
Newsletter

Words From the Prez**Tom Wallace**

We were given no notice that our guest speaker billed as an "audiologist" left town suddenly rather than speak to us. She must not have heard our invitation.

This enabled an opportunity to use the meeting as a forum to discuss the planning the upcoming Holiday Party in December. We all worked diligently on several occasions to arrive at a plan to improve the event and draw a better attendance. Almost the entire attendance of around 40 people have attended a Holiday party at one time or another. Our organization has traditionally kept the event location centered somewhat local to the company offices with few exceptions being more remote. Many venues were considered. Pete DeRosa, current Vice President summarized a telephone survey results asking for choosing a slightly different format or location. He will summarize this issue separately from this column.

Participation in the telephone survey opened my eyes to the fact that the demographics of our organization vary widely. Many are seniors since the 1980's whereas others are rookies retiring just recently. Many respondents revealed that they either had health problems or limitations that limited driving and other activities. This reality may be the cause membership attendance at our functions. We should consider using our membership base to assist those that need a little assistance. Volunteerism is a special trait. Giving to those in need will be returned in many ways. You will be asked to consider sharing your generosity with other members. We all assisted each other in our long careers...why not continue? We would be delighted to share your special efforts with the entire organization and perhaps select a very special member each year for recognition. Go out there and help some one! Good things will come back to you!!

Secretary's Report**Larry Redmond**

President Tom opened the meeting by announcing that we had no program for the meeting since the audiologist that was supposed to be the program just vanished without any explanation. She is no longer at the practice where she had been practicing and nobody seemed to have any explanation as to why or where she went. Therefore, our meeting was an open forum on the Holiday party survey results and other topics of interest to the membership. We

had 39 members sign in at the guard desk for the meeting. President Tom then introduced our new Vice President, Pete DeRosa who was appointed to complete the term of Tony Benedetto who had to resign because of health reasons. We wish Tony a speedy recovery. Tom asked Pete to discuss the results of the Holiday party survey and what the Board's recommendation was but first tell us a little about where he had worked and what he had done in his career at Westinghouse/Siemens.

Pete started out with Westinghouse on the graduate program working in various positions at Lester, Charlotte, Juno Beach and finally here in Orlando. Pete then discussed the survey and its results. This is reported in another section of this Newsletter as a separate article.

Ish then discussed the various options that were considered and what the BODs recommendation was and the places which he is going to look into for the finalized affair. More details on this will be e-mailed soon.

President Tom then took over and led a discussion on questions regarding medical insurance plans available and the problems some of our members are experiencing with them. We also had discussion and comments from the members regarding the prescription drug programs available to them at the time that they retired. They also discussed their experiences with outside pharmacies such as at Wal-Mart and K Mart especially with regard to generic drugs and their cost versus named prescription drugs.

Tom and Pete discussed the possibility of our organization getting involved in doing volunteer work such as answering the phones at a telethon, etc. where we might get some name recognition for the work that we are doing. They solicited the members of the organization to tell us about things like that that we might be doing in order for the organization to have a more meaningful purpose.

We then discussed the need for a nominating committee of three members to be appointed to provide nominees to fill the three Director positions that will need filling at the end of this year. The three Directors who will be finishing the second year of their elected term are Tom Wallace, Tom Finnimore and Larry Redmond. Lee McLaurin agreed to serve as chairman of the Nominating Committee and he will get two other members to serve with him. They will offer the proposed slate from which the three new Directors will be elected at our October general membership meeting. The four Directors that will be serving the second year of their terms are Paul Viscovich,

Pete DeRosa, Joe Pankowiecki and George Baker. Our Board of Directors consists of seven members from which our officers are selected.

Treasurer's Report **Joe Pankowiecki**

The Association would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new members:

Joel Yerby Yerby56@aol.com

Joel retired from the West Allis, WI site and also worked in Bradenton, FL, Comanche Peak, TX and Grand Gulf, Pt. Gibson, MS.

David Earle buddiefred1@verizon.net

David retired from Broomall, PA and also worked in Philadelphia and St. Louis.

Victor Emmelkamp ekamp2@msn.com

Victor retired from Orlando and also worked in Pittsburgh.

We are now more than halfway through the year and dues for 2008 are now **overdue**. If you have not yet paid your dues, please make check for \$10 payable to the **Siemens Westinghouse Retirees Association** and send to:

Joe Pankowiecki
1081 Nodding Pines Way
Casselberry, FL 32707-5915

If you are unsure whether you have paid dues for 2008, give me a call (407) 695-7123 or send me an e-mail (jpankowiecki@cfl.rr.com).

Note...if your copy of the Newsletter is marked with a 'star' your dues are overdue.

Sunshine Committee **Paul Viscovich**

Vic Emmelkamp had kidney surgery and is doing well. Cards and well wishes can be sent to him at
1181 Manor Road
Englewood, FL 34223

Tony Benedetto had a mild stroke and has transferred to Tuskawilla Rehabilitation Center
1024 Willa Springs Road
Winter Springs, FL 32708
Tony is in room #103

Tom Sullivan had prostate surgery in June and is recovering well at home
2652 Bent Hickory Circle
Longwood, FL 32779

Obituaries

Dan McKinney passed away in June. Dan worked in Facilities at Jacksonville, Lester and Orlando.

George Bukovac passed away last June in South Carolina. George worked at East Pittsburgh.

Holiday Party Survey... (Pete DeRosa)

The last several years has seen a steady decline in the attendance at the annual SWRA Holiday Party. Last year the event was attended by approximately 30 retirees accompanied by their spouses/guests. That's 30 retirees out of a membership of over 200. In an effort to better serve the membership, a survey was conducted to get input on how to make the party more attractive to members. We reached out to approximately 200 members with a telephone/email survey consisting of the following questions. Would you prefer as a Holiday party:

- 1) The traditional dinner dance at the Tuskawilla Country Club,
- 2) A dinner dance at a venue other than Tuskawilla Country Club
- 3) A less formal reception, e.g. a cocktail hour
- 4) A suggestion other than the three above?

Many of the members surveyed expanded on their survey choice by offering specific feedback on past events as well as preferences for future events. These proved very valuable when combined with the quantified survey results in coming to a recommendation for this year's event. With 114 of the membership responding, that's 57 % of those contacted, the results were as follows:

42% were in favor of a less formal reception cocktail party type event

26% were in favor of the traditional dinner dance event at Tuskawilla CC

11% were in favor of a dinner dance at a venue other than Tuskawilla CC

(It is noted that 37% want some form of dinner dance.)

4% recommended other options

16% would not attend any event due to distance/illness, etc.

These results were presented and discussed at the July 9th members meeting. First and foremost, the approximately 40 attending members agreed by an overwhelming

majority that the event should not be canceled. Giving weight to the many comments received in the survey, it was recommended by the Board and agreed to by the membership to focus on an event that was located at a different venue, with more cocktail party time to allow more opportunity for members to meet with each other, either heavy hors d'oeuvres or a light meal, music (a DJ or live music), and a dance floor.

As a result, Ish Aneja, our Social Secretary, is working to get the plans in place. We hope to meet as many of these objectives as we can, given the timeframe within which we

have to work. Details will be communicated as soon as possible.

A final word to the membership; all of this effort will be for naught if the event is poorly attended. In reality, the success of any event like this is primarily dependent on the turnout and the desire of people to have a good time with friends. Give serious consideration to attending this marquee event of our association.

Comments...(Vic Hulina)

I just returned from a visit to Delaware County and Chester County and went past the Lester-Essington area to see the changes.

Romano's restaurant is still operating and looks as if it has undergone a remodelling. Yes, Lou Turk's is still there. The morning I drove by there were four pickup trucks outside and workers going in and out the front door with lumber and tools. Looked like Lou was redoing the place.

As for what I've done since retiring from Cheswick[ElectroMechanical Division] in 2003, retirement has been rewarding. I continue to make custom golf clubs which began as a part-time business in 1991 here in Pittsburgh and just passed 7000 made thus far. Coupled with my work with **Meals on Wheels** in the Aspinwall-Ohara region and travel around the good old USA, life is good.

Meals on Wheels(MOW) was started in western PA by the Lutheran Service Society in 1968. The Aspinwall-Ohara branch is one of 78 affiliates in this region. Fifty of those operate in Allegheny County, providing one cold and one hot meal each weekday to those not able to prepare their own daily nutrition. The cold meal typically consists of a sandwich, fruit, salad and a dessert while the hot meal is an entree, two sides and a cup of soup.

Originally operated from the Aspinwall Presbyterian Church, the Aspinwall-Ohara **MOW** operation began in 1975. We operate without public funds of any kind, relying solely on the nominal client fee and donations from community organizations and individuals.

Our all-volunteer organization now operates from the St. Edward Catholic Church in Blawnox[about 15 miles up the Allegheny River from Pittsburgh], serving 50-75 community residents each weekday(holidays included). In addition to driving and delivery my duties include scheduling of the daily driving teams. We try for five different two-person teams each day to cover our five routes for Sharpsburg, Aspinwall, Blawnox and East and West Ohara Township.

For our **MOW** Steering Committee I also prepare occasional memos to area organizations such as police/fire companies/EMS to heighten community awareness through joint actions. These solicitations have proved successful, demonstrating to our **Meals on Wheels** clients and the local community the quality people these organizations are comprised of and the positive presence our organization brings to the community.

Editor's note... Vic's note is another example of our life after retirement. Please continue to let us know what you're doing to keep busy and useful. Also, it's good to know that Turk's is still in business.

Note...

Please check the enclosed list for your current e-mail address. If there is a change let Paul or Joe know so that you can receive information quickly!!!! Several notes will go out before our next meeting concerning the dinner dance and the future speaker.

Reminder

The next membership meeting is **9:30, Tuesday, October, 14th**, in **Quad 2** cafeteria. The tentative speaker will be Dr. V. Patel who is a world known surgeon. Dr. Patel has performed more than 2,000 robotic prostatectomies. Mark your calendars now!!!!

You only need two tools in your toolbox..WD-40 and duct tape. If it doesn't move but should, use WD-40. If it moves but shouldn't, use duct tape.

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