

# Warren s. Johnson Society of Retirees, Inc.

An independent organization of retired employees of Johnson Controls, Inc.

[www.johnsoncontrols.com/retirees](http://www.johnsoncontrols.com/retirees)

## NEWSLETTER

VOL. 16, NO. 3 / Fall 2009

### NEXT QUARTERLY LUNCHEON THURSDAY, October 15, 2009

Alioto's 3041 N. Mayfair Road  
(Highway 100 & Burleigh)

11:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
Cash Bar – Lunch – Meeting  
Cost: \$12.00

#### Menu Selection

- Sirloin En Brochette Wine Sauce, on a bed of rice pilaf
- Chicken Cordon Bleu with rice and carrots

**Program:** St Vincent DePaul Society

**Speaker:** Beth Hohenfeldt

We often hear about charities such as the Red Cross, Salvation Army, and Goodwill to name a few, but you don't hear the name St. Vincent de Paul that often.

Beth has been involved with the St. Vincent de Paul Society for 14 years.

Today Beth is going to explain the Society's Mission, and also what type of help they provide, or need especially now, in this difficult economy.

Be sure to send your reservation and menu selection by Wednesday October 7<sup>th</sup> to

Sharlene Wardinski  
3656 So. 82<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53220  
Phone: 414-543-6414

### July program *Report by Neil DeVries*



At our July luncheon, Don Albinger VP Renewable Energy-Solutions, spoke to us about JCI's involvement with renewable energy. The market drivers are compelling events, such as increasing energy prices, energy independence, climate change concerns, legislation regulation and incentives, and green movement. Eighty percent of Americans now live in cities. By 2050 ninety percent will. Seventy five percent of US built environment will be new or renovated in the next 30-years. JCI feels that buildings are places where they can make a big impact. One of the examples Don used is the Dallas Convention Center: Don gave some examples on the energy that can be saved by change in our behavior. **"Turn it OFF"**.

The new Johnson Controls Headquarters is the first LEED (leaders of energy and environmental design) platinum campus in the world.

Don also mentioned that there is a shortage of Energy Engineers. You may want to mention that to your grandchildren.

Much more was presented. Don thank you so much for your very informative presentation on what is going on at JCI.

# The President's Page

*Random Musings of the Prez*



Paul Froehling arranged for a tour of the new and renovated Glendale facilities after our June Board of Directors Meeting. It was impressive. It is a showcase for JCI products and services. JCI's Project Manager, Deborah Van Der Heiden, and Director of Employee Relations, Dennis Kois, conducted the tour. They spent a lot of time with us and did an enthusiastic job.

At our last biennial reunion, we were informed that JCI would host a Big Bash 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2010 and that our retirees would be invited. We planned to celebrate this event with JCI along with a tour of the new facilities in lieu of our biennial reunion. JCI still has not committed to dates or celebration. So.... hang loose. We will have a reunion in 2010; however the dates in our Calendar of Events on our website will most-likely change.

The buildings are beautiful and contain the latest technical innovations: a field of solar panels, a roof of laminated solar panels generating electricity, a solar roof that produces hot water, a roof covered with green vegetation, skylights, glass walls, geothermal heat exchangers, under floor HVAC ducts and cable routing, white noise generators, water cistern to use rainwater for the sanitary system, water detention ponds, prairie vegetation and wildlife. All the latest JCI products. You'll be impressed. If you desire a

copy of JCI's brochure containing an overview of the renovation, Email me at [WSJsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:WSJsociety@yahoo.com) and I will Email you a copy.

John Enright and I saw the new elevators and we were reminded that when we started work in the fifties, Johnson Service Company still had an elevator operator named Molly at the 507 East Michigan Headquarters. The elevator had been automated but Molly still had a job. Her function was to greet us and push the buttons (sort of a combination Wal Mart greeter / General Motors job-bank position). Molly always made us feel good.

Back in that era, businesses were far less "politically correct" and in some ways far more tolerant of human defects. We had some real characters. We had a loan shark in the machine shop, sort of a Danny Devito type character that made payday loans at excessive interest rates. My impression was that he did a minimal amount of work. In the early 1960s, I worked for an electrical equipment manufacturer that had a really good design engineer who was an alcoholic. A few times, the engineer's wife called to request help in finding her wayward husband. The Chief Engineer took a few engineers and searched the neighboring bars until they found him. He kept his job. That would not happen today.

## From the Archives

It was announced on **November 21, 1989** that JCIR, Johnson Controls' Controls Group's West German subsidiary, would supply the temperature control system for McDonald's first restaurant in the Soviet Union. The restaurant, located in Moscow's Pushkin Square, was to be the first of a planned 500 restaurants for the country. Besides being the first McDonald's in the Soviet Union, the restaurant could also lay claim to being the largest at that time, with 900 seats. When it opened on January 31, 1990, it broke the franchise's worldwide opening day record for customers served. The Moscow McDonald's installation was one example of Johnson Controls' (and Western companies in general) increased business opportunities created at that time in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe as a result of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's economic and political reforms. These reforms also initiated a string of events that led to the "fall" of the Berlin Wall in November 1989, German reunification the next year, and the dissolution of the Soviet Union by the end of 1991. As for the Pushkin Square McDonald's, as of 2002 it was the busiest McDonald's in the world. It is one of 103 McDonald's in Russia today.



The *St. John's Daily Sun* of New Brunswick, Canada, reported on **November 28, 1899** that Professor Warren S. Johnson (the founder of Johnson Controls) and Charles L. Fortier made several successful tests of their wireless telegraph equipment in Milwaukee's Plankinton House Hotel. They were able to telegraph a message, without the use of wires, through seven walls. A second successful test involved transmitting signals through three fireproof vaults and an ordinary telegraph switchboard. Another test involved placing the wireless telegraph equipment inside one of the closed steel vaults: "Both doors were closed and the combination locks turned. The signals were then transmitted clearly from the inside of the vault to an adjoining room." Johnson maintained that his invention was "materially different" from that of famed wireless inventor Guglielmo Marconi, and that his system had overcome the flaws in Marconi's invention. A large gathering of local dignitaries witnessed the experiments and took turns having their own messages transmitted through the hotel. Johnson and Fortier would form the American Wireless Telegraph Company (AWTC) in January 1900 to formalize their scientific and business partnership. Later that year, the pair took home a silver medal from the World's Fair in Paris for their wireless apparatus (Marconi's device received the bronze medal in the same competition). However, Johnson and the AWTC ultimately proved unsuccessful in creating a viable wireless system. After Johnson's death in 1911, the AWTC was dissolved.



## More Stories from our Archives!

On **December 30, 1901**, the Milwaukee contract register of the Johnson Electric Service Company (the first name of Johnson Controls) recorded an important event – the company’s first known temperature control installation in England. The British Westinghouse Electric Co. paid \$3,190 for thermostats, valves, dampers, and an air compressor for its new office building in Manchester. The installation was done by the Manchester engineering firm of Saunders and Taylor, Ltd. Westinghouse, an American-owned company, had purchased large tracts of land in the Trafford Industrial Park in Manchester (considered the world’s first industrialized city) in 1899 and began manufacturing turbines and generators there by 1903. The building Westinghouse built later housed the Metropolitan-Vickers Co., and grew to be one of the largest employers in Britain. The British Westinghouse Electric Co. office building was demolished early in 2003. Despite efforts by the Trafford Council’s conservation department to save the 100-year-old building, the government decided that the structure was not architecturally important enough to save. Johnson Controls has a long history of doing business in England. Company catalogues, circa 1900, list a company agent in England, Henry Simon, Ltd., at 20 Mount Street in Manchester. In 1938, Hall and Kay of Manchester is listed as the only active company agent overseas at that time. On June 2, 1960, Johnson Control Systems Limited, with headquarters in London, was established as a wholly-owned company subsidiary.

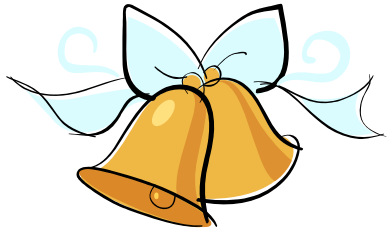


1901 entry from the Johnson Electric Service Company’s Milwaukee contract book for the British Westinghouse Electric Company installation in Manchester, England



The Philco-York Air Cooler  
the first successful room air conditioner

In 1935 the York Ice Machinery Corporation (later York International, which was acquired by Johnson Controls in 2005) developed the first successful single-room air conditioner. Four years later, York entered into an agreement with Philco Radio and Television Corporation in which York would manufacture a line of room air conditioners exclusively for Philco’s world-wide distribution and sale. At the time, Philco was best known for its radio sets, including the now iconic “cathedral-styled” models. However, York was interested in the marketing possibilities that came with Philco’s distribution organization. Philco marketed the York-built “air coolers” under the “York Cool-Wave” trade name. The York-Philco partnership proved lucrative for York, to which their 1939 annual report attests: “Of unusual interest in the past year’s business is the way the public accepted and purchased our recently developed products. It represented a large portion of our total booked volume. ... It covers also the small portable room coolers for homes and offices which we are manufacturing under contract with [Philco]. The types, styles and prices seemed to reach a much broader market than we have previously enjoyed.” York’s relationship with Philco lasted until October 1956, when Philco did not renew its latest contract with York. That same year, York was acquired by Borg-Warner. The Ford Motor Company acquired Philco in 1961 to manufacture radios for their automobiles.



## The Newlyweds



Carolyn & Norm Janisse

## Do you know?

Newsletters have been returned as 'undeliverable' for the following people. Names are listed with the last known city of residence:

- Louis H Burbo  
Framingham, MA (Controls)
- Darline Meyer  
Lakewood CO (Controls)
- Catherine J. Kettering  
Milwaukee, WI (Controls)
- Alvin T. Cabose  
Myrtle Beach, SC (Hoover Division)

Any updated information would be appreciated!

Deadline for information to be submitted to editor for the next newsletter:  
November 10, 2009

### MARK YOUR 2009 CALENDAR

#### MILWAUKEE LUNCHEONS:

- October 15, 2009
- January 21, 2010
- April 15, 2010
- July 15, 2010

## Executive Committee Meeting Glendale Headquarters



John Meyer, Ron Kuta, Bonnie Lenz  
Paul Froehling, John Enright, Tom Parris, Brian Bould







## From the archives...

### **Johnson Controls sells off Centralab Electronics Division, April 7, 1980**

The *Electronic Buyers' News* announced on **April 7, 1980** that North American Philips Corporation (NAP) had completed an agreement to acquire the Centralab Division of Globe Union, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Johnson Controls, for \$63 million in cash. The Milwaukee-based Centralab would be operated as a separate subsidiary of NAP. Centralab manufactured electronic components, principally ceramic capacitors, thick-film circuits, and electromechanical assemblies, with annual sales of about \$100 million. Centralab was founded in 1922 as Central Radio Laboratories to make parts for the nascent radio industry. Three years later, Globe Electric acquired the company, which was renamed Centralab in 1935. Over the years Centralab introduced a number of innovations to the electronics industry including ceramic fixed resistors in 1929, temperature-compensating ceramic capacitors in 1936, and a high voltage bleeder resistor assembly for color television and computers in 1971. Perhaps Centralab's most illustrious employee was Jack Kilby, winner of the Nobel Prize in 2000 for his invention of the monolithic integrated circuit -- a. k. a. the microchip. This invention laid the conceptual and technical foundation for the entire field of modern microelectronics and made possible the sophisticated high-speed computer and large-capacity semiconductor memory common to today's information age.

While employed as an engineer at Centralab from 1947 to 1958, Kilby developed ceramic-based, silk-screen circuits for consumer electronic products. It was one year later, in 1959, and while an employee at Texas Instruments, that Kilby conceived his breakthrough invention.



## TIME?



.....**YES, and time to  
renew your membership!**

Keep in touch with your life long work associates via the Newsletter. **Annual Association membership dues are \$5.** You may choose to pay several years in advance or pay a **lifetime membership of \$50**, as 223 members have chosen to do. New members (only) paying after September 1st will be credited for both the current and next year. Send dues money to Bonnie Lenz. Not sure you've paid your dues? Check the **first line of this issue's mailing label**. In addition to your name, it **identifies** the division from which you retired (B=Battery; C=Controls; X=Corporate) and **the last year for which you paid dues** (2001, 2002, Life).

## STILL

## WORKING?



## MEMBERSHIP ENTITLEMENT COMES WITH 20 YEARS

If you are retired from Johnson Controls, or still working there with 20 years of employment, you are eligible for membership in the JC Retirement Society.

Send your \$5.00 annual membership fee to:

Bonnie Lenz, Treasurer  
8240 E. Wind Lake Rd.  
Wind Lake, WI 53185