

President's Message

For five and a half years I have been privileged to serve as president of the UBBRG.

Since the passing of Joe Campbell, Jerry Feldscher, Mary Pacifico, and John O'Brien, the executive board has been functioning without a Vice President or Travel Chair. These officers were a stabilizing force which has been sorely missed. For the future of UBBRG, this is a matter of great concern.

The Blue Bell Retirees' formed in 1988 originally as a social group. It soon took on the matter to settle a dispute over medical coverage for Unisys retirees'. With this incentive, membership grew to approximately 1800 members which resulted in substantial turnout for the meetings. The dispute has long been resolved and interest in the group has waned.

Membership currently is at 637. This is because, "long time faithful members", whose numbers are declining, have continued to renew their membership. The marked reduction in Blue Bell retirees' and the lack of interest has greatly impacted the recruiting for new members. Although these numbers are impressive, the executive board has not been able to find anyone willing to become a member. To replace any of the executive chairs requires significant time and effort. This involves learning programs to: publish NEWSBITS, record membership details, keep the Website up to date, and manage the Treasury.

The executive board has not been able to overcome the afore-mentioned problems and met in January to discuss these issues. The following, while not easy to make, are steps the board has voted to take:

- UBBRG to be dissolved by December 31, 2016
- Discontinue general meetings at Plymouth Mall
- NEWSBITS and the ubbrg.org Website will remain active through 2016.

The executive board will remain active and will meet at regular intervals through-out 2016. Communication to the membership will continue through NEWSBITS and the ubbrg.org Website.

If you would like to send comments, questions or suggestions to the executive board, they will be published in the June edition of NEWSBITS. I will attempt to answer your queries as best I can. Please provide your name, phone number and comments and send to Jack Staub.

For email:

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Or for USA mail:

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Joe LaViola - President