



GE ELFUN NEWSLETTER

Elfun of the Year



At the Holiday Party on December 1st, Dave Fulmer, Chapter Chairperson (left), presented the award to George Fay, Chapter Secretary and Skaneateles Representative.

Dave's citation thanked George for his coordination of public service activities in the Skaneateles area and included: "Each year, our Elfun Chapter selects a person who has done an outstanding job of providing service and support in our organization. I am pleased to announce that George Fay is our Elfun Of The Year."

GE Benefits

2012 is over and now is the time to report your 2012 charitable contributions (\$25 minimum) for the GE match. You have until April 15, 2013, to get this accomplished. In particular, remember those charities that serve the homeless and hungry. Technically, the match is not a GE benefit. It is administered by the GE Foundation, a separate entity. Religious and political institutions by and large do not qualify for a match. However, many religious organizations have a separate 501(c)3 corporation to serve the community at large. Most of these qualify. You can register your contributions on-line or by phone.

To go on-line: Go to www.gefoundation.com. Select "Employee Programs". Then select "Matching Gifts". A log-in screen for GE participants comes up. Here, you will need your nine digit SSO (Single Sign ON) number and your password for logging in to GE benefits. The home screen for entering your contributions comes up; then just follow the directions. The site remembers what you did in the previous years, so the process is eased by the prior work. I was able to get the entry time for a contribution under a minute including a printout. By phone: call 1-800-305-0669 – SSO required. For most other inquiries, call the Pension Benefits Inquiry Center at 1-800-432-3450, or log on to www.benefits.GE.com.

For first contributions, the look up process could be better. I tried Food Bank of CNY to no avail, but when I tried Food Bank of Central New York, I found it. So, persevere! The site is supposed to respond to key words, but often it doesn't.

Mal Clark

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Construction

In October the Elfuns assisted a Liverpool Boy Scout in the installation of markers along the brick path of the Butterfly Garden of Hope as part of his Eagle Scout project. He will provide a chart to help individuals locate their brick or bench at the completion of the project.

On November 12th, GE Volunteers Pete Capponi, Dick Enright, Marv Hahn, Stan Shubsda, and Art Toll installed the holiday lights at the Butterfly Garden of Hope on Onondaga Lake Parkway to be illuminated during the Lights on the Lake season.



On January 7th, as part of a project to update the bathrooms in the Vera House main shelter for abused women and children, the GE Volunteers performed the difficult task of dismantling the main bathroom. They removed all the metal partitions, wall tiles, sheetrock, and inner partition studs and hauled that to an outdoor dumpster. Many thanks to volunteers Ed Brennan, Pete Capponi, Leo Gordona, Marv Hahn, Harry Heilman, Bob Killius, Neal Schantz, and Art Toll.

During the Fall, Bill McGrath, Fred Wenthen, Marv Hahn, and Jim Parkman developed the design for the enclosure for a maple syrup evaporator at the Beaver Lake Nature Center. The majority of the required material has been purchased and is now stored in the pole barn that the GE volunteers built for the Nature Center in 2008. With the return of better weather in the Spring, the enclosure will be constructed.

Please contact Marv Hahn at (315) 699-2621 if you would like to help with future construction projects such as the enclosure at the Nature Center, or if you are aware of any local non-profit groups that could benefit from our help.

Marv Hahn



Social

As we look out our windows at the piles of snow, at least those of us who haven't "escaped" to warmer climates, it's pleasant to anticipate the return of Spring and the beginning of the 2013 Syracuse Chapter social programs. While firm plans have yet to be made for all but the Holiday Party, here are the events that are currently in the planning stage:

Spring:

- Corporate Benefits Speaker - TBD
- Everson American Moderns exhibit tour & reception - TBD
- Finger Lakes Winery/Brewery tour with luncheon - TBD
- Elfuns Senior Luncheon - TBD (May 16th tentative)

Summer:

- Chiefs Baseball Game - TBD

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Fall:

- "Cats" at Merry-Go-Round Playhouse with luncheon - TBD
- Saranac Brewery Tour and Tasting - TBD
- Golf Outing - TBD
- Merry-Go-Round Playhouse bonus performance (play only) - TBD

Save The Date:

- Holiday Dinner Dance at Lakeshore Country Club - December 7, 2013

Cindy Chermak



In Memoriam

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

- Frederick Niels John "Fred" Dahl – October 17, 2012
- Robert E. Smith – November 13, 2012
- Emil Lange, Jr. – November 25, 2012
- Raymond Reed – November 29, 2012
- C. Bernard "Bernie" Quinn – December 12, 2012
- John R. MacVicar – December 17, 2012
- Eugene C. Ernst – January 12, 2013
- Frederick F. "Fred" Ferrara—January 13, 2012



Road Scholar Opportunities

**Preservation and Renovation of a Classic Old Vermont Summer Camp
Sunday, June 2, 2013 to Friday, June 7, 2013**

For the 5th time, the GE Elfuns will be returning to this classic old Vermont Summer Camp and there are many projects still to accomplish! Needed: willing hands to work and play in a beautiful setting. Grand old summer residential camps are an endangered species. Their location on pristine lakes make them prime targets for development. The non-profit Aloha Foundation's Hulbert Outdoor Center recently purchased one of these camps to keep it from going the way of condominiums. It will be preserved as open space and returned to a summer camp for intergenerational, family and adult programs, including Road Scholar. Service projects include carpentry, landscaping, cleaning, painting, developing a written history, mapping, library restoration and farm and garden restoration. We will also have the opportunity to enjoy classes on the History of Camping in New England and on Vermont natural and cultural history and to canoe and hike in the small, charming village of Thetford, VT Located between New Hampshire's White Mountains and Vermont's Green Mountains.

For those of you who can access, the following is a video to show you a little about week.

http://libraries.ge.com/foldersIndex.do?entity_id=13344116101&sid=101&sf=1

Program Price: \$652 double occupancy, \$857 single occupancy

Accommodations: Hulbert Outdoor Center's Ohana on Lake Fairlee. Quinibeck Road, Thetford, VT 05075, <http://www.alohafoundation.org/ohana>

Meals: 15 total, 5 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 5 Dinners

To Sign up: Call registration staff at (800) 322-5315 and reference Program # 14811, and tell them that you are a GE Elfun.

Maintaining the USS Missouri in Pearl Harbor Tuesday, August 27, 2013 to Tuesday, September 3, 2013

Walk the decks of the historic USS Missouri and recall its storied history as the site of Japanese surrender in World War II, a veteran of four wars, and the last battleship to be active in any navy in the

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world. At one time, hundreds of sailors kept this powerful dreadnought fit and ready for duty. Now you will become a part of the “Mighty Mo’s” history as you join the “Teak Crew” of this magnificent vessel.

Highlights:

- Learn intimate, little-known details about the ship through special classes and field trips.
- Relive the experience of life aboard the “Mighty Mo” by spending a night on the ship.
- Work in the beautiful Hawaiian weather with spectacular views of Pearl Harbor, mountains and ocean.
- Be on her deck September 2nd for the solemn ceremony commemorating the 68th anniversary

of the signing of the treaty which ended World War II.

Physical Activity Level: Moderately Challenging

Activity Notes: Walking from three blocks up to one mile over the course of the day. Some stairs, walking on boat decks and uneven surfaces. Optional snorkeling and swimming.

Program Price: \$1,395 double occupancy, \$1,835 single occupancy

To Sign up: Call registration staff at (800) 322-5315 and reference Program # 2617, and tell them that you are a GE Elfun.

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 Roland Robb Nick Vaccaro	(315) 415-3295 (315) 638-5251 (315) 457-3632	art.toll@yahoo.com none nvaccaro@twcny.rr.com

Keeping in Touch on the Internet

There are a number of discussion groups on the Internet that might be of interest to General Electric retirees. Here are some comments on several of them:

LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com) advertises itself as a networking site for professionals. Once you have registered with the site (e-mail, name and whatever other information you wish to share), you can join various discussion groups. LinkedIn has a number of GE groups that appear to be sponsored by various GE organizations: GE – General Electric Company; GE Energy Interest Group; GE Power & Water; GE Capital; GE Aviation – you get the idea. You can also be invited to join a group by a member of that group who has looked at your personal information. There are also several specific groups that might interest you:

- GE – Alumni Network, with 4,081 “ex-employees” as members.
- General Electric (GE) Alumni, with 1,561 “employees and ex-employees” as members. Job openings listed in addition to the discussions.
- GE Retirees, specifically for GE retirees, with 917 members.

Facebook (www.facebook.com) allows you to become “friends” with people having similar interests. You can post information that they can see, and vice versa. Typical GE-related “friends” on Facebook include:

- “GE” (company) with 919,451 friends
- “General Electric J79”, “General Electric F404”, “General Electric CF34” and the like if you’re into jet engines.
- And “The General Electric”, a rock band with 143 friends.

Yahoo Groups (www.groups.yahoo.com) has a number of groups that you can join. Once a member of a group, you can share e-mails, files and photos. Typical groups include:

- “gegen”, devoted to GE railfans, with 771 members.
- “gelocos”, devoted to railfans and modelers interested in GE locomotives, with 515 members.
- “ColdBayAlaska”, Air Force radar sites, with 592 members.
- “military_radars”, the name says it all with 249 members.
- “sideimagaingroup”, Side Imaging Sonar, with 8,785 members.
- “ge_monitortop_fridges” with 150 members, no further comment necessary.

The different groups have varying degrees of membership requirements. The LinkedIn groups can be joined by pretty much anyone. For Facebook you don’t join so much as become a “friend” with the group—easy to join and easy to leave. Some of the Yahoo groups are public which means that you can join them with just a click of the mouse. Other Yahoo groups are moderated and you must apply for membership in the group—and supposedly the moderator will approve or decline your application depending upon your personal information.

Privacy is a concern with all groups and you have to decide how much information you want to share about yourself. Facebook in particular has been making more and more use of member’s personal information as it struggles to maintain increasing profits by making member information available for marketing purposes.

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