

Warren S. Johnson Society of Retirees, Inc.

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

www.johnsoncontrols.com/retirees

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 19, NO. 1 / Spring 2012

January program

Report by Sharlene Wardinski

NEXT QUARTERLY LUNCHEON THURSDAY, April 19, 2012

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

- Beef Rouladen
- Tomato stuffed with Seafood

Please let us know of any dietary restrictions when making your reservation.

Entertainer: Beverly White Persa

This will be an entertaining luncheon. Beverly is a lifelong Wisconsinite. She graduated from Rufus King High School.

She is a widow and has one son.

Beverly has been playing the accordion since she was 6 years old.

Beverly played at the Bavarian Inn for 10 years before it closed.

And by the way, Beverly does accept requests.

Be sure to send your reservation and Menu Selection by Wednesday, April 11, 2012 to

Sharlene Wardinski
3656 south 82nd Street
Milwaukee WI 53220
Phone 414-543-6414

The speaker at our January luncheon was Jessica Michna.



Jessica's love of theater and knowledge of American history is certainly being put to good use. The background of the life of Eleanor Roosevelt was brought to life in her presentation. Eleanor served 13 years as first lady during the Presidency of Franklin Roosevelt.

Upon his death she hoped to retire and write her memoirs but found herself working as hard as usual. After the wars she was named Ambassador to the United Nations. She could never forget the soldiers that died in the war.

A simple Prayer she repeated nightly:

Our Lord

If I become content, if I become too self satisfied, if I become apathetic, let me always be reminded that somewhere out there a young soldier has died for freedom, a young soldier has died for me. Let me ask and answer, is my freedom worth his dying. Am I worth his dying?



The President's Page



This is Ava. She's 1½ years old, our youngest grandchild. One of the things I find most interesting about watching babies grow is their learning our language. Ava doesn't talk a lot yet, that is words we understand, but she sure understands a lot of what we say.

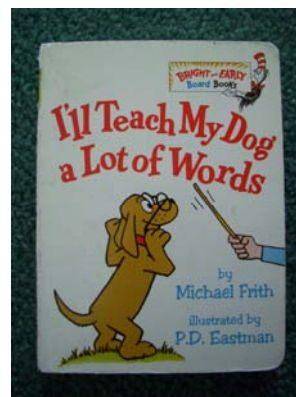
Grammar, or language as we called the school subject when I was a child, was never one of my favorite subjects. Oh, I knew subjects and predicates, nouns, pronouns, verbs, adverbs and adjectives. But what in the world are gerunds and participles and infinitives and, worse yet, dangling participles and split infinitives? I can also understand present, past and future tenses. But what is future perfect tense? Is there an imperfect tense? We also had to diagram sentences. Do they still do that in school? Does anyone know how?

Well, fortunately we had “learned” the language before we had to learn all those terms used to describe it. But let's say you wanted to learn a different language. Being of German descent and not knowing the language, I elected to take a couple terms of German when I was at MSOE. We began by learning some nouns and verbs and how to conjugate. After two terms, I still could not write, speak or understand German. The only thing that has stuck with me from our teacher Herr Heit is “Eigenlob stinkt; Fremdes lob klinget.” (Self praise stinks; a stranger's praise rings.)

Some years later when the JCI factory had relocated to Reynosa, it seemed like it might be good to learn a little Spanish. The company hired a New Berlin High School Spanish teacher to come in late afternoon a couple days a week to teach a class. I signed up. The approach was much like I had experienced with German, learning some nouns and verbs and how to conjugate. The results were similar also.

Since most of the people we communicated with in Reynosa understood and spoke English quite well, the need to learn Spanish was not really necessary. We had one of my Mexican friends, Miguel Gonzalez, to our house for dinner one evening when he was in Milwaukee for training. Miguel told us how he had grown up in central Mexico where his exposure to English came from listening to songs on the radio. That's how he learned the language.

So rather than first learning the grammar of a language, it seems the best way to learn it is simply by being with those who are using it. I think that is what we hear from those who transferred to the Mexican factories and did not know Spanish. It also seems to be the approach taken by language teaching programs such as Rosetta Stone.



A Spanish teacher at Alverno College said her dog would respond only when yelled at in Spanish. It would not react to being yelled at in English. Does your dog understand the same language you speak?

Let's hear your stories about languages. What languages did you learn? How did you learn them?

FIELD REPORTS

Jim Drake – Omaha 1960-1993, Little Rock, 1993

Erica, Thank you for the great article about the Super Bowl in the last newsletter, it brought back fond memories of Super Bowl XIX (San Francisco vs. Miami) played in San Francisco in 1985. Super Bowl XIX was especially memorable for three of us Johnsonites, Super Bowl XIX was the first time JCI had commercials during the telecast; the ad produced in New Orleans in 1984 was produced specifically for Super Bowl XIX.

A part of the advertisement agreement with ABC for our ads was that JCI received several tickets to the Bowl Game. Six of the coveted tickets were awarded to 3 salesmen via a sales contest during the first quarter sales year 1985. I was fortunate to win a pair, the other 2 winners were from South Carolina and Sacramento California. Unfortunately their names escape me.

We stayed at the St. Francis Hotel in the ABC wing, the other side of the hotel was for the NFL. We had total access to both wings including the hospitality rooms on the top floor. We also took part in several of the ABC and NFL parties before the game in San Francisco.

Super Bowl XIX was played at Stanford University's Stadium, when all the seats were wooden bleachers. A young up coming company provided foam cushions, with their new logo on them ---Apple Computer! Before the game we had lunch in ABC'S Tent, a massive western barbeque with a few thousand people.

After the game we returned to the tent to find it had been transformed into a white tabled formal setting for a sit down dinner. The table next to us was the Ethel Kennedy

Family, two tables in front were the Frank Gifford's and OJ Simpson. We saw many

other sport and TV celebrities. After the dinner was a laser light show (remember this was 1985) and a dance floor had been set up for partying until the wee hours.

The attached photos are of me in my JCI jacket, with my wife Shirley, the couple from South Carolina, and the salesman from California with his brother.

Thanks again for resurrecting these memories and for the great job you are doing with the newsletter.



editor's note: apologies for the photos

Welcome to
First Time Attendee to the quarterly
Luncheon held January 2012



Duane Iverson, Ron Reinert, Mike Zuffa



Places to Go...

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there. I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family and work. I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often. I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm. Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

I have not been in Continent----- yet! They say it's pretty wet there. Don't have plans to go there, but one never knows. One of my favorite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!

Humor supplied by John Donovan

Elections At July Quarterly Luncheon

The bylaws of our organization require that we have election of officers and directors at the annual meeting held in July of even numbered years. This year it will be held at the **July 19 quarterly luncheon**. A minimum of three directors is required, but there is no maximum. Officers and directors are elected for two year terms. There are no term limits.

Currently there are 11 members of the board including officers. All of them have served more than one term. Some have served for 10 years. Electing new members to the board will not force any current members to resign. However, we need to elect new members to assure smooth transition as some current members have expressed the desire to be relieved of their duties.

If you have it in your heart to spend a few hours a year to keep the organization alive, please contact us. You can contact us through the website (johnsoncontrols.com/retirees) or any of the officers with email or phone listed on pg. 6 of the newsletter.

Paul Froehling, President
pfroehling@gmail.com
414-425-8244



**Warren S. Johnson
Society of Retirees, Inc.**

This Society is dedicated to providing meaningful services to the retirees of Johnson Controls, Inc. and the opportunity to meet socially with other members of the Society. This Newsletter is published quarterly to contribute to those goals. Your input is welcomed and encouraged.

OFFICERS:

Paul Froehling, President
John Enright, VP-Membership
Sharlene Wardinski, VP-Program
Bonnie Lenz, Treasurer
Ron Kuta, Secretary

DIRECTORS:

Neil DeVries Kasim Sinnamohideen
Carol Lomonaco John Meyer
Paul Froehling Larry Petricek
Brian Bould
Erica Wolfe, ExOfficio

***For membership information & dues payment,
please contact:***

Bonnie Lenz, Treasurer
8240 E. Wind Lake Rd.
Wind Lake, WI 53185
(262) 895-2065
imlenz@wi.rr.com

***For street address changes, email address
changes, and items to be included in the
newsletter, please contact:***

Erica Wolfe
Newsletter Editor
5207 Robinwood Lane
Hales Corners, WI 53130
414/425-8407
E-mail: ericawolfe@yahoo.com

In Remembrance

Bruce Ashenfelter passed away February 20th at the age of 87. He worked for JCI for 36 years in many management positions in the US and Canada. Survived by his wife JoAnn, his children and their families.

Bob Weeks passed away January 24th at the age of 82. He worked as an engineer in Milwaukee for over 35 years. Survived by his wife Avis, his children and their families. Bob served on our Board in 2003-2004.

Erwin Goelz passed away on November 29, 2011 at the age of 92. His obituary indicated he was a long time employee of JCI, proudly retiring after 43 years.

2012 IS BIANNUAL REUNION TIME!!

**Mark your calendars
for the weekend of
September 28-29.
It's not very far away!!**

**A great time to connect with
old friends and co-workers
that you made through the
years.**

**Watch for the next issue of
the NEWSLETTER for the
reservation form and final
information.**





From the archives...



The Warren Johnson-designed floral clock at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair.

Construction begins on great floral clock for 1904 World's Fair, August 1, 1903

The **August 1, 1903**, edition of the *New York Evening Post* reported that work had begun on the mammoth floral clock designed by Johnson Service Company's (Johnson Controls' former name) founder and president Warren Johnson for the St. Louis World's Fair the following year. The company had been engaged in the design

and installation of clocks for building towers since 1895, including the two largest clocks in the world up to that time: the Minneapolis Court House and City Hall clock (built in 1895), with dials 23 feet, 4 inches in diameter, and the Philadelphia City Hall clock (built in 1898), with dials 25 feet in diameter (by contrast, London's "Big Ben," the previous record holder, had clock dials that were "only" 22 feet, 6 inches in diameter). Situated on a hillside to the north of the Fair's Agricultural Palace, the floral clock's dial had a diameter of 112 feet – dwarfing even the company's own tower clocks. The clock's hands, 50 feet and 74 feet in length respectively, could be read easily from a half-mile away. At night, the clock was illuminated with 1,000 incandescent lights embedded in the flowers. As with all of the company's tower clocks, the floral clock was driven pneumatically using the same principles used to power the company's automatic temperature regulation systems. The mechanisms which ran the floral clock, including an astronomical master clock which controlled the main clock, were housed in three small pavilions at the top of the hill. 13,000 flowering plants filled up the clock's face including twelve distinct species selected to bloom at twelve different times a day to help mark the hours. At the end of the Fair's run, the Fair's International Jury of Awards conferred a Grand Prize with Special Mention upon the Johnson Service Company for its creation of the floral clock. After Warren Johnson's death in 1911, the company began to focus its efforts on its temperature control business exclusively, resulting in the sale of the clock business to Hahl Clock Co. of Chicago in 1912.



From the archives...

JESC installs temperature control system in Harvard's Fogg Art Museum, July 16, 1894

On **July 16, 1894**, Harvard College in Cambridge, Massachusetts purchased a Johnson Electric Service Company (Johnson Controls' original name) heat regulating system to be installed in their new Fogg Art Museum. Contract number 1558, valued at \$906, included 14 thermostats and 38 dampers. The Fogg Art Museum, which opened to the public in 1895, is Harvard's oldest art museum. The museum was endowed by Elizabeth Fogg in memory of her husband. In 1927, the museum moved to an Italian Renaissance-style building on the Harvard University campus that still serves as its home. Currently, Harvard is consolidating its three art museums (the Fogg, Busch-Reisinger, and the Arthur M. Sackler Museum) into one facility to be called the Harvard Art Museum. The new museum will be housed in the existing Fogg building, which closed on June 30 in preparation for the five-year renovation project. The renovation will include extra gallery space, expanded study centers, classrooms, conservation laboratories, offices, and more public amenities.



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 over 500 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).

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

