FYI: Active memberships paid through 2018, 71; 2019, 199; 2020, 288; 2021, 154; 2022, 6; 2023, 3; 2024, 4; 2025, 1; life members, 41; and friends of the Club, 21. Database has 788 active memberships and 424 inactive.

APRIL PROGRAM
Volunteerism Recognition Lunch
April 10, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: All Club members are invited to our annual luncheon at Joseph’s Grill in St. Paul, 140 Wabasha St S 55107. Pre-registration is requested. Simply fill out, then mail the survey form on page 7 or on-line at www.vipclubmn.org/Volunteer.html. Even if you aren’t interested in joining us for this FREE hot entrée buffet, the board would appreciate your 2018 volunteerism hours survey submittal. Last year 61 Unisys and Lockheed Martin retiree members responded to the 2017 hours’ survey with 22,561 hours of service to various non-profit organizations.

We’ve invited a Dakota County Historical Society Director to review volunteerism at their facilities including our Legacy photo identification initiatives.

Last year we honored Allan Douglass with the Jansen Volunteer Extraordinaire award, recognizing his 1,000+ hours of service to Boy Scouts and his church’s organizations. Please send your nominee for this year’s award to Club Vice President, Steve Koltes, steve.koltes@comcast.com.

MAY PROGRAMS
Two Exciting Annual Gatherings
May 3rd: Roseville Good Old Days: 12th annual event at the Mermaid in Moundsview. Doors open at 10:30 AM for name-tag check-in. Cash bar is available in the Atlantis Ballroom; lunches available from the menu upstairs. Please, contact coordinator Paul Dickson [paul.dickson@comcast.net] (651-482-9934) to get on the pre-printed nametag list and/or to volunteer at the check-in table.

May 17th: Syttende Mai celebration: at Casper’s in Eagan – Doors open at 11 AM, cash bar available for those who want to mingle before lunch and the program. Please register with coordinator Dale Torgerson, dale.o.torgerson@gmail.com. The speaker and agenda will be announced in the next newsletter and on the Club’s website.

OTHER UPCOMING ACTIVITIES
March 13th – 9 AM. Roseville retirees’ 311th meeting since December 1991. Send a note to Mary Brown at mdbrib@comcast.net or call him 763-416-3903 before 3/9 if you plan to attend this quarterly breakfast at the New Brighton Eagles’ Club.

April 3rd - 10 AM Board Meeting in the visitor’s conference room at Unisys, Eagan.

April 5th – May/June newsletter articles, obits, and jokes due; send to newsletter@vipclubmn.org or mail to the US mail address at the bottom of pages 2 – 7.

June 12th – Annual Picnic: 3 PM - if you are willing to help with setup, cooking, etc. contact coordinator jwestergren@frontiernet.net. Registration form on page 7 and online; more details in the next newsletter.

2019 event coordinators are Board Associate Frank King and Past President Keith Behnke.
**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

Many years ago, one of the political parties in Minnesota adopted a theme of "There Ain't No Such Thing as a Free Lunch!" Well, times have changed; on April 10th, you all have a great opportunity to prove that statement false. Of course, I am referring to the VIP Club annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon at Joseph's Grill in St. Paul. Thru the years, the club members have been outstanding volunteers in their individual communities, and the Club is very pleased to recognize the contributions of all of you by hosting a FREE lunch. Josephs serves great food, has plenty of room, and it's a good opportunity to socialize with your fellow volunteers and find out some of the many ways our members are giving of their time to their favorite organizations and groups. So, sign up now (mail, email, or on-line), mention your favorite volunteer activity, and then join us on April 10th!

On the topic of supporting organizations, the VIP Club will be celebrating a milestone in 2019 - 40 years ago Millie Gignac had the vision to launch an organization to support retired employees in maintaining the connections that they developed over their working careers. There will be more on a celebration later this year, but in the meantime, you can all encourage fellow employees to join the Club. Anyone who ever worked as an employee of ERA/Univac in the Twin Cities, or any of their follow-on organizations (including Sperry, Unisys, Loral/Lockheed) is eligible to join, either as an associate member (under 55) or as a voting member (55 up). The corporate presence of our past employers is diminishing, but the Club is still here after 40 years. Come and join us! Happy spring to each of you!

*Harvey Taipale, VIP Club President*

**SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

**Sports and Recreation:** The Unified Legacy Golf League (the combined Unisys and Lockheed Martin leagues) is preparing for the 2019 season. The league has 261 members that play in 4 different leagues (each at a different course and each on a different day) and 10 scheduled tournaments, utilizing different formats (we averaged over 100 per tournament in 2018). New individual members or teams are invited to join us for 2019 which will start with a tournament in mid-April and league play the first week of May. We are specifically looking to add teams to our Wednesday league at Southern Hills (located between Rosemount and Farmington on Hwy 3) that has a special low rate for seniors. We have a shotgun start at 4:00 PM then finish between 6:00 and 6:30. Please contact Keith Behnke, mailto:keithbhnk@comcast.net for more information.

**Winter Party Re-cap:** The VIP Club had its annual Holiday Dinner Party on Sunday, January 6 at the Lost Spur event center, cash bar available before dinner.

1. Boni W. & Keith B. at nametag table. The forty attendees were treated to a get re-acquainted hour followed by an excellent meal. Then we enjoyed an outstanding performance by the Eagan Men’s Chorus with an assortment of Holiday songs.

2. Chorus is directed by Kathy Andrews. It surprises me that more Club members don’t take advantage of this event. We have tried to make it convenient by scheduling it after the busy holiday season and during the afternoon to make travel easier. [And for two years in a row we’ve avoided the Viking’s NFL playoff game TV time! 😊]

3. Thanks to Steve Andersen and Keith Behnke for contributing photos.
4. Strawberry Cheesecake was a success!

5. Hostess Geri Lockrem in background. Everyone that attends raves about the food, service, and entertainment so hopefully more will be interested in the future.

6. Tables of 8 were conversation sites.

Keith Behnke, VIP Club Past President.

Jack Benny Year! At the December Club Board meeting, it was noted that we are now in 39th year of operation. Club milestones are listed hereunder:

1979, Sperry HR Director Millie Gignac recognized that there was camaraderie among retirees thus set about planning for a retirees club.

1980, in August the Club was formed as the Sperry Retirees Club with the opening of a club room in the Shepard Road facility. 75 members elected Al Mueller as president, established a constitution, wrote by-laws, and began group volunteerism planning.

1984, we registered with the Internal Revenue Service as 'Sperry Retirees' Club', a 501c (7) - non-profit social and recreation club. Al Mueller started Newsletters.

2000, the Twin Cities Lockheed Martin MS2 organization petitioned the Club board to become a sponsor. The Constitution was changed, incorporating this sponsorship – change was approved by a plurality of ballots returned by the members in June of 2000.

2002, Joe Schwarz started a Yahoo Club web site.

2005, the VIP Club celebrated its 25th year at the annual June picnic. The Legacy Committee was formed in October with Richard 'Ole' Olson and Lowell Benson as co-chairs. Dick Lundgren was the first VIP Club member volunteering to serve on the committee. He then scheduled a meeting with CBI.

2006, the VIP Club Board updated the operational Bylaws to reflect current modes of operation, i.e. activity coordinators versus committee chairpersons.

2007 October: In response to an application coordinated by Lowell, the IRS accepted the Board's resolution to change the VIP Club name from "Sperry Retirees Club" to "VIP CLUB". Also, the board authorized combining the Club and Legacy project's web sites onto a Microsoft hosted 'free' site, the URL, http://vipclubmn.org was available.

2007, November the Club in conjunction with the Legacy Committee formed a Sesquicentennial Team to promote our Legacy during Minnesota's 2008 150th celebrations. Thanks to Dick Lundgren for the idea.

2008, April the board authorized annual archiving of a web site copy on a CBI internal host for future research use. Board members at that time were Lowell Benson, Brian Berggren, Quint Heckert, Bernie Jansen, Lynn Farris Lindholm, Dale Phelps, Joe Schwarz, Marion Scott, and Tom Turba. This board also authorized storage of a paper newsletter set at CBI and added them to our database as 'Friend' to receive all future newsletters.

2008, December the board granted Member Emeritus awards to Millie Gignac, John Dufour, and Bernie Jansen for their long term service to the board and Club. Millie as the founder, John for shepherding the Club through the merging of UNISYS and LMCO retirees, and Bernie for coordinating Volunteer recognition breakfasts for over a decade. Each has also actively supported the board after her/his office terms.

2009, January Dick Lundgren and Lowell Benson with their grandsons attended the Minnesota Sesquicentennial final event, the sealing of a time capsule for the 2058 Minnesota Bicentennial. We put several items into this time capsule including a report about our Sesquicentennial activities. The first of those activities was a May display on the Capitol Mall.

2009, June the board granted a Member Emeritus award to Charles and Midge Homan for their long-term service to the Club, specifically picnic coordination during and after Chuck's 2-yr board presidency.
2009, November the Club took on financial responsibility for the 'Defense' Annual UNIVAC Old Timers Reunion and for the 'Commercial' Roseville Good Old Days annual events.

2009, December the board granted a Member Emeritus award to Warren and Dorothy Becker in recognition of their decade of coordinating the annual Christmas party as well as serving on the board of directors, continuing after Warren's board presidency.

2010, January the Club signed a one-year agreement with the University of Minnesota to display Legacy posters and artifacts in the Walter Library. Tom Turba and Lowell Benson set up the displays.

2010, October the Club celebrated 30 years with a history booklet distributed to members attending a special program at the UNISYS, Roseville facility. CBI's Dr. Tom Misa was the featured speaker. Thanks to Quint Heckert for developing the booklet, thanks to LMCO for the printing and binding. We also awarded a Member Emeritus certificate to Marion Scott in recognition of her 29 years coordinating Red Cross blood drives.

2011, August 3 the Board ratified the Constitution change ballots, then approved Bylaw updates to move forward without the direct sponsorship of Lockheed Martin and with reduced support from UNISYS.

2013, August 13 the Club celebrated the opening of our Legacy exhibit at the Lawshe Memorial Museum in South St. Paul. Lockheed Martin had gifted the Legacy Committee's collection of artifacts, photos, and some documents to the Dakota County Historical Society in December 2012 as LMCO was closing their main Eagan facility. Legacy Committee Co-chair John Westergren coordinated the transfer.

2014, April 16 the Club granted a Member Emeritus award to Tom Turba in recognition of his creation of and continuing coordination of the Roseville Good Old Days annual event as well as his numerous years serving on the Board and Legacy Committee.

2015, April 16 the Club awarded the first Volunteer Extraordinaire certificate to Keith Myhre recognizing his skill and initiatives in support of the Lawshe Memorial Museum. This recognition is named the Jansen Certificate, recognizing Bernie and Kathy Jansen's decades of support to the Club's volunteerism as well as their Dakota County Historical Society board support work.

2015, September 9 the Club celebrated with an open house at the Lawshe Memorial Museum. That event recognized the museum staff and volunteers' efforts in completion of a Minnesota Legacy grant to develop posters and exhibit support material. We've linked 16 posters from the topics' listings in section 3 of our exhibits page.

2016, April 19 the Club awarded the second Volunteer Extraordinaire certificate to Richard 'Dick' Lundgren recognizing his decade of newsletter Legacy articles and newsletter program articles plus his initiation of our interactions with the Charles Babbage Institute in 2006 and the Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission in 2007.

2017, April 19 the Club awarded the third Volunteer Extraordinaire certificate to Donald Weidenbach recognizing his decade supporting the Legacy committee, his Airport Guide volunteering, and appliance repairing at his retirement facility.

2017, September an open house at Unisys, Eagan celebrated a successful transition of the commercial computer history shadowboxes from Roseville to Eagan. Also displayed 16 Legacy storyboards borrowed from the Lawshe Memorial Museum.

2018, January 7 the Club granted a Member Emeritus award to Dale Phelps in recognition of his decade plus serving the board as VP, President, Past President, and Director for program planning.

2018, April 11 the Club awarded the fourth Volunteer Extraordinaire certificate to Allan Douglass recognizing his 1,000+ hours of service to Boy Scouts and his church's organizations.

2018, April 15 the club awarded the fifth Volunteer Extraordinaire certificate to Tom Turba's dedication to the Boy Scouts, the VIP Club, and his Roseville community; given posthumously to his wife Virginia at Tom's Celebration of Life.

2018, September 13 the Club sponsored an Open House and Legacy Display at the Lawshe Memorial Museum in S. St. Paul. We celebrated phase I of a State of Minnesota grant to develop a Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) documentary including introduction of a new web site by U of MN researcher Liz Semler, https://mncomputinghistory.com/. She also showed interview clips.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER(s)

- Sylvester Fernandez in St. Paul, MN

IN REMEMBRANCE of

Bailey, Barbara J (nee Snyder) – Age 61 died October 19, 2018 after a battle with Cancer. She is survived by her mother, brother, sister, a daughter, and grandchildren. Barb was an administrative assistant in the Plant 8 LMCO executive area.
Bigelbach, Larry  – Age 86 of Oak Grove passed away on January 13th. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Ruby, four children, and grandchildren. Larry served 22 years in the US Air Force. Then he worked at Unisys, Roseville manufacturing for 30’ years.

Daninger, Albert S. “Al” - 75 passed away December 31, 2018. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Linda (Lewandoski); sons, granddaughters, and many other relatives and friends. He was an avid woodworker, loved the Minnesota Wild and the Vikings. Al worked many years at Sperry/UNISYS.

Favorit, Ronald - Age 90 of Bloomington, MN passed away suddenly on 1/9/19. Survived by wife, Shirley; son, Brian; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. Ron was a graduate of NDSU Fargo. He worked 38 years as an electrical and systems engineer at UNIVAC/Sperry/UNISYS. Ron was a VIP Club member.

Franck, Abraham ‘Abe’ – age 100 of Edina passed away on 17 January. Dr. Franck was a former ERA employee and a longtime educator at the U of MN in Mathematics focused on technology. After ERA, he was the designer of the Fabri-Tek Bi-Tran Six digital trainer computer. The Bi-Tran Six was part of the U of MN electronics classes in the early 60s. Abe’s love of music led to the establishment of the Abraham Franck String Quartet at the University of New Mexico. When at the First Friday luncheons (original Geek Squad), he often spoke of playing the violin. He was a Club Life member.

Grundy, Gary L. - Age 80, died peacefully on Monday Dec. 10th. Gary earned his electrical engineering degree at NDSU. He began his career at Unisys (later LMCO) where in the words of his colleagues, Gary was a "born innovator" and "a leader, a listener and a good friend to all." He earned an MBA with honors from St. Thomas University and ultimately retired from Blue Cross/Blue Shield. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Karen. Gary was a VIP Club member.

Hrbacek, Raymond J. - Age 97 of St. Anthony Village passed away on 24 Dec. 2018. Ray was a proud WWII Army Air Corp vet. Survived by loving wife of 61 years Eunice, four sons, 17 grandchildren, and a great grandson.

Ray was a retired long-time employee of Sperry Univac and a Life member of the VIP Club.

Kessler, Joseph Earl – Age 76, passed away Jan. 12, 2019 in Gogebic MI. Joe proudly served his country in the U.S. Coast Guard for four years, honorably discharged in 1965. Joe was then a computer programmer at Unisys in Roseville for more than 36 years. He retired in 2001 to become an avid fisherman and was a Vikings football fan. Joe is survived by his loving wife, Rosalie; a son, a daughter, brothers, several in-laws, et al’. Joe was a Club member ‘til 2016.

Koral, Lawrence - Passed away peacefully on 12 January. He is missed by wife of 53 years, Kathy; children, grandchildren, et al’. Larry was an avid Muskie fisherman and was Stillwater’s Handyman who loved socializing downtown. He retired from UNISYS after many years in Field Service supporting the USAF remote tracking stations. This included supporting satellite launch operations at Vandenberg AFB, Johnston Island, as well as technical support from St Paul for all Air Force programs.

Morris, Thomas ‘Tom’ - Age 85 of Shoreview passed away on December 29, 2018. His beloved family was by his side, as he ended his journey on Earth to join his wife Rosemary with God. He leaves behind the other great loves of his life – five daughters, eleven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. As a 30+ year employee, Tom’s last position was in Eagan program management. He was a Club member.

Myhre, Patricia (nee Bailey) – Age 64 of Rosemount passed away unexpectedly on 13 January of a pulmonary embolism as she and Keith began their Hawaiian winter respite. She is survived by husband of 15 years, Keith. Tricia was one of the few female IT pioneers interviewed by TPT for a MN computer history documentary. Her career summary includes 31 years of software testing and systems development at Sperry/Unisys/LMCO [I was one of only a few people from LMCO, Eagan (and the only female) who became flight qualified with the Navy to allow me to fly along on the P-3C’s update test flights], http://vipclubmn.org/People5.html#PatMyhre. As a Club and Legacy Committee member, she volunteered at the Lawshe Memorial Museum. Bless you Tricia!
Seaberg, Carolyn Margaret

McKinley - Age 86, passed away peacefully in her sleep on Monday, January 7, 2019 in Vernon Hills, Illinois. Carolyn was born in Minneapolis, grew up in St. Louis Park, and attended the University of Minnesota. She married her high school sweetheart, Dick. Carolyn was preceded in death by her husband of 60 years in 2014. Mr. Seaberg was our Sperry VP & General Manager from 1977 until 1984 [ref. http://vipclubmn.org/lmcolegacy.html#Mgrs.] They were VIP Club members until he passed away.

Spring, Deborah Ann – Age 64 passed away on 30 January from Mantle Cell Lymphoma in a Rochester hospice with husband Eric at her side. As an educator, she was loved and adored by countless students and colleagues. She is survived by husband Eric, three children, three siblings, et al’. Eric is an LMCO retiree and a VIP Club member.

Swenson, Glenn - Age 87, passed away November 13, 2018. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Rachel; two daughters and grandchildren. Family members knew him as ‘Pops the Poet.’ Glenn was honorably discharged from the Air Force in 1955 then earned a BEE from the U of MN in 1961 and a BS-Business in 1968. Glenn worked for Unisys, Roseville from 1961 to 1989. His last position was as Director of the Site Administration/Product Scheduling group. He was a VIP Club member thru 2016.

Venzant, Henry A. – Age 67 was called Home by his Heavenly Father on December 27, 2018. Henry began his professional career at Unisys and then LMCO, where he helped develop defense computer systems and the Doppler weather system in use today. However, most knew him from a second career as an industrial arts and technology education teacher, first at Milwaukee Tech. HS followed then at Washington Park High School in Racine, WI until he retired in 2010.

Warne, Ronald - Age 69 of Rosemount, passed away December 17, 2018 with his family by his side. Ronald is preceded in death by his wife, Kathryn. He will be dearly missed by his children, grandchildren, and friends. Ron was a VIP Club member.

CONTACT DATA

2019 VIP Club Activity Coordination

CBI Liaison; Dick Lundgren, rflunder@aol.com
Golf Leagues; Keith Behnke, keithbhnk@comcast.net
Lawshe Museum Support;
• Exhibits; Keith Myhre kmyhre@lightblast.net
• Photo ID work; Bob Pagac rpagac@hotmail.com
and Jon Simon jcsimon1st@frontiernet.net
Legacy Committee co-chairs; John Westergren, jwestergren@frontiernet.net & labenson@q.com
Membership database; Gish Devlinanck membership@vipclubmn.org
Old Timers’ Annual Reunion; paul@paulhove.com or
steve.koltes@comcast.com,
Picnic planning & volunteer staffing; John Westergen, 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

LEGACY ACTIVITIES

Thanks to Mark Plait: His micro-bio is the 175th ‘career summary’ of our Legacy Anthology. In 2006, then CBI Director Dr. Arthur Norberg told us that if we could gather 200 career summaries, we would have the ERA story. Thus, the Legacy Committee’s ‘tell the story’ is now ~85% complete! If we don’t have your part of the ERA/UNIVAC/Sperry/UNISYS/LMCO history, send it to jwestergren@frontiernet.net or labenson@q.com. There is yet room for project and product stories too, updates to your career summaries are also welcome.

When will we be done? Maybe at our 40th Celebration!

Spin-offs: Northport Engineering was a 1956 UNIVAC spinoff that provided electronic components to Twin cities companies as manufacturers’ agents, http://vipclubmn.org/Spinoffs.html#Northport. As an advertising gimmick in the 70s, they sent customers monthly cards with a motto on one side and a product or other company information on the other. Enjoy Better Mottoes witticisms listed in the Lighter Side.
**LIGHTER SIDE**

“Better Mottoes” by B.M.A. Inc. via Northport Engineering Inc.
- A word to the wise is resented.
- Don’t think of me as superior but simply as a friend who always just happens to be right.
- Double your pleasure, Xerox your pay check.
- For the man who has everything – an income tax audit.
- He who hesitates gets bumped from the rear.
- He who laughs last had to have it explained.
- Help people in trouble and they’ll always remember you – when they’re in trouble again.
- Hire teenagers now while they still know everything.
- I’m a man of few words – as I’ve told you a million times.

There are more to come in future issues.

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**2019 ANNUAL REUNION PICNIC REGISTRATION FORM – June 12**

3 PM at the Eagan Central Park Pavilion 1497 Central Parkway (just south of UNISYS, Eagan.)

VIP Club members

I plan to attend (name): ___________________ ____________________ $5.00 per member

Spouse/significant other will attend: ___________________ ____________________ $5.00

*Non-member and former members

I plan to attend (name): ___________________ ____________________ $10.00 per non-member

Spouse/friend will attend: ___________________ ____________________ $10.00 per non-member

My email address is: ______________________@ ______________________.

*Inactive and Non-members may include a VIP Club membership registration form to get the picnic plus a 2020 membership, [http://vipclubmn.org/Documents/MEMBERSHIP_FORM17.pdf](http://vipclubmn.org/Documents/MEMBERSHIP_FORM17.pdf)

Please mail w/check before June 4th to VIP CLUB PICNIC  P.O. Box 131748 - Roseville, MN  55113-0020

The committee would appreciate mailing of this volunteerism survey form before April 2nd.

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**2018 Hours Volunteerism Survey Form**

Please fill out this form then mail to VIP Club - Survey, P.O. Box 131748  Roseville, MN  55113-0020.

Your Full Name: ______________________________________ email if any __________________________

Your total volunteer hours in 2018. _____ Primary recipient of your time? __________________________

Name of Spouse/Sig Other: ______________________________

Her/his total volunteer hours _____ Primary recipient of his/her time? __________________________

How many will be attending the luncheon (0, 1, or 2) _____.    Submittal Date __________

Comments (Optional) ______________________________________________________________________
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 Cafe 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