For anyone who would like to try a membership in the VIP Club, we are offering one year of FREE membership! Simply send in the registration form before the end of May 2021, and we will give you a membership through 2021. Fill out the membership form accessible here: membership_form and email to membership@vipclubmn.org or mail to VIP Club MN, P.O. Box 21903 Eagan, MN 55121.

MEMBERSHIP DUES TIME-OUT

In light of the realities impressed on all of us by COVID-19 over the past few months, and recognizing that these will continue for several more months, the VIP Club board has decided to temporarily change our policy regarding club membership dues. Basically, we are going to provide a year of FREE membership to everyone who registers for 2021.

For all current paid members, we will add a year to your current expiration date. So, if you just renewed for three years, say through 2024, we will add a year and you will be active through 2025. On the other hand, if your membership is expiring in 2020, you will automatically be extended through 2021. All memberships will be adjusted accordingly.

For anyone who would like to try a membership in the VIP Club, we are offering one year of FREE membership! Simply send in the registration form before the end of May 2021, and we will give you a membership through 2021. (See the membership form on the website or later in the newsletter, and ignore the request to send a check!)

The VIP Club has two categories of voluntary membership. Most are regular (voting) members. A few are “Associate” members – people wanting to participate who are not associated with a legacy company or not yet 55 years of age (a voting member requirement of our organizing documents). Our other categories are “Friend” (organizations like Dakota County Historical Society (DCHS) or Charles Babbage Institute), “Emeritus” (any member who has served the VIP Club in an exemplary fashion) and “Life” (members 90 years old or older). Emeritus, Friend and Life members receive free lifetime membership.

So, for everyone who has not yet joined, now is the time. If you know of other retirees or friends who are not members, let them know of this opportunity. For the cost of a postage stamp or by emailing the registration form to membership@vipclubmn.org, receive the newsletter, access our zoom account, and hopefully enjoy the camaraderie of get-togethers later next year.

2020 ACTIVITIES UPDATE

- Roseville Good Old Days RESCHEDULED to May 7th, 2021. Coordinator: paul.dickson@comcast.net.
- VIP Club 40th Anniversary Dinner Party POSTPONED until September 2021. Coordinators are VIP Club board members Keith Behnke and Harvey Taipale.
- Unihogs & Technologists Reunion planned for November 4th has been CANCELLED. Coordinators are Fred Vihovde and Lowell Benson.
- VIP Club 2020 Elections are POSTPONED until November 2021, with current board members agreeing to serve for another year. Contact VIP Club members Harvey Taipale or Lowell Benson with your questions.
- Old Timers’ Reunion scheduled for December 3rd has been CANCELLED. Coordinators are Paul Hove and Steve Koltes.
- Holiday Party regularly held in January has been CANCELLED.

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

THE VIP CLUB IS FOR RETIREES AND FORMER EMPLOYEES OF OUR GREAT HERITAGE COMPANIES
VIP Club November/December 2020 Newsletter

PERIODIC SOCIAL GROUPS
Attendees: UPDATES REQUESTED
Are you still meeting as noted on back page?
Please send current social group status and updated contact information to newsletter@vipclubmn.org

Letter from New Brighton Eagle's Club:
Regarding the quarterly 2nd Wednesday gathering at the New Brighton Eagle’s Club, the coordinator received the following message from the Eagle’s Club cook prior to the scheduled September breakfast:

"Hello Gentlemen: I hope this email finds everyone in your group healthy and safe. Last weekend I spoke with the Trustee of the Club and due the fact that neither the governor nor health department allows buffets we regretfully must cancel our September and December breakfasts at this time. We can discuss 2021 dates if you would like, but at this time we cannot accommodate your group. We are all up in the air as to what to do and are praying we get some type of normalcy by 2021. If you wish to pursue going to another place, we certainly understand.

We are going to miss you guys and wish all of you good health during these trying times. We want to thank you for your friendship and patronage these past years. If you wish to discuss this personally, please feel free to call me. Judy"

A Look Back at a Group at the Eagles Club in 2015

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
In spite of the fact that the world of seniors seems a little smaller these days, there are a couple of things that are actually happening with the VIP Club.

First, check out the FREE year of membership. The VIP Club is organized as an official 503(c) (7) organization, which is the non-profit designation for social, educational and senior organizations. Well, we are a senior organization, we try to have several social events, and occasionally have educational events, too. 2020 has not been too kind to any of those, so the board voted to take a time-out on collecting dues. So, if you know of someone who might like to check out the VIP Club for a year, let them know—all they have to do is register and they will be a member through 2021. For those of you who have already paid for 2021, fear not, we are extending the memberships of everyone by a year.

Second, members are finding ways to still stay in touch. Lots of folks use Zoom (the club has an account any of you can use) or Facetime. Many people seem to be managing their bubbles, keeping in personal contact with their close friends and family. And some retiree activities continue; Keith Behnke reports that the Golf League had a busy socially distanced season of matches and tournaments with no cases of COVID reported. The Electronics club meets monthly over Zoom, as do a bunch of lunch groups.

The VIP Club board continues to meet bimonthly via Zoom. With no immediate prospects of group gatherings, our agenda is getting shorter, but meetings are not. We are cautiously optimistic that a 2021 picnic will be the start of a resumption of our regular face-to-face activities.

Thanks to our now not-so-new editor, Mary Beth Ruhland, we keep producing a newsletter. If any of you want to see a topic covered, or (better) want to contribute an article, let us know. There are lots of stories out there worthy of sharing with fellow retirees.

Our website (vipclubmn.org) is updated every month. We are still hopeful that all of you will contribute your career summary or interesting recollection to add to the collection there. As our members age and our history evaporates, this is a great place for anyone to add to the permanent picture of the beginnings of the computer industry.

A loyal crew of retirees continues to sort and catalog material at the Dakota County Historical Society’s Lawshe Museum. Over the past eight (yes 8) years since Lockheed Martin closed in Minnesota, they have been sorting through the 18 pallets of historical material sent to DCHS. So far, over 6,500 documents have been cataloged, and over 20,000 photos have been scanned at DCHS. Also, over 20,000 negatives and thousands of documents were cataloged by volunteers and sent to the Charles Babbage Institute at the University of Minnesota prior to the beginning of the effort at DCHS.

Finally, the documentary “Solid State: Minnesota’s High-Tech History," which includes early Engineering Research Associates (ERA) history, continues to air occasionally on Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) and is available online. Check it out if you haven’t had the opportunity to see it. (solid state video)

So, the VIP Club keeps doing what it can under the limitations of our times, looking to when we can resume normal events. In the meantime, stay safe everybody!

Harvey Taipale. VIP Club President.
VIP Club News

The next Board Meetings is scheduled for December 2nd and is currently occurring virtually via Zoom among board members due to COVID-19. Meetings will resume at Unisys, Eagan TBD. Club members are invited to join if curious about how we handle club business. Contact the President the week before to gain access.

SOCIAL REPORTS & ARTICLES

2020 Golf League Summary

The Unified Legacy Golf League (ULGL), the combined Unisys and Lockheed Martin leagues, completed its 2020 season—without a banquet—in October. The COVID-19 virus risk, combined with a capacity restriction at the planned banquet venue that would prevent accommodating all that might want to attend, lead to postponing the event until 2021. A survey of league and tournament officials shows that the league members have had no COVID-19 infections so far this year. It appears golf is a safe activity with the course restrictions that are in place.

The ULGL welcomes participation beyond “employees and former employees only” to include family, friends and neighbors. The league has 253 members who played in 4 different leagues and 8 scheduled tournaments, 2 fewer than last year due to an April weather issue and a course cancellation; but again, we averaged over 100 golfers per tournament. ULGL Vice President, Bill Peck, will take over duties next year from this year’s President, Jeff Baron. New individual members or teams are invited to join for 2021, which will start with a tournament in late April and league play the first week of May. Please contact Keith Behnke at keithbhnk@comcast.net for more information.

https://ulglmn.org/umgl/

LEGACY TIDBITS

Legacy Initiatives’ History

The Legacy Committee began at the October 2005 VIP Club board meeting. Its immediate purpose was to document the company’s (ERA to Lockheed Martin) place in the Information Technology Age. Initially, Lockheed Martin provided space in Eagan for gathering artifacts and documents until the plant closed in 2012. In 2013, volunteers restarted cataloging artifacts and documents at the Lawshe Memorial Museum. Keith Myhre has nicely summarized eight years at the museum: http://vipclubmn.org/Articles/CatalogingStatus.pdf. This summary paper is #272 of the VIP Club’s Articles for the Month: http://vipclubmn.org/OurStories.html.

“It’s more a social activity than work”

When talking about his volunteer work on the cataloging artifacts project at the Lawshe Memorial Museum, Keith Myhre said, “it’s more a social activity than work.” The volunteer crew welcomes additional help and your social presence. With six workstations, there is socially distant space available, to meet current COVID guidelines, on the first and third Tuesdays (when the museum is closed to the public). Contact Keith Myhre, Les Nelson or Bob Pagac prior to your visit to ensure one of them will be at the museum to show you around both the workstation area and the larger artifact display area, and to see how and what the volunteers are cataloging. (See Lawshe Museum Support contact information on page 7.)

Other 2020 Articles for the Month:

- September – Assignment in Mississippi by Kevin Hoffman, a Lockheed Martin retiree, describing software support for DDG-993 class destroyers.
- August – ARTS II became part of our heritage when Burroughs bought Sperry to become UNISYS; an ARTS II display is on hand, soon to be part of our museum exhibit.
- July – Larry Bolton provided photos of people testing semiconductor components and scans of test logs saved by Don Johnson.
- May – Precision Agriculture Initiative article describing a defense conversion activity, by Steve Ernst.
- April – VIPS Adventure by Gish Devlaminck, who, while working as an engineer at a customer site, fixed a problem using an innovative twist to make it happen.
- March – Plated Wire Dialogue, covering correspondence among several retired engineers responding to an inquiry from a British Plessy engineer.
- February – The Starring the Computer website has information about over 400 computers that have appeared in movies and TV series. We’ve copied the links to our computer types that are posted there. Thanks to James Carter who did all the research to create this website of history.
- January – Sperry Utah is the site of Ed Bower’s introduction to the Univac computer family; find his St. Paul micro bio here: http://vipclubmn.org/People1.html#Bower.

40TH ANNIVERSARY ERA PLAQUE – WHERE DID IT GO?

Keith Myhre scanned several photos from an August 19, 1986 dedication event. That event was held adjacent to the 1902 Minnehaha buildings (old Plant 2). Unisys moved out of that building about May 1991 and
the Navy divested itself of the property thereafter. The plaque is not there now. Does anyone know when it disappeared?

We have contacted several people (http://vipclubmn.org/Temp/40-Yr%20Plaque.pdf), to no avail. If you, our readers, remember seeing the plaque, we would appreciate hearing from you. Thanks, la.gj.benson@comcast.net.

**UNIVAC I REMEMBERED**

One thing that went off as planned in 2020? The 2020 Census! Though it faced challenges like no other decennial census in living memory, including severe weather events and a global pandemic, 99.98% of all housing units and addresses nationwide were accounted for as of the end of data collection operations on Oct. 15, 2020. The census counts every person living in the United States and five U.S. territories. Getting a complete and accurate census count is critically important for determining boundaries for congressional, state legislative, and school districts; informing the allocation of hundreds of billions in federal funding for key public services; and providing data that affects communities and business decisions for the next decade.

Why is this of interest to the VIP Club? On June 14, 1951, Remington Rand delivered the world’s first commercially produced electronic digital computer, UNIVAC I, to the U.S. Census Bureau. UNIVAC, which stood for Universal Automatic Computer, was developed by J. Presper Eckert and John Mauchly (makers of ENIAC, which stood for Electronic Numerical Integrator and Calculator, the first general-purpose electronic digital computer). These giant computers, which used thousands of vacuum tubes for computation, were the forerunners of today’s digital computers.

UNIVAC I weighed 16,000 pounds, used 5,000 vacuum tubes, and could perform about 1,000 calculations per second. On November 4, 1952, the UNIVAC achieved national fame when it correctly predicted Dwight D. Eisenhower’s unexpected landslide victory in the presidential election after only a tiny percentage of the votes were in.

UNIVAC and other first-generation computers were replaced by transistor computers of the late 1950s, integrated-circuit machines of the mid-1960s and 1970s, personal computers of the 1980s and laptops and handheld computers of the 1990s and beyond.

UNIVAC information for this article is from History.com and A&E Television Networks at: https://www.history.com/his-day-in-history/univac-computer-dedicated
For more information, go to: http://vipclubmn.org/BlueBell.html#HowFar

**YOUR STORY**

Earlier this year, Dick Lundgren asked former coworkers to describe the impact of the pandemic on their lives abroad. Pierre Iskos emigrated from Greece, got his electrical engineering degree from the University of Illinois and became a U.S. citizen. He was a 31-year Sperry UNIVAC/Unisys employee from 1965-1996, serving as an Apollo program field service engineer and supervisor, a German Navy field service engineer, and an in-country marketing rep for Greece and southern Europe, before returning to St. Paul in 1994. Dieter Hoffman worked for our Sperry UNIVAC Military Systems Division (MSD) in Germany. The following excerpts, with slight editing, are from the letters Dick received in late June.

From Pierre Iskos in Greece:

Dick,

I follow events in the States and it saddens me to see so many people to lose their life in our great country [i.e., the U.S.] because the people in the various government positions did not take and still not taking proper actions.

Here in Greece the government took action late February and by mid-March everything was closed down: schools, business, all public gathering, travel, meeting of more than two persons, Churches were closed down. Easter, which is one of the most revered and celebrated holidays in Greece, was not allowed. This last was the only restriction which was met (with) some public silent protest.

We were not allowed out of our house except for essentials and with a piece of paper with our name, address and time of departure and time of return. Any move out of the rules had a fine of 50 to 300 Euros. Free movements were allowed after mid-May for limited areas only. By mid-June some businesses were opened but with very strict regulation, like masks and distancing of 4-5 feet between people in bars, restaurants, churches and supermarkets. The amazing thing is that almost 100% of people obeyed. . . .
The results were fantastic compared with others. Greece has registered about 4000 verified cases and 193 dead. However, now I am afraid that Greece must open its borders since its economy depends 20% on tourism. At present air travel is limited to few countries. . . .

Thank you for the opportunity to get in touch with the group.
Best regards to everybody, Pierre Iskos

From Dieter Hoffman in Germany:

Hello Dick, or as we say “MOIN,” Greetings from formerly known as “Good Old” Germany.

Just six months ago everything seemed to be normal; we—as many of Europeans—planned to take vacation in Denmark, seemed to be easy. No border between the two countries. . .

Early February the news informed about some kind of disease, similar to ordinary winter flu, detected in Bavaria, a coworker on visit from China was the index patient. Bavarian Alps and Winter, that's far away. But, in March we learned that this pandemic disease is pretty dangerous, especially for elderly people over 60+, oops that's us! We learned to listen to advice from virus experts and, more important, our politicians followed their recommendations. First, to use face mask in the public, second, to keep a distance of at least 1.5 meters to other persons, etc., and so on. Finally, the lockdown was officially set into place for all of us. Families were separated, no visiting between Grands and Kids, Kindergarten and schools were closed and home schooling introduced. Many companies opened home office, shopping only grocery stuff available, restaurants, theatres, etc.—nothing was going on as before, no sport including golf, just down for weeks. For the past four weeks the restrictions are changed from “no way” to “limited”. . .

Soccer being our main sport, actually for most countries in Europe, was locked-down for 65 days, and restarted on May 16, but without any fans in any stadium. Only pay-TV will cover the matches directly, public TV will provide part-time coverage later the day. The Bundesliga in Germany was the first major league to restart. Grocery shopping is becoming easier now, still face mask and distance is demanded. Need a haircut, pre-reservation is required, must leave your name & address, and face mask on during most of the time. Restaurants are opening now, but reservation required and distance between tables; if walking in and out or need to visit the powder room, wear your face mask. Sounds like fun, yes? Groups of people are not allowed, so many people have postponed their marriage, at least the party afterwards. Same for churches, number of people is limited (distance) and singing, refrain from doing so. Reason: some churches did not follow the limitation and rules, thus became new hot spots with dozens of newly infected people.

We are still trying to keep the reproduction rate <1, and keep the number of dead as little as possible, actually our COVID-19 dead rate is 10.8/100,000 people, or 9.025 overall as of today. Medical appointments had to be kept low, if possible and surgeries, etc. were delayed, if not immediately required. . . .And, you were locked out from visiting your relatives who were living in shelter homes or staying in hospitals.

For some weeks, travelling between some states within Germany was not possible, the islands in the North Sea were locked down, no ferry (or air) transportation, even the railroad dam connecting the island of Sylt was not open for public. No visitors; no business; many workers, especially in the hotel or restaurant business, were on part-time work or laid off.

It is now possible, after many weeks, to see your friends again; no partying, just get together on distance, no hand-shaking, no hugging, no chin kissing, etc.—it is not hyugelige at all. But we can talk now directly, again. And vacationing is starting slowly again. Some countries have opened their borders now, and travelling by air (with face mask on) is restarting. Spain has opened travelling to island of Mallorca for a small number of Germans, mainly just to test if this is to be possible after all. . .

Most interesting is that this pandemic situation found (almost) all political parties pulling in same direction, even though we do not have one president in charge (like in other countries) . . .

For now, stay healthy.
Best Regs

YOUR STORY LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Newsletter staff,

The story about Project Corona in the most recent issue I found very interesting and hit close to home.

After I graduated from Creighton U. in 1964 I took a job as a Cartographer with the US Air Force at the Aeronautical Chart and Information Center in St Louis, Mo. I spent many a day looking at the film mentioned in the Corona story. As was said it was very highly classified so it was many years before I could talk about it. The resolution on the film taken from space was fantastic. While I never saw one, they said you could pick out a golf ball on a green on a good day.

Thanks for the story. I'm sure many people never realized what we were capable of doing back in the early 60s.

Sincerely, John Byrne

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VIP Club MN – P. O. Box 21903 Eagan, MN 55121

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Keith James Dinneen – Age 87, passed away on September 13, in Golden Valley. Keith, a Navy veteran, spent his entire career at Univac, now Unisys, and lived for many years in Frankfurt, Germany. After retirement, Keith lived on Big Butternut Lake in Luck, WI, but maintained his allegiance to the Minnesota Vikings. He was proud of his Irish heritage, enjoyed watching NCIS reruns and loved eating popcorn and Oreo Fudge Covered cookies. Keith was preceded in death by two siblings, a son, and former wife, Mary Dinneen. He is survived by three children, three grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, a sister and many nieces and nephews.

Thomas "Tom" Matthew Finch – Age 82, of Eden Prairie, passed away on September 25. Tom, a Lockheed Martin retiree who worked in Contracts and was a VIP Club member, was a loving and devoted husband, father, and grandfather who will be greatly missed. He was preceded in death by his wife, Joan Gotzian Finch.

Robert C. Green – Age 90, passed away on October 6, after a courageous battle with lymphoma. Robert graduated from Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA, with BS degrees in Physics and Math. Both he and his wife were employed as instructors at Keesler Air Force Base in MS before moving to MN in 1955. The only thing they knew about MN was Hubert Humphrey and his famous civil rights speech at the 1948 Democratic Convention. They first moved to the Rondo neighborhood in St. Paul, then were some of the first African Americans to move to Maplewood where they raised three children and lived for over 60 years. Robert worked at Sperry Univac/Unisys for over 34 years where he was instrumental in the development and implementation of highly advanced computer systems utilized by NASA and the Department of Defense; he is a former VIP Club member. Teaching was always Robert's first love and he led and taught an evening electronics program at St. Paul Technical Vocational Institute for several years. He enjoyed fishing at his cabin in Spooner, WI. He was also known for his culinary skills, especially ribs and gumbo. For more than 50 years Robert was a member of Pilgrim Baptist Church; he had an incredible zest for life and love for his family and community where his mischievous smile and playful spirit will be missed. Robert is survived by his wife of 70 years, Roslyn Grier, a brother, 3 children, 7 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Richard Arthur “Dick” Jensen – Age 84, passed away on October 14. Dick married Linda Kienitz in 1956 and they went on to raise their four children on their farm by Big Marine Lake in MN. Dick worked many years for Unisys, raising bees and dogs, square dancing, canoeing and camping. He was in the U.S. Air Navy Reserves and obtained his pilot's license after he retired. Dick is preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Linda; he is survived by four children, five grandchildren, five siblings, as well as many other family members and friends.

Lawrence Peter "Larry" Krank – Age 88 of Oakdale, passed away peacefully on September 5 with his beloved wife by his side. Larry, one of 17 children, was a Korean War Veteran. He worked at Armour and Company in South St. Paul and later at Unisys in Eagan. Larry is preceded in death by a granddaughter. He is survived by his wife, Carol, six children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and two siblings.

David Elliot Lundstrom – Age 91, passed away on September 11 in Bloomington. David graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in electrical engineering. He served in the U.S. Navy sailing around the world on the USS Stribling. He joined the engineering department at Sperry Rand where he spent 30 years and wrote a book about his experience in the early days of computers: “A Few Good Men from Univac.” David enjoyed traveling, skiing and sailing. He is survived by cousins and dear friends.

Corwin Sidney "Corky" Peterson – Age 90 of Minneapolis, died peacefully at home on August 25. After serving in the Navy during the Korean War, Corky graduated from Drake University, then went to work for Remington Rand Univac as the rising field of computers beckoned. Corky went on to become the Hennepin County Director of Data Processing, and later began to acquire commercial real estate, enjoying the independence that managing property provided. He remained active in real estate until his death. Corky
satisfied his adventurous spirit via pontoon boat daytrips on Lake Minnetonka and week-long sailboat jaunts on Lake Superior. He loved dogsledding both in the Minnesota Boundary Waters and the Canadian High Arctic. He made two trips to Greenland where he sledged with descendants both of Admiral Peary and his partner Matthew Henson, one of Corky's personal heroes. Corky touched foot both on Antarctica and the Artic, traveling to Antarctica in 1997 via a Russian Trawler and then in 1999, at 70 years of age, cross-country skiing to the North Pole. He and his wife, Doris, traveled extensively within the United States, Mexico, Europe and the Far East. Travel highlights included reconnecting with family in Norway and Sweden, getting lost in Moscow, and chasing and tackling a pickpocket in Chile. Golf was a passion, and memories of late winter junkets with friends generated many stories. Corky is survived by Doris, his wife of 64 years, two children, a grandson, many nieces and nephews, and a large group of friends.

John Schatschneider – Age 75 of Minneapolis, passed away on October 13, after a hard-fought battle with esophageal cancer. John was an Air Force veteran who served in Vietnam, and worked as an electrical engineer at Unisys his entire career. He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed spending time at the family farm, hunting and fishing. He enjoyed observing wildlife, helping others, Wednesday lunches with his buddies from the VFW and spending time with his children. John's gracious heart was second only to his jovial nature, contagious smile and infectious laughter. Surviving John are his children and their mother, his siblings, and many grandpets whom he loved dearly.
PERIODIC SOCIAL GROUPS

Attendees: Are you still meeting as noted here? Please email newsletter@vipclubmn.org with current status and updated contact information. Thank you!

Monthly Breakfast Gathering
• **1st Thursday** at 8 a.m. – Capitol View Cafe, 637 Smith Ave., St. Paul

Monthly Lunch Gatherings

1st Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. – Temporarily Suspended

• 2nd Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. – 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 a.m. – Baker's Square, Northtown, 221 Co. Rd. 10 NE, Blaine, MN

• 2nd Saturday of odd-numbered months at 11 a.m. – Baker’s Square, 1881 West Hwy 36, Roseville. Coordinator Urho Rahkola: 651-429-3319.

Quarterly Breakfast Gathering

• 2nd Wednesday at 9 a.m. in Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. – Eagles Club, 563 Old Hwy 8 in New Brighton. Coordinator Paul Dickson: 651-482-9934. Temporarily Suspended