



# 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. 2 / Summer 2013

### Summer Luncheon

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Alioto's - 3041 N. Mayfair Road

Cost: **\$14.00 [note price increase]**

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

#### Menu Selection

- Baked Lasagna & Salad
- Seafood stuffed tomato & French onion soup

#### “WSJ Society Online – Going Live”

Karen Sommer, Director Communications, NA, Power Solutions will show us how we can use “WSJ Society Online” to re-connect with each other in our own online community. This is really something! You could connect with any or all of our members, (who accept your connection), no matter where they live. News about Society activities, Johnson Controls, or other important information resources could be made available. You might form a group with others who share your interests, or join one already created by members who live in your area.

This is a start-up venture; at the luncheon you can meet Karen and offer your ideas. To get you thinking about re-connecting, we will also have a few copies of the membership roster available – only a few, the current roster is always available to 'members only' at “WSJ Online.” You will have access to it with your registration.

Please make checks out to: **WSJ Society**  
Mail check & menu selection(s) **before July 11**

**Bonnie Lenz**

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

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

### Spring Luncheon

April 18, 2013

By Jude Anders, VP Program

#### “The Public Gardens of Wisconsin”

Local landscape architect, **Dennis Buettner**



It didn't feel like Spring, but on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 65 of our members gathered at Alioto's to update each other on Winter-time activities and at least think about Spring!

We were treated to a fantastic dose – 216 images – of “The Public Gardens of Wisconsin” displayed in their full seasonal splendor. Our virtual tour was presented, with personal insights added, by local landscape architect Dennis Buettner. Dennis gave us many special insights, what to look for in the gardens and urged us to experience them in all four seasons.

See page 4 of this newsletter for a list of public gardens. Enjoy your summer – get out and enjoy the gardens in your area!



# The President's Page

Recently, Karen and I drove to Florida to visit family. Along the way, we went on two excellent factory tours. The first was in Louisville, Kentucky at the Louisville Slugger plant. They began making baseball bats for the pros in 1884.



*That's me by the bat.*

*Jack and Karen*

The second tour was at the Jack Daniel's Distillery in Lynchburg, Tennessee. It was founded in 1875. In both cases, remarkable changes have occurred since they began. Increased productivity and improved quality have resulted from technological advances. Except in the whiskey business, aging cannot be sped up and quality is still determined by tasters.

During my brief 40 years at JCI (128 years old), remarkable changes occurred in the control systems produced and installed by the company. Controls changed from pneumatic to electric and electronic. The elusive electric actuator became viable. Centralized monitoring evolved from telephone industry type relay equipment to microprocessor based complete control systems. In the 11 years since I retired, changes have continued as control systems now utilize the internet.

Just as companies need to make changes to remain in business, the WSJ Society is also in the process of making changes to better serve our members. We aim to make the society more than a newsletter, quarterly luncheon and biennial reunion. A new website will soon be launched with the purpose of fostering community and service among our members. For members who live in the Milwaukee area or will be in the area on Thursday, July 18, be sure to attend the quarterly luncheon (*see the program description and luncheon registration on page 1 of this newsletter*). More details about this project will be presented.

Member participation is the key to the success of this project. If you currently do not have web access, I strongly urge you to consider obtaining it. Just as companies must adapt to changes, we must also. And remember, we are never too old to learn.

## **More on the Little Blue Notebooks**

John Pierson wrote:  
*I have worked at JCI for 31 years and have used that exact blue pocket notebook as my wallet for all of them.*

*It was my "palm pilot/blackberry" before they were popular.*

*I have one in my back pocket today.*

*A few years ago, before Sharon Phillips retired, I asked her if she had any of them - and - she gave me a boxful! I think I have a pretty good lifetime supply.*

*Thanks - John Pierson*

## **Sharlene Wardinski's mother: Rose Koehn's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

**Submitted by: Barbara Helgesen**



Left to Right: Rose Marie, Sharlene, and Sandra  
Seated: Rose Koehn

**Sharlene, Rose Marie and Sandra, worked out a plan together for mother's surprise party. Invitations were sent out to friends and relatives and requested that gifts were not necessary. However, some guests did bring potted plants, flowers, candy and cards so that Rose could remember her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and her special day.**

**Besides friends, there were also 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generations of grandchildren present with their parents. Also, her grandson and family flew in from Florida as a special treat. It was delightful meeting and seeing everyone who cared about Rose enough to be there.**

**One of her birthday wishes was to go gambling, so a grand daughter and her husband took her for a whole weekend at the Ho Chunk Casino before her birthday. Needless to say, when she came back, the daughters took her down to the Potawatomi Casino on Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> in the morning and to the Olive Garden (her favorite restaurant) for dinner to fill our her day.**

**On May 11<sup>th</sup> she went out for lunch with family and then over to the Whitnall Center for the party. She didn't understand at first why she was there, but when she came inside the room was decorated with balloons, a large birthday cake, sandwiches, punch, salads, fruit, etc. The party went from 1 PM to 4 PM, so that there was time to visit and take pictures of this special event.**

**Here is the list of public gardens shared by Dennis Buettner:**

- ✚ Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory, Milwaukee
- ✚ Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison
- ✚ Allen Centennial Gardens, Madison
- ✚ Longenecker Horticultural Gardens, Madison
- ✚ Rotary Gardens, Janesville
- ✚ Green Bay Botanical Gardens, Green Bay
- ✚ Memorial Park Arboretum & Gardens, Appleton
- ✚ Paine Art Center & Gardens, Oshkosh
- ✚ West of the Lake Gardens, Manitowoc
- ✚ John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan
- ✚ Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum, Milwaukee
- ✚ Boerner Botanical Gardens, Hales Corners

**And here are a few for additional investigation:**

- ✚ Wisconsin Executive Residence, Maple Bluff, WI (by reservation)
- ✚ Anderson Gardens, Rockford, IL
- ✚ Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL



**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

**DIRECTORS:**

Brian Bould	Neil DeVries
Carol Lomonaco	John Meyer
Greg Pascucci	Larry Petricek
Sharlene Wardinski	

Erica Wolfe, ExOfficio

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

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

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*In Remembrance*

**Les Neuens** passed away March 12<sup>th</sup>. His wife, Ruth, preceded him in death. He was the Operations/Plant Manager in Milwaukee.

**Richard "Russ" Russoniello** passed away on April 1, 2013. He worked in the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office and also in Milwaukee. He is survived by his wife, Millie, their children and families.

**Mary Ellen Lewis [wife of Joe Lewis]** passed away April 24<sup>th</sup>. In addition to Joe, she is survived by their four children and grandchildren.

**First Time Attendees to the quarterly Luncheon held April 18, 2013**



Jim Charewicz & Jim Greevers



## Two, Too Expensive Words

Submitted by Gene Bendix

As I recall, this event occurred probably back in the summer of 1972. Dave Bigler was promoted to manager of the Canadian District and I worked for Marv Herrick.

At that time, we carried 3-ring binders for all the product literature on all our products including Apparatus Bulletins, Instruction Manuals and Parts Lists. These binders, 2-inch and 1-inch sizes, were dark blue vinyl imprinted with "Johnson Controls Inc." for the USA and "Johnson Controls Ltd." for Canada. When these were ordered, the amount was 2,000 for the USA and 500 for Canada.

Because the cost of binders for Canada was higher, Dave Bigler considered it excessive (attempting to keep expenses low). So Dave called Marv Herrick to complain and Marv agreed to address the issue. We could have handled this problem on the phone but instead, Marv decided that I should go to Toronto to resolve it in person.

A week later I drove to Mitchell Field, parked my car @ \$13.00 per day and flew to Toronto. The cost, round trip, was approximately \$100.00. Dave told me that the best way to get to his office was by taxi. So I flagged down a cab, driven by a Pakistani man, and told him to take me to 120 Bermondsey Rd. He replied, "not know" and threw a map of Toronto in the back seat, loudly instructing me, "You tell, I drive." After a rather long journey, miraculously, I arrived at my destination. Cost: \$50.00!

When I met with Dave, he explained his dilemma and asked me for suggestions. I asked him if he could live with just "Johnson Controls" on the binders. He immediately was in total agreement with that arrangement. My job was done. Dave bought me lunch and drove me back to the airport, and I flew home. "Mission accomplished!"

Actual cost of eliminating "Inc. and Ltd.": \$163.00

Alternative solution by phone: about \$1.00

## My 40 Years with Johnson Controls

By Marvin Lawhorn – Retired January 1993

I was discharged out of the Navy on December 9, 1953 and came back to Roanoke, VA. I had told my wife if I did not have a job in two months, I was going back in the Navy. I married young and had two children so I had to work. I went to the employment office, did some paperwork and they sent me for an interview at what was then Johnson Service Company. The office had not been open in Roanoke very long. We were a sub-office out of Greensboro, NC. Mr. Jack Clark was the manager at that time. The interview went well and I was hired; went to work on or about December 18, 1953. I did ask if this would be regular work. He said he hoped so but being construction work, you never know. Well for the 40 years, I never missed a day for lack of work.

After about a year, I was asked to move to Lynchburg, VA, about 60 miles east of Roanoke, as a resident mechanic. I worked that area for 20 years and was asked to come back to Roanoke as installation manager. That was my last 20 years. In all my years, I worked for 4 or 5 managers. I could not have found a better job. What a great company! The different jobs we did – what an experience it was. Schools, tire plants, weaving mills, dye plants, office buildings, and hospitals just to name a few. To this day I'm always telling my wife as we pass buildings "we worked on this or that building". I always look at the thermostats in airports and other places in my travels.

One of my greatest thrills was the few times I met Fred Brengel. What a great man he was. In January 2013 it was 20 years since I retired. I live on a large lake named Smith Mt. Lake. It's between Roanoke and Lynchburg, VA. A group of JCI guys and a couple of girls meet 4 times a year for lunch and talk over old times. In summer we might have a cook out and a pontoon ride on the lake.

What a great trip it was and still is! Fond memories.....



From  
the archives...

## **JCI helps largest U. S. Marine base keep cool in the desert February 5, 2002**

On **February 5, 2002**, the Johnson Controls' *Briefing* newsletter reported that the company had won a \$16.1 million contract for installation and service of a cogeneration energy system at the largest U. S. Marine Base in the world located in Twentynine Palms, California. According to the announcement, the cogeneration system would increase the electric power reliability at the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command (MAGTFTC) while reducing annual electricity costs by about \$5.8 million. The system's natural gas-driven combustion turbine generates seven megawatts of electricity. The heat produced in the combustion process is used to create hot water, which is used in the base's HVAC systems. "We have more than 10,000 Marines housed here in the desert with summer temperatures reaching more than 120 degrees, and we need a self-sufficient, reliable energy source to provide an environment that helps us fulfill our mission. The new cogeneration unit is an innovative way to meet both goals at a low cost – and save energy at the same time," said Wayne Hofeldt, MAGTFTC Twentynine Palms base energy manager. There has been a Marine training center or base at Twentynine Palms since 1952 under various names until 2000, when the base was redesignated as the MAGTFTC. The two-fold mission of the MAGTFTC is to operate the U. S. Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center to promote readiness of operating forces; and to provide facilities and services that are responsive to the needs of tenant commands, Marines, sailors, and their families.



The U.S. Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center insignia.

# 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 our treasurer, Bonnie Lenz. Her address is listed inside this newsletter.

