
Newsletter

Words From the Prez

Pete DeRosa

Your SWRA Board has been very active thus far this year. In order to give ourselves more time to address the needs and activities of our organization, we have begun to meet once a month as a board. With more frequent meetings, we have been able to lay out a robust schedule of activities we hope will interest many of you. Hopefully you have seen some of what we are engaged in by viewing the photo gallery and planned schedule of events on our website. Additionally, member discussion streams on retiree health and dental insurance issues can be found on the SWRA Facebook Group page. Don't hesitate to join a discussion with a question or a comment.

Upcoming on May 1st is our SWRA Family Picnic. If you missed this event last year, you missed a real nice time. This year, we will once again gather at Trotwood Park in Tuskawilla at the well shaded Pavilion C (near the tennis courts) from 11:30 AM to 4 PM. A barbeque lunch will be served from 12:30 PM till 2:30 PM. "Dues current members" are free; spouses or guests will cost \$10, with no cost for accompanied children under 10 years of age. Parking is available just adjacent to the Pavilion. It might be a good idea to bring some beach chairs, since seating at the picnic tables is limited. Check the website for RSVP information.

Finally, there is a lot going on in your organization and in your government. Participation is an important ingredient to making each the best it can become.

Treasurer's Report

Joe Pankowiecki

The Association is pleased to welcome the following new members:

Alfred Pallotta apallotta@cfl.rr.com

Robert Deutschman rjdeutsc@yahoo.com

Lee Near lnear@cfl.rr.com

Our membership currently stands at 235. The checking account balance is \$5968.62. To date, 76% of the membership have paid their 2010 dues which were due in January. Those who have not yet sent in their dues are asked to write a check for \$10 payable to the **Siemens Westinghouse Retirees Association** and send it to:

Joe Pankowiecki

1081 Nodding Pines Way

Casselberry, FL 32707-5915

Also please notify Joe Pankowiecki of any change to your email or postal mailing address so that we can maintain an accurate membership directory.

An audit committee consisting of Dick Countess, Tom Lane, and Heiner Moers met on 2-16-10 to audit the Association's 2009 financial records. A report of the committee will be presented to the membership at the April meeting.

If you know a retiree who is not a member of the Association, encourage them to join. Membership forms can be downloaded from our website, www.SiemensWestinghouseRetirees.org. Those interested can also contact me for a form or to answer any membership questions.

Social Events

Ish Aneja

March 24...preseason baseball game between Phillies and Braves.

May 1...SWRA family picnic at Trotwood Park in Tuskawilla.

Follow Up...

Habitat for Humanity

On Feb. 17th the crack construction team from SWRA reported for work with the Seminole County Habitat for Humanity. That first day eight of your fellow retirees laid the block walls for a new three bedroom house. Actually, it was easy...the blocks were a Styrofoam sandwich that went together like a large set of LEGOS. Later, cement is poured in between the insulation to make an extremely strong wall.

The next workday, 3/3, fourteen retirees showed up for a day of building window frames for five more houses that will be built in Sanford this Spring.

The turnout and feedback from the volunteers is very positive and we plan to work as a group at least twice a month (first and third Wednesdays) until the houses are complete. This is definitely a worthwhile experience and it is satisfying to see the results at the end of the day.

Since Seminole Habitat is building seven houses this year they can always use more help. If you are interested you can visit their website at www.habitatseminole.org to sign up. If you want to join with other SWRA members let me know at tom19913@gmail.com.

The following is from Dow Jones 2010.

Knowing When To Throw Out A Plan

It shouldn't be surprising that a financial planner preaches the gospel of having a plan. But Steven Klammer, a lawyer and CPA at Davidson Trust in Devon, Pa., goes one step further to stress that when circumstances change, the best-laid plans need to change—sometimes a lot.

Take estate plans, which are notoriously affected by the whims of Congress. Klammer was recently reviewing a client's will, which was written a few years ago when the federal exemption on estate tax was just \$600,000. At the time, the client rightly set up a so-called AB trust, in which married couples maximize their exemption by dividing their estate in half. When the first spouse dies, the amount of his or her estate that is less than the estate tax exemption flows to the B trust, which can be used either by the spouse or descendants. Any portion of the estate subject to tax flows to the A trust, which belongs solely to the living spouse and is thus not taxed until his or her death. The strategy effectively doubles the estate tax deduction for individuals.

When Klammer looked at the finances of this couple, he saw that their total net worth was around \$2.5 million—less than the estate tax deduction of \$3.5 million most recently in effect. "There was no longer any need for an AB trust," he said. "Under current tax law the estate had no tax liability anyway."

So Klammer simplified the couple's estate plan to reflect the law, knowing that the law could change again. (The estate tax expired completely on January 1, 2010, and is scheduled to come back in 2011 with a \$1 million individual deduction. Congress is currently deciding whether to reinstate the tax for 2010, perhaps retroactively.)

"No one thinks they're going to die tomorrow," says Klammer, "but the safe thing to do is go in and change the documents now, even if it means changing them again later." Copyright (c) 2010, Dow Jones.

Obituaries

Frank Fidei passed away on Feb. 10th. Frank worked for Westinghouse and Siemens for 41 years and was a manager in Generator Engineering.

Merle Flandermeyer passed away on March 4th. Merle started at Westinghouse in Pittsburgh and worked there and Orlando for 36 years.



Harry and Kent playing with power tools



Tom and Marty building a wall



Craig telling Tom that something is missing

To see more pictures from the workdays check out our SWRA webpage.

Member's Letter

Frank Heymann

After having lived in Germany, then Czechoslovakia, and finally England from 1939, our family immigrated to the USA in 1946. I worked as draftsman for a year, then went to CCNY and to graduate school at MIT, and in 1954 landed a job with Westinghouse's Steam Division in Lester, PA. But I never went back to England until 1965, almost 19 years after leaving. That I finally made such a trip was due to Westinghouse. I had been assigned to a project on moisture erosion of low-pressure blades. We had set up a crude test facility in the Y-Lab, funded some basic studies at the Research Labs, and were bidding on participating in a larger study of vapor turbine erosion sponsored by NASA and JPL in connection with proposed space power plants. We needed to learn what others knew!

A good deal of research on erosion was being done in Britain, and a conference on it was scheduled at the Royal Society of London on May 27, 1965. I was authorized to attend this conference, to present some of our test results, and to visit several laboratories in the UK as well as Siemens-Schuckert Werke in Germany, with whom we had a technical exchange agreement. I added several vacation days to the trip to extend it to 15 days, and get an "excursion fare package" that actually saved Westinghouse money compared to an ordinary round-trip fare!

I was surely excited by the prospect of revisiting where I had lived, been schooled, and worked in England, and seeing some relatives and old friends – as well as making new professional contacts and learning things of use to Westinghouse.

I left Philadelphia Monday evening, May 24, on a Pan-Am Boeing 707, and arrived in a sunny and warm London very early Tuesday morning. It was the last sunny and warm day in London for more than a week! Very naïvely I had not bothered to make a hotel reservation ahead of time – surely in London there would be no problem finding a room?

Wrong! At Heathrow, after calling in vain some half dozen hotels, I phoned Westinghouse International's London office for help. They "shook their heads" and told me that the previous day they had tried thirty hotels to place a visiting corporate vice-president from Switzerland, and finally had to put him in a fifth-rate boarding house! But I persevered, and finally secured a room "for one night only" at the Kensington Close Hotel. This turned out to be fairly large, not opulent but comfortable and reasonably priced, on a quiet side street off Kensington High Street.

Reminder...

The next membership meeting is **9:30, Tuesday, April 13th**, in **Quad 2** cafeteria. Mark your calendars now!!! Our speaker will be Mike Revak to discuss Siemens wind power turbines.

If we lived in a land where ice cream was a vegetable I'd be a lot happier.

My "one night" turned into three, and I stayed there again later in the trip.

Tuesday and Wednesday were "vacation days." I arranged to see some old friends and relatives. I also went to Golders Green to see the house where we had lived; it had been bought by a parental cousin, but now another family lived there!

From there I went to see my old school – the Hendon County School – and found that the headmaster during my time there in 1940-'43, was *still* headmaster! He had "caned" me once for an infraction that I forget, but also wrote a fine recommendation for me years later when I applied to MIT. Unfortunately I got there too late in the day to catch him, but a student kindly took me around to see the changes.

More of Frank's trip will be in the next issue.

Hot Topics – Offshore Drilling

League of Woman Voters is sponsoring a discussion on Thursday, March 25, from 11:30 – 1 pm at Sergio's Italian Restaurant, 28, 95 S, Orlando Ave. (17-92) Sanford, Florida

Call 407-339-9266 for more information.

Want to be a Judge?

Florida Science Olympiad is hosting its state competition at UCF on April 10, 2010. We anticipate a crowd of more than 100 schools of 15 students each from the state of Florida competing. We are currently in need of many biology, chemistry, physics, earth space science and engineering judges for the competition. The hours of the competition will go from approximately 7:30 am to about 5:00 p.m. Our national website is www.soinc.org and our local website is www.floridascienceolympiad.org. On either of these websites you can see the 46 events we plan to offer to the students. If you have any questions, please contact me, Jason Gilley, at jason.gilley.fso.central@gmail.com.

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