



# 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. 20, NO. 1 / Spring 2013

### Spring Luncheon - Thursday, April 18, 2013

**Alioto's** - 3041 N. Mayfair Road

Cost: **\$12.00**

11:00 Gather ~ 11:45 Lunch ~ 1:00 Program

#### Menu Selection

**[with salad, potato, vegetable and dessert]:**

- Baked Cod
- Sliced Pork Roast

#### “The Public Gardens of Wisconsin”

There are 12 Public Gardens in Wisconsin that offer wonderful opportunities to travel, enjoy, and learn. The gardens vary in size, design, and plant collection. All are beautiful; all are waiting for you to visit!

Local landscape architect, **Dennis Buettner**, FASLA, will share his knowledge with a colorful presentation of the gardens and their unique attributes. A Visitor Guide handout will be available that includes a map, descriptions, and contact information for the gardens.

Perhaps you will be inspired to take a few road trips this Spring, Summer or Fall; or maybe, to visit or volunteer at one of the 3 gardens in Milwaukee. You may even get ideas for your own garden.

Please make checks out to: **WSJ Society**  
Mail check & menu selection(s) before April 11<sup>th</sup>

**Bonnie Lenz**

**8240 E Wind Lake Rd  
Wind Lake, WI 53185**

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



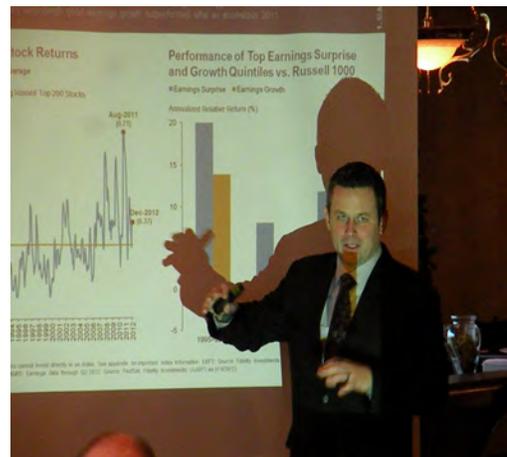
### Winter Luncheon

January 18, 2013

By Jude Anders, VP Program

A winter day in Milwaukee, good friends, and a great meal at Alioto's, what's there to complain about? Sixty-three of our members got together for lunch to talk about whatever was important at the time, and there was a good amount of discussing going on. I had an idea about making some announcement early in the program, but looking over the group in active talking, I forgot that idea very quickly! We had four first time participants and congratulated six members who had recently retired: Maria Brown, Joe Dorr, Sally Iwen, Dave Rasmussen, and Gene Strehlow. Mark Freund represented our 20+-year membership in good form.

Kristin Guadagno and Philip Holahan of Fidelity Personal Investments gave us their view of the current state of the market with the logic behind it. The role of the housing market and the connectedness of the global economy were of particular interest to me. John Pozorski, a person I trust in matters like these, felt the talk was the best he had heard on the subject. It can't get much better than that.



# The President's Page - We Have a Winner!

In the Winter 2005 issue of this newsletter, President Tom Parris announced a contest as follows:

Another contest! Do you recognize the little gem in the attached photo? It's the 2 5/8" by 5 1/8" replaceable note pad. The pad's white sheets have one-tenth inch grid marks in a light blue color. My original pad came with a blue cover with Johnson Service Company printed in gold. As a faithful, nerdy Engineer, I carried one in my shirt pocket tucked behind my plastic pocket protector. Do you have an interesting story to tell or interesting use for this little gem? Send your story to [wsjsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:wsjsociety@yahoo.com) or via regular mail to 4935 Steeple Drive, Greendale WI 53129. I will judge the best submittal using my personal whim and undefined rules. I will award a cash prize of \$10 (deftly plucked from my own tightly closed wallet) to the winner.



Do you remember this contest? Do you remember these notebooks? These are pictures of the notebook I have safely tucked away in my "junk" drawer since I don't have a good reproduction of the one Tom showed. Does anyone else remember this little gem? Or have a brown one? Or one that says Johnson Service Company on it? (Paul Wichmann probably does.)

Finally, after 7 years, we have a winner. David Trotter of Charlotte, NC responded on November 9, 2012. David says he inherited some of these blue notebooks from his father. (You'll have to look at these pictures in the newsletter on the JCI retirees' website to see them in color.) He actually inquired whether anyone knew how replacement notepads could be obtained. We still don't have an answer to that question, so if you know, please let us know. But I forwarded David's email to Tom in Arizona, who immediately got in touch with David and awarded him \$10 as the first, best and only entry in the contest. David wrote back:

Thanks for replying to my inquiry. And Tom, thanks for the \$10.00! My address is xxx.

My father was the JCI branch manager in Charlotte for 25+ years, and I have fond memories of helping him in the shop, going on service calls, and begging for his extra notepads and mechanical pencils. I attached a picture of my brown notepad cover (I also have a blue one), and a picture of his Johnson Controls mechanic's toolkit - something every good pneumatic engineer should have. It's over 50 years old, and I still use it from time to time around the house.

If replacement notepads can't be re-ordered, I guess I'll just have to hoard the ones I have left. But those are wonderful "old school" pads, and I'd definitely order more if I could.



Tom is an honorable man, and we thank David for sharing his story with us!!

**I Remember Johnson Service Company  
Now Johnson Controls  
1941 – 1983  
By Wm. (Bill) Heise**

I would like to share with you a little history of our company during my time spent there.

I was hired in 1941 by R.J. Murphy, the Vice President of Johnson Service, after graduating from Concordia College, Milwaukee, WI. How many of you can say that? My job was office boy. As part of my job, each day on my way to work, I picked up the mail from the main Milwaukee Post Office across the street and put the bag on the desk of Vice President R.J. Murphy. He and the head accountant would go through all of the mail and sort it. I would then take it to the various departments. Remember, our 7-story building at 507 E. Michigan Street housed all of the manufacturing. Starting at the top: 7<sup>th</sup> floor was the brass foundry with some engineering; 6<sup>th</sup> floor was plating and engraving; 5<sup>th</sup> floor was assembly for thermostats; 4<sup>th</sup> floor was our storeroom (locked at all times), 3<sup>rd</sup> floor housed the machine shop; and the 2<sup>nd</sup> housed more machine shop plus the valve and damper assembly. We are now down to the first floor, the Milwaukee Area Branch Office, where A.J. Otto had his office. His brother Carl, the Chief Engineer, had his office on the sixth floor. Sometimes the company was referred to as the Otto Company as the two brothers ran it.

Remember, through the years our company grew with purchases of other plants, such as the one on the northeast side of Milwaukee, the Humboldt Plant, a move to Georgetown, KY, and then a move to Mexico for manufacturing to bring the cost down. During the 70's, there was the purchase of Globe Union for the manufacture of batteries.

During my days at Johnson, WWII interrupted my time. I was drafted and sent to the Army. I qualified for Officer Candidate School at Camp

Davis and graduated from there. Then I found myself on the way to Europe to serve under General Patton in the 3<sup>rd</sup> army. After the war I returned to Johnson Service in various positions. When I retired, I was the Head of Production Planning for the T400 thermostat.

Come Christmas time, the parties were what I remember well. I would start on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor and work my way down, having a few spirits on each floor, enjoying the company and quite in the spirit by the bottom floor. Merry Christmas!



12-4-1991  
Heise at Johnson - Fred Bregel, Pres. 3 from Globe Battery

40 years at JCI  
Pres. Fred Bregel [center]  
Bill Heise and 3 from Globe Union

## **Submitted by Lou Davit - Milwaukee**

### **HERO**

How many of us get to meet our sports heroes? Lou Davit did just that when he met one of his tennis heroes - legend Andre Agassi – at a school opening last July. Agassi was in Milwaukee for the opening of the North Point Lighthouse Charter School in the Thurston Woods neighborhood. This school is the second of 20 that he hopes to open by the start of the 2013-14 school year. Andre is an eloquent speaker and was joined on the stage by Mayor Tom Barrett and others.

Lou brought along a poster of Agassi when he was in his prime and had hair – lots of it! Lou's son, Chris, had had that poster in his room since he was a teenager. The poster was a "hit" of sorts – lots of people taking pictures and videos of it. They didn't know Andre when he was the world's number one tennis player, the only player to ever win all four grand slams in the same year with a total of eight slams over several years, and also win the Olympic Gold Medal in 1996.

That enthusiasm for tennis has turned into a passion for Agassi where education for underprivileged students in urban neighborhoods is concerned. He started the Andre Agassi Foundation for Education in 1994, inspired by others in the network of "no excuse", high-performing charter schools.

By the way, Chris Davit is now a tennis pro in Jackson Hole, WY, and his poster is autographed.



## **WORDS OF WISDOM**

### **Submitted by Tom Parris** **Past Prez**

- Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.
- Drive carefully... It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker.
- If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
- If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
- It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
- Never buy a car you can't push.
- Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.
- Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.
- The second mouse gets the cheese.
- When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.



**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
Jude Anders	VP-Program
Bonnie Lenz	Treasurer
Ron Kuta	Secretary

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Brian Bould	Neil DeVries
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Sharlene Wardinski	

Erica Wolfe, ExOfficio

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

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*In Remembrance*

**Lucille Hansknecht** from the Grand Rapids branch office passed away in December of 2010.

**David E. Andrews** passed away March 2, 2013. He is survived by his wife Sharon, their children and families.

**Janet Gouge** passed away February 23, 2013. She worked in customer briefing center at Michigan Street.

**First Time Attendee to the quarterly Luncheon held January 18, 2013**



Dave Rasmussen, Sally Iwen, Joe Dorr, Mark Freund



# 2012 Reunion The Brengel Technology Center



**Eric Thiele talks to retirees Dennis Miller, Ron Reinert and Greg & Barb Pascucci about the technology used to inform potential customers about JCI products and services.**



**Society President Paul Froehling welcomes retirees and guests.**



**Program VP Jude Anders introduces speakers.**



**Retirees listen and ask questions of Building Efficiency President Dave Myers as he presents the business and status of the company today.**

# Our Reunion Speakers



**Dave Myers, President of Building Efficiency, led a discussion on “Johnson Controls Today”**

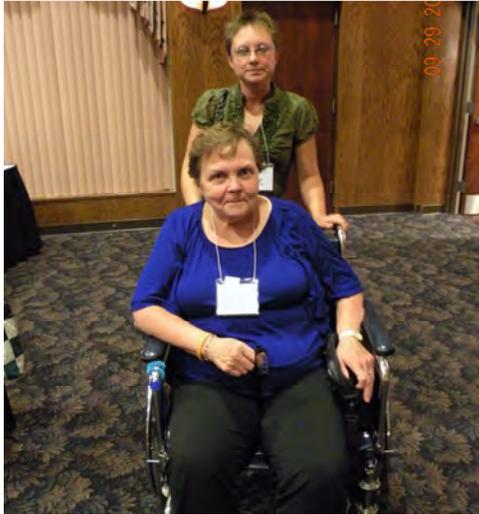


**Andrew DeGuire, VP, Strategies, Mergers & Acquisitions, discusses with the group “Johnson Controls – Something Special.”**

**Jonas Karvelis, a tour guide at the Milwaukee Art Museum, talked about art exhibits in the Milwaukee area and how to view art.**



# 2012 Reunion Banquet



Barb Fremy & Guest



Carol Lomonaco, Barb & John Meyer



Dancing and entertainment with music provided by the Wilson Knights Big Band



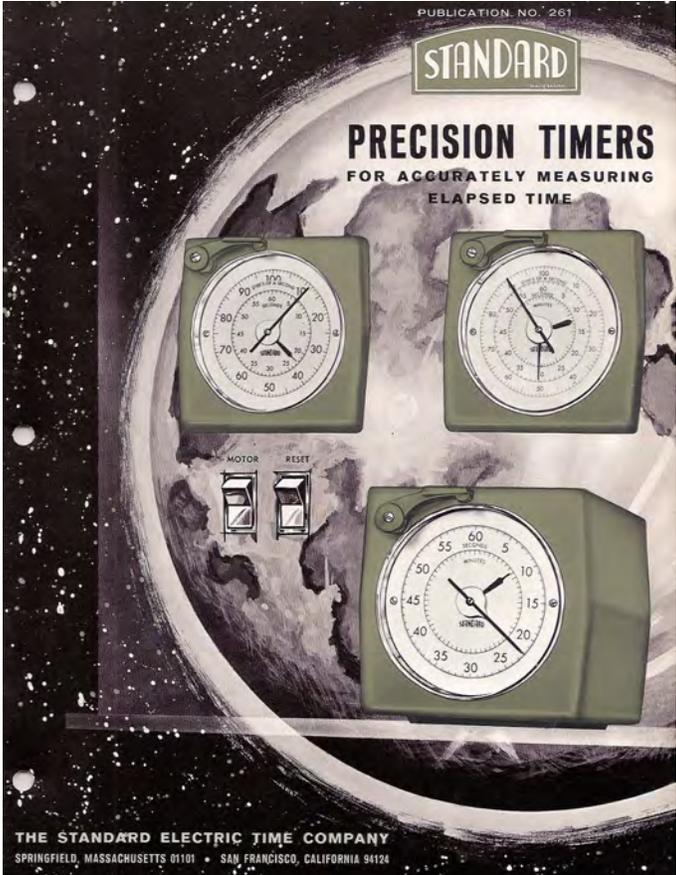
Current and past board members honor Sharlene Wardinski, who served as Program VP for many years. Unfortunately, Sharlene could not attend because of health concerns.



# From the archives...

## Standard Electric Time Company purchased, December 30, 1967

*The Springfield Union* (Springfield, Massachusetts' newspaper) from **December 30, 1967** reported on the sale of the Standard Electric Time Company to Johnson Service Company (Johnson Controls' former name). The article went on to state that Standard Electric (a maker of specialized electrical control and clock systems) would operate as a subsidiary of Johnson and would retain the present management team, headed by Mrs. Frances Riggs-Young as president, and Scott C. Jordan as vice-president and general manager. Unusual for the time was the fact that Standard Electric was headed by a woman. Frances Riggs-Young, widow of the company founder, was a pioneer of sorts, having served for many years as Standard Electric's top executive during an era characterized by a paucity of women in executive positions. Johnson Controls subsequently sold Standard Electric (in 1978) to Faraday, Inc., of Tecumseh, Michigan.



# 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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** (2005, 2006, 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 Johnson Controls Retirement Society.

Send your membership fee to:

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

