

FYI: If your e-news available subject line has membership list 2019 (X=>Y) or if your US mail address has 2019 printed after your name, your membership expires/ed on December 31, 2019 – use **page 7 form** to renew!

JANUARY PROGRAM Holiday Party on January 5th.

Christmas/New Year's Holiday Party at the Lost Spur in Eagan. The location is 2750 Sibley Memorial Hwy (State Hwy 13), St Paul, 55121. 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 December 24th** so that the facility will have entree type counts and for the board to create attendee name tags. The registration form is also on-line at <http://vipclubmn.org/Temp/Jan5Form.pdf>.

- 1 to 2 PM: Socializing & cash bar available.
- 2 to 3:15 PM: 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*.

Anyone have 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.

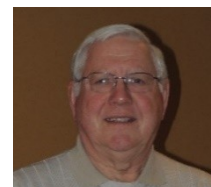
Our thanks in advance to the Eagan Men's Chorus; their director, Kathy Andrews, wife of Club Director Jim Andrews; and their accompanist Judy Campen.

Innovative Dining! In 2015, retiree Bob G., his wife, and sister-in-law ordered the 3 separate entrees then cut them into thirds so that each could savor the delicious chicken, fish, and steak! 😊



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have always been impressed with the loyalty of our Twin Cities' employees – not necessarily to whichever company we were at the time, but to the relationships they developed through their work associations. Our thanks to *Millie*



Gignac, who forty years ago recognized the benefit of continuing those relationships after retirement and launched the VIP Club. The club continues to provide opportunities to maintain friendships forged during our working years.

To that end, the Club hosts several events during the year: a Holiday get together in January, Volunteer Luncheon in April, Roseville Good Old Days and Syttende Mai in May, the June picnic, the Unihog/Technologists Reunion in November, and the Old Timers get together in December. This year we tested – successfully - hosting a Sept. Happy Hour.

The club newsletter provides an update to members six times a year, listing upcoming activities, historical tidbits, and death notices. Our website provides updated info, as well as historical data available at any time. We also began using Evite to help spread the word about upcoming events.

Club member volunteers are preserving our technological history by collecting and cataloging materials at the Dakota County Historical Society's museum and at the Charles Babbage Institute.

All of this does take some effort, and I want to thank all of you who worked to make all this happen during the past year. I particularly want to thank Lowell Benson, who is retiring from the Board. Over the past many years, Lowell has served in every capacity on the Board; most recently as Newsletter Editor. Thanks, Lowell for your dedicated service.

I also want to invite the rest of our members to consider getting involved – we need ongoing help with the newsletter, board membership, and event organizing. The crew at Lawshe can always use more help. Think about joining in! (continued on page 2)



Merry Christmas everyone, and I wish you all a happy 2020, as we prepare to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Millie's creation, the VIP Club.

Harvey Taipale, VIP Club President.

FEBRUARY & MARCH PROGRAMS

No Club Activities Planned

Members are encouraged to participate at one or more of the Periodic Social Groups listed on page 8.

SCHEDULED 2020 ACTIVITIES

April 8th, 11 AM to 1:30 PM. Volunteer Recognition Luncheon at Joseph's in St. Paul. The 2019 volunteerism survey form is on page 6. The on-line survey page/form will be active in mid-January, <http://vipclubmn.org/Volunteer.html>. Coordinator is Board Associate *Frank King*.

May 1st, 11 AM - Roseville Good Old Days at the Mermaid in Moundsview. Coordinator is *Paul Dickson*.

May 15th, Syttende Mai luncheon at Casper's in Eagan. Coordinator is *Dale Torgerson*.

June 10th, 3 PM - 5:30 PM, annual picnic at the Eagan Central Park Pavilion. Coordinators are *John Westergren* and *Gish Devlaminck*.

VIP Club Board Meetings at Unisys, Eagan 10 AM on February 6th, April 1st, June 3rd, August 5th, October 7th, and December 2nd. Club members are invited to sit in if curious about what we do or if contemplating joining the board to lead a new outing or event.

SOCIAL REPORTS & ARTICLES

Golf League Banquet Report - The league has 258 members who are primarily former or current Unisys, Lockheed Martin, or heritage company employees. Four weekly leagues played at local golf courses - Bunker Hills, Phalen, Emerald Greens and Southern Hills. We had 8 tournaments this year averaging about 100 participants in each.

103 golfers attended the fall banquet on Oct 23rd at Mancini's. Several prizes were awarded; Ron Shursen for a hole-in-one, Darrell Lindemann for most improved, and Les Flugum for the low net winner.



Thanks to Tay Sweitzer for delicious dessert cookies.



The league is open to new teams or individuals - play starts again in April! Contact Keith Behnke, keithbhnk@comcast.net, for 2020 interest before March 18th, 2020. By *Keith Behnke*.

UNIHOGS & Technologists Reunion - We gathered at Casper's in Eagan on November 6th to hear an interesting presentation about Unisys and the Minnesota High-Tech Association (MHTA) by Unisys Director Charles Lefebvre. Unisys recently sold a 2200 system to Carnival cruise lines; each time a guest uses an ID card for cabin access or an on-board purchase - a UNISYS computer knows it! The UNISYS systems still run Exec-8 operating system (OS) that began with the 1108 dual processors in the late 60s. In response to questions, Chuck stated that the OS still executes Fortran as part of airlines freight management systems.

There are over 350 MHTA member companies who cooperate and compete in business. They have two on-going initiatives; promoting STEM and statewide internet access. We do need more females and minorities in the technology industry!

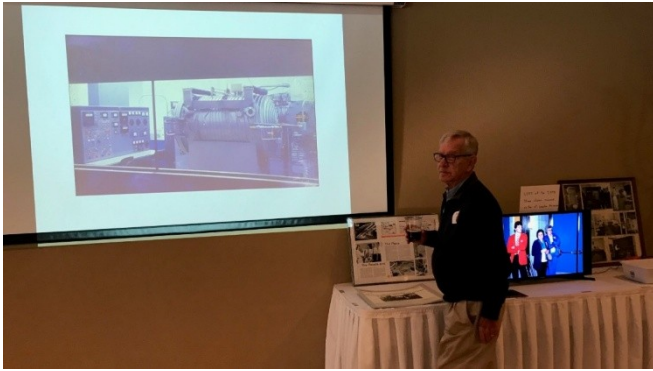
Head-hog Fred Vihovde continued the tradition of memorializing our IT friends who passed away during the past year by reading some of the 89 names. The deceased lists since 2004 are linked from <http://vipclubmn.org/deceased.html>.

Club President Harvey Taipale presented the slate of directors and officers for 2020. They were accepted by acclamation; see page 8 bottom left.

On November 4th, 2020 we will continue the Unihogs' traditions - <http://vipclubmn.org/Social.html#Hogs> - Same venue & time; hope to C U then. By *LABenson*.

Old Timers Gathering, Lost Spur on Dec. 5th - Feedback from many attendees was [as usual] quite positive. We had pre-printed 204 nametags and ordered 54 pre-made sandwiches; ham, beef, and turkey. As usual, there were some no shows and drop-ins. Donations at the door netted funds of \$384, plenty to cover room rental cost. Sign-in sheets recorded 211 guests. The Lost Spur's sandwich count was 69.

Keith Myhre assembled a slide show of old Univac product pictures and employees which was projected on the event wall and a TV for attendee viewing.



A participant collage is on page 6. Mark your calendar for Dec. 3rd, 2020 as we will return to the Lost Spur. The Lost Spur is planning on changing the bag lunch to a sandwich bar where the guest would assemble his/her own sandwich. The price would remain at \$8.00. Thanks to the VIP Board members who took care of name tags and guests. By *Paul Hove & Steve Koltes*

More Club Milestones: In the March/April 2019 newsletter issue we published club milestones through 2018; see the 'Jack Benny Year' article on page 3 of <http://vipclubmn.org/Newsletters/ENews1903.pdf>.

Now as we celebrate our 40th anniversary year; we've added two 2019 milestones to our Club's history:

- On February 6, 2019, the Board resolved to grant **Member Emeritus** status to Joseph Schwarz in recognition of his nearly 20-years as chief editor of the Club's newsletter and other board activity support.
- On April 10, 2019, the Club awarded the sixth **Volunteer Extraordinaire** certificate honoring Patricia Myhre's five-plus years of Photo ID work at the Lawshe Memorial Museum and other volunteerism; delivered posthumously to husband Keith Myhre at the April Volunteerism Recognition Luncheon. Byline *LABenson*

IN REMEMBRANCE OF:

The obits hereunder are redacted from funeral home postings or Pioneer Press or Star Tribune listings.

Bowar, Raymond L. – Passed away 1/18/2018, survived by wife Donna and children. Ray was an engineer in the memory design department in the 70s. He was a former club member. From *Donna Bowar*

Robushin, Gerald 'Jerry' – Age 83 of Mound, MN passed away November 26th, 2019. Jerry was born in Minneapolis in 1936, graduated from Washington HS, then joined the Navy. Jerry retired from Sperry Univac and converted their family's Minnetonka cabin to a retirement home. By *Dale Phelps*

Conzemius, Gerard R. 'Gerry' – Age 71 of Woodbury Passed away October. 23rd 2019. Employed by Unisys for 23 years; he is survived by wife Karen (nee Wicklund), children, siblings, and many nieces and nephews. Submitted by *Ghis Devlaminck*.

Fox, Alan J. "Jerry" – Age 90 passed in his sleep on November 7, 2019. A 1956 graduate of the University of Minnesota, Jerry married Ann, the love of his life, on August 12, 1956, and graduated with his MSEE from Northwestern University in 1958. Jerry spent his career in the defense systems industry, with stints in Santa Monica, Boston, and Washington DC before returning to Carver County's Lotus Lake to stay in 1969. He retired from Sperry – his last assignment was in the training department. He and wife Ann are Club members. Submitted by *Dick Lundgren*



Johnson, Richard 'Dick' – Age 89 passed away on Oct. 20th. He proudly served his country in the US Navy. Dick graduated from Montana State University. Dick was an Electrical Engineer who retired from Sperry/Lockheed. He is survived by his loving wife, Marjorie (Marge), children and grandchildren. During and even before retirement, Dick reveled in singing with the Eagan Men's Chorus. by *Jim Andrews*.

Leahy, Michael "Mike" – Age 85, of Prior Lake, MN, passed away Oct. 23, 2019. Loved and missed by wife, Bernice; children, Shelly, Jeff, Greg; grandchildren, Kayla, Cole, Chloe; many extended family and friends. Mike is a former Club member. Submitted by *Jim Frazier and Keith Behnke*



Olson, Doris Elaine – Age 75 of Burnsville, MN passed away Oct. 17th. She was a long-time employee of Lockheed Martin as an Import/Export Controller and had recently retired. Doris was a very thorough, organized, dedicated, and well respected among her peers and had won several awards for her accomplishments. She is survived by daughter and son-in-law Steve and Kimberly Pumarlo. Submitted by *Sue Rogers*

Trembley, Alexander A. – Age 87, died October 15th. Alex was proud of his service with the US Navy and obtained his BSEE using the GI Bill. He was a devoted husband to Nancy Hanson whom he married in 1958. Alex spent his entire Engineering and Management career at Univac/Unisys in Minnesota and Colorado. Submitted by *Keith Behnke, et al.*



WELCOME NEW MEMBER(s)

- Iskos, Pierre Athens Greece UNISYS
- Rogers, Donald A. & Myrna – Newport News, VA
- Skoog, Jeanne C. – Columbia Heights, MN

LEGACY TIDBITS

Digital Trainer: Ed Sharpe of SMECC sent a message to Rebecca Snyder at the Lawshe Museum requesting information about the UDT-422. She forwarded the request to Keith Myhre who established communications with Ed. Web updates now are pending for special processors section 3.1, <http://vipclubmn.org/cpothers.html#CP-788>, etc..



Patty Duke & Paul Lynde with a U-422, circa 1972. Clip from Ed at SMECC.

This inquiry is a stark reminder that there are yet more stories to tell about the products developed in the Twin Cities! Byline *Keith Myhre* and *LABenson*

TPT Documentary feedback: To *Harvey* and *Lowell*, Jim Lorenzen discovered the Solid-State documentary two nights ago, so I watched last night. I am really proud of what the VIP Club's Legacy committee has accomplished to share this history. Thank you for all your hard work to spread the news of the great accomplishments of the people that built the local computer industry. It is humbling and gratifying to have been a part of that history and still be trying to keep it going (yes Harvey, IRIS is going stronger than ever.)

PDA is close to 90 people and DRS has over 50 locally, both with many former LM folks keeping the band together.



Thank you again! *Scott Benjamin*

Thanks, *Lowell*, for forwarding this information. It was truly fascinating and brought back a lot of memories, dating back to my first contact with a computer (CDC 1604 at U of M). *Bob Lindahl*; Univac/Sperry/Unisys 1969-2011.

Dear *Lowell*, on behalf of the Minnesota High Tech Association and Twin Cities Public Television (TPT), we thank the VIP Club for supporting the premier screening of Solid State: Minnesota's High-Tech History. The documentary first aired on Sunday, October 13th and is now widely available. Feel free to share this link (<https://www.tpt.org/solid-state/>) with your colleagues and friends and celebrate Minnesota's tech history and future! Sincerely, *Minnesota High Tech Association*

To *John Westergren*: I had an opportunity to watch the video, excellent history and background to the advanced technology and legacy that was and still is being created in Minnesota. On that note, I myself am starting to forget all the tremendous designs, products, etc. that Winnipeg Operations manufactured so I'm putting together a slide deck and info package for a tribute to Winnipeg Operations. So, if you [Ed wrote to former Winnipeg people with whom he keeps in contact – he receives our newsletter electronically as a Club friend] have any articles, photos, memorabilia that you would like to share please forward them to me and I will make an attempt to fit it in. I will try to release the tribute in the next networking list update.

Take care, *Ed Pogorzelec*

To *Lowell*, Thanks for the information. I watched the documentary on Sunday and saw several familiar names and faces. *Charlie Tolman*; Honeywell Research 1959, Univac Research 1960 – 1984, and Control Data / Seagate 1984 – 1999.

STEM: From martins@lyndhurststem.org to the VIP Club: Hi folks, I hope it's not weird to reach out like this, but our girl's STEM group just wanted to send the VIP Club a big salute! We needed some fast information related to coding, hacking, security, etc. so your site and its big list of Club/IT Research/STEM education references are super helpful

That led us to some other good non-spam material for our STEM group. Since we want to have our own hackathon someday soon, some of the girls and I have been looking for cybersecurity info & games, if you have any tips to share –but only if it's no trouble!

I thought it would be fun if I asked the kiddos if they had any other favorites or tips, we could pass along to return the favor. One of our more tech savvy stars printed out some guides to pass out in group - resident guru Aubree (age 11)! We really liked this one: <https://securitybaron.com/blog/cryptography-and-coding-information/>.

We hope you enjoy it too, maybe you might even like it as a fun contribution to your site resources page? If you do decide to add it, I'll be sure to show Aubree that you liked her idea. I'd love for her to see that it's cool

to be into this stuff! We don't want to be a pain so sorry for taking up your time. Thanks again to the VIP Club family; it's very cool to make this connection.

Warm wishes, *Stacey Martin*

On a 2020 Sabbatical: In 2005, I joined the VIP Club board to chair a Legacy Committee. In 2013 the status was documented as one of [Our Stories](#), <http://vipclubmn.org/Articles/DreamRealization.pdf>.

Now in 2019 Twin Cities Public TV finished/produced a documentary on the state's high-tech history, <https://www.tpt.org/solid-state/video/solid-state-minnesotas-high-tech-history-35848/> and Mark Greenia of the Computer History Archives Project published "Engineering Research Associates" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tk9DGPwmiwA>. 400+ people have contributed articles & bios to our Legacy Anthology, <http://vipclubmn.org/Legacy.html>.

Although I've aided all of these; so many others have contributed to telling the story, **special thanks to:**

1. Bernie Jansen, John Westergren, and Chad Roberts for establishing the exhibit at the Lawshe Memorial Museum;
2. Keith Myhre and Harvey Taipale who have worked with the museum to develop grants plus Keith who curated information for the documentary production and display boards; and
3. Dr. Tom Misa who advised the committee for 11 years and developed the book *Digital State, The Story of Minnesota's Computer Industry*.

I've now decided to step away from the VIP Club Board, Legacy committee, and townhome association board to recharge my batteries. By *LABenson*

CLUB CONTACT DATA

Board meeting: The 2020 board met on December 4th in Roseville, MN. They're still seeking a person to step up to manage production of the 2020 newsletters.



L to R: Associate Frank King, Treasurer Paul Hove, VP Steve Koltes, immediate Past President Keith Behnke, Secretary Boni Westberg, membership Director Gish Devlaminck, President Harvey Taipale, Member Emeritus Joe Schwarz, and webmaster Jim Andrews. Oops, cameraman missed Dick Lundgren.

VIP Club 2020 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; Bob Pagac rpagac@hotmail.com and Jon Simon jcsimon1st@frontiernet.net

Legacy Committee chairman; John Westergren, jwestergren48@gmail.com
Membership database; Gish Devlaminck membership@vipclubmn.org
Newsletter Chief Editor; to be announced newsletter@vipclubmn.org
Old Timers' Annual Reunion; paul@paulhove.com or steve.koltes@comcast.com,
Picnic planning & volunteer staffing; John Westergren, jwestergren48@gmail.com
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
UNIHOGS & Technologists; board@vipclubmn.org
Volunteer Luncheon; Frank King, kingx063@umn.edu
Webmaster; Jim Andrews, webmaster@vipclubmn.org

Retirement Status and Benefits:

Numbers to call if you or your heirs have death benefit or pension questions – you will need an SSN and a PIN.

Unisys	1-877-864-7972
Lockheed Martin	1-866-562-2363



LIGHTER SIDE



Words of Wisdom? (politically incorrect!???)

- A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul. -- George Bernard Shaw
- Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it. -- Ronald Reagan (1986)
- I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle. -- Winston Churchill
- I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts. -- Will Rogers
- If you think health care is expensive now, wait until you see what it costs when it's free! -- P. J. O'Rourke

- In my many years I have concluded that one useless man is a shame, two is a law firm, and three or more is a congress. -- John Adams
- The only difference between a tax man and a taxidermist is that the taxidermist leaves the skin. -- Mark Twain

- There is no distinctly Native American criminal class, save Congress. -- Mark Twain
- _____ space for your quip! 😊

The Dec 5th Old Timers' Gathering at the Lost Spur!



Snapshots by Paul Hove – File: ©Collage2019OldTimers.pptx by Lowell A. Benson, December 7, 2019

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

2019 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 _____

Primary recipient of your time? _____

Name of Spouse/Sig Other: _____

Primary recipient of his/her time? _____

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

Comments (Optional) _____

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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 5th, 2020 at the Lost Spur Country Club**. Send in your reservations now, since seating is limited. Your form and check must be mailed by **December 24th**. \$25 per person for non-member guests. If your reservation is for more than two persons, please attach (or write on the back) a list of the added names and you will be seated together at a reserved table.

Full Name: _____

Spouse or Sig. Other's Name (is a member): _____

Non-member Guest Name: _____

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

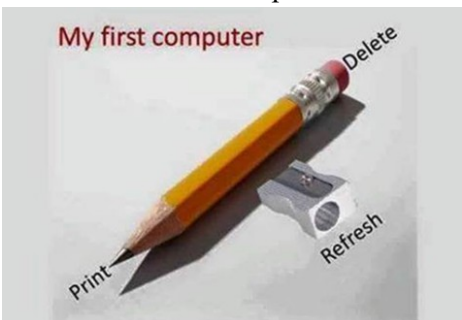
Entrée selection(s) & Quantity: Steak ___; or Chicken w/Peppercorn Sauce ___; or Walleye ____.

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

Mail check **before December 24th** to Keith Behnke 4652 Westwood Lane Eagan, MN 55122
Or to VIP CLUB - Party P.O. Box 131748 Roseville, MN 55113-0020

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Membership Renewal Reminder!
If 2019 is on your address label or in the subject line of the e-news available message; this is your last newsletter unless we receive your renewal **by February 5th**.
<http://vipclubmn.org/Membership.html>



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or 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⁺.

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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 - 2020

President Harvey Taipale	651-280-7332
Vice President Steve Koltos	651-303-9112
Treasurer Paul Hove	651-738-4908
Secretary Boni Westberg	651-429-2534
Director Dick Lundgren	952-288-5141
Director Gish Devlaminck	651-470-8905
Director Jim Andrews,	651-451-7502
Director open position	xxx-yyy-zzzz
Past President Keith Behnke	651-894-2182

Newsletter Editorial Staff

Chief Editor	newsletter@vipclubmn.org
Dick Lundgren	rflundgr@aol.com
Don Naaktgeboren	donfishn@yahoo.com
Joe Schwarz	jschwarzsr@centurylink.net

UNISYS Liaison

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

PERIODIC SOCIAL GROUPS

Monthly Breakfast Gathering

- 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 between the elevator & Burger King. Coordinator, Paul Wennerstrom, 952-854-7855.
- 2nd Wednesday at 11 AM - Baker's Square, Northtown, 221 Co. Rd. 10 NE, Blaine MN.
- 2nd Saturday of odd numbered months at 11 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