



Elfun Newsletter

AUGUST 2010

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

I am pleased with the opportunity to again serve as the Chairman of the GE Syracuse Elfun Society for our year 2010-2011. I was last Chairman for the 1999-2000 year. Since that time, our Elfun Society has undergone vast changes, some of which I am not too familiar with, but I hope to come up to speed quickly with the help and support of our very talented Board members. One thing that has not changed is our volunteering and participation in many local community activities. The current "GE Volunteers" as they are now called by Corporate, in the Syracuse Area, consist mainly of GE Elfun members that include retirees and some current GE employees from Syracuse, Skaneateles Falls and Oswego. The money that funds our projects comes from Corporate directly to the agency to which we are providing volunteers to do the work. The agency that requests the effort applies for a "Grant" that has to be approved by GE. Currently the money comes through the Skaneateles Falls GE Plant. The GE Elfun Syracuse Chapter is getting enough money to do all the projects we can handle. This new year we will continue to provide the resources for our volunteer efforts and will continue to provide several social activities throughout the year.

Roland Robb

IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES

Dues for the new fiscal year (July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011) are now due and payable by September 30th. Your dues support our volunteer projects, social events and communication with our members. See the enclosed Dues Invoice for details.

Surviving spouses of deceased members of our chapter should not pay dues, but should return the enclosed form for "Continuation of Membership" to continue receiving communications about our activities, and to participate in them.

Upcoming events

Oneida Lake Cruise September 10th - See page 2 and enclosed flyer

Golf Outing September 20th, See flyer

Holiday Party December 4th See page 2 and Save the date

NICK VACCARO NAMED GLOBAL ELFUN OF THE YEAR

Nick Vaccaro, Immediate Past Chairman of the Syracuse Elfun Chapter, has been named Global Elfun of the Year for 2010. The Elfun Board of Directors received many nominations for the award but voted Nick's the best because of his dedication to making Elfun a success. Nick's outstanding leadership, responsibility and dedication to service have helped to maintain Elfun as a strong volunteer and social organization. This is the first time in ten years that our chapter has won a global award (we won a Golden Elm Award in the early 2000s) and the first time ever that a member of the Syracuse Chapter has won the Global Elfun of the Year award. In recognition of winning the Global Elfun of the Year award, Nick will receive a clock/plaque from the Global Elfun Board.

Read about Nick's award in the next edition of Under the Elm. Congratulations Nick for winning Elfun of the Year for 2010, you really deserve it.

Carl Chermak

The Syracuse Elfun Society's Web Site

Your Syracuse Elfun Society is "on the web". Go to www.elfun.org; click on "Chapters", then scroll down to "New York", then click on the "Syracuse" link. Once there you can view a number of things: "In Memoriam" lists recent deaths of Elfuns in our chapter. This is managed by General Electric Company and you will need your Single Sign-on information to retrieve information there. Other links take you to "Dues", "News" on Chapter activities, "Officers:" of our Chapter, and "Elfun Funds", managed by GE Asset Management.



A LOOK BACK AT THE PAR - page 4

SOCIAL EVENTS

By Cindy Chermak

COMING SOON: Oneida Lake Luncheon Cruise – See the enclosed flyer

Our upcoming event is a luncheon cruise on Oneida Lake at noon on Friday, September 10. We'll board the *Mystere* at the Port of Brewerton for lunch. We'll then cruise through Lock 23, the busiest on the Erie Canal. We'll have the opportunity to disembark for a lockmaster tour where we will see the operation of the lock and the century-old powerhouse. The entire cruise is scheduled for 2.5 hours so we should dock in Brewerton at about 2:30 PM.

This cruise is close to home and there is parking for about 40 cars right at the pier. Ship's capacity is 88 and we'd love to have a large crowd for this interesting event. **See the enclosed flyer for menu choice and directions to the pier, and send in your reservation by August 30th. See you there!**

Skaneateles Tour and Luncheon

A large group of 92 attended the tour of GE Inspection Technologies in Skaneateles on June 16. We were welcomed in the café with morning coffee as we heard an overview of the company's products, history and incorporation into the GE fold. We then split into small tour groups and visited stations where the staff demonstrated products for a myriad of military and industrial applications ranging from aircraft engine to wind turbine to pipeline inspections. The prevailing question was why BP wasn't using GE's technology to repair the oil leak. Many thanks to everyone at GE Inspection Technologies for educating us on their products. We were an overwhelming group, and we so appreciate George Fay for working his magic to coordinate such an interesting and enjoyable visit. If you can handle 92 Elfuns you can handle anything!

We followed the tour with a luncheon at the Sherwood Inn in Skaneateles, where the food is always delicious, the service marvelous and the ambiance is not to be missed. We finished our day with a wine tasting at Anyela's vineyard. Jim, the owner, coordinated the tasting and gave us a lesson in viticulture along the way. We tasted several wines and learned one reason our area is good for growing grapes is that the Finger Lakes are about the same latitude as the growing areas in Germany and France. Jim featured, among others, the Cayuga White and Noiret, both made from grapes developed at the NY Agricultural Experimental Station. Lexi the Vineyard Dog visited each of us for a quick pet as we sipped our wine.

It was wonderful to hold this interesting event for such a large group. We had many attendees who had not previously attended a social event, and we hope they had an enjoyable time and will try another. Thanks to everyone in the group for your patience.

Chiefs Baseball

We had beautiful weather on Sunday, June 27, as the Chiefs welcomed the Pawtucket Red Sox at Alliance Bank Stadium. What a delight to see a group of 67 which included several children and grandchildren. We saw a lot of runs but unfortunately they were for the Paw Sox as the Chiefs lost 8-1. It was a pleasant day at the ballpark and we thank Tex Simone and the Chiefs for the excellent seats and of course Pete Scalzo who secures the tickets for us each year.

2010 GE FOUNDATION LUNCHEON

For the 16th year in a row, The Syracuse GE Elfun Society hosted the annual luncheon to honor the local non-profit organizations that received gift matching funds from the GE Foundation.

Leaders from twenty-four non profit agencies were honored on June 23rd at Julie's Place, James Street, Syracuse, for their contributions in the Syracuse area. Their organizations were recipients of funds in excess of \$235,781.00 from the GE Foundation that matched donations by local General Electric employees and retirees.

Congratulations to all GE employees and retirees who made this possible.

Nick Vaccaro, Event Chairman

NOTE: TO HAVE YOUR GIFTS MATCHED BY THE GE

HOLIDAY PARTY Save the Date

Just a reminder that our annual Holiday Party is scheduled for December 4th at the Lakeshore Yacht & Country Club. We always have a big turnout for this event, not only for the excellent dinner and entertainment, but also for the opportunity to renew acquaintances. This is always an outstanding social event, so mark the date on your social calendar.

Dick Enright, Event Chairman

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The GE Volunteers returned to the Syracuse Golden Gloves Athletic & Education Center on South Geddes St. over three days in May and June to add a 12 ft. by 16 ft. storage shed. Stan Ziembra adjusted the design to stay within the funds available and we had a very good turnout of volunteers. Many thanks to Bob Killius, Dick Martin, Bill McGrath, Stan Shubsda, Ray Smith, Stan Ziembra, Myron Egtvedt, Dick Enright, Jim Jaeger, Pete Capponi, Fred Wenthen, Marv Hahn, Harry Heilman, Russ Rhea, Art Toll, Neal Schantz, Leo Gordona, and Fred Scott.

The HOPE FOR BEREAVED held a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Butterfly Garden of Hope on Onondaga Lake Parkway. The 18th Anniversary program contained thank you listings for a number of tasks the GE Elfun Volunteers did for the Garden.

The GE Volunteers are now into a major project at the Beaver Lake Nature Center with the construction of a large 14 ft. by 18 ft. concession stand near the main building using finish material similar to that of the main building. We had 18 volunteers the first Monday (pictured below) and 13 the second Monday and we anticipate at least two more sessions. A large turnout of volunteers can reduce the stress on each volunteer. Many thanks to the volunteers for the first two days : Carl Chermak, Pete Capponi, Myron Egtvedt, Leo Gordona, Dick Enright, Marv Hahn, Harry Heilman, Jim Jaeger, Bob Killius, Bill McGrath, Dick Martin, Russ Rhea, Neal Schantz, Fred Scott, Stan Shubsda, Ray Smith, Art Toll, Ted Webb, Fred Wenthen, and Stan Ziembra.

Camp Talooli has received a grant and is anxiously waiting for the GE Volunteers to rebuild the floor and ceiling of the nurses building.

As mentioned before, we can use more volunteers. Please call Marv Hahn at 699-2621 to join the team.

Marv Hahn, Volunteer Coordinator

ELFUN LEADERSHIP TEAM

2010-2011

CHAIRMAN	Roland Robb	637-5251
VICE CHAIRMAN	Art Toll	415-3259
TREASURER	Don MacLaughlin	652-5792
SECRETARY	Al Roger	457-1142
DATA BASE MANAGER	Bob Ruth	451-0685
SKANEATELES REP	George Fay	246-1045
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR & CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS	Marv Hahn	699-2621
SOCIAL EVENTS	Cindy Chermak	637-0380
SENIORS REP	Dick Enright	457-1364
COMMUNITY LIAISON	Pete Scalzo	457-0598
PAST CHAIRMAN	Nick Vaccaro	457-3632
GE VOLUNTEERS REP	Carl Chermak	452-7260
NEWSLETTER EDITOR & COMMUNICATIONS	Rudy Benfey	652-9790
All phone numbers are in area code 315		

The above officers (first five positions) were elected by the membership to a one-year term in the election that closed on June 1st, 2010.



IN MEMORIAM

We have received word of the deaths of the following senior members of our chapter: Ben Geyer, Bruce Knapp, Arthur Koch, Harry Rothenhoefer and Roger



The Construction Team at Beaver Lake

SAFEGUARD REUNION by *George Rasi*

About 175 people returned to northeastern North Dakota for the first full-scale reunion of the Safeguard System on July 9th and 10th. General Electric, was represented by Robert Spong (and his brother) and George Rasi (and his wife). It was a great event and the tours (especially the one-hour PAR tour) were worth the trip to this remote part of our nation.

Bell Laboratories and WECO were the prime contractors for the Safeguard System, with major subcontracts given to General Electric (Syracuse) for the Perimeter Acquisition Radar (PAR), Raytheon for the Missile Site Radar (MSR), and IBM for the software.

The system attained full operational capability with a total of 30 Spartan and 70 Sprint missiles on October 1, 1975. The system was named the Mickelsen Safeguard complex in honor of Lieutenant General Stanley Mickelson, a former commanding general of the U. S. Army Air Defense Command, and was to be used to defend the offensive Minuteman missiles based at Grand Forks Air Force Base in the event of a nuclear ICBM attack by the Soviet Union or China. It could also be used to provide a limited defense of a wider geographical area including populated centers. The nature of the system was traded away (during the cold war) with the Soviet Union in the 1972 Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT I). After full operation of less than a year the MSR was de-commissioned, the missiles were removed and PAR was transformed into a longer-range radar with two primary missions: early warning and space tracking. It still remains the most reliable and accurate sensor available for these missions. In order to accomplish these goals a direct link was established from PAR to the Ballistic Missile Defense Center (BMDC) at NORAD headquarters within Cheyenne Mountain.

I am very pleased to report that after more than 35 years of continual operation the PAR radar is still performing at very high levels with an extremely high level of reliability and availability. Our hardware and software are viewed as too good to be messed with; this is indeed a tribute to all who were involved in the PAR's development, testing, installation, and activation.

Within the PAR building the Traveling Wave Tubes (TWT's) are still performing and generating their tremendous power (multimegawatts). The TWT's are not available new in today's market place, so after about 3.5 years of use each of them is refurbished at an average cost of about \$10,000. There are currently about 200 in the inventory (with 128 needed for full-up operation). The phase shifters are rated as extremely reliable and a piece parts inventory is still available from manufacturers for repair. The Data Processing System (DPS) with the Central Logic and Control (CLC) executing the programs are in full operation and have a spare parts inventory acquired from the MSR and Tactical Software Control Site (TSCS – the development facility in Madison, NJ). It appears that only one of the large screen CRT display consoles is still in use – the others have been replaced with flat screen units – but the displays on them are still the same. The computer software is still in use and has only had minor modifications. The A, B, and C tests that monitor the health (and lead to fixing when necessary) of the PAR are still in exclusive use. Cabling and antenna elements have had no significant failures or degradation. All of these findings are a tribute to a dedicated team of engineers from GE-Syracuse.

The PAR site is now called the Cavalier Air Force Station and is operated and owned by the US Air Force 10th Space Warning Squadron. An excellent publicly maintained web site on the system can be found at: www.srmisc.org

If you get to North Dakota, small tours of the facility may be had if your timing is correct. You must plan ahead (at least 6 weeks). Two picture forms of USA identification are required. Make contact at IOSWS.PA@Cavalier.af.mil. Stay at the Cavalier Cedar Inn or at the Langdon Motor Inn

I am very happy to report that the PAR is alive and well and supports our nation to this day -- who would have thought that this was possible forty years ago? The MSR is but a concrete shell and resides in a field surrounded by durum, canola and one-hundred-and-six 1.5-megawatt General Electric wind turbines that dwarf it and supply electric power for northern North Dakota.

Plans are underway to designate both facilities as national historical sites, and if this is accomplished, they will stand forever as a testament to the dedication and ingenuity of the engineering and construction teams dedicated to keeping our nation safe.

