



Warren S. Johnson Society of Retirees, Inc.

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

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 13, NO. 4 / Winter 2006

NEXT QUARTERLY LUNCHEON THURSDAY, January 18, 2007

Alioto's
3041 N. Mayfair Road
(Highway 100 & Burleigh)
Meeting will be held downstairs

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

Menu Selection

Baked lasagna
Tomato stuffed with seafood salad

Program: Helping You Design the Best
Years of Your Life
Speaker: Bruce Nemovitz

Bruce Nemovitz is a Certified Senior Advisor and Senior Real Estate Specialist and is expert at helping clients transition from family home to senior apartments and communities.

He conducted his own surveys to better understand the hopes, fears, and dreams of his senior clients and utilized this knowledge along with his experience to implement a process of networking with other professionals to simplify the entire selling process.

He gives lectures at senior communities throughout the Milwaukee-Metro area. He is a contributor to 50/plus Magazine, and has won numerous awards for his expertise in the real estate industry.

Mark your calendars and join us on January 18th.
Reservations are required with menu selection
and payment by **January 10, 2007**.

Sharlene Wardinski
3656 So. 82nd Street
Milwaukee WI 53220
Phone: 414-543-6414

July program

Report by Barbara Helgesen



Gordon Hinkley gave us some background of his life and getting into radio. His "Road Tour" included past articles of his acquaintances in the show business world and trivia on "Over the Hill", which we all understood and responded to by laughter and a buzz among the group.

The next part of his program was playing tunes on the electric keyboard, he asked us "Name that Tune". Not only did we name the tune, but many responded by singing the words while Gordon played. The selections went way back, but that didn't fool us.

It was a fun filled afternoon. The food was good and everyone enjoyed the excellent entertainment supplied by an Icon like Gordon who not only had been on radio and TV, but now that he is retired continues to be a Master of Ceremonies at dinners and is sponsored to do commercials on TV. He also entertains seniors in the community.



The President's Page

Messages from Tom Parris

Reunion

We had another successful biennial reunion due to the efforts of numerous people. Steve Roell, Vice Chairman and Executive VP and Chairman of Executive Operating Committee, gave an eye opening overview of where JCI is today and where they are heading. JCI is constantly changing products, marketing techniques and productivity centers to adapt to evolving worldwide conditions.

Similarly, Alex Molinaroli, VP/GM Systems, gave an overview of what some of us remember as the "controls business" and how it has changed with the addition of York and new demands by the market including non-US systems, which are unlike the historical US business. We appreciate their gift of precious weekend time as well as the \$2,000 donated by JCI to cover a portion of our costs.

JCI's Amy Ruhland and Sheri Williams got us organized and kept us organized on Saturday. Members Sharlene Wardinski, Sal Mussomeli, John Donovan, Bonnie Lenz, John Enright, Erica Wolfe and Joan Meredith also deserve our thanks for their efforts. The talk on Lost Mansions of Grand Avenue by John Eastberg was a hit based on the numerous questions and the barbershop quartet Sheer Delight was a delight to all based on our smiles.

Slower Pace

Surprisingly, I am slowing up too. My race times have gotten slower and slower. It now takes me twice as long to complete a race compared to five decades ago. I've taken to listing all of my medical excuses on the back of my shirt. Soon, I may need a billboard rather than a shirt! I vow to be a responsible senior citizen. My uncles drove well into their 80s. They could no longer pass the driver's test. They drove without licenses, and crashed into cars, trash cans, a house and one bruised a pedestrian. They secretly paid for damages out of their own pockets so that we did not find out. On the other hand, my father-in-law knew when to stop and did at 80. I vow to voluntarily stop driving when it is time. If I live long enough, I vow to ignore false pride and cede my responsibilities and duties to others. I vow to be cooperative. I vow to be lovable. Speaking from experience, the caregivers' burdens are actually reduced when those responsibilities and duties are transferred.



New Officers

Every even year at the July luncheon, we hold elections. This year, we elected/reelected the following officers: John Enright (VP Marketing), Sharlene Wardinski (VP Programming), Ron Kuta (Secretary), Bonnie Lenz (Secretary), and myself along with the following Directors: Neil DeVries, June Doboy, John Donovan, Paul Froehling, Carol Lomonaco, John Meyer and Kasim Sinnamohideen. Bob Weeks and Bill Braak retired from the board. Erica Wolfe remains as our Newsletter Editor. Please express your appreciation to them.

Donations

Like you, most of my mail is requests for donations and credit card solicitations. I swear that the US has more charities than citizens. I am the ultimate skeptic and check on their measurable performance. I have no interest in supporting career fundraisers with astronomical salaries for dubious causes. Being an Engineer-American, I prefer charities that do scientific research that find actual cures. When Doug Taipala sent me data to support his son-in-law biking the 106 mile Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Challenge in the Canadian Rockies, I unzipped my fat wallet and sprang for a few bucks. It fit my template. I can relate to the biking. I can relate to the cause. Doug told me that JCI also made a donation.

Those of you that can relate to Joan Brengel should know that she has created a \$50,000 matching funds campaign for new donations to The Next Door Foundation (2545 North 29th Street, Milwaukee WI 53210).

Transportation Help

Many of our members have restricted their driving or ceased driving entirely. At our September Board Meeting, we discussed the fact that we miss members who ceased attending some functions because of the driving issue. Carol Lomonaco volunteered to be our Transportation Coordinator. Her function will be to match those of you needing transportation to luncheons and reunion functions to those of you volunteering to drive. So..... members willing to drive to these functions please give Carol a call at (414) 524-4704 or Email to carol.lomonaco@jci.com And to those of you that need transportation, please give her a call; don't deprive us of your companionship.

Insurance Premium Correction

A few retirees have received incorrect "insurance premium past due" notices from JCI. JCI says that this system problem has been fixed. Call JCI Benefits (800-333-2222) if you have similar issues.

Groaners

AVOIDABLE:

What a bullfighter tries to do.

RELIEF:

What trees do in the spring.

MISTY:

How golfers create divots.

ECLIPSE:

What an English barber does for a living.

POLARIZE:

What penguins see with.

FIELD REPORTS

Marv Hiller/ Mke

I've just celebrated my 30th anniversary with Johnson Controls and anticipate retiring in the next 3-5 years. Along the way I've had the good fortune of working with many talented professionals in all aspects of our business and have learned much. I hope these words reach many good friends and former colleagues that I haven't seen in way too many years.

Ron Kuchenreuther/Mke

I retired June 30th, 2006 after 40 years of service with the Milwaukee Branch Office.

Gerilyn Gottfried/Colo

I retired after 27 years. I started in Casper, Wyo and transferred to Denver in 1996. I'm spending the summer in Delaware and expect to be back in Colorado in September.

Patrick Donahue/South Dakota

I retired 4/1/06 after 37 years with JCI. 24 years as a service mechanic and 13 years as a Service Supervisor & Manager.

Nylene Miller/Indiana

Enjoying my time with my husband and dogs and also looking for a job.

Douglas Morrison/Illinois

I retired in January and still not used to the retirement thing. I'm working part time for JCI and starting to do some RV trips. I'm also doing some Florida investing with Gary Duhamel, another JCI lifer.

Frank Dutches/Ohio

As of April 2006 I have 22 years of service with JCI. I am a System Designer which entails building Environmental Systems & Fire-Safety Systems.

Samuel S. Parkins/Idaho

I retired after 38 ½ years in the Control Division. I began with JCI in Denver as a service mechanic. I then became a Service Sales Engineer and then was transferred to Anchorage, Alaska as a Service Manager. After that I transferred to Salt Lake City, Utah where I transitioned into new construction sales. My last transfer was to Boise, Idaho where I helped form the branch. I retired May 1st, 2006.

Groaners

Possible Business Mergers:

Polygram Records, Warner Bros., and Zesta Crackers join forces and become:

Poly, Warner Cracker

Fairchild Electronics and Honeywell Computers will become:

Fairwell Honeychild

Zippo Manufacturing, Audi Motors, Dofasco, and Dakota Mining will merge as:

ZipAudiDoDa

Hale Business Systems, MaryKay Cosmetics, Fuller Brush, and W.R.Grace Co. will merge and become:

Hale, Mary, Fuller, Grace

*"The Music Goes Round and Round,
Vo-dee-o-do-dee-o..."*

...and it comes out here. That's right, through me! As one of my kids said to another several years ago, "Do you think anyone could have designed a better second career for our dad than the one he has?" Music took over my life shortly after retirement back in 1993 and it has grown constantly ever since. It began when I was in our neighborhood bank before noon when it was basically empty except for the tellers and a man who had been hired to play the piano for the pleasure of the patrons. I was just about to leave when he started a smooth version of *Misty* and I thought, "Hey, that's one of my songs." I motioned to him, he flagged me over and there I stood singing *Misty* to the tellers. Halfway through the song, an older man walked in, stopped and listened till the end. When it was over, he came up to me, handed me his business card and said, "I've got a twenty-piece Glenn Miller style band and I'm looking for a male vocalist. Will you give me a call?" Naturally, I did and attended the next rehearsal of Command Performance, a replica of Glenn Miller's 1944 Army Air Force Band.

I've been singing with that band for thirteen years now but that was only the beginning. That led to my being asked to be the concert announcer for the Milwaukee American Legion Band and the Milwaukee Concert Band as well as occasional guest appearances with other bands in the Lac LaBelle band shell. I served as vocalist with another big band that performed at Summerfest and the State Fair for about ten years but I quit that one because they rehearsed weekly and ended up with one gig a year.

A real highlight took place in early July when the Milwaukee American Legion Band played its usual summer concert in the band shell at Humboldt Park on Milwaukee's south side. As usual, I was announcing the program but this time they had a special number titled *Hello, Music Lovers*. It was actually a tribute to Spike Jones and included his arrangements of *Cocktails For Two*, *Chloe* and *Poet and Peasant Overture* if you remember those. For this one number, I became Spike Jones wearing a wild plaid suit while playing cymbals, a police whistle, a ratchet,

temple blocks, a fire bell, a duck call, telephone ringer, gargling into the microphone and firing two Magnum revolvers loaded with full strength blanks. What a ball I had and what a way to launch my second decade with that fine organization.

Obviously, I love my second career. Do I make a lot of money this way? Let me put it this way.

QUESTION: What's the difference between a musician's salary and a large pizza? ANSWER: You can feed a family of four with a large pizza.

Best regards to all of my friends and fellow retirees here in Milwaukee and out there everywhere. Hope to see all of you at one of the meetings soon.



Spike Jones (AKA George Huhnke) circa 2006

**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

DIRECTORS:

Neil DeVries Kasim Sinnamohideen
John Donovan Carol Lomonaco
John Meyer Paul Froehling
Erica Wolfe, ExOfficio

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

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imlenz@wi.rr.com

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

Erica Wolfe
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Hales Corners, WI 53130
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E-mail: ericawolfe@yahoo.com

**To contact Johnson Controls, Inc:
1-800-333-2222**

After the recorded answer or anytime during it:

Dial extension 2325 for
Benefits information or assistance.

Dial extension 2296
for the **Foundation Office**.



In Remembrance

Jim Wilson passed away this summer. Most recently, he was the VP of Field Operations for the Controls Group. He had retired to Wilmington, NC and is survived by his wife Judy, and sons Richard and Tom.

Bob Whitmore died on March 21, 2001. He started in the Indianapolis Branch in 1954. He was the recipient of the JCI "Chairman's Award for Excellence" in 1989.

Seth Thomas passed away in February. He had been manager of the Seattle branch. [no other information was available]



First Time Attendees to the quarterly luncheon held on July 20, 2006



Gary Bridgeford, Bruce Schultz, Larry Petricek, Julius Yatchak, Jerry Clauer

Mark Your Calendars
2007 Luncheons

Thursday, January 18
Thursday, April 19
Thursday, July 19
Thursday, October 18

Shear Delight
Italian Community Center



Steve Roell, Executive VP



Neil DeVries, John Donovan, Tom Parris, Carol Lomonaco, Sharlene Wardinski, Bonnie Lenz, John Enright, Paul Froehling, Erica Wolfe

Alex Molinaroli - VP/GM
Systems



John Eastburg - Pabst Mansion

REUNION 2006

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

Whether you are yet working at Johnson Controls or are working elsewhere, if you have 20 years employment with JC, 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