
Newsletter

Words From the Prez**Tom Wallace**

The year 2008 has already almost come to an end with holidays and elections, etc. coming quickly. Elections will be held soon and the battles will shake the halls! Campaigns and rhetoric will follow where gatherings take place. Name-calling, lies, blackmail, and scandals can be expected. Slimy characters use bribes and promises to win positions of power and influence..... and I'm referring only the Board of Directors for our Association at this time. Vote the "Ins" out and the "Outs" in. Without joking, I wish to say all your Board members have strived to entertain, educate, or bring a feeling of well being to each of you. Make sure you vote in the US Elections!!

Take time to reflect on the changes – the members we have lost and also gained. Faces and changes will be new with new wants and needs. Changes this coming year were unveiled in the Quad 2 cafeteria as our last general meeting witnessed a new wall dividing the cafeteria into a dining section reduced to allow a portion of the room to be used for desks or other contents. Some suspect the space will be used for contract workers. My secret sources identified approximately 44 takers of a reduction in force opportunity and 36 others who declined. Farewell parties were scheduled beginning on October 27. Security officials indicated we might be required to use another Siemens building in the same campus used for common services.

The "founding fathers", such as each of us, will no longer be invited to the "company" picnic next year. The management may apply the funds towards employee family scholarships or charity. The Siemens Medical/Dental/vision insurance premiums were expected to see significant increases but mine increased only 5 percent. Hope you were as fortunate.

The Holiday is just around the corner and will hopefully find better attendance at a new location with a less expensive ticket.

Take time to remember our friends who we lost this year and celebrate the new members acquired. Each one is invaluable. It has been a privilege for me to serve you. Thanks to everyone who brought joy to the organization

Treasurer's Report**Joe Pankowiecki**

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

Ronald Artinger rfa2002@aol.com

Ron retired from the Orlando site and worked at numerous other locations.

Larry Jordan ljordan4@cfl.rr.com

Larry retired from the Orlando site and also worked in Pensacola, FL.

James Lewis jl505@aol.com

James retired from the Orlando site and also worked in Lester, PA.

As of this publication, income of 2120.00 has been received in dues and gifts. Expenses of \$803.43 have been incurred, leaving a checking account balance of \$4432.18.

There are currently 237 members in good standing. Members who have not paid dues for 2008 have been suspended.

Advance payment of dues for 2009 may be submitted by \$10 check made payable to the **Siemens Westinghouse Retirees Association** and sent to:

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

If you have any questions on dues status, give me a call at (407) 695-7123 or send an e-mail to jpankowiecki@cfl.rr.com

Secretary's Report**Joe Pankowiecki**

Editor's Note: Minutes taken by Joe Pankowiecki in place of Larry Redmond who is on a temporary wind turbine work assignment for Siemens in Duluth, Minnesota.

The October 14, 2008 quarterly general membership meeting agenda was hastily revised due to the last minute cancellation of the guest speaker from Florida Hospital who was to give a presentation on robotic surgery.

Joe Pankowiecki presented the Treasurer's report which indicated that income of \$2090.00 had been received in dues and gifts. Expenses of \$780.96 had been incurred, leaving a current checking account balance of \$4474.65. There are currently 236 members in good standing. It was explained that the difference in dues received for 2008 and the number of members was due to members who pre-paid their 2008 dues in 2007. Pete DeRosa broached the subject of a dues increase, noting that the current \$10 dues represents a cost of about \$0.80 per month. No action was taken at this time.

Ish Aneja provided details of the holiday dinner party which will be held on Thursday, December 4, 2008 at the Holiday Inn – UCF. This new location and format was made on the basis of a survey of the membership and it is hoped that it will result in an increased turnout. There will be a buffet dinner and cash bar. The cost will be \$30 per person which is a reduction from last year's cost. The targeted attendance is 100 persons. A flyer with reservation form was distributed to all in attendance and will also be distributed with the newsletter.

A slate of new board nominees identified by the nominating committee led by Lee McLaurin was presented to the membership. These consisted of Dave Berrong, Sharon McIlhenney, Tom Radkevich, and Jim Polacheck. Nominations were opened to the floor and Paul McCauley was also nominated. This slate, along with Ish Aneja, who agreed to serve an additional term, was elected to a two year term by membership voice vote.

A proposal was offered, and approved by the membership, to provide coffee at the quarterly meetings in lieu of the \$40 door prize raffle. At this meeting, the raffle prize was

won by Larry Jordan who generously donated it back to the Association.

Obituaries

Ray A. Towne passed away very recently in Florida. He was a supervisory engineer in the electrical group of the Turbine Generator Division in East Pittsburgh, PA, and was also transferred to Orlando.

Edna Egidio, wife of William E. Egidio, passed away on Oct. 11. Edna was known as "Master of the Kitchen". Donations may be made to the American Breast Cancer Assoc., 113 Redbud Lane, Martinez, GA 30907.

John A. Thorp, 87, of Lampasas, Texas passed away Sept. 22, 2008, at Spring Oaks Nursing & Rehab. John was a CT control specialist based out of Houston.

Tony Benedetto passed away in September. Tony was recently the Vice President of our Association. Final arrangements were not known as yet. Condolences may be sent to the family at the following address:

The Benedetto Family
1240 Gladiolas Drive
Winter Park, FL 32792-6236

John Collins passed away in August. John worked in Lester and Orlando. Condolences may be sent to:

Mrs. John J. Collins
628 Heather Brite Circle
Apopka, FL 32714-4037

Mike Sabol, a retired draftsman from East Pittsburgh, passed away in August.

GIS Day at Seminole County Environmental Studies Center

The **Seminole County Environmental Studies Center** has planned an educational program on **November 22, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** that you may find interesting. A GIS (Geographic Information System) is a computer-based mapping tool that takes information from a database about a location, such as streets, building, water features, and terrain, and turns it into visual layers. GIS touches our lives daily. It is used throughout the world to solve problems related to the environment, health care, land use, business efficiency, education, and public safety. The power supply directed to homes, the patrol cars and fire trucks that keep neighborhoods safe and the delivery trucks on the road all function more efficiently because of GIS. This technology can also help businesses place ATMs and restaurants at more convenient locations, allow people to pull maps off the Internet, and help farmers grow more crops with less chemicals. From border patrol agents to doctors, and from federal agency employees to local city planners, people in nearly every profession all over the world are reaping the benefits of this extraordinary technology.

The presentations scheduled are:

- * What Is GIS? Presented by Jami Finnerty, GISP – **9 a.m.**
- * Basic GPS Usage presented by Brad Soppel, Seminole County Water and Sewer **-9:40 a.m.**
- * U.S. National Grid presented by Byron Evetts, Brevard County Fire Dept, USNG Avocet- **10:20 a.m.**
- * AAA Trip Tik Creation presented by Geoff Baldwin & Brian Hataway, American Automobile Association - **12:30 p.m.**
- * Seminole County Watershed Atlas presented by Marie Lackie-**1:10 p.m.**

The Environmental Studies Center is located at 2985 Osprey Trail, Longwood, FL 32750. Please contact Jami Finnerty (407) 547-3010 or Debbie Harris (407) 320-0467 for more information or to **RSVP**.

Comments... (Heiner Moers)

the following was sent in by Heiner Moers and will be serialized over the next several issues. Thanks Heiner.

Hi Boys and Girls

want to get away from the monster cruise ships, try a river cruise! Roswitha and myself did just that this June and opted for a cruise on the Danube. There are many choices and we opted for a Viking cruise up the Danube from the Black Sea to Nuernberg, Germany. It lasted 3 weeks and was worth every penny.

Let me start why this cruise versus so many Rhine or Wolga or other cruises, it may surprise you, but we hadn't been or seen some of the countries yet where we stopped and we absorbed new cultures, people, food and wine. It all started in Bucharest, the capital of Romania, a country broken free from the Sovjet empire in 1990 and now member of NATO and the European Union. The city is quite pleasant and catching up fast to world standards but the country side is still far behind and poverty rampant. They all have plenty of food and the shops are full of western goodies, but few can afford them. The palace of the last dictator Ceaucescau is a monstrous monument which this guy build on the back of the whole country to make him shine - unbelievable.

We met our crew and the other folks who would share the boat with us and it was quickly a happy crowd, I guess the wine which we poured into us helped. I can only say that we found an excellent remedy to overcome jet lag. Driving in three buses through the pleasant country side we saw the old colchoses, now abounded and the people riding on donkey carts to their newly assigned fields to tend their crop. Everybody was extremely friendly and happy to see us and talk to us, we had enough translators. It was nice to be welcomed as Americans.

At the end of the second day we finally saw and boarded our river cruiser and took possession of our cabins. They were very nice and relatively roomy all with outside windows. The main dining room was spacious and the first dinner served had 6 courses, I could see dangers on the horizon because the food was so good and fresh. The evenings in the lounge were for socializing and prep talks for the next day and special talks about some specific subjects. Dracula appeared himself and talked about his life and the myth swarming through the movie market.

After Romania the boat took us to Bulgaria, another of those liberated prior communist countries. We went to the Black Sea, which wasn't black as the Danube was never blue, but the water was very clean and the beach was well maintained and ready for money spending European tourists. But what a surprise for the unaware Americans, there were people bathing and lying around nude. Some turned their eyes quickly while others enjoyed the beauties waiting to be acknowledged. A remarkable observation was to see the different reactions. I kept my eyes open to take it all in so could report about it afterwards. What more do you want to know?

In the meantime we learned more about the composition of the passengers on board which came from the US, Canada, England, Scotland, Wales (They want to be listed as such and not as people from Great Britain), New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, Austria and Germany. Fascinating folks and you met different couples or individuals at all opportunities. There were no preassigned tables on the ship or on the buses which was really great because the folks were so pleasant and all had plenty of experiences and stories to tell. But just to avoid confusion, the rooms were preassigned and no mixing.

To be continued...

Reminder...

The next membership meeting is **9:30, Tuesday, January 13th**, in **Quad 2** cafeteria. Mark your calendars now!!!

The problem with political jokes is that they get elected.

Directors For 2008

President	Tom Wallace	wallygator828@cfl.rr.com	321-363-1802
Vice-President	Pete DeRosa	petederosa@cfl.rr.com	407-359-1731
Treasurer	Joe Pankowiecki	jpankowiecki@cfl.rr.com	407-695-7123
Secretary	Larry Redmond	<u>Jredmond3@cfl.rr.com</u>	407-366-8349
Social Secretary	Ish Aneja	ianeja@cfl.rr.com	407-339-8732
Newsletter Editor	Tom Finnimore	<u>tom1991@cfl.rr.com</u>	407-366-4371
Assistant Editor	Marlene Schwab	schwabmj@mindspring.com	
At-Large	George Baker	gbaker8335@cfl.rr.com	407-365-3747
Sunshine Committee	Paul W. Viscovich	maeandpaul04@aol.com	407-774-1731
Sunshine Committee	Sam Reynolds Jr.	<u>acrsdr@earthlink.net</u>	407-365-7679

SIEMENS Westinghouse Retirees Association
1023 Corbin Court
Oviedo, FL 32765

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