



# GE ELFUN NEWSLETTER

## Social Events

**Holiday Party** - This year's Holiday Party will be held on December 1<sup>st</sup> at the Lakeshore Yacht and Country Club as in the past. Food for our dining pleasure will be provided by Karen's Catering Service – which has provided outstanding meals for us for the past five years. Hot and cold appetizers will be available during the cocktail hour, and after dinner a large selection of desserts will be available.

The ever popular band “Smokin” will 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 and 60's through to today.

A flyer for the event is included with this newsletter. Please note that the price per couple for dues paying Elfuns and spouses has been held at \$75 this year while the price for non-dues-paying Elfuns and guests has had to be increased from \$85 to \$95 – still a great bargain.

This is always a great event and we encourage our members to use this event as a chance to renew acquaintances and kick off the holiday season. Please note that your reservation, with payment, must be received no later than Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you there.

Dick Enright

**Syracuse Chiefs** - We have had a busy summer, starting with our annual “Elfuns Family Day at the Ballpark” on July 31. What a beautiful day for Elfuns, children and grandchildren to enjoy the game from our seats behind home plate. Despite a 3-run home run by the Chiefs, they lost to the IronPigs by a score of 8-6. Oh well, we saw several runs, had a lot of fun, ate some good food and marveled at the new scoreboard. Thanks

to the Chiefs for hosting our group and to Pete Scalzo for making the arrangements.

**“Cabaret”** - Next up was our first visit to Broadway in the Finger Lakes at Merry-Go-Round Playhouse. The September 5 matinee of “Cabaret” took us to Germany in the 1930's as Sally Bowles and friends cope with life while the Nazi presence increases in their midst. The set made the Cabaret look inviting, and the musical numbers were exciting to watch. We followed the performance with a delicious dinner at The Sherwood Inn. The Sherwood never disappoints - we were seated in a gorgeous room and enjoyed a lovely dinner among friends. There was wine-tasting in the lobby so we had the added attraction of sampling some Finger Lakes wines.

**“Nunsense”** - Merry-Go-Round offered us some bonus tickets to “Nunsense”; so on October 5 a small group took advantage and moved from the somber end of “Cabaret” to the light-hearted hi-jinks of the Little Sisters of Hoboken. As they repeatedly pointed out, you don't have to be Catholic to appreciate the humor. They had us rolling in the aisles with their corny jokes, some so bawdy that we can't repeat them here. Suffice to say we will never think of St. John and St. Peter in the same way again.

**Scenic Train Ride & Dinner** - Between the two plays, we took a fall leaf-peeping tour on the Adirondack Scenic Railroad. The weather didn't cooperate as we had a rather gloomy day, but the leaves were out and the scenery was gorgeous. We were seated together in a comfy car, and the narrator alerted us to points of interest along the way. During the brief layover in Thendara we could have a quick drink in the Van Auken Inne, visit the displays in the station, watch the engineer move the engine to the other end of the train, or just en-

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joy the baby deer walking around the area. Travel by rail sure is relaxing; I saw more than a couple of our group members fast asleep on the return trip. Upon our arrival back in Utica, we had the most wonderful meal at Chesterfield Restaurant. We filled every seat in our cozy private room and dined on course after course of Italian dinner served family style. Nick Vaccaro advised us if we wanted a great meal in Utica, Chesterfield was the place to go. He sure was right. Thanks Nick!

Cindy Chermak

**Golf Outing** - I think I should have titled this writeup "Elfun Golfers '*Graupel*' with Inclement Weather." October 12, 2012 may go down in history as the first time it snowed during an Elfun golf outing. Sixteen hearty Elfun and guests braved the inclement weather during the Captain and Mate event at the Woodcrest Golf Club in Manlius, NY. Despite our dry summer and rainy fall, the golf course was in great shape. All the golfers were treated to a hotdog and hamburger lunch and buffet dinner after the golf. Elfun Ken Hines and his guest, Craig Campbell, won the event with an incredible even par 71. Senior Elfun Jim Petrie and his guest, Lou Pisano, took second place with a very respectable two over par 73. Congratulations to our winners and thanks to everyone who helped out. We look forward to your participation in next year's golf event which we will schedule earlier in the year when the weather hopefully will be better.

Carl Chermak



## GE Benefits

Some of you may have gotten a letter that announced the discontinuance of the GE post-65 health care benefits for new participants as of January 1, 2015. That means that if you are eligi-

ble and have not yet signed up, you have three yearly enrolment periods to do so. A call to the Benefit Inquiry Center (1-800-432-3450) about the Elfun retiree plan was inconclusive, as they had not yet received the details of the overall plan. It is safe to say that the Elfun plan will also be discontinued on the same time table. Many Elfun and spouses take advantage of the Elfun plan as it is very good. So, for the moment, DO NOT PANIC! First, we know that at least one such letter was sent to a person whose spouse was not eligible for Elfun supplementary benefits, but who planned to enroll her in 2013. And another Elfun whose spouse recently died received the letter. But what you do have to remember is that if you were counting on being able to switch from the Elfun plan to another plan, and back again later depending upon the relative cost of the plans, you will no longer be able to do this after January 1, 2015! More information is available at [careers.geblogs.com/post-65-health-benefit-changes-summary/](http://careers.geblogs.com/post-65-health-benefit-changes-summary/). And, we are investigating the possibility of a Syracuse-area meeting in March of next year with a GE Benefits representative.

Remember to register your 2012 charitable gifts for the GE match. The organization must be registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and the minimum contribution is \$25. If you visit the website at GE.com, you will need to be registered with a GE SSO ID and a password. The password has a way of expiring, so you may have to reset the password. The long version of the site address is: [http://www.ge.com/foundation/employee\\_programs/matching\\_gifts.jsp](http://www.ge.com/foundation/employee_programs/matching_gifts.jsp)

Matching gifts customer support is 1-800-305-0669, or you can E-mail them at:

[gesupport@cybergrants.com](mailto:gesupport@cybergrants.com). Gifts can be registered by phone at the above number.

The general category of food bank organizations is in dire need this year. The next donation confirmation date is 12/31/2012 and the payment processing date is 02/28/2013. So, please be prompt with your gift registration as these charities need the

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money. For laggards, the drop dead date for 2012 gift registration is 04/15/2013. George Fay of the Skaneateles plant informs me that he is coordinating GE bell ringers for the Salvation Army in the Syracuse area this year. Anyone interested in bell ringing for the Salvation Army, please call George at (315) 834-9263 for times and locations. The Salvation Army season starts on November 17th and runs through December 24th.

Mal Clark

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**In Memoriam**

We have received word on the deaths of the following members of the Syracuse Chapter:

Donald McCoy—March 24, 2012

William Madigan—June 15, 2012

Vincent Gabriel—August 4, 2012

Stephen Wanuga—August 26, 2012

Von Campbell—September 8, 2012

Dick Enright

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**Community Service**

In early August the GE volunteer team of Ed Brennan, Pete Capponi, Dick Enright, Marv Hahn, Chuck Hickmott, Dick Martin, Bill McGrath, Neal Schantz, and Art Toll painted the entire outside of the Alzheimer's Association building on West Kirkpatrick St. in Syracuse. We received a thank you note that commented that many hands make light work and beautiful results of a large task.

The GE volunteers moved on to configure and install two bulletin boards on an indoor hallway of the Hope for Bereaved office on Onondaga Boulevard and also repaired the doors and painted their outdoor storage shed. Many thanks to Pete Capponi, Dick Enright, Marv Hahn, Chuck Hickmott, Jim Jeager, Bill McGrath, and Art Toll.

The GE volunteers will have a project at the Vera House in the next month to dismantle the boy's bathroom prior to reconstruction with new fixtures.

Bill McGrath, Fred Wenthon, and Marv Hahn have been working on the design and cost of an enclosure for the maple syrup evaporator at the Beaver Lake Nature Center for a future project.

If anyone has ideas for future construction tasks or desires to join our team, call Marv Hahn at (315) 699-2621 or send me an e-mail at [marvh@twcny.rr.com](mailto:marvh@twcny.rr.com).

Marv Hahn

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**Odds-N-Ends**

George Rasi has provided us updates on the status of the GE PAR equipment at the Safeguard ABM Site. He now tells us that the <http://srmsc.org/ch11000.html> site is a good guide to the current information available on the site.

There are several groups of GE retirees that meet monthly for a luncheon:

- Second Thursday of every month at Barbagallo's Restaurant, 6344 East Molloy Road, East Syracuse. 11:30am-12:30pm social hour, lunch at 12:30pm, occasional programs. Contact Bill Poorman at (315) 446-3332 or [Bill-Poorman@gmail.com](mailto:Bill-Poorman@gmail.com) for more information.
- Third Thursday of the month at Wally's Belvedere, 863 State Fair Boulevard, Syracuse. Gather at noon.

# Newsletter


US Postal Service weight limitations limit the size of this newsletter to the equivalent of two 8.5" x 11" sheets of paper when a flyer is included with the mailing—as is the case this month. There are a number of photographs taken at chapter events during the past three months that we'd like to include in this newsletter but simply do not have enough room in the hard copy. So if you receive this newsletter by e-mail it will consist of six pages, and if you receive it in hard copy form it will be limited to four pages.

Also, in September we issued a Quick Notes retrospective on what was happening in Syracuse in 1985. Again, because of the size, this 35-page document was sent only to those Elfuns receiving their newsletter by e-mail.

If you would like to change the way you receive your newsletter, either from the USPS to e-mail, or from e-mail to the USPS, just send an e-mail to Bob Ruth, our Database/Webmaster person, at:

ruthrob@msn.com.

SYRACUSE CHAPTER—SEPTEMBER 2012



**ELFUN QUICK NOTES 1985**  
An occasional publication by the Syracuse Chapter of interest that would not ordinarily be included in our regular newsletters.

**What Was Happening in Syracuse in 1985?**

**Refer**

- Contracts were awarded for Sections 2 & 3 of the OTI-B system (TFS-118 Cassia Over-Drive Backboard).
- A proposal was being prepared for the West Coast OTI-B system.
- The first TFS-88 was delivered to the Matsuo Corp.
- A contract was received for 5 TFS-117 radars for the North Warning System.
- 2 systems were in production for the Peace Juke Program.

**Ed&h**

- Packaging work was being done on CuAs (Culham Areside) semiconductors, VLSI (Very Large Scale Integrated) chips, and MBOCs (Monolithic Integrated Microwave ICs).

**Star**

- The first IQQ-30 Manufacturing Sener was shipped.
- A contract was received for 13 Model 2083 British Seners.
- The EP-8 ARW Production Test Site began operations.
- Key milestones were met for the SQS-SQC development contract.
- Contracts were received for the production of 13 SQS-19 Towed Array Seners, and the IQQ-30 Test & Integration effort at EP-5.

**CERO (Consumer Electronics Business Operation)**

- A line of peripherals for home computer systems was introduced (I bet, you could save time programs and data on a cassette recorder).
- The "HomeMindar" computerized home control system was introduced.

**PERD (Power Electronics Semiconductor Department)**

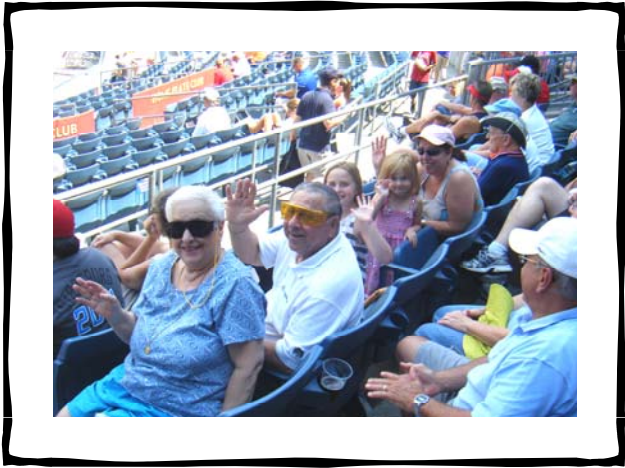
- Development continued on such unique devices as the FDN Variator.
- Low value and high inventory were adversely affecting profitability.

**CRTD (Cathode Ray Tube Operation)**

- A continuing series of process improvements were implemented to reduce cost.
- Production of the 10" color CRT in EP-15 was ended.
- Development was begun of 10" and 16" color CRTs but CRTD was declared to be in "survival mode."

## 2012/2013 Chapter Officers

| 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 | donnarue1@verizon.net   |
| Newsletter/Communications | Steve Auyer     | (315) 451-7359 | n2tkx@arrl.net          |
| Social                    | Cindy Chermak   | (315) 637-0380 | chermak@msn.com         |
| Construction Coordinator  | Marv Hahn       | (315) 699-2621 | marvh@twcny.rr.com      |
| 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       |
| Benefits Rep.             | Mal Clark       | (315) 637-3996 | clarkm2c3@aol.com       |
| Former Chairpersons       | Art Toll        | (315) 415-3295 | art.toll@yahoo.com      |
|                           | Roland Robb     | (315) 638-5251 | none                    |
|                           | Nick Vaccaro    | (315) 457-3632 | nvaccaro@twcny.rr.com   |



Chiefs Game



Train Ride





Golf Outing



Alzheimers Association



Hope for Bereaved

