

Warren s. Johnson Society of Retirees, Inc.

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

www.johnsoncontrols.com/retirees

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 17, NO. 1 / Spring 2010

125th Anniversary Celebration & Retirees Biannual Reunion May 15, 2010



Combining the Biannual Reunion along with the Company's 125th Anniversary means you will be getting information from two different sources.

Registration for Retirees will be held Saturday at the Johnson Controls Facilities. You will be able to register anytime during the day on May 15th. There will be a special table set up for your registration, staffed by members of the Retirees group -- so look for familiar faces!

The Saturday night banquet will be held at

Italian Community Center
631 East Chicago Street
Milwaukee WI. 53202

A special registration sheet is enclosed.

The next quarterly retirees' luncheon will be held on July 15th and will include election of officers. Please plan to attend... details will be sent after the reunion.

January program

Report by Sharlene Wardinski

What an informative and busy session we had at the January luncheon. To start with Ken Wirth, JCI Records and Archives Project Manager, gave a slide presentation from the start of JCI and what transpired thru the years. The changes, the leadership, various jobs we handled, but time was too short. We haven't told Ken at this time but he is definitely on our list of return speakers!



Ken Wirth



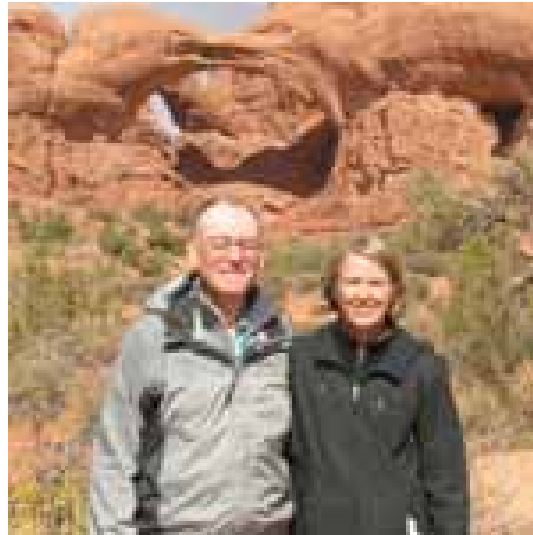
Greg Voeller

Our next speaker was Greg Voeller, JCI Director Global Employee Communication. Since we are combining the JCI 125th Anniversary with the Retirees Reunion the weekend of May 15, 2010 Greg had updated information for the Retirees group. The information should be out to all employees within the next two weeks.

I would really like to thank both Ken and Greg for taking time out of their busy day to meet with our group.

The President's Page

Random Musings of the Prez



By this time, you should have received a formal invitation from JCI to the 125th Anniversary Celebration at the Glendale, WI Headquarters on Saturday May 15th. We have moved our Biennial Reunion to coincide with the 125th. Our reunion dinner will be held that same Saturday in the evening. A nominal fee will be charged for our dinner. We have also added a Luncheon on Thursday October 21st since our reunion was moved to May. Remember that our revised Calendar of Events is on our web page at <http://www.JCI.com/retirees> and that we will have an election of officers at our July 15 Luncheon.

For the past year, I have been getting an increasing amount of Email from other retirees. In the past, the Email has been mostly inspirational in nature, informative or age related jokes. The growth in my inbox has been in the anti politician category.

The chief concern has been that the US now has 45% of the world's debt. Forty-five percent!!!!!!! Remember protestors complaining that America consumes far more than its share of oil at 25%? How can the poor nations borrow? How can we?

We got into our situation by spending recklessly when times were good. We sold bonds to raise the funds that we spent recklessly. Who is going to buy our bonds tomorrow? Will you? We have been told that the Chinese have lost patience with us.

I know that when we complain "taxes" many are turned off and consider us to be mean spirited and selfish: but consider this. In 2008, we had about 304 million citizens of which 82 million were under 19 years of age and only about 134 million had jobs (about 126 million today). Out of those 126 million, about 14 million are tax-paid teachers, police officers, fire fighters, bureaucrats and social workers, the Armed Services, politicians, etc. If we remove those jobs from the worker pool that actually supports our society and the fact that half of remaining workers pay no income taxes and some receive Government subsidies, we arrive at the fact that about 56 million private sector workers are supporting our whole system. This is unsustainable!

More doom and gloom: Thirty-seven million of us are over 65. Our Social Security Ponzi scheme is in trouble this year due to increased unemployment. SSI receipts now are less than the payouts. How can those 56 million workers sustain SSI and Medicare?

Look at our growing Government today. Government workers now make an average of 10% more than private sector workers. Remember when it was the reverse? The most dishonest and out of date title today is "public servant".

Forget the doom and gloom: attend the 125th and our reunion. You'll feel better.

FIELD REPORTS

Following are anecdotes sent from fellow retirees, talking about their feelings and memories of life at JCI

GENE BENDIX – Milwaukee, now living in Arizona

In my last quarter at MSOE in 1951, I was interviewed by Johnson Service Company's Vice President of Sales Promotion and Advertising, Mr. Rex Vernon. He hired me in June to start in July at \$300 per month. But, I was not to start until July 5th, the day after July 4th; a paid holiday. My immediate supervisor was Marv Herrick who gave me a complete set of Apparatus Bulletins and told me to learn all the products.

About a week later, Marv Herrick very pleasantly told me that the next day I was to go to some business in West Allis. We were installing a control system for them, and I was to pick up a 3 inch valve for photographing. **PIECE OF CAKE!!** I was too new to know that a 3 inch valve wasn't 3 inches high, but for a 3 inch pipe! Because I had no car yet, I had to use the street cars. So, early in the morning I boarded the No. 10 street car and headed for West Allis to pick up MY valve.

I found the business and the man I was to meet to pick up MY valve. "It's in the back room", he said and told me to just go in and get it. When I went into the room, there was no little 3 inch valve; it was monstrous!! It stood about 2 ½ feet tall with a gigantic 4R top. It weighed about 40 pounds!

So off I went with MY 40 pound valve back on the street car to the photographer on 27th &

Clybourn. About a half hour later, there I was, with MY 40 pound valve, back on the street car. Admit I was tired from hauling that bleepin' valve around.

I finally got back to work about quitting time. Eight hours with a 2 ½ ft. high, 40 pound valve. What a bleepin' job!! When I got back to the office, Marv Herrick kind of smiled in a sinister way and said, "How was your day?"

JOE BARTOLETTI – Milwaukee, now living in Florida

The purpose of my writing here is to encourage each of you receiving the newsletter to write in to update your fellow Johnsonites on where you are and what you are doing with your retirement.

As a group, we've left Johnson controls behind now and have ventured off into second, and in some cases, third lives. Believe me, hearing about them is fascinating to us! It's really a pleasure to connect once again with those we worked with in years past. Great to hear what you have been doing. Amazed to hear about jumping from airplanes, redoing old cars, scoping the night skies, volunteer work, traveling to far away exotic places, gourmet cooking, starting businesses, new hobbies, moving to new areas, etc. etc. I've vicariously enjoyed hearing about it in the past. I'm sure it's true of all those who read the newsletter.

Please share your retirement with us... and once is NOT enough! Maybe you did write in some years ago. Please update us!!

FIELD REPORTS

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JERRY BELL – Lubbock, TX

I had the good fortune to celebrate our 79th anniversary in 1964; my first year with the company, our 100th in 1985, and our 123rd anniversary in 2008 when I retired. I am so proud to have served with such a great company and with so many wonderful people over my 44 years.

I experienced numerous reinventions of our company and at times questioned the wisdom of our leaders. At some point around 25 years ago I began to realize that it sometimes took several years to appreciate the wisdom of some of the decisions. I began to be more accepting of change. Although I always carried out my responsibilities, I had more fun doing it after I became more understanding of the responsibilities of our decision makers up the food chain.

Congratulations to this wonderful company for 125 years of providing so many jobs, for being so caring of employees, and for providing me and my family the opportunity to live the American Dream. And thank God for Warren Johnson. Warren, I know you are looking down with great pride at what a few ideas created all those years ago.

And to those of you still working..... keep up the good work! I still own stock.

DAVE PODESZWA – Milwaukee

Hello JCI retirees,
We have not been able to make any of the retirees meetings yet because I'm still working and have always been out of town during retiree meetings. We read the newsletters completely to keep up with those who share their activities with us old friends. Thank you for your articles.

Luanne and I have our four kids out of college and now can travel much of the world these past years, taking us throughout UK, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, South America, Mexico,

the Caribbean Islands, Falkland Islands, a little bit of Asia, and more.

It's interesting to see how others share planet Earth and how some are much more technically advanced. As we traveled in Argentina and Chile, many still heat their dwellings and cook by burning wood. You can imagine the air quality on a bad day.

Here's a photo of Luanne and I ready to ride the "train at the end of the world" in Ushuaia, after rounding Cape Horn. Yup, coats are needed in summer at the Southern tip of South America.

We are looking forward to catching up with all of you at the May 15th celebration and to continue reading JCI Retirees newsletter articles on your whereabouts and activities.



Luanne & Dave Podeszwa

FIELD REPORTS

DEAN FERRIS – Miami, now living in Georgia

Judy and I will be celebrating our 48th wedding anniversary in July and our 3 children have provided us with 6 grandchildren whom we adore. When we are not playing golf, cruising or traveling we spend time visiting our grandchildren in Charlotte, NC, Atlanta, and Sarasota, FL. We are going on a week long cruise at the end of January, and will probably go to Cozumel, Mexico in March.

We are living in the north Georgia mountains, about an hour north of Atlanta, but only about 10 miles (the way a crow flies) south west of the southern starting point for the Appalachian Trail. We live on a golf course in a gated community called Bent Tree, which is near Jasper, Georgia. For most of the year this area is beautiful and is a great retirement area. Although, as I write this (January 10th) we have snow on the ground; the high temperature for today was 22 degrees, and the roads are snow covered (about 2 inches).

And to think that in the early 1960's, while in the Air Force, we lived in Newfoundland and had over 300 inches of snow each winter and we were rarely snowed-in. Snow is not rare here, but it is rare enough that we do not buy snow tires and we do not have any snow removable equipment. So until it warms up and melts the snow, we are seeking ways to ward off 'Cabin Fever'.

RON CAFFREY – Milwaukee, now FL

Looking at the Archives article in the current Newsletter made me realize that joining the Johnson Service Company in 1949 might make me part of the Archives :-). All of you growing up in the electronic age may not realize that the first building automation systems were totally pneumatic.

Pneumatic temperature transmitters in the areas to be monitored were connected with copper tubing to pressure gauges calibrated in temperature readings. Start-stop functions were accomplished with pneumatic switches on the central panel

pipled to pressure-electric switches at the location of remote fans and pumps. But there was more "sophistication", the pressure gauges providing temperature readouts were provided with a red hand operated moveable arrow in the glass front of the gauge allowing the operator to position the arrow over the desired temperature. Then, as the advertisements said, "the operator could glance over the entire control panel (read building automation console) just like an airplane pilot does with his instrument panel to find any trouble spots". Pneumatic gradual switches were provided below each gauge to allow remote reset of controllers.

Connecting hundreds of control points in a single building with copper tubing (yes, plastic hadn't come along yet and we had moved past lead tubing) was challenge enough but then we won the largest central operating panel ever conceived (the early '50's) at Idlewild Airport (now Kennedy) in New York. The items on the central panel at the power plant had to be connected to many airline terminals and out-buildings scattered over the entire site through utility conduits equipped with access holes.

The actual numbers escape me but there were hundreds of items to be connected over miles of conduit. Bundles of copper tubing, 19 quarter inch tubes encased in rubber, were available in 500 foot spools, each spool about 6 feet in diameter and weighing hundreds of pounds. These had to be truck transported to distribution access points, lifted by crane, deposited on axle stands and then pulled by power winch to a connecting point hundreds of feet away. Contrast this to low voltage wiring today, and even wireless transmission starting to take hold, and you have another instance of how much change can happen in one lifetime, but in this case, in one working career!



FIELD REPORTS

*Following are anecdotes sent from fellow retirees,
talking about their feelings and memories of life at JCI*

BILL BRAAK - Denver

Johnson was a very small company in 1948, when Rex Vernon hired me, after graduating from the Univ. of Wisconsin. (The total corporate revenue that year was around eight million) and Rex was the "Sales Promotion Manager". Rex was seemingly the manager of all field and personnel matters. He was the main contact for everyone with news or problems or need of advice. He was a big, jolly, and tough man who liked to eat and smoke and party, but mostly he was a people person and really enjoyed interfacing with everyone, especially company people.

The main thought in this message is how very people-oriented the company was and the lengths the second-in-command went to in order to make life easier for the employee.

One example; I was hired about April 1, 1948 and reported about June 1st. There were 30 new sales engineers in a special training class that lasted 30 days. (Fred Bregel was one of my classmates) First assignments took place immediately after and mine was Denver. Al Cooper, the Denver manager was swamped with work and seriously needed help. He even wanted Rex to skip my training.

The problem was that John Rudy, one of my best friends and college fraternity brother and Johnson sales engineer, assigned in the Milwaukee branch, wanted me to be his best man at his wedding, scheduled for September.

It certainly would have been cheaper to pay my airfare to Denver and back to Chicago, but Rex decided to keep me in Milwaukee for additional training. His original plan that never worked out was for me to eventually join him in the Sales Promotion Dept. (Marketing Dept.), so home based training, he said. Made sense.

The hitch was, he hadn't planned for this and was at a loss of what to do with me for the next two months. Al Cooper was upset to say the least. The company continued to pay my room and board because I was on special assignment. I don't know if the company president at the time, Joe Cutler, even knew about it. Rex really liked John Rudy and didn't want to upset his marriage plans.

My assignments were "make do" things. I visited all the departments and bothered manufacturing, engineering, shipping managers and workers. My most memorable job was to practice first grade mathematics.

I was to upgrade the Johnson parts price book, adding 15% to every part in the book. There were hundreds of parts. Everything from a T-400 leak port to a 6" iron valve body. The leak port normally cost two cents. 15% equals three hundreds of a cent. I got to the point where I could add 15% to anything, in my sleep. I'm not sure those changes were ever employed.

The two months dragged a lot but Milwaukee was great in the summer. Can you imagine any company doing something like this today? It was just a great paid vacation for me.

John and Jean were married on schedule and I finally made it to Denver in September. Rex continued to try to make my future part of his department by sending me to the Eastern regional office to bother Max Rather, but that's another story, including how sales engineer, Fred Bregel took me in hand and helped me survive in New York City.



FIELD REPORTS

DOUG DECKER – Milwaukee, now SC

This past year was a good one for us and we continue to enjoy living in the Heritage Plantation community of Pawleys Island South Carolina. The Intracoastal Waterway surrounded by historic low country rice fields and plantations and nearby Atlantic Ocean all make for a picturesque environment. There is a certain “easy livin” hushpuppy and grits style that we love.

The big event of the year happened in May when we moved our sailboat, Limerence, from Palm Beach Florida to our dock here at Heritage. She was shipped back from Turkey at the end of 2006, and we visited her several times a year. We finally decided to bring Limerence home. We motor cruised 200 miles of the passage up the Intracoastal Waterway to St. Augustine Florida, and then went the remaining 200 miles on the “outside” in the big pond for two days and nights. We entered Winyah Bay in Georgetown SC early in the morning and were greeted by a brief squall and high winds. Ahhhh. . . the cruising life! Our boat is now safely at dock in our marina a few minutes from home with many miles on the keel and lots of soul. What stories Limerence could tell. It’s a thrill to see her decorated with colored lights up the mast for the holidays!

Doug was honored twice this year for energy efficiency initiatives he organized during his work years at Johnson Controls. We found ourselves in Washington DC in June and November collecting these tributes and enjoying reunions with old friends at business receptions. The 20th Year Anniversary of the Energy Efficiency Forum inducted 22 members to the EE Hall of Fame and Doug was part of this honored group. The ceremony was held at a remarkable place - the “Newseum”. It’s a striking museum dedicated to the history of journalism, news photography and mass communication. If you visit, plan to spend a half day or more viewing the fascinating exhibits.

Our retirement is becoming more typical these days. Judy loves golf, bridge, and community activities. Doug dabbles in local politics, pilots our plane, and hangs out in his home office (dubbed the HOLE) and

networks with friends on his computer. We took a couple of trips this year to fly to Boone and Asheville North Carolina, and eastern Georgia to visit friends. Visits to the kids in Fort Myers Florida and Milwaukee WI were also important priorities. We have five grandchildren from one year old to thirteen. Every single child is brilliant and gorgeous.

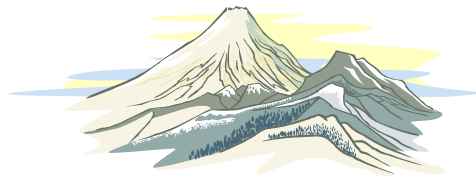
In July we hosted a family reunion here at the beach and took a few turns baby sitting at the ocean front condo so our adult children could have a bit a free time. One windy day on the beach, a bespectacled elderly woman yelled at us grandparents as we struggled with four little kids, beach chairs and towels, toys and umbrellas, buckets and picnics. . . and accused us of needing more adult supervision for our grandchildren. We agreed with her.

So life is good. We are lucky we don’t have any health issues and can ride our bikes to the beach, hang out in our marina and reminisce about the “old” days of cruising the world, drink a glass of wine and contemplate our future. We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful place and have family and friends all around with which to share.



Limerence





Rocky Mountain Chapter Reports

By Barney Meyer

When Barbi and I returned to Colorado in 2001, we were delighted to join old friends from the 1960s Johnson office who are now members of the local chapter. This brought back great memories of working in the Denver office in the 60s. Everyone respected and supported their fellow worker, recognizing that each played an important role in the success of the branch. We had a super group of administrative people, a very successful sales team, a top notch engineering squad, the best construction and service mechanics and electricians in the area, and our leader was branch manager Bill Braak. We were all proud of the fact that the people in the local HVAC industry respected our branch as the leader in our field. Because we were all very close then, we are pleased to see many of these fellow Johnsonites attending our chapter lunches and talking about our branch 40+ years ago. All of the groups mentioned above are represented at our chapter lunches including Bill and his wife Dar when we can pry them away from the golf course in Colorado Springs. There is a group of Denver branch folks now living in Arizona who drop by from time to time for lunch. The Rocky Mountain Chapter would not be entering its 15th year of existence without the effort, leadership, and dedication of the chapter founder Bob Pagliasotti. We have lost some very special people along the way but they are not forgotten when we meet. **Those were the good old days.**



Barney Meyer

Bill Braak

Barbi Meyer

Dar Braak



Bob Pagliasotti, Catherine Bruno

First Time Attendee to the quarterly Luncheon held January 2010



Jeanne Anderson



New Member Recruitment at JCI 125th Reunion Celebration

All retirees of JCI are invited to the May 15th event at Corporate Headquarters in Glendale, not just members of our society. Accordingly we will set up a membership table to recruit some of the retirees who haven't known the joy of being a member of our group.

As a member, stop by and say hello. We'd like to give you a sticker that you can wear proudly throughout the day showing that you're a member of WSJSR.

For those who are not members, we'll have a Newsletter and Membership Application form with a sincere invitation to join.

John Enright
VP – Membership

Johnson Service Company Victory Song

Tune: Notre Dame Victory March

**Hail, hail to Johnson Control
We pledge our efforts, body and soul.
Selling service abundantly,
This will provide our security.
Filter out your Pyralarm,
Your mighty Penn will save you from harm.
And balance out your S.E.T.,
Go forward with J.S.C.**

**Hail, hail to Johnson Control
Hard work on forecasts keep you out of the hole.
The computerized compensation plan,
We scream about each day in the can.
Control Center prospects are behind every bush,
Get off your duff and go out and push.
Total Maintenance on a flat fee,
Go forward with J.S.C.**

From Bob Lindsey
Appleton Office, Circa 1968

Groaner

King Ozymandias of Assyria was running low on cash after years of war with the Hittites. His last great possession was the *Star of the Euphrates*, the most valuable diamond in the ancient world.

Desperate, he went to Croesus, the pawn broker, to ask for a loan. Croesus said, "I'll give you 100,000 dinars for it". "But I paid a million dinars for it," the King protested. "Don't you know who I am? I am the king!"

Croesus replied, "When you wish to pawn a Star, makes no difference who you are."



**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.

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In Remembrance

Judy Wilson, wife of the late James F. Wilson, passed away on February 14, 2010. Survived by their children and families.

Emil Becker passed away on May 8, 2009 after a long illness. Survived by his wife Elsie, two children and their families.

Edward "Ted" Doyle passed away on January 2nd. He began his career in Portland, ME and served as vice president in Milwaukee in the 1960's.



MARK YOUR 2010 CALENDARS

MILWAUKEE LUNCHEONS:

July 15, 2010
[election of officers]

October 21, 2010



**Deadline for information to be
submitted to editor for the next
newsletter:**

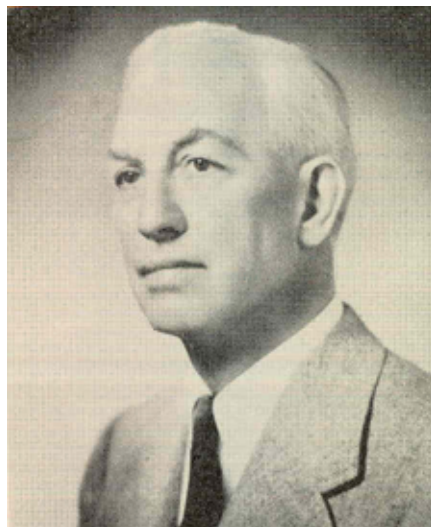
May 11, 2010





From the archives...

Carl F. Johnson, the younger of Johnson Controls' founder Warren S. Johnson's two sons, died on **February 2, 1957** at his home in Altadena, California, at the age of 77. Carl was born on June 21, 1879 in Whitewater, Wisconsin, where his father was a professor at the State Normal School (Warren Johnson's only other child, Paul was born five years earlier). Carl went on to graduate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1901 and, soon after, started with his father's firm as a salesman at the New York branch office. He eventually returned to Milwaukee, where he became a plant superintendent, a vice president and, in 1912, a director of the company (a position he still held at the time of his death). Like his father, Carl was an inventor who received his first patent at the age of 15 for a time stamp. Among his other patents was one for the dual thermostat used for economy heating in buildings during times of low usage. He also was involved in many other early Johnson projects, including the invention of a pneumatic clock system, development of steam-driven automobiles and trucks, and pneumatic developments in the air conditioning field. In 1918, Carl moved to California, where he spent the rest of his life pursuing a number of activities, including operating an instrument flight school for pilots, composing music, yachting, and creating a college to train law enforcement officers.



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

Johnson Controls, Inc.
125th Anniversary & Biannual Reunion
REGISTRATION FORM
Dinner on MAY 15, 2010

Italian Community Center, Milwaukee

Cocktails: 6:00 p.m.

Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Retiree's Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email address _____

Spouse/Guest Name _____

SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER SELECTION

All dinners include

Salad, vegetable, Italian bread, dessert and beverage

PLEASE LET US KNOW OF ANY DIETARY RESTRICTIONS

Orange Roughy Parmisano

(lightly breaded with Sicilian crumbs, topped
w/tomato sauce & Parmesan cheese)

**Stroganoff of
Beef Tenderloin**

Retiree

Spouse/Guest

SATURDAY EVENING DINNER

\$10.00 per person

Send this registration form and check by May 7th payable to W. S. Johnson Society
to:

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

