

# VIP Club Newsletter

**VOLUME 29, NO. 5**      <http://www.vipclubmn.org>      **MAY 2009**

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, May 06	Board Meeting, Eagan	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, May 13	Eagan, Program & Social Time	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, June 03	Board Meeting, Roseville	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, June 10	Picnic at Highland Park	4:00 p.m.

## **MAY PROGRAM: EAGAN**

**FOOD!** We can all relate to that subject, but April's program isn't a pitch for the best restaurants in different categories. You can find that almost anywhere. The program is about the food industry and the history that got it to where it is today and where it might be headed in the future. The grocery business isn't just mom and pop stores, wholesaling and retailing. It's a far reaching network of growers, suppliers, transporters, warehouses, and more. And who better to give us the historical perspective than Mike Schwartz who started at age 16 by cleaning the Bakery at Lueken's Village Foods in Bemidji and today is Store Manager for the Byerly's store in Eagan. His experience has taught him the most important principles of the grocery business, which he'll share with us in this program.

Mike Schwartz started at the bottom in Bemidji in 1993 and ended up today in a top position at a prestigious grocery store in Eagan, MN. As with many careers, there were several yoyos in between with regard to position, both organizationally and geographically. At Lueken's Mike learned the importance of delivering strong customer service and selling quality products to customers. On top of these basics he learned to value strong ethics and public involvement that made the business a significant contributor to the betterment of the local community. At Lunds and Byerlys (Lunds acquired Byerly's in 1997) Mike "fell in love with the organization for its incredibly knowledgeable and professional staff, putting forth the highest quality products and service in the entire industry." And

recently the issue of food safety and security has been added to Mike's concerns. Join us for an insider's perspective on this industry that we depend on and typically take for granted on a weekly basis.

## **JUNE PICNIC: HIGHLAND PARK**

**COME OUT AND CELEBRATE!** The VIP Club Annual Picnic will be held at 4:00 p.m. on June 10th. This event enjoys the largest attendance of any Club event each year. It will be held at the Pavilion at Highland Park in St. Paul. The Club will supply hamburgers, buns, condiments, coffee, and soft drinks. All attendees are requested to bring food items for the potluck portion of the picnic - suggestions of what to bring are based on the first letter of your last name: **A – E** Appetizers, **F – K** Salads, **L – O** Desserts, and **P – Z** Hot Dishes. Please include a serving utensil for your dish and mark it with your name.



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**From: Tom Turba**

April is a time of year when we feel spring in the air, enjoy the longer hours of sunlight and see the re-growth

of flowers and grass. It's also a time when we recognize the retirees in the VIP Club who have done volunteer service in their communities. This year we had an increase of 12% in the numbers of hours reported and an increase of 20% in the number of people reporting their volunteer work. It's good to see this increase and to realize that more people are giving their time and effort to helping others in their communities. Doing volunteer work can be a very rewarding experience because you can directly see the results of your efforts and develop personal contacts with the people who's lives you are affecting. I am sure there are many hours and the work of many people that did not get reported. The important thing, however, is that people are getting out and helping others. Thanks to all of you that have given of yourself to help others. Keep up the good work!

Respectfully, Tom Turba, VIP Club President.

### ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

Please send permanent address changes to Quintin Heckert 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.

### From the Editors



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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, from September through April, on the 4th Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. at Champs located at 35E and Larpenteur Avenue.

### MEETING & EVENT DATES 2009

Date	Time	Location	Activity
May. 13	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
<b>June 10</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Park</b>	<b>VIP Club Picnic</b>
July 08			<b>No Meeting</b>
Aug. 12	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Sept. 09	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
<b>Oct. 14</b>	<b>11.30 a.m.</b>	<b>Rsvl</b>	<b>Pot Luck Program</b>
Nov. 11	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
<b>Dec. 10</b>	<b>5:45 p.m.</b>	<b>USAF</b>	<b>Christmas Party</b>

**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

Anderson, Charles & Terri U Roseville, MN.  
Rogers, Dan & Sue LM Lakeland, MN.  
Pressler, Tom & Sharon U Bloomington, MN.

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

### IN REMEMBRANCE



Appleton, Thomas R. - Age 75, of Afton, MN. Passed away on March 19, 2009. Survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Marcia (nee Weyandt). Tom was a long-time employee of Sperry-Univac.



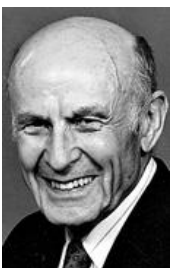
Nelson, Bobbie P. - Age 74, of Apple Valley, MN. Passed away peacefully at home on March 11, 2009. Bobbi worked at Unisys and Lockheed Martin for 28 years. Bobbi was a long time member of the VIP Club.

Pearson, Herbert A. - Age 76, of Roseville, MN. Passed away March 20. He is survived by wife of 49 years, Audrey. Herbert was retired from Unisys after 42 years of service.

Jumer, Francis M. - Age 93 of Lisle, Ill. Passed away Feb. 12, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Margaret. Francis retired in 1979 after working as Health and Safety Manager for Sperry Univac



Schilling, Robert B. Passed away April 8, 2009 after a long illness. He is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Irva. Robert was a retiree from Unisys.



Wald, Albert G. – Passed away March 31, 2009. Al had a 23-year career as Controller at Sperry Corporation. He retired to Kokomo, Indiana, in 1982. Al was predeceased by his wife of 61 years, Audrey.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **E-news NEWS, APRIL 2009**

Many of you responded to our February and March invites, thus a 'May newsletter available' notification will go out to just over 300 readers, several days before the U.S. Mail system gets the 'May' printed copies for distribution. We have not received either a *Yes* or *No* reply from 140 of our members to whom we sent an invite. There are also eight members whose e-mail address was rejected by the internet system or an ISP. So far only 46 have opted out of receiving the newsletter electronically. If you'd be willing to save our club printing and mailing costs, please send a YES message to us at [newsletter@vipclubmn.org](mailto:newsletter@vipclubmn.org). If you've misplaced your last few newsletter copies, we've archived recent issues. Point your browser to <http://vipclubmn.org/archive.aspx>

### **2009 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY**

Our 2009 Membership Directory is now available electronically. We've already e-mailed the \*.pdf version to those of you who had received the 2008 electronic directory last year. If you'd like to receive the new edition, please send a 'Directory Request' e-mail to [webmaster@vipclubmn.org](mailto:webmaster@vipclubmn.org). No, we do not post the directory on our web site nor do we have it on our host server – this keeps our directory information out of the hands of phishers and spammers.

### **NORWEGIAN SYTTENDE MAI IS COMING!**

The annual Norwegian Syttende Mai lunch is set for Thursday May 14, 2009. Come and enjoy with fellow Norwegian-Americans and friends, associates, spouses and wannabees. The event, as usual, will take place at Casper's Cherokee Sirloin Room, 4625 Nichols Road, Eagan (southeast corner of Cliff and Cedar). The speaker, still to be determined, will be delicious and the food will be entertaining. The cost will be \$14.00, and the buffet

items will be comparable to last year's popular choices. The buffet will open at 11:15 and the program will start at 11:45. Reminiscing and socializing afterwards is open-ended. To sign up or for other information call Dick (Ole) Olson at 507-645-7746 (local call from the Twin Cities) or Dale Phelps at 952-831-7843.

### **DISPOSE OF OLD ELECTRONIC ITEMS?**

Have you been saving old electronic stuff because you thought it would make a comeback or it might gain value as an antique? Or are you just too attached after all these decades to let go? Well, what if it went to a good home? Would that be sufficient reason to allow yourself to say good-bye? Here in the Twin Cities is a viable option. It's the Pavek Museum of Broadcasting ([www.pavekmuseum.org](http://www.pavekmuseum.org)). They are, of course, interested in old broadcasting equipment, but they also take a wide variety of electronic stuff, and if they can't use it themselves in their museum, then they offer it up on E-bay to help with on-going expenses. If you're interested, give them a call at 952-926-8198 or visit them in St. Louis Park to discuss what you have. They even have in their collections an old Heathkit Computer.

### **ROSEVILLE REUNION**

The Good Old Days reunion for people that used to work at Univac/Unisys in Roseville is on Friday, April 24th, 2009 at 11:30 a.m. at the Tri-City American Legion at 400 Old Hwy. 8 in New Brighton. We are expecting over 300 people. If you plan on going and have not sent a message to Tom Turba at [TNTurba@Comcast.net](mailto:TNTurba@Comcast.net) please do so right away so we will have a better estimate of the number of people expected. Maps, parking info, lunch info, etc. will be sent to you. A donation of \$1 per person is requested to cover the hall fee. Parking is limited, so car pooling is advised.

## **LEGACY NEWS UPDATE**

### **PROGRESS ON BUILDING OUR HISTORICAL STASH**

The authorized people in LM Eagan have turned over to the Legacy team a treasure trove of photographic history. In mid-March **John Westergren**, Legacy committee co-chair, was quoted as saying: "Today we became the proud caretakers of ten(10) upright file cabinets full of historical pictures and negatives. I took a couple quick glances and found some negatives of early 15 pin cards (probably USQ-17 or a little earlier). Also pictures of many products. I think we have some tremendous new information and pictures for the website."

In addition we continued with the videotaping of key company people with their stories of the early days. The most recent additions to our video library were provided by **Jerry Williams**, **Jim Wright**, and **Don Weidenbach**. The video recording took place at the Casa Vieja restaurant, the old Parrish's on W. 7<sup>th</sup> in St.

Paul, following the monthly "First Friday" lunches. These lunches were initiated by early ERA (Engineering Research Associates) people and continue today. Incidentally, some surprise attendees have showed up at the First Friday lunches due to their discoveries of our Legacy website and activities reported there. Some friends have reconnected after 40 years or more.

**MORE INVOLVEMENT ENCOURAGED AT NEXT LEGACY COMMITTEE MEETING**

If you have been following our reporting on Legacy in this newsletter or other Legacy activities, then perhaps you have more to offer than just a spectator role. There is always room for more input and more action in building the historical record of Lockheed Martin, Eagan and Unisys, Roseville and all our former company names. Please join us for the next Legacy meeting which is scheduled to take place Wednesday May 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM in the conference room off the main lobby, Pilot Knob Rd. entrance, at the Eagan facility (yes, we still call it Plant 8). Several committee members who showed initial interest have become members in name only, so with winter no longer an excuse, it is time to reappear and play a more active role. Remember that the company legacy is the sum of the individual legacies, so we always welcome more stories/recollections on various products, services, organizations, customers, etc. over the last six decades. For further information call **Dick (Ole) Olson** at 507-645-7746 or **John Westergren** at 651-456-3380.

**THE "HIDDEN HISTORY OF COMPUTING IN MINNESOTA" BY CBI IS CONCLUDING SOON.**

The Charles Babbage Institute at the University of Minnesota is soon to conclude its yearlong series on the "Hidden History of Computing in Minnesota." On April 15<sup>th</sup> **Dr. Thomas Misa**, director of CBI discussed the University of Minnesota's GOPHER, a document retrieval protocol, in effect, a precursor to today's Google. In May, the featured topic will be IBM's Blue Gene, the supercomputer baby of IBM Rochester, MN.

Some of Dr. Misa's talks have directly dealt with our own Legacy, e.g., the role of ERA in the early days of computing, the Univac-to-Unisys evolution, and the Honeywell challenge to the Univac computer patent. Although not particularly well attended at the U of M Andersen Library location, the talks on these topics are fascinating to our own legacy. Dr. Misa will be presenting these talks again at some future (probably fall) dates at the VIP program meeting evenings. Details will be provided later. Submitted by Dick Lundgren, [rflundgr@aol.com](mailto:rflundgr@aol.com).

**SUDOKU CHALLENGE**

Fill in the blank cells using the letters ACEHJORSW. Each letter can appear only once in each of the nine 3x3 blocks, rows, and columns.

	H	A						
W		J		E		H		A
E					W		C	
	J	R		A				
			C		S			
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	A		E					H
H		W						E
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April's solution

A	N	/	U	S	Q	2	0	B
B	2	U	0	A	N	Q	S	/
Q	S	0	/	2	B	A	N	U
/	U	S	2	0	A	N	B	Q
2	Q	A	N	B	U	S	/	0
N	0	B	S	Q	/	U	2	A
S	/	2	A	U	0	B	Q	N
0	A	Q	B	N	2	/	U	S
U	B	N	Q	/	S	0	A	2

**LIGHTER SIDE**

When 'Ole' was asked why the Norwegian government doesn't draft men into the Army until age 45, Ole explained, "Dey vant to get dem right out of high school."

Lena was very excited when she called the doctor. "Doctor! Doctor! she exclaimed, "Little Ole yust swallowed a bullet. Vhat should ve do?" "Just stay calm," advised the doctor, "give him some castor oil and make sure you don't aim him at anybody."

Ole came home out of breath and puffing. He explained, "I ran behind the bus and saved 75 cents." "Hummph," snorted Lena, "you dummy, vhy didn't you run behind a taxi, you coulda saved five bucks."

Ole and Lena lived up on the iron range in Minnesota, and had been going steady for years. One night Ole remarked; "Lena, ve ben goin togedder for 20 years now, maybe ve should get married." "Married?" exclaimed Lena, "at our age who would have us?"

Ole started a farm implement business and proudly advertised in the local paper. We stand behind all of our implements with the exception of the manure spreaders.

Lena read in the paper that a skeleton was discovered in a house being torn down in Alexandria, Minnesota. After checking DNA, authorities determined it was the remains of a Norwegian who had won the "Hide & Go Seek" contest in 1956. {Lowell Benson graduated from AHS in 1956 - he took third place after hiding just 10 hours, so he lives today to relate stories like this.}

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the 2 beers.  
A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, he wordlessly

picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous 'yes.' The professor then produced two Beers from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed. 'Now,' said the professor as the laughter subsided, 'I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things---your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favorite passions--and if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that

matter like your job, your house and your car. The sand is everything else---the small stuff. 'If you put the sand into the jar first,' he continued, 'there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Spend time with your children. Spend time with your parents. Visit with grandparents. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your spouse out to dinner. Play another 18. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal. Take care of the golf balls first---the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the Beer represented. The professor smiled and said, 'I'm glad you asked. The Beer just shows you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of Beers with a friend.'

### ARIZONA SNOW BIRDS

For the last several years or so, Wally Emerson has hosted and/or coordinated a winter gathering of UNISYS retirees in the Phoenix area. Some refer to the group as UNISYS Roseville West and some call them Snowbirds. This year's event was held at the Mesa, AZ Las Palmas Clubhouse on March 23<sup>rd</sup> – a 4 p.m. potluck and reminiscing well into the evening was enjoyed by all. The picture below shows most of the participants, across the top, left to right are: Lyle Franklin, Wally Emerson, Harry Corneilus, Ray Bowar, Roger Moerke, and Earl Westlund. The three at the bottom left are Whitey Nelson, Jack Bartosh, and Jerry Nelson. Around the table at the bottom right are Ruth Sanford, Roger Mikulak, Dale Phelps, Ron Duchesnau, Wally (standing), Marie Duchesnau, and Maneta Mikulak. The bottom center inset is the photographer, Jim Rapinac – sorry Rapp, the other photos were too fuzzy to use! Other attendees were Patti Westphal, Ron Gavelek, LaVonne Gavelek, Keith Sorvari, Judy Sorvari, Keith Crook, Jim Zastrow, and Gordy LaValley.



