

Holiday Party

This year's Holiday Party will be held on December 7th at the Lakeshore Yacht and Country Club. This year, the party will be catered by "Attilio's At The Lakeshore". Attilio's has a great history as a local restaurant and we are looking forward to an excellent meal. Dinner will be preceded by a cocktail hour featuring hot and cold appetizers. Following dinner, a large selection of desserts will be offered.

"Smokin" will again provide music for our dancing and listening pleasure. Lead vocalist Janice Wilson, accompanied by band members will sing a variety of songs from the 50's through to today.

A flyer for the event included with this newsletter provides details including the meal selections. We are able to offer the same price per couple as last year - \$75 for dues paying Elfuns and spouses and \$95 for guest couples. This event is a great bargain.

We encourage all of our members to take advantage of this opportunity to renew acquaintances and start your holiday season.

Please note that your reservation, with payment, must be received no later than Monday, December 2nd.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Dick Enright

IN MEMORIAM

We have received word of the deaths of the following Syracuse Elfuns:

Robert Marquardt 9-23-13

Royal Kinsley 10-8-13

James B. "Jim" Thomas 10-11-13

Willard Bahn 10-16-13

Jay Doane 10-18-13

Louis Zakraysek 10/19/13

William Johnson 10-29-13

Social Events Recap

We continued our busy social schedule into the late summer and fall, beginning with a return trip to Merry-Go-Round Playhouse in Auburn for a matinee performance of "Cats". We were all humming "Memory" as we proceeded to Skaneateles for a post-theater buffet at The Sherwood Inn. The Sherwood is pleased to have us return each year, and the staff welcomed us as old friends while we enjoyed their hospitality.

In September, two different groups had a delicious dinner at Julie's Place and toured the WSTM Studio. Laura Hand has had a 40 year career at WSTM, and she gave tremendously thorough and in-depth tours. We saw the studios, control rooms, newsroom, weather deck and lots of original GE equipment that was developed at Electronics Park and tested out at WSTM. Laura introduced us to news anchors Matt Mulcahy and Michael Benny, and they shared some of their experiences. We also met weather personnel Mike Brookins and Wayne Mahar and watched them tape segments for future airing. The first group also had the opportunity to wish a happy retirement to Doppler the Weather Cat, who retired the day after our tour.

We closed out our fall activities with a road trip to Utica. We returned to The Chesterfield Restaurant for a family-style Italian feast, and then toured the Saranac Brewery. Saranac's tour is a bit different from other brewery tours, as the first part focuses on the history of the brewery and the building. We saw many antiques prized by the F. X. Matt family, including a partner's desk that was custom made for P.T. Barnum, Tiffany lamps, and a \$1.3 million grandfather clock. We also heard the story of how the brewery was the first to serve beer only a few minutes after the end of Prohibition. Our tour ended in the 1888 Tavern where we enjoyed some of their delicious beers in the company of our Elfun friends. After the Holiday Party on December 7 we will take our customary winter break and resume social events in the spring when the snowbirds return. Keep your eyes open for flyers and we hope to see you at an event in 2014.

Vera House Project Report

The GE Volunteers completed a project on October 21, 2013, with a total involvement of 9 volunteers on Sept. 9, 2013; 10 volunteers on Oct. 7, 2013; 9 volunteers on Oct. 14, 2013; 7 volunteers on Oct. 15, 2013; and 10 on Oct. 21, 2013.

Event Location: The Vera House main abused women and children facility in Syracuse.

Event Project: This involved removal of a rotted storage shed; construction of a cement block retaining wall to keep adjacent soil from washing down on the new shed; the construction of pressure treated 2x4 and particle board floor; the assembly of the 10 x10 storage shed walls, roof trusses and surface, doors, shelving, roof truss support; and painting the floor and outside of the shed.

Event Effort: The project took a total of 220 man hours by 13 GE Volunteers. GE Volunteer List: Ed Brennan, Pete Capponi, Dick Enright, Dave Fulmer, Marv Hahn, Harry Heilman, Jim Jaeger, Bob Killius, Bill McGrath, Russ Rhea, Bob Ruth, Art Toll, and Fred Wenthen. Submitted by Marv Hahn, Syracuse GE Volunteer Coordinator.

Photo: L-R: Marv Hahn, Pete Capponi, Bill McGrath, Bob Killius, Bob Ruth, Dick Enright, Russ Rhea, Jim Jaeger, Dave Fulmer



GE Foundation Luncheon June 13, 2013

For the nineteenth year in a row, the Syracuse Efun Society hosted the annual luncheon for the non-profit organizations that received gift- matching funds from the GE Foundation.

Representatives from twenty non-profit agencies were honored on Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at Julie's Place Restaurant, 770 James Street, Syracuse, for their contribution in the Syracuse area. Their organizations were recipients of funds in excess of \$160,000.00 from the GE Foundation that matched donations from local General Electric employees and retirees. Congratulations to all the GE employees and retirees who made this possible.

Nicholas J. Vaccaro, Event Chairman

GE Foundation Gift Matching Program

To access the matching gifts program, enter www.gefoundation.com in your browser application.

This brings up the GE Foundation home screen. Click on "Matching Gifts" in the upper tool bar, to bring up the first login screen. Select GE Participants Login. To login, you must enter your User ID (SSO Number) and your current password. [GE requires you to update your password each year.] Then, accept the guidelines, and you are at the screen for matching gift entry. Select the method that appeals to you. Search for your charity.

If you get the "no organization" response from your search, you should then do an advanced search. Click on "Advanced Search" and a more detailed search screen comes up. The organization's Tax ID number is the best search criteria. If this fails, you may go back to the simple search screen and click on the "submit an Organization for consideration" words. Up comes a page with about a dozen facts about the organization to be filled in. One has to do some homework before this page can be filled out. I have succeeded twice in nominating an organization for a match. Caution: most of the charities in the greater Syracuse area are in the system. Make sure you have the name correct. Call the charity, if you are unsure.

Mal Clark, Benefits Chair

Message from Larry Cook, Elfun Benefits Liaison

We are pleased to announce that the Elfun Medical Benefits Committee has completed our annual review with United Health Care, the plan administrator. The review included an examination of current and projected premiums, benefit payments, financial status, administrative expenses, cost trends, enrollment and other relevant data. Plan participation has been stable during recent years at approximately 23,000 people. Based on estimated 2013 financial experience and the anticipated increase in 2014 claim and other costs, the Committee and the Elfun Board have approved a \$5 increase in the monthly premium rate for 2014 to \$140 per month per participant. This 3.7% rate increase is attributable primarily to: 1) higher claim costs consistent with external health care cost trends and 2) a new Federal tax/fee estimated at 2.5% that will be imposed on retiree health insurance premiums under the Affordable Care Act – an extra \$3.50 per month at the new premium rate. We expect to finish 2013 in a strong financial position which allows us to maintain premiums at a reasonable level (albeit with a small increase), continue excellent financial protection for plan members and maintain the plan's financial stability. UHC will be mailing letters to current Elfun Medical Benefit Plan participants on November 11th. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks for your support.

Elfun Medical Benefits Plan Highlights (Effective January 1, 2012)

The Elfun Medical Benefits Plan is a program sponsored by GE Elfun for eligible Senior members and their spouses or surviving spouses. The plan is designed to help participants pay for their share of services covered by Medicare Parts A and B. It also provides benefits for some services that Medicare doesn't cover such as dental preventive care examinations and medical care received outside the United States. The Elfun plan complements coverage provided through the GE Medical Care Plan for Pensioners (MCP) and the GE Pensioner Prescription Drug Plan (PPDP). Information presented here highlights some of the key elements of the plan. Details on plan coverage are in the GE Benefits Handbook "*GE Pensioner Health Care Options at Age 65 effective January 1, 2012*".

Costs for the plan and related administrative expenses are paid through premiums charged to plan participants. **The monthly premium for 2014 will be \$140 per covered person.**

Eligibility

- Qualifying Senior Elfun and spouses (including same-sex domestic partners) age 65 and older.
- Must be enrolled in both Medicare Parts A and B.
- Must be enrolled in the GE Medical Care Plan for Pensioners and the GE Pensioners Prescription Drug Plan.
- Must enroll within 90 days of initial eligibility for the Elfun Medical Benefits Plan.
- Must meet applicable Elfun membership requirements established for the plan.

Coverage After Annual \$400 Deductible is Met

For most hospital, physician and medical services, the plan pays 80% of Medicare-covered expenses not paid by Medicare Parts A and B and the GE Medical Care Plan for Pensioners (MCP). Medical claims for services provided in the United States must be processed first through Medicare and the GE MCP second. The Elfun plan pays only after claims have been processed through Medicare and MCP.

Reimburses 80% of prescription expenses not paid by the GE Pensioners Prescription Drug Plan (PPDP). The Elfun plan pays only after claims have been processed through the GE PPDP.

Provides benefits for covered preventive care services including a variety of cancer screenings, bone mass measurement, diabetes self-management, and immunizations.

Coverage for preventive care dental procedures based on the schedule of benefits.

\$400 annual deductible per person

\$2,000 annual out-of-pocket maximum. After this maximum is met, the plan reimburses 100% of covered expenses for the rest of the calendar year up to the lifetime maximum benefit.

\$300,000 lifetime maximum benefit per person.

Snowbird Mailings of Elfun Newsletter

For the past two years all Syracuse Chapter Elfun postal mailings have been sent to the member's home address. The reason is that it is expected the USPS would forward the newsletter or flyer to the "Snowbird" address if the member is away from home (since all the mailings are First Class). This may present a problem for some people if their mail is held for pickup upon their return or is otherwise not being forwarded.

We are looking to see if there is need to send the Syracuse Chapter newsletter / flyers directly to Snowbirds. The suggested plan would be to send the February newsletter to the Snowbird address and all other mailings to the member's home address. Mailings to the home address would include the May, August and November newsletters and any special event flyers.

If you are a Snowbird and want us to send your February Syracuse Chapter newsletter to a Snowbird address, please confirm your snowbird address with the database manager, Bob Ruth via postal mail or e-mail. Also, if you want any of the other newsletters or flyers sent there, please tell us what all you want us to send and provide a date range for us to send to the Snowbird address.

If we don't hear from you, all postal mail will be sent to your home address.

If you are receiving Syracuse Chapter Elfun documents via e-mail, this does not apply to you because we send you all our publications sans USPS.

If you are not a Snowbird but would like to change the way you receive your newsletter and event flyers, either from the USPS to e-mail, or from e-mail to the USPS, please contact me.

Bob Ruth, Syracuse Chapter Database Manager, 4763 Echo Park Rd, Liverpool, NY 13088-3603

E-mail: ruthrob@msn.com

Leadership Team 2013-2014

If you are interested in participating in the Syracuse Chapter Leadership Team, please contact Dave Fulmer. After several years of great work, Steve Auyer has stepped down as our newsletter/communications person and we are looking for someone with graphic arts experience to take over.

Position	Individual	Phone	E-mail
Chairperson	David Fulmer	(315) 457-4087	fulmerdm@gmail.com
Vice Chairperson	Peter Scalzo	(315) 457-0598	none
Secretary	George Fay	(315) 246-1045	george.fay@ge.com
Treasurer	Robert Bryerton	(315) 395-1726	rbreyerton@twcny.rr.com
Database/Webmaster	Robert Ruth	(315) 451-0685	ruthrob@msn.com
Seniors Rep.	Richard Enright	(315) 457-1364	donnaruel@verizon.net
Newsletter/Communications	David Fulmer	(315) 457-4087	fulmerdm@gmail.com
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GE Volunteers	Carl Chermak	(315) 637-0380	carl.chermak@ge.com
Community Liaison	Peter Scalzo	(315) 457-0598	none
Skaneateles Rep.	George Fay	(315) 246-1045	george.fay@ge.com
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