

In Memoriam

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

Morton Fox, of Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, passed away on July 28, 2017.

Myron G. Egtvedt, of Skaneateles, NY, passed away on July 29, 2017.

Ramon Nitzberg, of East Syracuse, passed away on July 30, 2017.

Charles R. Klaus, Sr., of Liverpool, NY, passed away on August 7, 2017

William Pattee Whyland III "Bill", of Marcellus, NY, passed away on September 21, 2017.

Donald E. Caverly, of Ocala, FL, passed away on September 29, 2017.

Community Service

Syracuse Elfun Society volunteers completed a project at the Butterfly Garden of Hope on Onondaga Lake Parkway on Monday, July 31, 2017. The team of 7 volunteers included Chuck Hickmott, Neal Schantz, Pete Capponi, Marv Hahn, Fred Wenthen, Richard Martin, and Dick Enright. The group applied cedar natural tone stain and sealant to the seat and backs of 130 Memorial benches in the Butterfly Garden.



In recognition of the long-term support that the society has provided, Hope for Bereaved has included a



memorial marker as testament to the support provided by our chapter in their "thank you" display at the garden, and recently sent a personal note to Marv.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - The next work project at the garden will take place on Monday, November 13th at 10am when the Christmas lights will be installed, prior to the 2017 "Lights on the Lake" opening two days later. Marv can always use more volunteers and if you're available, or just want more information about the project send him an e-mail at marvh@twcny.rr.com or give Marv a call at 315-699-2621.

Coming up later in the year will be our annual support to the Salvation Army's 127th Annual Red Kettle Campaign which kicks off the day after Thanksgiving at 48 locations throughout central New York. Traditionally the Syracuse Elfun Society "adopts" the Red Kettle at Destiny USA (near JCPenny on the second floor). We'd like to thank the following for volunteering in 2016: Bill Arnold; Ed Brennan; Carl Chermak; Herb Coddington; Dick Enright; Larry Fuller; Dave Fulmer; Ken Hines; Bill Krause (and spouse) and Fred Wenthen.

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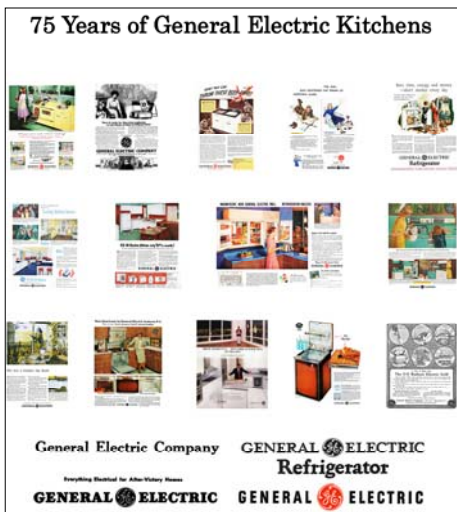
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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - For 2017 The Salvation Army has reserved Wednesday, December 6th for the Syracuse Elfun Society. Pete Scalzo is accepting reservations for 2-hour shifts: 10am-12n; 12n-2pm; 2pm-4pm; 4pm-6pm and 6pm-8pm. At least 2 volunteers are needed per 2-hour shift so grab a friend (or spouse) and give Pete a call at 315-457-0598 to reserve your favorite time slot before someone else grabs it!

Bonus Item

For those who receive this newsletter by e-mail there is a second attachment to the e-mail.

General Electric's consumer products were nowhere more visible than in the kitchens of our homes which could include several major appliances as well as other products (light bulbs, Textolite countertops, clocks, radios, etc.). The second attachment traces the evolution of these appliances from 1912 through to the 1970's through a number of advertisements that appeared in consumer publications.



You will even find a future US President appearing in one of the advertisements, and no, it isn't Ronald Reagan.

Golf Outing

The annual Syracuse Elfun Golf Outing was held on Monday September 18, 2017 at the Tuscarora Golf Club. The weather was the best we've ever had for an Elfun Golf Outing. Due to the size of the group, we didn't schedule competitions; every group played the format that best suited them. Peter Cappuccilli, Tuscarora Restaurant Proprietor, provided ice tea and lemonade at the turn and served sandwiches and wraps in the pub after golf. Thanks to Bob Blake for making all of the arrangements with the golf club and we look forward to your participation in next year's golf event.



2018 Medical Enrollment

Disclaimer: The following uses initial 2018 data and comparisons for two hypothetical individuals in the 13088 ZIP Code. Your costs and comparisons will be different.

The December 7th deadline for making any changes to your 2018 medical coverage is rapidly approaching. Most of us have already begun receiving those thick envelopes in the mail that provide information on what our existing medical coverage will cost us next year. And in addition, some of us have (or will) receive solicitations for other programs that are available. Let's take a look at how OneExchange can help us make the right decision.

For those of us that have Silverscript prescription drug coverage, the envelope describing SilverScript's Part D Prescription Drug Coverage has already arrived and at first glance it looked good – the 2017 monthly payment of \$30.80 would drop to \$29.80 in 2018.

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Upon further study it looks a bit different. While the monthly payment went down there will be a change in the SilverScript pharmacy network. In 2017 all pharmacies in the network had the same “standard” co-pays. For 2018 SilverScript pharmacies fall into either “preferred” or “standard” categories – and there can be a big difference in copays between the two as shown below:

Co-Pays			
Drug	2017	2018	
Tier	Standard	Standard	Preferred
1	\$3	\$7	\$3
2	\$13	\$20	\$14
3	\$46	\$47	\$40
4	48%	50%	44%
5	33%	33%	33%

The SilverScript mailing contains a full list of the pharmacies but as a few examples, the following pharmacies offer Preferred pricing: CVS, Kinney, Price Chopper, Wegmans. While the following offer Standard pricing: RiteAid, Walgreens, TOPS, Walmart

So, if you pick the SilverScript Part D plan, you may need to use a different pharmacy to obtain the lowest co-pays.

And in addition, you can’t pick the best (read that as “Overall Lowest Cost”) plan without looking at the total of the monthly payments and the co-pays for the specific drugs that you will be purchasing. The good news is that if you use OneExchange they have a good cost comparison tool.

To start you need to make sure that your personal profile on medicare.oneexchange.com/ge contains the correct information on the prescription drugs used by each individual covered under your plan. Once this is done OneExchange can show you which plan will provide the lowest total cost for you.

As an example, the following tables show what OneExchange produced for two hypothetical individuals, 1 - used a few generic drugs, and 2 - used some non-generic drugs and fell into the “donut hole”. Since 2018 drug pricing was not yet available, these are 2017 drug costs:

Individual 1			
Plan	Rating	Monthly	Total
Humana/Walmart	★★★	\$17.00	\$264
UHC/AARP Walgreens	★★★	\$22.50	\$270
Silverscript/Choice	★★★★	\$30.80	\$420
WellCare/Classic	★★	\$36.30	\$436
Aetna/Saver	★★★★	\$40.80	\$514
Express Scripts/Value	★★★	\$38.40	\$556
Coventry/Value Plus	★★★	\$43.70	\$572
6 more plans			
UHC/AARP Preferred	★★★	\$80.50	\$1,038

Individual 2			
Plan	Rating	Monthly	Total
Silverscript/Choice	★★★	\$30.80	\$2,979
UHC/AARP Walgreens	★★★	\$22.50	\$3,028
Humana/Walmart	★★★★	\$17.00	\$3,165
WellCare/Classic	★★	\$36.30	\$3,231
UHC/AARP	★★★	\$48.20	\$3,275
WellCare/Extra	★★★	\$68.10	\$3,297
Silverscript/Plus	★★★★	\$75.70	\$3,345
6 more plans			
Humana/Preferred	★★★	\$36.40	\$3,386

The message is – don’t assume that the Part D provider you used in 2017 will be the one you should use for 2018, and don’t do a Part D cost comparison based on monthly cost. But do consider using the OneExchange comparison tools to help you make your decisions.

Lockheed Martin Retirees

There’s an additional wrinkle for those retirees who had at least 25 years of GE service by the time GE Aerospace was sold to Martin Marietta in 1993, and who subsequently retired from Lockheed Martin.

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The good news is that you (and if married your spouse) will be receiving medical reimbursement payments from Lockheed Martin in addition to those from General Electric.

But you have to let OneExchange know which company's funds to use first. You do this by submitting the Recurring Premium Reimbursement Form, and by now you should already have done this for several years. Just remember to submit this form again as soon as you know what your monthly recurring charges will be in 2018. By default, One Exchange will start making 2018 reimbursements from Lockheed Martin Funds, and if you have some non-reimbursed expenses left over from 2017 you may get a nice payment covering them early in 2018.

And then once the Lockheed Martin funds are used up you have to resubmit the form to "turn on" reimbursement from the GE funds.

Social Events

Always... Patsy Cline

Our group of 27 enjoyed a September 26th matinee of *Always... Patsy Cline* at the Merry-Go-Round Playhouse in Auburn, NY. The show is the true narrative of Patsy's chance meeting with fan Louise Seger prior to a Houston concert. Louise's enthusiasm and kindness to Patsy enabled the duo to form a bond of friendship that endured through letters and phone calls until Patsy Cline died in a 1963 plane crash. Only three singers are officially sanctioned by the Patsy Cline Estate to perform this role, and our Patsy is one of them. So, the audience was treated to stunning performances of her big hits such as *Crazy*, *Sweet Dreams* and *She's Got You*, and also clapped and sang along with many old favorite mainstream hits of the day including *Stupid Cupid*, *Shake Rattle and Roll*, and the show stopper finale *Bill Bailey*.



Several of our group relaxing in the shade on a warm summer day.

Salmon River Fish Hatchery and Lunch at The Tailwater Lodge

We love our field trips, and this one was excellent. Our group of 36 participated in a guided tour of the fish hatchery.

Fran, our guide, described the near extinction of the native salmon due to deforestation, predatory fish such as the sea lamprey, and other factors.



The hatchery, one of the largest in the country, was built in 1980 to address this issue. We watched the spawning process, in which the fish are delivered by a dumbwaiter, sorted according to species and sex, and then eggs are harvested from the females. It was fast paced and fascinating. We then watched the fish swim up the fish ladder to return to their "home" from which they spawned. The results of the hatchery's efforts are a successful restoration of the species and the enhancement of a multi-million dollar recreational fishing industry in the Salmon River

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area. This includes the beautiful Tailwater Lodge on the shores of the river.



We enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch and marveled at how well an elementary school had been turned into such a nice hotel. Check out the video that Steve Auyer has added to the Syracuse Elfun YouTube channel youtu.be/THsC-JUDULO

2017 Holiday Party

Arrangements for the 2017 Holiday Party are now firm and a flyer for the event is included with this newsletter. First Saturday in December (as usual), same Great Menu (as usual), same Band (different name, mostly same members), and same Great Fellowship (as before). So be sure to put Saturday, December 2nd on your calendar, and be sure to get your reservation form back to Dick Enright by Friday, November 24th. Looking forward to seeing you there!



Mark your calendars...

Our Merry-Go-Round outing next year will be a matinee performance of *Mamma Mia* on June 12 or 13, followed by a buffet dinner at The Sherwood Inn. The idea was conceived on a cocktail napkin by a woman as she sat in a London bar. The show debuted in London in 1999, was the first show to open in New York after 9/11, and has reached the \$1.4 billion mark. All these years later, she still nets 40%

of every ticket sold. The music of ABBA weaves around the story of mother, daughter and three potential dads on a Greek island. Story aside, we all know the words and music to the title song as well as *Dancing Queen*, *Winner Takes All*, *Waterloo* and many others. This is a rousing, uplifting show that will have us dancing in our seats. Merry-Go-Round has been requesting this show since 2011 and has been on the wait list since 2014. The theatrical release of the movie sequel will coincide with their run, so they anticipate large, enthusiastic audiences. The reservation form will be available in early spring.

“A GUARANTEED GET-HAPPY HIT!”



The Merry-Go-Round Playhouse is located in Emerson Park at the north end of Owasco Lake. Ample parking is next to the playhouse and a stroll through the park before or after a performance allows you to admire the setting and floral landscaping

Keeping in Touch With GE

GE retirees can keep up with the company by registering to receive **GE Connections** at www.ge.com/retirees. While this site implies that you have to be

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a GE retiree to sign up all you really need is a first and last name, and an e-mail address. **GE Connections** comes out monthly by e-mail and is a slick writeup about a number of projects currently underway in the company.



GE Connections
A company update for our retirees.

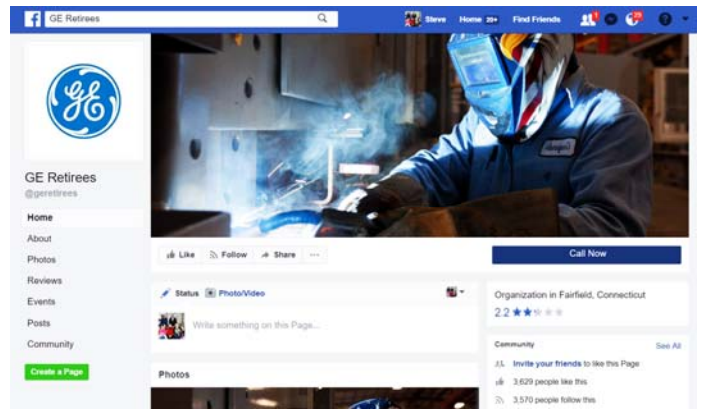
Thank you for reading GE Connections. This month, read about how GE is giving back in areas affected by the recent Hurricanes, how we're transforming engine manufacturing, and how last month's eclipse and your power supply are connected.



Hurricane Update
Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with many of our employees and their families who have been significantly impacted by hurricanes Harvey and Irma. With some of the worst still not over, we're partnering with our employees in leading volunteer actions in the days, weeks, and months ahead. To help support

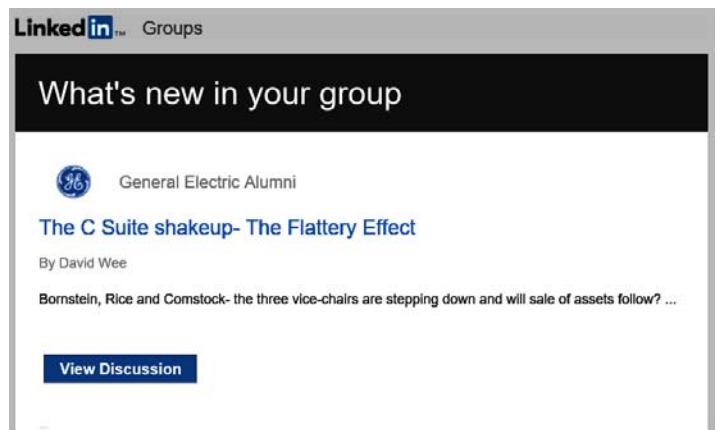
The September 2017 edition included the following articles: "Hurricane Update"; "Flannery on GE's Commitment to Digital"; "Oshkosh, WI: Behind the Airshow"; "Grove City, PA: Automatic For The People"; "Plant Supervisor Teaches Workers To Embrace The Digital Future"; "Behavioral Science: Solar Eclipses Are Predictable. The People Watching Them? Not So Much" and "Lafayette, IN: Senators tour GE Aviation, talk employment future". Each article has a one paragraph summary and a link you can click on to read more. Well written, this is clearly a GE publication and presents the company's view of good things being done. Don't expect any controversial topics.

Facebook, which bills itself as a "social networking service", is a second option. Anyone can open a free account on Facebook and once that is done, search on "GE Retirees" and then "Like" this page. Now you can see what others are posting on this page,



reply to their posts, and post your own thoughts, photos and even videos. GE Retirees claims to have 3,570 people following this page. Most of the postings are of the "random thought" nature and you may find this interesting, or you may not.

LinkedIn is a third option. LinkedIn also calls itself a social networking service but adds "business – and employment-oriented" to this description. It has at least two GE-related groups: General Electric Alumni which claims 41,356 members, and GE Retirees which claims 2,865 members. The latter group seems to have some affiliation with GE as it links to the www.ge.com/retirees site and vice versa.



General Electric Alumni has a lot of free-wheeling discussions – someone will post a comment and the group members begin to reply. If you liked "Dear Abby" or "Ann Landers" newspaper columns you might enjoy this group. Expect to get lots of e-mails from LinkedIn urging you to connect with more people, and LinkedIn's claim that it knows that "*More*

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than 13,000 jobs are now available in the Syracuse, New York Area” does boggle the mind a bit.

Chairman’s Column

Fall is a wonderful time of the year, especially for upstate NY Elfuns. Elfuns enjoyed going to the Merry-Go-Round Theater to see Always Patsy Cline and, by the time you read this column, we will have gone to the Salmon River Fish Hatchery and Tailwater Lodge as well. I’m hoping that the fall foliage will be peak for our drive up to Altmar. Before you know it, we will be gathering at Lakeshore CC for our annual Holiday party. All of these events are good ways to get together with friends you might not see otherwise. In November, we will be putting together our budget for next year. Please make your preference known for which work projects and social events we should be spending our money on next year. In the last newsletter, I mentioned that we have openings for Vice President and Secretary that need to be filled. Since I sent that out, I have received zero responses. If we want to continue the good work and social events that we do, we need all the help we can get. As always, I welcome your comments. Address them to me at cchermak@aclara.com.

Carl

Barns & OTH

The October 12th meeting of the 2nd Thursday Luncheon Group featured Mike Woodford as the speaker – Mike Woodford, as in Woodford Brothers, the structural repair firm located in Apulia Station, NY. Mike’s slide show and discussion of how the firm repairs barns and other old wooden structures was interesting by itself.



But then he mentioned that the firm had worked on the OTH ECRS in Maine. The topic of old barns then shifted to how Woodford Brothers had set up the 1+ mile line of precisely aligned poles for the receiving array, and how then 13-year old Mike had spent the summer installing the mesh groundplane beneath the array.

Syracuse Elfun Society Board of Directors

SyracuseElfunSociety.org

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