

VIP Club Newsletter

Electronic Copy

VOLUME 30, NO. 10 <http://www.vipclubmn.org> **DECEMBER 2010**

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, December 01 | Board Meeting, Roseville | 10:00 a.m. |
| Thursday, December 09 | Christmas Party NCO Club | 5.45 p.m. |
| Wednesday, January 05 | Board Meeting, Eagan | 10:00 a.m. |
| Wednesday, January 12 | No Scheduled Program | |

DECEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our annual VIP Club Christmas Party is on a Thursday this year; December 9th is the date and the NCO Club is the place. Following a social hour and dinner the Connie Villars Quartette will play music for listening and dancing. **NEW THIS YEAR – EACH PERSON'S FULL NAME, DRIVER LIC. OR ID NUMBER AND DOB MUST BE LISTED ON THE DINNER RESERVATION FORM. THIS IS REQUIRED FOR ACCESS TO THE AIR FORCE BASE.** For those who would like to attend but are unable to drive at night, please give one of your officers a call; we may be able to arrange a ride. (See directions to the NCO Club and reservation form on page 5)

JANUARY PROGRAM:

No program scheduled for January.

**LAST CHANCE
TO
SIGN UP FOR THE
CHRISTMAS PARTY
SEE PAGE 5 FOR
INFORMATION, DIRECTIONS
AND
SIGN-UP FORM**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE From: President Tom Turba

The annual elections were held at the November meeting. The Board and officers pretty much remain the same. Lowell Benson will now serve as President, and I will stay on as vice-president; otherwise, everything is the same.

If you missed the meeting, we had a very informative speaker, Dennis Probst. (No relationship to Gerald Probst former CEO of Sperry.) Dennis, who works for the Metropolitan Airports Commission, showed us what the plans are for expansion and renovation at the Minneapolis St. Paul airport and gave us insight into what things will probably look like 5, 10, 20 years and beyond.

Our next program meeting will be the Christmas Party, which will be held Dec. 9th at the Service Club (i.e., NCO Club) at the airbase. This is always a fun event, with music, eats and camaraderie. I hope you have talked to your friends and plan to come as a group. We will again have great hors d'oeuvres, music and a good meal to enjoy with friends. I look forward to seeing

you there. Until then, remember all the friends and good times you've had.

Again, we will not have a program meeting in January. Enjoy the Holidays and be safe. Respectfully, Tom Turba, VIP Club President

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.

WELCOME NEW CLUB MEMBERS

Murphy, John U Plymouth, MN.

U = Unisys, B = Burroughs, L = Lockheed Martin

IN REMEMBRANCE

Johnson, Betty Yates - Age 75, of Mound, MN. Passed away October 28, 2010. Preceded in death by her husband, Stuart S. Johnson. Betty was a former Univac/Sperry employee.

Smith, Garry - Age 67 of Stillwater, MN. Passed away October 9, 2010. Garry is survived by his wife Arlene. Garry was a Unisys retiree and a VIP Club member.

Troth, Arnold - Age 84, of Red Wing, Minnesota. Passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on October 18, 2010. Arnold is survived by his wife, Rose. Arnold worked at Unisys for 32 years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OLD TIMERS

Mark your calendar for Thursday, December 2nd. If you haven't been personally notified via e-mail or phone call of the December 2nd event by November 27th, please send an e-mail to webmaster@vipclubmn.org or call Lowell at 651-483-3709 to get your name on the pre-printed nametag list.

RE-LOCATING?

Please send permanent address update information to our database Membership Director at, VIP Club - P.O. Box 131748 - Roseville, MN 55113. Also, please remember that for temporary address changes, (vacations/snow birds, etc.) the U.S. Postal mail forwarding service should be used. Submitted by Quint Heckert

WEB SITE REVIEW by Lowell Benson.

This is the tenth in a series of articles for the 40% of our members who don't have immediate internet access. Two more "Articles for the Month" are summarized hereunder:

In June 2009 we posted 'A Letter to the Editor from Norm Palzer about the Drum prototype donation to the Minnesota Historical Society.' Norm wrote: "I worked in the Property Administration/Disposal Department spanning UNIVAC to UNISYS (1967 to 1993). The ERA Prototype Magnetic Drum was in our possession from about 1970 until 1991. It was always housed in our crib which was located at Plant-2, 1092 West Minnehaha Ave. As you know ERA's original plant was Plant-2. Every now and then it

would leave our possession to be displayed at trade shows. As the years went on, most of the people who knew anything about the DRUM departed the scene. But, it was never unaccounted for. In 1986 when UNISYS celebrated the 40th anniversary of ERA's founding, the DRUM had some distinguished visitors. Among the 'ERA' veterans touring Plant-2 that day were Arnold Cohen and Jack Hill. Both Arnie and Jack along with Frank Mullaney developed the DRUM. In December, 1990 after 44 years, UNISYS vacated Plant-2. In January of 1991, the DRUM and our crib moved. I was relocated to the U.E.C. Building and our crib was moved to the MMC Building. We shared space in the MMC Building with Jack Laver's and Maynard Paul's "Asset Reduction Group." Finally, in February 1991, the DRUM got its final marching orders. Realizing its historical significance in the development of the general purpose computer, it was requested as a donation by the Minnesota Historical Society. The donation was approved by Linda Miller (Public Affairs) and signed off by Carole Bidon (Administration) on February 11, 1991. I generated Disposal File #208 declaring it for disposal. On February 13, 1991 I wrote up Order-to-Ship No. 90185. Our truck delivered it to the Historical Society Storage Facility at 1500 Mississippi Street, Saint Paul on February 10, 1991.

I am glad to hear that after all these years the DRUM has been refurbished and beginning May 23, 2009 it will be featured as part of the MHS Greatest Generation Exhibit."

In July 2009 we posted "The Minuteman Program History by Larry D. Bolton." "The Minuteman program at UNIVAC began in 1969. The program was deemed of such significance and had such rigorous parts control requirements that component engineers from the central component engineering group in plant 2 were assigned to the program full time for the development and early production phases of the program. TRW in California was the prime contractor for the system. Some new technologies were considered "risky" and required special attention. For most major/critical components, we baselined (listed the process documents and their revision) the manufacturers processes and limited which lines on which the Minuteman components could be made. Manufacturers were required to tell us of all changes they made to the process and/or materials. We audited the suppliers at least annually to make sure they had not made any changes without telling us. Another requirement was that all components had to be heavily

electrically and thermally derated so as not to stress them too hard. There was a set of rules that had to be adhered to and we were required to justify and get permission from TRW for any application which violated the rules. As the design was being finalized, we had a couple of persons whose only job was to look at each and every component and determine what the design stress level was. The voltage, current, power, and temperature data was recorded for each and every application of every component. This data was reviewed by the customer. As you can imagine, this took a lot of paper. It was through these efforts that the AN/UYSK-11 computer achieved the high reliability of the Minuteman Program. The fielded systems provided the U.S. Air Force with a Mean Time Between Failure (MTBF) of over 25,000 hours. The launch control facility system computers were running 24 hours per day, seven days a week for over a two decades – yes that is about 3 years of continuous operation per site without a single failure. The reliability was designed in and built in.

LEGACY COMMITTEE REPORT

By Lowell Benson

Time flies when we're having fun! As we celebrated 30 years of the VIP Club, I silently noted that it had been five years since October 2005 when Ole and I became co-chairs of a new VIP Club & LMCO Legacy Committee. The first volunteer committee member was Dick Lundgren who accomplished our first notable milestone in January 2006, a meeting with Dr. Arthur Norberg to establish a working relationship with the Charles Babbage Institute (CBI) at the University. Ole began to cajole old timers to create career summaries and Lowell established Legacy web pages on his personal web site to publicize the artifact and article gathering initiative. Our second notable milestone was the 2008 Capitol Mall Sesquicentennial Legacy display. This activity was triggered by Dick Lundgren who brought the idea to the VIP Club Board in August of 2007; he then organized a planning meeting with Jane Leonard – the Sesquicentennial Director. I'm very appreciative of the support of LMCO and UNISYS to the team of volunteers who made this milestone happen: Quint Heckert, Bernie Jansen, Dick Lundgren, John Skonnord, Ron Q. Smith, Harvey Taipale, Tom Turba, and John Westergren. Materials from this first public display have since been used at the State Fair, Eagan Community Days, the University of Minnesota, and many retiree gatherings. The third milestone to note was the January 3, 2010 St. Paul Pioneer Press article "The almost Silicon Valley" by reporter Tom Webb. This was initiated by John Westergren, Ole's LMCO replacement as the committee co-chair, with a phone call in early 2009.

Things don't just happen! Over these five years about 150 have contributed artifacts, documents, photos, career summaries or web site paragraphs about people and projects. Our artifact spread sheet has 284 line items identifying 481 objects. Our document spreadsheet has 1,475 line items. Our photo spreadsheet has a potential of 38,000 entries. Thanks to Larry Bolton, Harvey Taipale, and Quint Heckert for the spreadsheet entries. Over the last three years they have spent at least two days each and every month in the Legacy cubicles at LMCO cataloguing these items. The artifact spread sheet is 99% complete as a few items still trickle in. The document spreadsheet is in the 85% complete range – we've shipped a couple of pallet loads of document to the CBI. The photo/negative initiative is in the 5% complete range, correlating five file cabinets of five drawers of items with a converted MAPPER list is painstakingly tedious. Four other behind the scenes 'workers' should be recognized: John Skonnord for editing most of the career summaries and articles which appear on our web site; Jim 'Rapp' Rapinac for many, many web site items and occasional interfacing with Navy and Marketing individuals outside of the Twin Cities; Lyle Franklin for several web site bits and catching errors on the web; and Dick Lundgren for Legacy reporting and development of outreach leads – he made the Minnesota Air National Guard Museum contacts where we had our last August Club program and where we may someday display artifacts and history materials.

Our Committee work isn't done yet! In addition to the ongoing photo correlation initiative, we'd like to develop a history book and a documentary video. Our web site is a 'living' repository of book material, waiting for information gaps to be filled. We don't have much about our interaction with Salt Lake City. Some projects were interactive with SLC engineering and manufacturing. Some individuals transferred there for long term careers while others were there for but a year or two. We also need some of our readers to write a bit about our interactions with Great Neck. We need inputs about developing the Pueblo and Clearwater facilities. Projects deserving descriptions are the Postal equipment developments and ASOC. We'd like to get another 50 to 75 career summaries – legal department, publications department, prototype shop, financial management, ... Please contact any committee member to let him or her know what you can contribute, team writing is encouraged.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

December and January are the months that the Club's Membership Committee processes renewals for those of you whose membership expires on December 31st of this year. If you receive the newsletter electronically, your expiration year appears in the e-mail message subject line. If you receive the newsletter via U.S. Post, your expiration year appears in the mailing address after your name. The form to fill out and mail in with your renewal check is SHOWN BELOW.

*****CUT HERE*****

| | | | |
|--|----------------------|--|----------------------|
| VIP CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM: New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Address Change <input type="checkbox"/> . | | | |
| Dues are: \$7.00 for 1 year <input type="checkbox"/> or \$ 18.00 for 3 years <input type="checkbox"/> . | | | |
| I worked <input type="text"/> years at UNISYS <input type="checkbox"/> or Lockheed Martin <input type="checkbox"/> or Predecessor Company <input type="text"/> . | | | |
| MAIL FORM WITH CHECK TO: VIP Club P.O. Box 131748 Roseville, MN 55113-0020 | | | |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Name, | First | M.I. | Spouse |
| <input type="text"/> | | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Street Address or P.O. Box | | City, | State Zip Code |
| <input type="text"/> | | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| () <input type="text"/> | | @ <input type="text"/> | |
| Telephone number | | E-mail address (if available) | |
| Newsletter delivery mode? Electronic* <input type="checkbox"/> or U.S. Mail <input type="checkbox"/> . | | *DSL or faster recommended | |
| Include my information in the Club's Directory? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| ©8/25/2009 | | <i>The DIRECTORY is only available to members!</i> | |

ABOUT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

- 5:45 pm – 7:15 pm** **Initial social time with hors d'oeuvres**
7:15 pm - 8:00 pm+ **Enjoy an elegant sit down dinner with your choice of Top Sirloin, Champagne Chicken or Grilled Salmon**
8:00 pm - 10:00 pm **Dancing to the music you like by The Connie Villars Quartette.**

VIP CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY, Dinner-Dance Reservation Form

Please reserve, at \$25.00 each, ____ place(s) for the Annual VIP Club Christmas Party, Dinner & Dance being held Thursday, December 9th, 2010 at the NCO Club at the Air Force Base off Hwy 62. The social time begins at 5:45 pm with hors d'oeuvres. Dinner will be served at 7:15 and at 8:00 pm. The Connie Villars Quartette will play music for your listening and dancing enjoyment. Please send in your reservations now, since seating is limited. **Your reservation must be received by Dec. 1st.** If your reservation is for more than 2 persons, please attach a list of added names and you will be all seated together at a reserved table. **BE SURE TO INCLUDE FULL NAME, LICENSE NO. AND DATE OF BIRTH (DOB) FOR ALL PERSONS, THIS DATA IS REQUIRED FOR ENTRY TO AIR FORCE BASE.**

Full Name: _____ **DOB** _____.

Address _____

DRIVERS LIC. OR ID CARD NUMBER _____.

Full Name: _____ **DOB** _____.

Address _____

DRIVERS LIC. OR ID CARD NUMBER _____.

Check here () if you have attached _____ additional names.

Entree selection(s) & qty.: Top Sirloin _____; Champagne Chicken _____; Grilled Salmon _____

Please make your check or checks payable to: **VIP CLUB**

Mail to: Dorothy Becker #401
 9401 Lyndale Ave. South
 Bloomington, MN 55420

Phone: 952-881-3516

DIRECTIONS TO NCO CLUB

1) When approaching from the East, going West on Hwy 62, take the 34th Avenue exit and make a right turn heading East on the North Frontage Road to 34th Avenue. Then make a right turn onto 34th Avenue (heading South) and cross over the Hwy 62 overpass and proceed until it ends (about one block), then make a sharp left turn and stop at the base Security gate for check in.

2). When approaching from the West, going East on Hwy 62, take the 34th Avenue exit and make a right turn onto the South Frontage Road and continue to the 34th Avenue stop sign. Then make a left turn onto 34th Avenue and proceed until it ends (about one block), then make a sharp left turn and stop at the base Security gate for check in.

**VIP CLUB
P.O. BOX 131748
ROSEVILLE MN 55113-0020**

VIP CLUB OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS FOR THE YEAR 2010

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
OFFICERS
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Vice Pres Lowell Benson *483-3709
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Past PresBrian Berggren *451-9009

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Red Cross Blood Drive
Marion Scott..... *455-7952

Membership Quintin Heckert *484-8729
Programs - Eagan and Roseville.....
Dale Phelps #831-7843
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WEBMASTER Lowell Benson *483 3709

ACTIVITY COORDINATORS
ChristmasDorothy Becker #881-3516
Picnic..... Jim Larson *698-3963

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*451-9009

Sunshine Jim Larson *698-3963
Lynn Farris Lindholm *484-1030

UNISYS Liaison, Roseville Sue Carrigan *635-7712 Lockheed Martin, Eagan Liaison..... Peggy Mullikin *456-2635
Printing & Mailing UNISYS Print Shop, Roseville.....

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 Walnut Street. It is the first place where you can turn left. Then turn left onto Terminal Road. Then turn right at Highcrest Rd. to building entrance. 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 Highercrest Rd to building entrance.”