



# 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. 15, NO. 2 / Summer 2008

### NEXT QUARTERLY LUNCHEON THURSDAY, July 17, 2008

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

11:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
Cash Bar – Lunch – Meeting  
Cost: \$11.00

#### Menu Selection

- Roast Sirloin of Beef
- Chicken salad stuffed tomato

Program: History of the Salvation Army  
Speaker: Joy Cony

Joy Cony is the Volunteer Administrator for the Salvation Army, covering the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan areas.

Joy will be giving us a bit of history regarding the Salvation Army, activities they are involved in, along with how they recruit their volunteers.

So plan on coming and hearing more about an organization you have heard about for most of your lives.



Send reservations with menu selection and payment by Wednesday July 9, 2008 to

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

#### April program

*Report by Sharlene Wardinski*



At the April luncheon we called upon a retiree for the entertainment.

Well George Huhnke, you did keep us entertained.

Your guitar playing, singing and managing to slip in a few jokes now and then kept everyone interested in the program.

Of course the highlight was getting everyone involved in "The Court of King Correctiveness". I hope I got that right.

A big surprise was Frank Geers joining in on his harmonica. We didn't realize we had so much talent at Johnson Controls

If there are any other retirees with hidden talents please spread the word and volunteer for a chance to be in the spotlight at one of our luncheons.

Thank you George! It was a pleasant afternoon.

#### Transportation Assistance

If you are unable to attend a quarterly luncheon because you need assistance getting to Alioto's, please call Carol Lomonaco at 414-524-4704. She will help you arrange a ride to and from the restaurant (if you live in the Milwaukee area).

# The President's Page

*Random Musings of the Prez*



Driving back from Arizona, I was surprised that virtually every hybrid Prius passed me at about 85 miles per hour. Are their drivers really “green”?

“In these turbulent economic times, I recommend gold.” We’ve all heard this sales pitch on TV and radio. Why would someone sell you the gold that they own if it is such a good deal? Why are they getting out of gold?

Ever notice old gray-haired men pitching real estate programs or investment strategies on TV infomercials? Why are they still working so hard? Why aren’t they retired multimillionaires like they claim we could be?

Where am I going with this train of thought? We’re an easily hoodwinked population. Especially the younger generation which graduated from dysfunctional degraded educational systems that you and I continue to support. “The Dumbing Down of America” is evident everywhere.

Who is responsible for our high gasoline prices? Look in the mirror!

We’ve been bamboozled and hornswoggled by earth-loving (human-hating?) "environmentalists" and self-serving politicians. America continues to believe in a lot of energy and environmental nonsense. America continues to elect politicians who have voted against all energy solutions for the past three decades. Three decades of saying no to all new sources of energy. No nuclear..... no petrol from coal or shale.... no clean coal.... no ugly bird-killing windmills in my community..... no ugly solar in my subdivision.... no oil or gas drilling offshore or in Alaska.... no new refineries.... no no no!!! Three decades!!!

Oh.... Our intellectually challenged House of Representatives did pass legislation to sue OPEC. Do you think that Venezuela’s Hugo Chavez had tears rolling down his cheeks from laughing so hard?

Look in the mirror; I did and I was embarrassed. We got what we deserve!

***A reminder: The biennial elections will be held at our July 17th luncheon.***

# FIELD REPORTS

## Caleb Tarleton – Seattle

In 1962, Johnson Service Company was awarded the contract to provide the control valves and controls for the Seattle Worlds Fair, International Fountain. The project required pneumatic control valves including angle flange valves for the large valves due to the small mechanical room. JCI just happened to be the only supplier of angle flange valves and got the contract. Good spec control by JCI Sales Engineer, Bob Cain. The JCI solenoid valves for the pneumatic valves were driven by a paper tape programmed system, matched up with the music system. Later upgrades added computer driven systems and displays.

JCI also was the Control Subcontractor for many of the Buildings at the Seattle Center for the Worlds Fair including the International Exhibit Buildings and the Playhouse. The Space Needle, unfortunately went to Honeywell.



## **Fountain facts**

THE INTERNATIONAL FOUNTAIN has four super shooters, 56 micro shooters and 77 water (fleur-de-lis) nozzles.

**The fountain programs** are divided into two groups: big shows and little shows. The big shows are on the hour and half-hour and

feature fancy choreography of water and music with names like **The Big Show**, **EMP** (Northwest rock 'n' roll), **Festál** and **Beethoven's Ninth Symphony**. The little show is the fleur-de-lis pattern.

**The fountain's water** is held in two moats, one on top of the other, holding a total of 9,300 gallons.

**In the 1960s**, the original plan was to build a long lagoon for the World's Fair with gondola rides. Organizers discarded that idea in favor of a fountain.

More information: 206-684-7200 or [www.seattlecenter.com](http://www.seattlecenter.com)

## David Weaver – Los Angeles [via Seattle]

I retired early, at age 55, moved to N.E Tennessee, got another job and retired again after seven years but if someone asked where I worked, I always answer "Johnson Controls."

I now live in Menasha, WI and most people seem to be familiar with Johnson. I am proud of the company I worked for for 29+ years.

I spent many months in Milwaukee attending company schools but only for a few weeks at a stretch. I saw frost on the inside of the YMCA windows, snow berms and rotted out cars. This is our second winter living in Wisconsin and we have enjoyed WINTER!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We figured this was normal but the natives say it is unusual. Our total snowfall is somewhere near 80 inches. We have had snow on the ground since late November. We are in our second warm spell, but the piles are still a few feet deep. We have a older but well built house so we have been able to get by very well. And so far my truck has started even when the temperature hit minus degrees. The snow has been pretty most of the time but now it is just old and dirty. We're ready for spring!

# FIELD REPORTS

## Dennis Miller – Research Dept.

One of my objectives as I retired from Johnson Controls in November, 2007 after 35 years in Research and Engineering is to develop an understanding of robotics and work with one or more organizations that are helping high school students learn about engineering through work on robotics. This is still a long term activity but through participation with the Thomas More Community Robotics Club (MORE Robotics) the early results have been very interesting and exciting.

MORE Robotics is one of about 1300 organizations across the country, and world, that participate in the FIRST Robotics Competition. The robotics aspect of the competition is that the students, with mentor help, build an approximately 120 pound robotic machine over a period of six weeks to accomplish the game plan specified by the FIRST organization. While the primary focus is on building the robot, the objectives of the FIRST teams include community work, promotion of the FIRST competitions and objectives, support of other teams and a number of tasks associated with the building of robots. The MORE Robotics team has approximately 27 student members and 16 mentors. Although the majority of the MORE Robotics team attends Thomas More High School, the members represent five high schools. Mentoring, which is my role, helps the students in tasks that include drilling and taping holes, writing software, developing graphic animations, electrical wiring, publicity, keeping focused and many other technical and non-technical activities.

The FIRST contest this year was to build a machine that can push a 40 inch rubber ball off of a six and a half foot high rack, race around a 30 foot by 60 foot track pushing or carrying a ball and lifting or throwing the ball over the rack as many times as possible. Six robots are on the track at one time. Points are awarded for a number accomplishments related to moving around the track and ball handling. There are both autonomous and operator driven portions of the three minute competition. During the operator portion, the student drivers use radio control to maneuver the machines as well as control the ball handling mechanism. There are a number of rules that constrain the robot designs to help maintain the competitiveness across teams. Maximum weight and dimensions are two of the major specifications. Although there are constraints, the teams find many ways to build robots that can carry out the contest scoring requirements. Some throw the ball over the rack, some use vacuum systems to hold the ball and some do no ball handling and just run the track as fast as possible. What ever approach is taken it is perhaps worth noting again that the high school

students design, build and ship their robot within about six weeks of receiving the contest specification.



MORE Robotics FIRST Competition Robot  
From left to right: Mike Wittman, Team President and Coach, AJ, Collin and Joey

The FIRST Wisconsin Regional took place March 13 – 15 at the US Cellular Arena in Milwaukee with 60 teams represented. Although generally from Wisconsin, there were teams from Minnesota and Illinois and one from Hawaii. The event was a combination of semi-chaos and organized team effort in the pits with robots rolling on and off the competition floor and 60 teams trying frantically to fix those things that did not work or broke during their last competitive heat.

The high point of the FIRST Wisconsin Regional for MORE Robotics was winning the Chairman's Award; the highest award for the competition. While the team's robot had some operational problems which limited its ball handling system, the Chairman's Award is based on all aspects of each team's activities. The MORE Robotics team had done a great job on competition publicity, support of other teams and public service as well as team spirit, safety and other factors used in the judging. The team also competed in a second regional event in Cleveland and the national competition in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta in April. The national competition was an amazing spectacle with 385 teams and 10,000 working and cheering high school students who are willing to spend their time and energy on technology and team work.

See: <http://www.morerobotics.org/> for additional information on MORE Robotics and the FIRST organization and competition

# REUNION 2008 PROGRAM

**Friday September 19, 2008** **5:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

**Milwaukee County Zoo – Peck Welcome Center  
10001 W. Bluemound Rd.**

- Registration
- Informal Reception
- Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar

**Saturday, September 20, 2008** **8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Johnson Control Headquarters  
5757 N. Green Bay Ave.**

8:30-9:30	Continental Breakfast	
9:30-10:30	What's new at JCI	Steve Roell
10:30-11:00	Break	
11:00-11:45	TBA	
11:45-1:00	Lunch	
1:00-1:45	Milwaukee County Historical Society Audio Visual	Bob Teske

**Saturday, September 20, 2008** **5:00 – 11:00 p.m.**

**Italian Community Center  
631 E. Chicago St.**

**Reception and Dinner**

**Menu Choice:**

- Broiled Filet of Scrod
- Pork Tenderloin Parmesan  
(Italian breading & marinara sauce)

**Dinners include salad, vegetable, Italian Bread, dessert and coffee/tea/milk.**

**Please note any dietary restrictions**  
**on your registration form**

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

This Society is dedicated to providing meaningful services to the retirees of Johnson Controls, Inc. including current information about retirement benefits 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:**

Tom Parris, President  
John Enright, VP-Membership  
Sharlene Wardinski, VP-Program  
Bonnie Lenz, Treasurer  
Ron Kuta, Secretary  
Open Position, VP-Communication

***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:***

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414/425-8407  
E-mail: [ericawolfe@yahoo.com](mailto:ericawolfe@yahoo.com)

**Your Board of Directors**



Back row: John Meyer, Paul Froehling, Neil DeVries,  
Ron Kuta, John Enright,  
Seated: Bonnie Lenz, Kasim Sinnamohideen

**In Remembrance**

**Ferrel Phelps** passed away June 1, 2008 at the age of 89. He retired in 1982 after 35 years with JCI. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, the 3 children and their families.

First Time Attendees to the quarterly Luncheon held April 17, 2008



Dan Turk, Nancy Puhek, Ken Rugaber, Frank Geers

**INFORMATION FOR OUR RETIREES  
DATABASE**

Please provide us with the following information about your tenure with JCI :

**Your name:**

**Spouse's name:**

**Start date:** [calendar year]

**Retirement/Departure date:** [calendar year]

**Any favorite JCI Memory:**

Please send info to John Enright either by email: [enrights@wi.rr.com](mailto:enrights@wi.rr.com) or regular mail:

2360 Caribou Lane  
Grafton, WI 53024

Thank you for your help!!



# Johnson Controls Archives

## This Week in History

### May 1985

Johnson Controls' *Briefing* newsletter from **May 31, 1985** announced that Wisconsin Senator William Proxmire had presented the company with the Senate Productivity Award. Created by an act of Congress in 1982, the United States Senate Productivity Award is given by senators to the company in their state that has shown the greatest increase in productivity, and to companies that have shown their commitment to innovation, quality, and customer service. In making the announcement, Senator Proxmire praised Johnson Controls and its employees by stating: "If our state and nation are to be successful in increasingly competitive markets, more businesses need to follow and adopt your firm's total commitment to excellence and efficiency." This was not the first time that Johnson Controls won the Senate Productivity Award. Earlier the same year, the Engineered Piping Systems operation in Clearfield, Utah received the award from Utah Senator Orrin Hatch.



### May 1889

On **May 25, 1889**, the Johnson Electric Service Company (Johnson Controls' initial name) sold contract number 1316 to Captain Frederick Pabst for installation of a temperature regulation system in his soon-to-be-built home. Pabst was originally a ship captain who married Maria Best, the daughter of the founder of Best Brewery. In 1862, Pabst was taken into partnership in his father-in-law's brewery, where he eventually became president. His plans for building a mansion on Milwaukee's Grand Avenue (where several other of Milwaukee's wealthiest citizens built their homes) began to take shape in 1889, but groundbreaking would not occur until the following year. The mansion was completed in the summer of 1892 at a cost of \$254,000, including furnishings and artwork. The Pabst family lived at the mansion from [1892](#) until [1908](#) (Captain Pabst passed away in 1904), when it was sold to the [Archdiocese of Milwaukee](#). The non-profit Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. (WHI) purchased the mansion in the 1970s, and opened it to the public in 1978. The mansion, a monument to the "Gilded Age," continues to be restored to its original glory.



*Editor's Note:*

*This feature is brought to you by Mr. Ken Wirth, Manager of Records and Archives at Johnson Controls, Inc. If you have historical information or artifacts to share, please contact him at 414-524-2287.*

## 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

**Reunion 2008  
Registration Form**

Retiree's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse/Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Retiree Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Retiree Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Retiree email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your menu choice for the Saturday Evening Banquet:

	Broiled Filet Of Scrod	Pork Tenderloin Parmesan (Italian breading & marinara sauce)
Retiree	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spouse/Guest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**# attending**

Friday Evening Reception \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday morning at JCI \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday Evening Banquet \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send this registration form and check payable to W. S. Johnson Society to

Bonnie Lenz  
8240 East Wind Lake Road  
Wind Lake WI 53185

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2008**

