

VIP Club Newsletter

VOLUME 26, NO. 03 www.geocities.com/vipclub2003 MARCH 2006

The Number to call for information on Unisys Retirement Status and Benefits: 1-877-864-7972.

The Number to call for information on Lockheed Martin Retirement Status and Benefits: 1--866-562-2363.

Wednesday, March 01	Board Meeting, Roseville	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, March 08	Roseville, Program & Social Time	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 05	Board Meeting, Eagan	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, April 12	Eagan, Program & social Time	7:00 p.m.

MARCH PROGRAM: ROSEVILLE

Our guest speaker is Joel D. Long. Joel will assess the book *STOLEN VALOR* written by B.G. Burkett and Glenna Whitley. The issue is historical accuracy vs. historical distortion. Some of the items to be discussed are:

- Who is the real Viet Nam Vet?
 - What is the myth of Agent Orange?
 - Is the most decorated member of the Delaware Air National Guard a true hero?
 - What about the role of women in Viet Nam?
 - What is the true story of the CBS special, "The Wall Within"?
 - What about Governor Rudy Perpich honoring the Veterans at a Twins Game in 1987?
- What is the true story on who served with regard to race, religion, education, social status, etc.?

APRIL PROGRAM: EAGAN

Our speaker for April is Peter J. Olin, Director of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chaska, MN. Dr. Olin will give a PowerPoint presentation about the Arboretum and will show slides of "Spring at the Arboretum". The University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum is one of Minnesota's treasures with an abundance of innovative landscaping ideas and marvelous presentations of Minnesota-hardy plant varieties (both traditional and experimental). Under Dr. Olin's guidance, the Arboretum has grown significantly in acreage (now 1047 acres), visitors (271,000), and members (19,000), and in the number and types of gardens and activities presented. It has

become one of the major public gardens of the Midwest, with strong educational programs, model gardens, and the Horticultural Research Center. Some highlights of Dr. Olin's tenure include the construction of the new Children's Learning Center Addition, the Horticulture Therapy Lab, the addition to Andersen Horticultural Library, as well as the creation of the Spring Peeper Meadow, a frequently cited wetland restoration, model parking lot and roadside planting, and currently under construction, a model parking lot rain garden and a runoff model. Additionally, there are family programs, new adult education opportunities, an urban youth program, native landscape restoration, and international programs with Russian and Estonian gardens.

In addition to his duties as Director, Olin is an adjunct professor in landscape architecture (having also been department chair), as well as full professor in the Department of Horticultural Science. He is a frequent speaker on issues in landscape architecture, arboretum management, and fund-raising, in addition to consulting for arboreta around the country. In 1993, the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) named Olin a Fellow. He is also a former president of the Minnesota Chapter of the ASLA and past president of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA).

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

Please send permanent address changes to Dick Mullins addressed to the VIP Club at the address given on the label page of the Newsletter. Also, please remember that for temporary changes the U.S. Postal Service will forward your mail.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From: Bernie Jansen

Our 8 February program featured a slide presentation by Lyall Schwarzkopf on the damming of the Yangtze River. Lyall is well traveled and has been a frequent visitor to China so his narration was particularly broad and well informed. When Lyall asked how many in the audience had visited the Three Gorges area, approximately one-fourth of the 46 present raised their hands. More telling of his show was the flat palette presented by the slides; no shadows or hint of a sun in the sky apparent - air pollution in areas with population or industry keep all in constant haze. (As an aside, remember the great slide quality of the presentations of our own master photographer and world-traveler Jack Farber.)

We also conducted an informal poll to test interest in the Mermaid Club in Mounds View as an alternative to the NCO Club as our Christmas Dinner-Dance site. At the January meeting in Roseville, the audience split 17-17 in a show of hands. At the Eagan meeting, the hands were 17 for staying at the NCO Club vs. 3 for changing to the Mermaid.

Your February newsletter announced that Unisys would again host the Volunteer Recognition Breakfast on Wednesday, April 19. Volunteers, please complete and return the survey form and be recognized for your charitable and civic efforts. All who submit the survey form by April 8 are invited to the breakfast. Mary Hall will provide vocal entertainment with guitar accompaniment.

Last, Dick (Ole) Olson of LM spoke of the LM Legacy Initiative, brought copies of computer genealogies and histories, and requested interested retirees to sign-up for his emails and to help with the task. Dick Lundgren then spoke of the visit to the Charles Babbage Institute by Bernie, Dick, Lowell Benson, and John Skonnord (LM) in January. Copies of his report were available and we will hopefully have a net link for the Legacy Initiative soon. Respectfully, Brian Berggren, VIP Club Vice-president

My wife doesn't understand me, but there's always that nagging worry that someday she might

From the Editors



Brian Berggren (651-451-9009) &
Joe Schwarz (651-698-9698)

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DINING CLUBS & GROUPS

Breakfast groups and get-togethers:

One breakfast group meets monthly at 9:00 a.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Tri-City American Legion, Old Hwy 8, New Brighton. Phone: **763-416-3903**.

Another breakfast group meets monthly at 8:00 a.m. on the 1st Thursday of each month at Joseph's Grill, 140 South Wabasha, (Wabasha and Plato) St. Paul. Phone: **651-222-2435**.

Luncheon Groups & Dinner Clubs:

One Unisys Luncheon group meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. at the Old Country Buffet, Holly Shopping Center, located at University Ave. and Mississippi St. just north of I-694. For information call **651-552-1465**.

Another Luncheon group (engineering/drafting) meets monthly on the 1st Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. at the Old Country Buffet at 2000 S. Robert, West St. Paul. For information call **651-456-0750**.

And another Luncheon group (Unisys and Burroughs) meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. at the Mall of America 3rd floor North Food Court. We sit at the tables between the elevator and Burger King. For information call **952-854-7855**.

Dinner Club. A Unisys Dinner Club meets monthly on the 4th Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. at Champs located at 35E and Larpenteur Avenue. For information call **763-786-1044**.

MEETING & EVENT DATES 2006

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Jan. 11	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Feb. 08	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
Mar. 08	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Apr 12	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
May. 10	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
June 14	4:00 p.m.	Park	VIP Club Picnic

July 12 7:00 p.m. Eagan Program - Social Time
 Aug 9 7:00 p.m. Rsvl Program - Social Time
 Sept 13 7:00 p.m. Eagan Program - Social Time
 Oct 11 6:00 p.m. Rsvl Pot Luck Program
 Nov. 08 7:00 p.m. Eagan Program - Social time
 Dec. 14 5:45 p.m. USAF Christmas Party

**Note: Rsvl = Roseville, Eagan = Eagan
 Community Center, Park = Highland Park
 Pavilion, USAF = NCO Club at U.S. Air Force
 Base off Hwy 62**

WELCOME NEW CLUB MEMBERS

Corson William, & Carolyn U Burnsville, MN.
McCarthy, Gene LM Apple Valley, MN.
Lindquist, Tom & Mary LM Savage, MN.
Webster, Eugene & Mary LM River Falls, WI.

U = Unisys B = Burroughs LM = Lockheed
 Martin D = Unisys Defense Systems

IN REMEMBRANCE

Bleifuss, David F. - Age 85. of Center City, MN.
 He is survived by wife, Lenore. David came to the
 Lindstrom area in 1946 and farmed near Sunrise
 Lake for 15 years and then was employed by Univac
 in Roseville for 25 years.



Cramer, Marie G. - Age 80 of
 St. Paul MN. Passed away on
 January 28, 2006. Preceded in
 death by her husband, Louis.
 Marie was a long time Arthritis
 Foundation Volunteer and long
 time member of the VIP Club.

Grothe, Roger - Age 61 of Apple Valley, MN.
 Passed away on 1-26-06 at home surrounded by his
 family. Roger is survived by his loving wife of 40
 years, Dorsey. Roger was a Unisys retiree.



Pawlicki, Donald J. of St. Paul
 MN. Passed away peacefully
 surrounded by family on January
 27, 2006. Don was a retired
 mechanical engineer from
 Unisys. He was also a champion
 trap shooter who also enjoyed

biking, bowling and hiking. Don was a long time
 member of the VIP Club.

ANOUNCMENTS

BLOODMOBILE INFORMATION

Bloodmobile Information from Marion Scott:
 Thanks to all the volunteers who helped at the
 following blood drives:

The January 4th drive at the Unisys MACS collected
 30 units. Volunteering were Donna Sylvester,
 Nancy Gountanis, Geri and Hank Dotzler, Millie
 Gignac, Dale Kenyon, and Jo Teare.

The January 25th blood drive at Lockheed Martin
 collected 56 units. Volunteering were Dale Phelps,
 Ruth Sanford, Marion Scott, Gene Achterberg,
 Kathie Jensen, and Jim Drabek.

HEALTH ISSUES

Medicare Part D

The conservative press has been as rough on Part D
 as mainstream and liberal writers. Robert Novak
 called Part D "horrendous" and Mona Charon said it
 was "execrable." Even the Pioneer Press editorial on
 8 February suggested that Congress counter Pres.
 Bush's \$36 billion in Medicare cuts over the next
 five years by "fixing the already broken...drug
 benefit."

Four of us from the Senior Federation spent an hour
 and a half at Rep. Jim Ramstad's Minnetonka office
 with his legislative director and counsel talking to
 her about Medicare and drug issues and suggesting
 ways for the government to both save money and
 improve the program for seniors. Nothing on
 geographic inequity, nothing on government-
 negotiated drug prices, nothing on drug importation,
 nothing about giving doctors even a one percent
 increase for seeing Medicare patients, and nothing
 about using the \$10 billion marked for the for-profit
 insurance companies to encourage "competition."
 The only concession she offered hope for was a
 change in the 15 May deadline for Part D sign-up
 without penalty, but only if it was budget neutral
 (didn't cost anything).

The Pioneer Press printed an article about the Part D
 windfall to drug companies (5 February, Tony
 Pugh). Your drug benefit "will give the drug
 companies up to \$2 billion this year because they're
 no longer required to pay rebates on drugs bought by
 the government for the elderly poor." These are the
 dual eligible's, those who because of income or
 disability qualified for both Medicaid and Medicare
 help. What is not mentioned, and what will give the
 companies even more profit, is the elimination of
 drug discount programs that many with incomes that
 disqualified them from Medicaid help used to
 manage their drug costs. U of M Prof.
 Schondelmeyer estimates the profit will be closer to
 \$40 billion over 10 years.

CMS Commissioner Dr. Mark McClellan said the
 drug plans are already "covering people at a cost
 average of 15 percent less than expected." He also
 said, "the drug plans are negotiating aggressive
 discounts that are being passed down to beneficiaries

and taxpayers.” Ron Pollack of FamiliesUSA and Mary Grealy of the Health Leadership Council (a group of health industry chiefs) squared off on Part D. Grealy agrees with McClellan and says although the program is still solving some startup problems, it is already saving seniors money. Pollack responded that costs are lower outside the Part D plans and that the drug prices the VA negotiated are 48% of the Part D price averages. Also remember that Canadian prices are generally even less, and that EU prices are lower still.) Submitted by Brian Berggren.

State of the Union (SOTU)

The SOTU addressed health care in terms of Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) and medical liability reform, while Medicare and Medicaid were spoken of as unsustainable entitlements. (The President's budget proposal shows \$36 billion in Medicare cuts over 5 years and \$12 billion over 10 years for Medicaid.)

Back to HSAs. A little bit of information on HSAs and high-deductible health plans (HDHPs) comes to us courtesy of Matthew Holt. He tells us HSAs were “promoted by doctors to get out of giving discounts to managed care plans. The thought was charge higher fees and get paid in cash. Unfortunately, the docs ended up largely charging the insurer's negotiated fees and then had to get payment out of their patients themselves.

A second point is that although HSAs are intended to make those with higher medical bills more aware of costs to reduce the care they use, the 80/20 rule of insurance means the risk pool cannot survive if money is paid out to the healthy. The pool money is needed by the few sick people. Holt's last observation is that these high-deductible plans “do nothing to help the underlying increase in medical costs because most of the expensive stuff in health care happens to people well beyond their deductible.”

U of M Prof. Susan Bartlett Foote said on Kerri Millers' radio program that the HSAs high-deductible plan for moderate or lower incomes (under \$30K) would be mostly useless. A \$5,000 deductible plan would require someone with little assets or savings to pay for the first part of care, something very unlikely to occur. How the tax sheltering HSAs got in the 2003 Medicare Modernization Act is the bigger question. Submitted by Brian Berggren.

LEGACY NEWS UPDATE

Lockheed Martin has initiated a project to document the historical legacy of LM Tactical Systems (Eagan) from 1946 until 1996. This project is now

gaining steam. It is an opportunity to document the significant events, programs, technical innovations, customer relationships, etc. of the past decades for perusal by past, current and future employees.

The VIP Club is investigating the archival resources of the Charles Babbage Institute (CBI) at the University of Minnesota. CBI (<http://www.cbi.umn.edu/>) is the repository for archival material in all forms related to the history of information technology. We have also begun to identify artifacts/documents held by former/current employees who are willing to participate in this project. Following is a list of the types of items that we are seeking. Please identify useful items in an email to Dick (Ole) Olson at r.d.olson@lmco.com, or Dick Lundgren at rflundgr@aol.com.

Pictorial Collections - Any photos, pictures, slides, etc. that were not prepared by the Eagan Publications Department.

Publications - Any publication that shows our superior capabilities. This category includes writings by third parties appearing as articles in newspapers, magazines, and professional publications as well white papers and books. The best book we have encountered is *When Computers Went to Sea* by David Boslaugh. This book fairly and accurately traces the history of the development of early digital computers to solve the problems encountered in WWII during air attacks on allied ships.

Artifacts - We have identified several great artifacts so far including models of early computers, models of ships/planes that carry our computers, and several computer components/chassis. Progress on the legacy project will be reported periodically in this section of the newsletter. Submitted by Richard Lundgren.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

A man appears before St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. "Have you ever done anything of particular merit?" St. Peter asks. "Well, I can think of one thing," the man offers. "Once, on a trip to the Black Hills, out in South Dakota, I came upon a gang of high-testosterone bikers who were threatening a young woman. I directed them to leave her alone, but they wouldn't listen. So I approached the largest and most heavily tattooed biker. I smacked him on the head, kicked his bike over, ripped out his nose ring and threw it on the ground, and told him, 'Leave her alone now or you'll answer to me.'" St. Peter was impressed. "When did this happen?" "Just a couple minutes ago."

VIP Volunteer Services Areas with Samples of Organizations in each Category

<p>Code Service Area</p> <p>1 Community and Related Services AARP Volunteers Civic/Government/County Support Services Senior Centers Community Services DARTS Scouts Minnesota Senior Federation/VISTA United Way</p> <p>2 Health and Disaster Services American Cancer Society Arthritis Foundation Red Cross & Bloodmobile Services Courage Center Signet Health & Rehab. Center</p> <p>3 Meals, Food and Housing Services Meals on Wheels Loaves and Fishes Sharing and Caring Hands Dorothy Day Center Food Services / Senior Dining Habitat for Humanity</p>	<p>Code Service Area</p> <p>4 Music and Theatrical Services Guthrie Theater Northern Lights Variety Band North Suburban Chorus</p> <p>5 Schools and Educational Services Volunteer Services in Schools Historical Societies Wright Brothers Natl Memorial</p> <p>6 Religious and Related Services Church Missions and Camps Related Charities Lutheran Missions Presbyterian Homes Basilica of St. Mary</p> <p>7 Other Services Animal Humane Society Law Enforcement Services Juvenile Court Guardian Small Business Consulting Veterans & Armed Forces Support VIP Club Mutual Interest Associations</p>
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On your Volunteer Hours Survey Form select one of the above codes that best represents each Organization Served.

VIP Club Volunteer Hours Survey Form For Year 2005		
Member/Spouse Names _____ Your City _____ State _____		
Service Area Code (1-7) See Listing Above	Organization for which volunteer Services was performed	Member and Spouse Total Hours per line
<p>Cut out and Mail this form to: Bernie Jansen 848 Ivy Lane Eagan, MN 55123-2425</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total Hours _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***** Survey results will be published in the VIP Club Newsletter. The VIP Recognition Breakfast will be at 8:30a.m. on April 19th at Unisys, Roseville. Your Volunteer Survey Form must be received by April 8th for you to be listed in the Breakfast Program. Please indicate how many will attend the volunteer breakfast. Enter 0, 1 or 2: ____.</p>		

**VIP CLUB – MS 4003
P.O. BOX 64942
ST PAUL MN 55164**

VIP CLUB OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS FOR THE YEAR 2006

* = A/C 651, + = A/C 612, @ = A/C 763, # = A/C 952

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
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Vice Pres.....Brian Berggren *451-9009
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Marion Scott.....*455-7952

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Membership Dick Mullins *552-8837
Programs - Eagan and Roseville
Dale Phelps #831-7843
Newsletter Editors Brian Berggren *451-9009
& Joe Schwarz *698-9698

WEBMASTER Joe Schwarz *698-9698
email address: vipclub2003@yahoo.com

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Christmas..... Dorothy Becker #881-3516
Picnic..... Chuck Homan *699-5180

Metro Sr. Fed.....Brian Berggren *451-9009
John Dufour *639-8289
Jim Larson *698-3963

Sunshine.....Lynn Farris Lindholm *484-1030

Travel Opportunities
Roger Gillette +926-7214
& Yvonne Cecchini at *423-9196

UNISYS Liaison, Roseville Judy Cognetta *635-6563
Printing & Mailing UNISYS Print Shop, Roseville

Lockheed Martin, Eagan Liaison Sheri Grone *456-2210

Directions to Eagan Community Center. Take Hwy 35E south or north to Pilot Knob Road. Turn left (north) on Pilot Knob Road. Turn left on Central Parkway (which is also the North entrance to Lockheed). The Eagan Community Center is at 1501 Central Parkway.

Directions to Unisys in Roseville. Take Hwy 35W south, or north, to the Industrial Way / St. Anthony Blvd off ramp. If coming north or south on Hwy 35E go west on Hwy 36 which will take you to the Industrial Way / St. Anthony Blvd. off ramp of 35W (Hwy 36 becomes Hwy 35W where it joins Hwy 35W). Go north on St. Anthony Blvd. to Walnut St. (the first street on the right). Turn right and go to Highcrest Road. It is the first place where you can turn left. Past the stop sign, Bldg 3 is on the right. Gate 5 is in the center of the building.

From Hwy 280 northbound, use left lane exit just past Cty Rd B for Terminal road access (St Croix St.). Turn left at Terminal Rd, then turn right at Highcrest Rd to building entrance.