

Please: Send database or directory inquiries to membership@vipclubmn.org. Send website items to webmaster@vipclubmn.org. Send obits, etc. to newsletter@vipclubmn.org. Activity coordinator emails on page 4.

Why the VIP Club is Using Evite: The VIP Club is now using Evite to notify VIP Club members with email addresses about near-term events. The VIP Club newsletter and website social page will continue to detail all our near-term and future events.

As of December 2019, the VIP Club had 750 active member units (MU) and 436 inactive MU. There are 639 MU and 281 inactive MU with e-mail addresses in our membership data base. Only 266 (8%) do not have email; therefore, using Evite is an efficient method to announce upcoming events to most of our members.

Evite recipients should RSVP with “Yes”, “Maybe” or “No”! Those replying with “Maybe” are asked to update their RSVP to Yes or No as soon as they are certain if they will be attending or not attending. RSVP comments are to be used to answer requests from the event coordinator, such as food choice and payment requirements. Another major benefit for invitees is that the Evite “Guests” button allows you to see who else is coming to an event.

Evite also sends a reminder of the event two days before the event. A response (Yes, No, or Maybe) is appreciated from all invitation recipients. The host monitors responses in real time to assist in event planning. Those with e-mail addresses who do not want to receive Evite’s can request to “opt out” by sending the request to membership@vipclubmn.org.

To ensure that an Evite isn’t channeled to your “spam” folder, you can place the email address, info@mailva.evite.com, into your e-mail address book.

No Email? If you do not have email and have recycled your last newsletter issue, you could go to your local library to review upcoming events on a public PC, browse to <http://vipclubmn.org/Social.html>. Byline *Keith Behnke & Gish Devlaminck*.



APRIL PROGRAM

Volunteerism Recognition Luncheon

Free Hot Buffet: You Are Invited! The board will host a luncheon at Joseph’s in St. Paul on Wednesday April 8th for members who return the survey. Although the luncheon recognizes member services, just as important is a chance for giving and receiving insight on what’s available to do out there. Experts tell us that volunteering, while benefiting society, does improve one’s wellbeing; a win-win for both.

Whatever volunteering you’re doing makes our communities better and should be recognized. This year we are just requesting organization names and aren’t tabulating the hours. The greatest volunteer hours submitted in prior years was in the civic outreach area and in religion/church activities.

- 11:00 AM – 11:30 AM Check in, Nametags, Coffee, and Socializing – cash bar,
- 11:30 AM – 12:15 PM Enjoy a buffet luncheon,
- 12:15 PM – 12:45PM Program recognizing our volunteers and feedback about who does what, and
- 12:45 PM – 1:30 PM Last cup of coffee and a bit more socializing.

Your participation reservation is easy; just fill out and return the page six survey form or go on-line to <http://vipclubmn.org/Volunteer.html>. Even if you can’t come to this free lunch, we’d appreciate receiving your 2019 volunteerism survey form.

Nominate someone to receive the ‘Jansen’ Volunteer Extraordinaire award at the April luncheon; please send her/his name and your reason why before March 27th to board@vipclubmn.org. Previous recipients were Keith Myhre, 2015; Dick Lundgren, 2016; Don Weidenbach, 2017; Allan Douglass and Tom Turba, 2018; and Tricia Myhre, 2019.

Joseph’s is at 140 Wabasha St S 55107 in St. Paul. Google directions from your home to Joseph’s via the [volunteer page](#). By Board Associate *Frank King*



MAY PROGRAMS

Register early to aid Coordinators

Roseville Good Old Days at 10:30 AM on May 1st. This will be the 13th gathering of current UNISYS and former employees who worked in Roseville. If you didn't receive the 'save the date' announcement sent to 1,300 people in January; send an email to Coordinator paul.dickson@comcast.net. Byline *Paul Dickson*



Syttende Mai at 11 AM on May 15th at Casper's in Eagan. In 1974 six Sperry-UNIVAC employees gathered for lunch to celebrate Norwegian Constitution day; Ole Olson, Keith Myhre, Larry Bakken, Burt Gunderson, Gary Odegaard, and Joel Christensen. Current committee is Dale Torgerson, Dale Phelps, Dave Carter, and Dick Lundgren. Watch for April *Evites*.

Byline *LABenson*

2020 ACTIVITIES BEING PLANNED

- June 10th, 3 PM – 5:30 PM, annual picnic at the Eagan Central Park Pavilion. Coordinators are *John Westergren* and *Gish Devlaminck*.
- September 15th, 2:30 pm – VIP Club 40th Anniversary program and buffet dinner at the Royal Cliff in Burnsville. Hosted by the Club board, coordinated by *Keith Behnke* and *Harvey Taipale*.
- November 4th, 11 AM – Unihogs & Technologists reunion at Casper's in Eagan. Guest Speaker will be DCHS Executive Director, Matthew Carter. Coordinators are *Fred Vihovde* and *Lowell Benson*.
- December 3rd, 11 AM – Old Timers' reunion at the Lost Spur in Eagan. Coordinators are *Paul Hove* and *Steve Koltes*.



CELEBRATIONS

VIP Club Board Meetings at Unisys, Eagan 10 AM on April 1st, June 3rd, August 5th, October 7th, and December 2nd. Club members are invited to sit in if curious about how we handle club business. Contact the President the week before, please.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER(S)

- Grunewald, Wilbur O. & Marilyn Bloomington
- Larson, Leroy A. & Mieko Fridley
- Siegfried, Robert W. & Kathleen Apple Valley
- Stolpe, Robert St. Paul

http://vipclubmn.org/Documents/MEMBERSHIP_FORM.pdf

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



2020 marks the 40th anniversary of the VIP club, and after 40 years, things are changing a bit.

First, we welcome our new newsletter Editor, Mary Beth Ruhland. As reported last issue, Lowell has decided to become more retired, and Mary Beth has taken on the role of Editor. She is a Lockheed retiree, worked in the publications area. Both her parents were also employees, and her father was a previous club board member. {Richard J. and Theresa Mullins – read his obit on page 3 of <http://vipclubmn.org/Newsletters/Enews1607.pdf>}.

Speaking of the newsletter, the Board would welcome any feedback you might have regarding newsletter content. What don't you particularly like, and what other areas might you like to see added. Do you have a burning desire to contribute any article of interest? Was there an important milestone you want to share? Call, write, or email any of the board members with your thoughts.

We also have an important date for you to save – the club will host a 40th anniversary party on the afternoon of September 15th, 2020 at the Royal Cliff event center in Eagan. More details and sign-up info to follow in the next newsletter but mark your calendars and spread the word.

The VIP club is also moving. Some of you may remember when there was a clubroom in the Shepard Road plant, and members could get a free lunch in the cafeteria. Well, both that plant and the free lunch are long gone, and our "home" has been a post office box in Roseville. As the club membership has gradually drifted to the south area (almost half of our members live in Dakota County alone), regular mail pick-up in Roseville is getting to be more of a challenge, so we are moving our PO box to Eagan. HOWEVER, the Roseville box is still active and will remain so for some time during the transition. You may keep using the Roseville address to send in your renewals and volunteer reservations for the FREE volunteer brunch on April 8th at Josephs. See you then.

Harvey Taipale, VIP Club President.

SOCIAL REPORTS & ARTICLES

Golf League: Check the website for league play start and 1st tournament, <https://ulglmn.org/umgl/>. Their site has scrolling photos from the 2019 banquet. About a hundred happy faces! Byline *LABenson*

Unisys Tidbit #1: Blue Bell is seeking artifact donations intending to set up an in-plant history museum, details will be forthcoming next issue.

MATCALs Alumni Gathering: A few of the MATCALs (Marine Air Traffic Control and Landing System) support group met for lunch in December.



Around the table from left to right are Gordy Erickson who put in more than 35 years with the company. He was the on-site program manager for MATCALs. Next is Carolyn Pleasant who worked more than 10 years as program librarian, Vern Sandusky with more than 25 years as Engineer in Charge and Ron Irwin with more than 30 years who was the manager of the programmers. All worked at the MATCALs Support Facility at Mare Island and will be remembered by many of the folks from St. Paul who traveled there to work during program development, system integration and testing. Submitted by *Vern Sandusky*

Holiday Party/Dinner Re-cap – The VIP Club had its annual Holiday Dinner Party on Sunday, January 5 at the Lost Spur event center. Forty-four club members registered, and the party started with a social hour with refreshments available at the cash bar.

We were then treated to an excellent meal after which we enjoyed an outstanding performance by the Eagan Men’s Chorus with an assortment of Holiday songs.



Conductor is Kathy Andrews. The Eagan Men’s Chorus began as the Sperryaires in the 60s.

Unfortunately, this year we were competing with the Vikings playoff game in New Orleans but luckily there was a TV behind the bar so we could follow what turned out to be an exciting victory. A photo collage by *Nick Benson* is on page 7. Byline *Keith Behnke*

The 314th Meeting! At the 2nd Wednesday breakfast on Dec. 11th, Emcee Marv Brown announced that he could no longer coordinate this function as his Dr. told him to slow down. When Marv retired from UNISYS, Roseville in 1987 (after the merger) he felt a need to keep connected with co-workers so started the Unisys Retiree Breakfast Group in 1991. Two years ago, the group cut back to quarterly breakfasts because of diminishing participation. Although the buffet cost has risen over the decades; attendees still revel in sharing ‘remember when’ stories. Marv has chronicled the history at <http://vipclubmn.org/Social.html#Unisys>. Thanks to Marv for 28-years of leadership! The next, 315th breakfast gathering will be on March 11th, now coordinated by *Paul Dickson*. Byline *LABenson*

When My Time Comes? The VIP Club Board received an email inquiry: "Do you know the name of a lawyer or retiree employee who understands the Unisys retirement benefits who could assist an employee when needed. I have a will and a law firm but the law firm is not familiar with the implementation of the details (transferring benefits to spouse.)"

Answer(s): 1) Board members are not qualified estate planners. 2) The board does not have a list of law firms nor ex-employees that have previously helped those whose spouses passed away nor who helped spouses when a member passed away. 3) The Board suggests that you and/or your spouse put together your questions then make a contact call to the number in the box below to get the answers you want. You could consider having your law firm or will executor be a part of such a call. A copy of your exit/retirement papers that established your pension and benefits would be helpful plus employee dates of service, etc.

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

Sorry that the Board is not in a position to 'do it for you'; those are personal matters! By *LABenson*

Events’ History: since the [50s-Geek Squad](#), [60s-Unihogs/Uniturkeys](#), [70s-Syttende Mai](#), [80s-Annual Old Timers’ Reunion](#), [90s-Volunteer Luncheons](#), and [00s-Roseville Good Old Days](#). Byline *LABenson*

Unisys Tidbit #2: On February 6th SAIC announced purchase of UNISYS *Federal*, an operating unit. The effect of this buy on Eagan based Unisys and Eagan based Liedos will be explored in our next issue. *LAB*.

LEGACY TIDBITS

ERA Guys: Thirteen video interviews are on-line, <http://vipclubmn.org/PeopleInterview.html#OldTimers>. Thanks to videographer John Westergren and file converter Keith Myhre. Posted by *Lowell Benson*.

What's in our Legacy Anthology? The table of contents is <http://vipclubmn.org/SiteMap.html#Level3>. The anthology theme is: People Engineered Computers and Systems at Locations in the Minnesota environs and through the world. Also, Our Stories and Exhibits chapters supplement the theme.

What isn't there? Chapters 35 and 36 are but placeholders as no one has written about Pueblo CO or Clearwater FL. Chapter 37 has but an 'Emmet Johnson' organization chart. AND, is your micro-bio included in the People chapters? Byline *LABenson*

1230 (aka CP-642B modified) - An Apollo tidbit: I was assigned to engineering for the initial checkout and was tasked by Don Mager with selling the first one to NASA. After that I supported qualification testing and final checkout in Plant 3 which was a common thing for Field Service troops to do when not traveling.

I did make one trip to Goddard Space Flight Center to check out an intermittent problem that was creating some problems between the hardware guys and the programmers. The only time I could get on the system was at night, so I ended up working 12 midnight to 7 in the morning. After spending 5 nights staring at a scope and varying the trigger levels, I got a look at what was happening. An interrupt (occurring asynchronously) had generated a voltage spike that, after passing through 4 levels of logic, had been expanded to a runt pulse which locked out the incoming interrupt request without having been queued/recognized for processing.

I found a signal to mask the runt pulse and allow the interrupt to be recognized during the next scan. There was an "and" gate available, so I wired in a change and started it up.

I then ran the system for two nights with no problems and the programmers did their day time testing with no problems so I put the change into the second 1230, declared victory and 'got out of Dodge.'

Bob Oulicky had been responsible for the I/O design which was largely a carryover from the CP-642B, and he never could understand what the problem was and how this change fixed it but it's hard to argue with success! 😊 Cheers, *Richard 'Dick' Erdrich*

CLUB CONTACT DATA

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; 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; la.gj.benson@comcast.net

Volunteer Luncheon; Frank King, kingx063@umn.edu
Webmaster; Jim Andrews, webmaster@vipclubmn.org

IN REMEMBRANCE OF:

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

Behnke, George K. – Age 66 died on December 25th, 2019, after an 18-month battle with stage IV prostate cancer. Originally from Kaukauna, WI, George graduated from the U of WI in 1975, then moved to the Twin Cities as a software engineer at Sperry, Cray Research, Silicon Graphics Inc., and again Cray. He is survived by his wife, Pam Behnke, two children, and several grandchildren. From *Keith Behnke*, et al.



Bergman, William J. "Bill" – age 77 of Mpls., passed away surrounded by family on January 23, 2020. Bill was a member of the National Guard before becoming an air traffic controller. He went on to work at Lockheed Martin as a project engineer in developing air traffic control systems. Bill is survived by his wife Jennifer, two siblings, and many much-loved nieces and nephews. Submitted by *Sue Rogers*.



Broden, Jack A. – age 69 of Fridley died August 3, 2016. He is survived by wife Penny and family. He worked at Unisys in Roseville in drafting department before retiring. Submitted by *Cathy Roth*.

DeBlauw, Alice passed away 12/13/2019. Alice was the spouse of former Sperry engineering manager Mel DeBlauw who had passed away in the late 90s. She was a Club member. From *Nancy Gountanis*.

Granberg, Mauritz 'Leland' – age 95 Passed away December 25, 2019. When asked to write a career summary for the Legacy, he submitted two staff data sheets. As an electrical engineer and manager, Mr. Granberg received more patents than any other Legacy person. In his retirement Lee enjoyed dancing at the Annual Christmas dinner/dance, bringing his daughter and son-in-law. He was a VIP Club member.



Submitted by *Dick Petschauer*.

Kolimago, Frank R. – age 81 passed away peacefully on December 7, 2019. Just after HS, he joined the Navy and served on the USS Essex and USS Forrestal. He worked in the field of computer technology, retiring from Unisys. During his last decade at Blue Bell, Frank worked with several Roseville departments. Submitted by *Paul Dickson*.

Terry Maruska, age 76, of Weslaco, TX, formerly of St. Paul, MN, passed away March 19, 2019. Terry joined the U.S. Air Force in 1962 and was stationed in South Dakota and Georgia with the 28th Bomber Wing and 465th Bomber Wing as an avionics/electrical technician until 1966 and an Air Force reservist until 1968. He worked for Univac in the late 60's and early 1970's then was a



building contractor and a Building Inspector for Washington County, MN. Terry finished his working career as the Building Official for the City of West St. Paul, 19 years. Submitted by *Jim Frazier*.

Owen, Glen Alan – age 72, of Roseville died peacefully Jan. 26 at The Harbors Senior Living Community in Fridley. Survived by his wife of 51 years, Linda; brothers, sister and nephews and nieces. Glen worked as a classical music announcer; computer programmer for Unisys, Roseville, and Decision Systems, Minneapolis; and in seasonal park maintenance in Roseville.



From *Linda Owen* via Paul Dickson.

Pederson, Sharon Kay – age 72, originally of Preston, MN and most recently a resident of Cape Coral, FL and Cottage Grove, MN, passed away January 18, 2020, after battling cancer for 16 months. Sharon is survived by her beloved husband of 47 years, Ron; two children and four grandchildren.



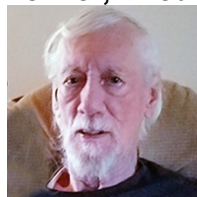
After moving to the Twin Cities in 1970, she started working at Sperry Corporation, which later became Unisys, until she retired in 1991. Sharon was a member of the VIP Club. From *Sandi Honsa*.

Petschauer, Margaret (Peg) – age 79 of Chisago City MN and Sanibel FL. Margaret passed away on Dec. 24th, after a short Hospice stay. She is survived by husband Tom, three children, and three grandsons. Peg graduated from Mpls South HS in 1958. She and Tom lived in Bloomington until retirement took them to Chisago City and FL. Tom is retired from Sperry and Printware; they are VIP Club members.



By *LABenson* and *Dick Petschauer*

Reimer, Fred Walter – of New Brighton passed away peacefully with family and friends on December 4th in Fridley, MN at the age of 85. He graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering in 1957. Then Walter started a 2-decade career at Univac.



From *Roger Gillette*.

Soller, Tom – age 82 of Richfield passed away on 10 January. He was a proud graduate of Iowa State Univ. They subsequently moved to the Twin Cities area to begin a fulfilling 43+ year career with UNIVAC-UNISYS. Tom is survived by his wife, Maureen and children, Mark and Diana. They were VIP Club members.



From Maureen via *Dick Petschauer*, et al.

Vignalo, Joseph - age 85 of Hugo, formerly of Maplewood. Surviving are his wife, Delores "Patti" Vignalo; six children, 16 grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren. Joe had worked in financial systems for defense systems. He and Patti enjoyed traveling with friends.

From by *Bill Palzer* via Gish Devlaminck.

The committee appreciates mailing of this volunteerism survey form **before March 30th**! That gives us time to finish the program listing, to print name tags, and to give an eater count to Joseph's. Thanks, *Frank King*.
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2019 VOLUNTEERISM SURVEY FORM

Please fill out this form then mail to VIP Club MN - Survey, P. O. Box 21903 Eagan, MN 55121.

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) _____

Clip here - - - - - Clip here - - - - - Clip here - -

Were You There? The Club celebrated its 25th anniversary at the 2005 annual picnic. That July's newsletter had this collage by Nick Benson. The top left picture had then President Dale Phelps presiding, 2004-05, with former presidents ¹*John Dufour*, 2000-01; *Ray Miller*, 1984; *Warren Becker*, 1990-92; Barney Buss, 1997; and Hank Dotzler, 2000-02. In the picture below them are former presidents *Bernie Jansen*, 1998-99 & 2006 and *Chuck Homan*, 1995-96. To the right of the cake are former president Lowell Benson, 2011 and 2014-15; former board member *Quent Heckert*; and current board member Richard 'Dick' Lundgren. Byline *LABenson*.

VIP CLUB PICNIC HIGHLAND PARK 2005
Photographs by Nick Benson



At the bottom right is nonagenarian Don Weidenbach, our ERA legacy expert and 2017 *Volunteer Extraordinaire*.

¹ Italicized name indicates deceased person.

2020 Vip Holiday Party





P. O. Box 21903
Eagan, MN 55121

Established in 1980

VIP CLUB Newsletter

VIP Club MN P. O. 21903 Eagan, MN 55121
<http://www.vipclubmn.org/Newsletters.html>

Board of Directors - 2020

President Harvey Taipale	651-280-7332
Vice President Steve Koltes	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

Mary Beth Ruhland	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 Bornetun; 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 Paul Dickson, 651-482-9934