

VIP Club Newsletter

VOLUME 40, NO. 03

May/June 2020

<http://vipclubmn.org>

NOTE

The VIP Club P.O. Box has changed to: P. O. Box 21903 Eagan, MN 55121, effective immediately.

COVID-19

On February 11, 2020 the World Health Organization announced an official name for the disease that is causing the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak, first identified in Wuhan China. The new name of this disease is coronavirus disease 2019, abbreviated as COVID-19. In COVID-19, 'CO' stands for 'corona,' 'VI' for 'virus,' and 'D' for disease. Formerly, this disease was referred to as "2019 novel coronavirus" or "2019-nCoV". This is the strange new world we found ourselves living in since we last published our VIP Club Newsletter.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm guessing that by now, most of you are feeling a little bit overdosed on COVID-19 virus news. This is a serious situation affecting us personally, locally, as a state and nation, and as the human tribe. This is not a transitory situation; we're all going to have to learn to adjust for quite a while, and we're going to have to be flexible while we are adjusting. The VIP Club is also making some adjustments.



First, we are complying with the guidelines issued by the State and Federal Government. In the near term, we have cancelled a number of group events, including the Volunteer Brunch (more on that later), Syttende Mai and the June picnic. Roseville Good Old Days has been postponed to October, in hopes that our local situation will improve by then. In addition to being good citizens, we are also motivated by understanding the demographics of VIP Club members. Face it, friends, most of us are in the high-risk group for a bad outcome if we contract COVID-19. I used to joke about how young people acted as if they were invincible, but over the years I have come to find out that many of us still haven't figured out that things dramatically change as we age. For the time being, all of us need to be more careful, and the Board wants to fully endorse an atmosphere of high caution for all of our fellow retirees. Hence, we are cancelling or suspending all of our near-term group activities. As a small group, the Board is conducting business online, with our April meeting conducted via Zoom, thanks to Unisys.

So, what's the outlook? We are optimistically keeping our Fall events on the calendar, intending to monitor the situation and not cancelling unless and

until necessary. Personally, I will be surprised if these will occur in 2020, if for no other reason than we, as a group, need to be careful, but we will continue to play it by ear and keep the membership informed.

We will, however, continue regularly with the newsletter, which is a key tool in passing along information. Our new editor, Mary Beth Ruhland, is on board and will do a great job of getting the newsletter out to all of you. Check the newsletter for information on future events. Another source of information is our website: www.vipclubmn.org. The website is updated regularly and is a great source of timely information. Finally, this year Keith Behnke has initiated the use of Evite as another means of reaching out to our membership for scheduled events; we'll kick out Evites again as soon as we can resume scheduling future events. Hopefully, we are able to let every club member know what's happening by reaching out through these various media.

Speaking of the newsletter, this month we have included an interesting side story from Gish Devlaminck. Every one of us has tales like this from our work life (and some of them are even fit to print!). If you have one you would like to share, please take a few minutes to write it down and mail it to the club mailbox (which is new, now sending to P.O. Box 21903 in Eagan) or email it to a board member or the newsletter address (newsletter@vipclubmn.org) and we'll work on getting it into a future newsletter. For those of you that are finding some time on your hands, you might also think about submitting a career summary for inclusion on the website. We still haven't hit the goal of 200 that Dr. Arthur L. Norberg indicated are necessary to paint an accurate history of the Minnesota-based operations. For Legacy committee history details, check out: <http://vipclubmn.org/Legacy.html#Committee>.



THE VIP CLUB IS FOR RETIREES AND FORMER EMPLOYEES OF OUR GREAT HERITAGE COMPANIES

Finally, I can't begin to express my disappointment at the necessity to cancel our Volunteer Recognition gathering at Joseph's Grill. There are a lot of statistics about volunteerism, but the short story is that Minnesota is a leading volunteer state, seniors are a great cadre of volunteers, and our fellow employees have an outstanding commitment to supporting a diversity of worthwhile organizations, many of which could not be successful without their volunteers. I know that you do not volunteer simply for a free lunch or recognition, but personally and on behalf of the VIP Club, I want to deliver a big THANK YOU to all of you! And please, keep up the great work, now more than ever. The gathering at Joseph's Grill is just a chance to recognize some of this work and for club members to get together, and I genuinely missed the opportunity to do that this year. Stay safe, friends

Harvey Taipale, VIP Club President.

**MAY PROGRAMS
ALTERED due to COVID-19**

Roseville Good Old Days The 13th gathering of current and former UNISYS Roseville employees, originally scheduled for May 1st, has been **POSTPONED** due to COVID-19 until October 2nd. We will be sending out a reminder with details sometime in August. Watch the website and your email/evites, or email questions to the coordinator: paul.dickson@comcast.net.



Syttende Mai, traditionally scheduled for May 15th at Casper's in Eagan, has been **CANCELLED** due to COVID-19. Since 1974, employees, retirees and friends have gathered for lunch to celebrate Norwegian Constitution day. At this time, no replacement date has been arranged. Watch the website and your email/evites for possible future updates from the current committee: *Dale Torgerson, Dale Phelps, Dave Carter and Dick Lundgren.*

**JUNE PROGRAM
CANCELLED due to COVID-19**

Annual Reunion Picnic This popular picnic scheduled for June 10th at the Eagan Central Park Pavilion has been **CANCELLED** due to COVID-19. At this time, no replacement date has been arranged. Watch the website and your email/evites for possible future updates from coordinators *John Westergren* and *Gish Devlaminck*.

2020 ACTIVITIES BEING PLANNED

The following activities are tentatively still being planned; watch the website and your email/evites for possible future updates:

- September 15th, 2:30 p.m. – VIP Club 40th Anniversary program and buffet dinner at the Royal Cliff in Burnsville. Hosted by the Club board, coordinated by *Keith Behnke* and *Harvey Taipale*.
- October 2nd, 10:30 a.m. – Roseville Good Old Days Rescheduled; watch the website and your email/evite. Coordinator is *Paul Dickson*.
- November 4th, 11 a.m. – Unihogs & Technologists reunion at Casper's in Eagan. Guest Speaker will be DCHS Executive Director, *Matthew Carter*. Coordinators are *Fred Vihovde* and *Lowell Benson*.
- December 3rd, 11 a.m. – Old Timers' reunion at the Lost Spur in Eagan. Coordinators are *Paul Hove* and *Steve Koltes*.



VIP Club Board Meetings are scheduled for 10 AM on June 3rd, August 5th, October 7th and December 2nd, and are currently occurring virtually 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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER(S)

- Dieter & Monika Hoffmann, Hepstedt, Germany
- Clifton & Marsha Osborne, Missouri City, TX
- Mary Beth & John Ruhland, Eagan, MN

http://vipclubmn.org/Documents/MEMBERSHIP_FORM.pdf

SOCIAL REPORTS & ARTICLES

Golf League: Check the website for decisions regarding league play: <https://ulglmn.org/umgl/>.

Volunteer Recognition Luncheon: The VIP Club planned to host its annual Volunteer Recognition luncheon on April 8th at Joseph's Grill in St. Paul. However, like other Spring events, it was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We were on track with almost 30 people signed up to attend, of the 60+ responders who provided their volunteer activity. Greg Oxley, Vice President of the Dakota County Historical Society, was invited to share the status of the ongoing Legacy ID initiative at the Lawshe Memorial Museum.

We did not ask for responders to provide volunteer hours, but learned that many responders continue to volunteer at their churches and schools, American Legions and VFW posts, senior centers,

hospitals, historical societies and museums, and a myriad of other resource centers, as well as do things like support food shelves, do missionary work, help people do their taxes, and countless other things. Our volunteers do amazing things! *By Mary Beth Ruhland*

STIMULUS PACKAGE; \$2 Trillion Coronavirus Stimulus Bill Is Signed into Law: Although almost all of us retirees aren't worried about the long waits for unemployment checks nor delays for the \$1,200 direct payment to those who qualify – there is a provision that benefits of us. From an internet report: “Retirees don't need to worry about taking the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from their retirement accounts this year. The government waived that rule as part of the \$2 trillion stimulus package meant to provide financial relief to Americans. Normally, retirees who have not yet started withdrawing from their retirement plans, including traditional IRAs and 401(k) plans, must take an RMD from their accounts when they reach 70^{1/2} years old. If they do not take the RMD, they face a hefty penalty fee; 50% of the money they were supposed to withdraw—which could equate to thousands of dollars depending on their account balances. The stimulus package President Trump signed into law on 3/27 changed that! Investors do not need to take a 2020 RMD.”

Upon reading the article, I confirmed with an IRA portfolio broker that RMDs could be suspended. I then did a cash flow analysis to determine that by suspending IRA distributions for the remainder of this year, we'd have lower tax payments for 2020.

The time is right for retirees to have a screen-to-screen chat with advisors to ascertain whether they could benefit from the stimulus package. *By LABenson*

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

IN REMEMBRANCE OF:

The obits hereunder are redacted from funeral home postings or Pioneer Press, Star Tribune, or applicable local listings.

Bauer, John – Age 85, passed away in March after living a life full-speed ahead. He loved to ski and hang glide, among other hobbies. John was a Roseville manufacturing engineering manager. He was preceded in death by the mother of his children, Jackie. He was survived by two children and their families, life partner Patti and her family, cousins, and friends.



Berger, Carole (nee Whiteford) – Age 91 of Woodbury, passed away March 28. Carole worked in assembly at Plant 4. Preceded in death by her husband of 65 years, Mervin, two sons and a daughter. She was loved and cherished by many, including surviving children and in-laws, 12 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews, and will be greatly missed.



Breen, John 'Jack' Charles – Age 81, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on February 27 after a lengthy battle with dementia. Jack was born on July 26, 1938 in Fairmont, MN. Jack spent seven years after high school serving his country in the U.S. Navy. After serving his country he earned a business degree from the U of M, then went to work at Unisys in Roseville until he retired. Jack was then a VIP Club member through 2016. Jack loved yard work, his John Deere tractor, and riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle. He cherished his time with family and left a legacy of which to be proud; he is survived by his wife of 57 years, Suzanne, three children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Carr, Robert 'Bob' – Passed away suddenly at home at the age of 84. Having graduated from White Bear Lake High School and St. Thomas University, Bob was formerly employed by Lindey's Steak House, Unisys, and Mancini's Char House. He happily lived in Grant for 37 years with dogs and horses and the family that survived him: his wife of 62 years, Anita, and five children. He is also survived by 14 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

Heinzel, Charles Owen – Age 86, passed away from complications of ALS on March 15 in Woodbury, MN. Charles was born in St. Cloud, served in the U. S. Navy, graduated from St. Cloud State College and the University of ND, Grand Forks. He was employed as an engineer at 3M, CDC, and Unisys, and lived in Roseville, White Bear Lake, and North Branch, MN. He was a good, kind, thoughtful man, respected by all who knew him, and a loving and loved husband and father. Charles was survived by his wife of 63 years, Marilyn, a daughter, son, and grandchildren.



Herman, Richard Allen 'Rich' – Age 66 of Rosemount, MN, passed away on Wednesday, April 8, from complications related to COVID-19. Rich was born February 20, 1954, in Plentywood, MT, where he grew up on his family farm. Rich studied computer science at Montana State



University, a new program at the time. After graduating, Rich moved to Iowa where he worked on telecommunication systems for Rockwell International. Rich then moved to Minnesota to work for Sperry, and eventually transitioned to Lockheed Martin where he worked on the F-35 program. After retiring from Lockheed Martin in 2016, Rich took a job working for Product Development Associations, Inc. to keep busy until his wife, Cathy, could join him in retirement. Rich had the best job—smashing 500 lb hammers into monitors, dropping servers and seeing if they still ran. The best part was that if it broke, he did not have to fix it! Rich infused each day with his love and humor. He took an active role in his children's interests, including serving as a Boy Scout leader, accompanying scouts to Philmont, Sea Base in Florida, and the Boundary Waters. Rich is survived by his wife, Cathy, two children, his mother-in-law, brother, sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, numerous nieces and nephews, and extended family and dear friends.

Joyce, Edwin Carl – Age 74 of White Bear Township, MN, passed away on March 23. Ed received a U of M degree in electrical engineering, a master's in business, and was a proud member of Triangle Fraternity. He was employed as a computer designer and manager for over 40 years at Unisys, and was a VIP Club member through 2014. Ed was an avid biker, hiker, and camper, with a love of nature photography. He was also a dedicated patron of Lakeshore Players Community Theatre, and a founder and leader at Pilgrim House Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Arden Hills. Ed is remembered for his warmth and humor and missed by family and friends whom he counted as life's richest blessings. He is survived by his wife, Darlene, son, a newborn grandson, sisters, and a brother-in-law.



LaBelle, Helen (Dorn) – Age 89 of St. Paul, MN, passed away peacefully on March 3. Helen was a St. Agnes High School class of '49 graduate who loved her family, friends, and the Lumen Christi community. At Sperry in the 70s and 80s, Helen was a secretary for Mel DeBlauw, Bob Oulicky, and other engineering managers. She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 36 years, Gerald La Belle, and survived by a daughter, stepson, and the entire Reznicow family.



Lenvik, John Peder – Age 80 of Rosemount, MN, passed away Sunday, February 16. John retired after 46 years with Lockheed Martin, was a VIP Club



member, and spent his retirement as an active member of the Apple Valley American Legion Post 1776. He is survived by his wife, Ola, two sons, and one daughter, as well as several grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Malnati, Robert J., 'Bob' – Age 86 of St. Paul, MN, formerly of Duluth, MN, passed away peacefully on February 10 surrounded by his loved ones. An engineer at his core, he was a creator, builder, and inventor. Over his fulfilling career at Sperry/Unisys, he obtained prestigious accomplishments, including being part of the Gemini, Saturn 5, Apollo 5, and 8 space missions, as well as leader of the Apollo 11 lunar landing communication systems. Bob was pivotal in winning NASA contracts which brought significant jobs and technology to the Twin Cities area. Bob's home life centered on his family who together enjoyed cabin life, fireworks, rock climbing, golf, and bowling. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Cay, 4 children, 11 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, and siblings. Family asked that memorials go to the Alzheimer's Association.



Mielke, Lynn Edward – Age 80 of Two Harbors, formerly of Maplewood, MN, passed away Wednesday, March 18. After serving in the U.S. Army, Lynn was employed as a computer programmer at Unisys for over 30 years. He lived in Maplewood during his working years, retiring to Two Harbors in 2002.

Morris, Roger – Age 80 of NE Minneapolis, MN, passed away March 3. Roger was an employee of Unisys Roseville, at one time working in systems test.



He was an avid skier/a member of the Unisys Ski Club; a writer who published a book of poems and was a member of the Minneapolis Writers Workshop; and a frequent bowler, who bowled the Thursday before he passed away. Roger was preceded in death by his son, and is survived by his daughter, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, brother, and other family and friends.

Petrowski, Norman Jerome – Age 85, passed away on March 6. Norman was born July 27, 1934, in Wausau, WI, and spent his childhood fixing vehicles and anything else that needed fixing across the alley from his dad's garage, Wally's Auto and Welding Service. After serving in the U.S. Army, he earned his electrical engineering degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He moved to the Twin Cities and worked his entire career for Unisys. He was last a VIP Club



member in 2014. Norman was loved and cherished by two women: in a 35-year marriage to Gladys (Mecikalski) and a 24-year marriage to Dorothy (Kuch McCormack). Norm was always happy and busy; was a devoted, intelligent, and kind family man; and will always be remembered for cooking the holiday turkey. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, five children, six grandchildren, two sisters and a brother, as well as cousins, nieces, nephews, and other extended family. Norm was preceded in death by his first wife, Gladys. The family thanks people serving in the world of dementia. Norm was interred with military honors.

Phipps, Phillip Lowell – Age 90 of West St. Paul,



MN, passed away peacefully January 28th. Phil was born January 29, 1929, in Medford, OR. He graduated from Willamette University in Mathematics and Physics; Phil earned an MS in physics from Iowa State

University and an MS in Mathematics from MIT in Boston. He was a pioneer in computing, hired by ERA in 1955, then working at Univac and successor companies in the Twin Cities for 34 years. Phil worked for the Defense Division at Plant 1 on Shepard Road for a number of years before transferring to the new Plant 8 in Eagan until his retirement in 1989. He was a VIP Club member, and provided the Legacy Anthology with his career summary: <http://vipclubmn.org/People6.html#phipps>. He also

provided an ‘Original Geek Squad’ video interview: <http://vipclubmn.org/PeopleInterview.html#OldTimers>. Our companies were blessed to have him as a coworker. Phil was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Ruth, and is survived by three children, six grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, a sister-in-law, nieces, nephews, and many dear friends.

Polski, Frances S. (Schlechter) – Age 92 of Shoreview, MN, passed away February 28. Preceded in death by husband, Peter, reference [Enews1409.pdf](#). Survived by four children, nine grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a sister. Peter retired from Unisys; they were former VIP Club members.

Printz, Earl R. – Age 88 of Inver Grove Heights, MN, passed away March 18 surrounded by close family. Earl was born in a farmhouse in Enfield, MN, on November 20, 1931. Earl was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Korean War, rising to the office of Sergeant, and served two years. He later graduated from Northwestern Television and Electronics Institute, and also earned a BA degree from Metropolitan State University. He spent most of his career at



Univac/Sperry/Unisys working in quality assurance for various military projects, and once retired was a member of the VIP Club. He enjoyed reading about history, space, electronics, religion and American presidents, and spent many hours biking, camping, and traveling with his wife. Earl is survived by his wife, Karen, three children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Saari, Donald W. ‘Don’ – Age 80 of Hastings, MN, passed away peacefully March 11.



Don was born on August 17, 1939, in Superior, WI, and due to his upbringing there was a dedicated Packers fan and took much pride in his Finnish heritage. Don was an avid runner who completed 25 marathons and other races, and was also a car, boat, and airplane enthusiast. Don was a longtime financial analyst at Lockheed Martin. He is survived by his wife, Janet, children, grandchildren, and other relatives and friends. Family asked that memorials be sent to the Wounded Warrior Project in memory of Don.

Ulmer, Richard Leroy ‘Dick’ – Age 76 passed away Tuesday, February 11, at home in Placitas, NM. Dick was born in Pensacola, FL, and raised in Marietta, OH. He received his associate degree from Ohio Valley, and then was a member of the first class in computer studies at Oklahoma State University. Dick had a passion for problem solving and team building, and was able to channel that into 40 years with Unisys and its predecessor companies, plus another 10 years as a “CxO Whisperer” in data security software consulting. He then took an active role in community service by applying those skills to the Anasazi Homeowners Association and the Eastern Sandoval County Association. As an avid golfer, he was a member of the Santa Ana Golf Club in Santa Ana, NM. Dick left behind his wife of 41 years, Diane; a daughter, son, stepson, and stepdaughter; and five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. But most important to Dick was his heavenly Father and Son, and Dick and Diane felt blessed to be able to serve in fellowship with the Sandia Church of Christ.

LEGACY TIDBITS

VIPS Adventure I’m riding back to the Miami, FL, Eastern Airlines data processing center in an old jalopy that is one repair job away from permanently going to the junk yard. How did I ‘get the opportunity’ to ride in this beat up old car in Miami?

Eastern Airlines had purchased four Sperry Voice Information Processing Systems (VIPS) to be used for crew scheduling. During their once-a-month maximum use period, the systems would lock up about every 20 minutes. The trip was planned to have me be

at the airline's data center during their next maximum use period. I was a bit worried that I might not be able to resolve the problem, but an easy fix turned into an interesting adventure!

Each VIPS unit could handle 12 phone lines. During that busy week, all phone lines were active 24/7 when crew members would choose their next month's assignments from a phone. VIPS was developed by Sperry's defense group in Eagan, MN, for Sperry's Blue Bell, PA, commercial division. Users on the phone would press touch-tone buttons in response to questions generated by the mainframe computer that managed the crew assignment database.

The airline's Information Technology (IT) folks had discovered that when the VIPS unit locked up, they could reset it and the process continued from where it had left off, because the mainframe was controlling the information exchange. For the users on the phone, it left them thinking that there was just a long pause.

I connected my Z80 emulator to Unit #1. When the system locked up, I got an expected breakpoint. I started to analyze the data, but within a minute, a lady in the data center reached in between me and the VIPS unit to reset it. After the lady's third reset I said, "I may as well pack up and go home."

Less than five minutes after my impulsive comment, the Eastern Airlines Vice-President for IT was in the data center talking to me. When I explained the situation to him, he said, "When you get the next breakpoint, you can have that one unit for two hours to analyze the problem." After having a little time to examine the data, I was able to come up with a fix. With the fix installed and running on the emulator, Unit #1 no longer locked up.

I made arrangements with personnel in Eagan to change the code, burn it on four Programmable Read-Only Memory (PROM) chips, and send them to me in Miami. They would send them counter-to-counter via the airline, but they would not arrive in Miami until the next day about midmorning.

Learning about the delay in getting the updated PROM, the airline guy I was working with said, "We could burn those PROMs at my house. I've got an Ultra Violet (UV) PROM erasing oven. If you save



Ultraviolet (UV) Erasable PROM chip that had to be shipped from Eagan



UV erasing oven that can accommodate up to six PROM chips

the code on the floppy disc, we can take it to my place and program the PROM."

I thought, what the hell we might as well try this to get the first two systems up and running sooner. Unit #1 would run off the emulator and Unit #2 would get the updated PROM. If those units ran without locking up overnight it would give us confidence the fix worked.

Carrying the floppy disc with the fixed code, we head outside to the parking lot. I start to head toward my rental car, but the airline guy says, "Let's take my car; I know where I'm going." On the way to our destination he tells me the "reset lady" is the VPs girlfriend and she called him the instant I made my comment.

We finally got to his house, where he was temporarily living with his in-laws. He had this specialized equipment to burn PROMs as part of a side business he was involved in before he moved to Miami, except now it was all stored in boxes sitting in his in-law's porch. While we were in the porch digging through the boxes for the floppy drive reader, UV oven, and other needed equipment, his mother-in-law was standing at the kitchen sink periodically looking over her shoulder at us while doing dishes. We got the equipment set up and successfully burned the PROM with the fixed code.

We returned to the data center, installed the PROM in Unit #2, and continued to run the first unit with the emulator. The two units ran overnight without



UV PROM installed in circuit -- The size of the chip relative to a person's fingers provides an idea of how small the chip is

crashing. About midmorning the four updated PROM chips arrived from Eagan and we now had all the units running. I stayed one more day just to make sure everything continued to work through the max use, crew scheduling period.

VIPS Adventure provided by Gish Devlaminck

Our Legacy Continues . . .

Thanks to Gish Devlaminck for the 266th addition to <http://vipclubmn.org/OurStories.html>. As an engineer, he was called on to resolve a peak usage problem with

the Eastern Airlines Voice Information Processing System (VIPs). He was successful; his story has an unusual twist to the fix implementation. Good job, Gish!

Unisys Tidbit #1: Last month we wrote: “Blue Bell is seeking artifact donations intending to set up an in-plant history museum, ...”

Unisys Director Charles ‘Chuck’ Lefebvre wrote, “We recently renovated our corporate office in Blue Bell, PA, and consolidated all Philadelphia area work into that single office building. Do you have any candidate artifacts with an associated story that you’d suggest could be offered from your artifact inventory?”

Blue Bell VP and Chief Engineer Jim Thompson wrote, “We are in the process of trying to put together a coherent story regarding our collective innovation activities over the last 145+ years. A spot in the Blue Bell headquarters has been identified that can properly display these items and tell their story. We have several typewriters and adding machines along with a Univac II console, so for the moment we have a grip on 1910-1920 and 1958. I need gap filling help.

I’m looking for significant innovative contributions that are relatable. For instance, Remington commercialized the QWERTY keyboard with the Model 2 after acquiring the patent – the reason behind the design, and the reason your iPhone or Android has a QWERTY keyboard is our fault – it’s a Unisys innovation! It is a relatable and short story to tell and leaves people with the thought: “I didn’t know that!” We have hundreds more and I want to get them out.

It’s my mission to locate as many as I can and to find one, really good relatable story for each of the 15 decades behind us. Obviously, I can’t do it alone; thus, I’m soliciting help – I’m looking for that special item that you grabbed hold of that has a story to tell, that your spouse would love to see go, and I want your help in telling its story. So please consider those artifacts you have, and those stories you know, and help me tell the company about the technology and innovations that were and are Unisys!”

If you, a VIP Club member, have a basement or garage item that might fit the request above, inform either of the following: paul.dickson@comcast.net or Kelsey.Bruso@Unisys.com. *Thanks, Chuck!*

Unisys Tidbit #2: Last month we wrote: “On February 6th, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) announced the purchase of Unisys Federal, an operating unit. The effect of this buy on Eagan-based Unisys and Leidos...”. BTW, Leidos here in the Twin Cities is the ‘continuation’ of our Air Traffic Control legacy that started with the file

computer in the mid-50s, reference <http://vipclubmn.org/aircontrol.html>.

Unisys Director Charles ‘Chuck’ Lefebvre wrote “I am not yet aware of any Unisys Federal employees based in the Eagan facility that would be transferring to SAIC. The associates based in Eagan are primarily part of the Technology or Enterprise Solutions (ES) organizations. The ES organization is the one that sells products and services worldwide to both businesses and governments including state and local governments in the United States, all of which will remain with Unisys. Our Federal group primarily provides Information Technology (IT) consulting services to the Federal Government, rather than products. However, we have several large ClearPath clients in the Federal Government and our Unisys Federal team has been actively selling our Stealth security software product. As part of this transaction, SAIC will be a reseller for both of those technologies.”

Former SAIC executive Duane Hove informed his brother Paul that “SAIC was the parent company of Leidos. SAIC had government restrictions from doing both technology work and oversight work. Sensing that the latter was lucrative, they split the company into SAIC and Leidos. They are now not related (except that former SAIC stockholders have shares in both companies.) BTW, Leidos comes from kaleidoscope.”

Thanks Chuck and Paul!

CLUB CONTACT DATA

VIP Club 2020 Activity Coordination:

CBI Liaison; Dick Lundgren, rlundgr@aol.com

Golf Leagues; Keith Behnke, keithbhkn@comcast.net

Lawshe Museum Support:

- Exhibits; Keith Myhre, kmyhre@lightblast.net
- Photo ID work; Bob Pagac, rpagac@hotmail.com
and Jon Simon, jcsimon1st@frontiernet.net

Legacy Committee chairman; John Westergren,

jwestergren48@gmail.com

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Old Timers’ Annual Reunion:

- Paul Hove, paul@paulhove.com or
- Steve Koltes, steve.koltes@comcast.com

Picnic planning & volunteer staffing; John Westergren,

jwestergren48@gmail.com

Roseville Good Old Days; Paul Dickson,

paul.dickson@comcast.net

Syttende Mai; Dale Torgerson, dale.o.torgerson@gmail.com

Sunshine Cards; Lynn Lindholm, lynnlindholm@comcast.net

UNIHOGS & Technologists; Lowell Benson,

la.gj.benson@comcast.net

Volunteer Luncheon; Frank King, kingx063@umn.edu

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VIP CLUB Newsletter

VIP Club MN P.O. 21903 Eagan, MN 55121
<http://www.vipclubmn.org/Newsletters.html>

Board of Directors – 2020

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UNISYS Liaison

Kirsten Rasmussen; meetings, etc., 651-323-9543
Judy Bornetun; Eagan print shop, 651-635-6792

PERIODIC SOCIAL GROUPS

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. – Rickey's Café at Stark's, 3125 Dodd Road, **Eagan, MN**
- **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, Old Hwy 8 in **New Brighton**. Coordinator Paul Dickson: 651-482-9934.