us an update about the Charles Babbage Institute (CBI) at the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Yost is the third holder of the Engineering Research Associates Land-grant Chair for the History of Technology at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Yost said that CBI will continue the research and archiving work for the foreseeable future. Jeff has over a decade of experience at the University, as an Associate Director, Acting Director, and now the CBI Director. He is well published and expects to continue some research into women in computing. They will also continue to support the Minnesota computer history documentary initiative in conjunction with TPT, MHTA, DCHS, et al. Dr. Yost noted that the fund raising for the next documentary phase is close to being sufficient.

Will there be a Technologists Reunion in 2019? Will we revert to UNIHOGS fall luncheon name? Monitor the Club's newsletters and web site for decisions. Page 6 has some snapshots from the event - byline *LABenson*.

Annual Univac Old Timers' Reunion: The aftermath is that the donation box covered the room rental. 148 attendees made this retiree event the 2nd most attended after the Roseville Good Old Days and more than the 2018 picnic, river cruise, volunteer luncheon, and Technologist's Reunion (UNIHOGS.) 28 walk-ins exceeded the 19 who pre-registered then didn't pick up a nametag. Read the President's message on page 2! This Steve Koltjes snapshot exhibits the happiness of retirees.



On exhibit were many items brought over from the Lawshe Memorial Museum by the photo identification teams for help from the attendees. In this picture, Jim Andrews is leaning over the table while Greg Oxley chats with Tricia Myhre. In the background Dennis Christ is chatting with Bob Alexander. Paul Richardson is chatting with Gary Hokenson, etc.



In all, Steve took 40 snapshots that don't fit herein, but <http://vipclubmn.org/Temp/OldTimers2018/> has his images as well as a couple collages put together by Nick Benson. Page 7 has one of Nick's collages.

The Board thanks Steve Koltjes and Paul Hove who took over this event coordination from Lowell Benson.

Retirement Status and Benefits:

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

LEGACY ACTIVITIES

Our Legacy Anthology yet needs more stories. Browse <http://vipclubmn.org/SiteMap.html#Level3> to see what we have and where your project story or program story or career summary would fit. OR submit a free-standing paper for inclusion as a monthly article at <http://vipclubmn.org/OurStories.html#2018>.

The other ERA – Don Anderson has a rack mounted laboratory power supply marked with a UNIVAC property number. The manufacturer's name tag says **Electronic Research**



Associates versus our heritage company **Engineering Research Associates**. Larry Bolton has this snapshot of a free-standing power supply with the same nameplate label. Don Anderson's rack mounted **ERA** power supply nameplate is shown here.



Don Weidenbach recalls that we did buy some test equipment from Nutley, N.J. Their logo with the orbiting electronics is quite similar to the logo used by ERA in St. Paul, however it has three orbiting

electrons versus one orbit plus a rectangular object beneath the ERA letters. *Give yourself 5 'good-memory' points if you recognize the object. Give yourself 50 points if you still have one!* **LABenson**

CONTACT DATA

2019 VIP Club Activity Coordination

CBI Liaison; Dick Lundgren, rflundgr@aol.com
Golf Leagues; Keith Behnke, keithbhnk@comcast.net
Lawshe Museum Support;

- Exhibits; Keith Myhre kmyhre@lightblast.net
- Photo ID work; Tricia Myhre pbm5454@hotmail.com and Jon Simon jcsimon1st@frontiernet.net

Legacy Committee chair; John Westergren, jwestergren@frontiernet.net

Membership database; Gish Devlaminck membership@vipclubmn.org

Old Timers' Annual Reunion; paul@paulhove.com or steve.koltes@comcast.com
Picnic planning & volunteer staffing; John Westergren, jwestergren@frontiernet.net
Roseville Good Old Days; Paul Dickson paul.dickson@comcast.net
Syttende Mai; Dale Torgerson, dale.o.torgerson@gmail.com
Sunshine Cards; Lynn Lindholm lynnlindholm@comcast.net
Technologists (UNIHOGS) Reunion; labenson@q.com
Volunteer Luncheon; Frank King, kingx063@umn.edu
Webmaster; Jim Andrews, webmaster@vipclubmn.org

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME REMINDER!

If 2018 is on your address label or in subject line of the electronic notice, renew with the page 7 form. If your renewal isn't received by February 5th, your membership is inactive and newsletter distributions are discontinued. Form is also at http://vipclubmn.org/Documents/MEMBERSHIP_FORM17.pdf

LIGHTER SIDE

I DO? The wedding ceremony finally reached the point where the minister asked if anyone had anything to say concerning the union of the bride and groom. The moment of utter silence was broken when a beautiful young woman carrying a small child stood up. She started walking slowly towards the minister.

The congregation was aghast--you could almost hear a pin drop. The groom's jaw dropped as he stared in disbelief at the approaching young woman and child.

Chaos then ensued. The bride threw her bouquet into the air and burst out crying. The groom's mother fainted. The groomsmen started giving each other worried looks and wondered how to save the situation.

Finally, the minister asked the woman, "Can you tell us why you came forward? What do you have to say?" There was absolute silence in the church.

The woman replied, "We can't hear you in the back."

"Since he sounded pretty good on the phone, I felt I didn't need to ask him if he was still alive." gad 😊

When I was a child, I thought nap time was punishment. Now it's like a mini-vacation. peh 😊

Technologists' Reunion
14 November, 2018

VIP CLUB
Established in 1980



Dr. Jeffrey Yost
CBI Director,
Guest Speaker



Harvey Taipale
VIP Club President



Keith B. and Dave C.



Roger McC., Pat R., and Paul R.



Paul H. and Glen H.



Marv and Mel J.



Dick L. and Hank D.



Vern E.



Fred V. and Steve E.



Bill G., Jack M., and Bob M.

My camera missed Carl Johnson and Roger Gillette. Sorry guys, Lowell B.

VIP CLUB
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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL or CHANGE FORM

Please mark an **X** in the appropriate info/option boxes. *Submittal Date:* _____

Dues: \$7.00 1-year, or \$ 18.00 3-years, or free if age 90 or older.

Renewal, New Member (≥55), Associate member (<55), Life (>89), or Information Change.

Name (Last, First, M.I. – or attach an address label.) _____ Spouse's Name _____

Street Address or P.O. Box _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

(____) _____ - _____ Primary Telephone Number _____ E-mail address _____

Newsletter delivery default is electronic or select U.S. Mail if you have no email address.

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

Include me in the Club's Directory? Yes or No. *DIRECTORY is only available to Members and Associates!*

MAIL FORM WITH CHECK* TO: VIP Club - Membership P.O. Box 131748 Roseville, MN 55113-0020
*not required if only changing information in our database or if renewing at age 90+.

HOLIDAY PARTY: SIGN UP NOW

Please reserve, at \$20 each ___ place(s) for the VIP Club Holiday Party, Dinner and Concert being held on Sunday, **January 6th, 2019 at the Lost Spur Country Club**. Send in your reservations now, since seating is limited. Your form and check must be mailed by **December 26th**. \$25 per person for non-member guests. If your reservation is for more than two persons, please attach a list of the added names and you will be seated together at a reserved table.

Full Name: _____

Address _____

Spouse or Sig. Other's Name: _____

Address _____

Check here (___) if you have attached ___ additional names.

Entrée selection(s) & Quantity: Steak ___; or Chicken w/Peppercorn Sauce ___; or Walleye ____.

Make your check payable to: **VIP CLUB - Party**

Mail check **before December 26th** to Keith Behnke 4652 Westwood Lane Eagan, MN 55122
Or to VIP CLUB - Party P.O. Box 131748 Roseville, MN 55113-0020

Annual UNIVAC Old Timers' Reunion – Collage by Nick Benson.





P.O. BOX 131748
ROSEVILLE MN 55113-0020

Established in 1980

VIP CLUB Newsletter

P.O. Box 131748, Roseville, MN 55113-0020
<http://www.vipclubmn.org/Newsletters.html>

Board of Directors - 2019

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Kirsten Rasmussen; meetings, etc., 651-323-9543
Judy Borneton; Eagan print shop 651-635-6792

PERIODIC SOCIAL GROUPS

Monthly Breakfast Gatherings

- 1st Thursday at 8 AM at the Capitol View Cafe, 637 Smith Ave. St. Paul.

Monthly Lunch Gatherings

- 1st Tuesday in Eagan at 11:00 AM - Rickey's Café at Stark's, 3125 Dodd Road, Eagan, MN
- 2nd Tuesday at 11:30 AM - Mall of America 3rd floor North Food Court, we meet by the tables 'tween the elevator & Burger King. Coordinator is Paul Wennerstrom, 952-854-7855.
- 2nd Wednesday at 11 AM at Baker's Square, Northtown, 221 Co. Rd. 10 NE, Blaine MN.
- 2nd Saturday of odd numbered months at 11:00 AM, Baker's Square, 1881 West Highway 36, Roseville. Coordinator Urho Rahkola, 651-429-3319.

Quarterly Breakfast Gathering

- 2nd Wednesday at 9 AM in the Eagles Club, Old Hwy 8, in New Brighton., Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. Coordinator Marv Brown, 763-416-3903