



In Memoriam

We have been saddened to learn of the deaths of the following current or former members of the Syracuse Elfun Society:

Ronald L. Gister of Alden, NY. November 19, 2019.

James Klein of Vero Beach, Florida, born in West Stockbridge, Massachusetts, passed away on January 2, 2020, at the age of 87,

Robert J. Bryerton, 78, of Fayetteville, passed away Sunday, January 26, at home with his daughters and wife by his side.

Ernest R. Ruterman, 89, of Syracuse, NY, died Sunday, March 1, 2020.

Jesse R. Newsom, 87, of Bridgeport, NY passed away Sunday, March 22, 2020 at Iroquois Nursing Home.

Dominick J. Barletta, Jr., 92, of Syracuse, NY, passed away peacefully at his home on Saturday, March 28, 2020 with his loving family by his side.

Ronald Leonard Mann of Sarasota, Florida passed away peacefully on Friday April 3, 2020 at age 85.

Complete obituaries for local individuals may be found online at Syracuse.com.

Dues And Officers

Included with this newsletter is a payment form for dues for the 2020-2021 season. Dues largely go to cover four areas: subsidies for our social events; printing and mailing of the newsletters and flyers; materials for our work projects and liability insur-

ance.

If you are a Surviving Spouse you do **NOT** need to pay dues. We just need you to indicate once a year that you still want to remain on our mailing list.

For everyone receiving this newsletter, if any of your information has changed – especially mailing address or e-mail address – please let us know so that you’ll continue to receive communications from us. Thanks!

In the past we have offered three options as to how you receive your newsletter: 1) hard copy through the US Postal System; 2) electronic copy by e-mail; or 3) both hard and electronic copies. To simplify our newsletter mailings as well as to reduce printing and postage costs we have eliminated option 3) this year.

We’re happy to send you either a hard copy of the newsletter or an electronic copy – that’s your choice. But please remember that we send out other communications throughout the year such as reminders of upcoming events and reprints of articles concerning General Electric. These other communications are sent **ONLY** by e-mail so if you opt to receive a hard copy of the newsletter, you will **NOT** receive these additional communications.

On the same form as the dues, is a ballot for officers for the 2020-2021 season of the Syracuse Elfun Society. Because of several vacancies on the board you will note that there are more than the usual number of names of this year’s ballot. Feel free to nominate yourself!

From The Chairman

By the time you read this message, you know that our 2020 Syracuse Elfun Society Annual Meeting was cancelled. The safety of our members is most important to us. We continue to practice social dis-

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tancing and hope you all remain healthy. There will be plenty of time later this year and next to get together.

The financial information for our 2019-2020 operations is as follows. We began the fiscal year with \$6,500 in our treasury. Our major sources of income were dues payments and payments from members for social events. The largest expenses were the cost of the social events, postage and liability insurance. We ended the year with approx. \$5,850.

Income

Dues	\$3,630
Events	\$4,100
Other	\$320
Total	\$8,050

Expenses

Meetings	\$345
Supplies	\$292
Newsletter	\$1,350
Events	\$5,300
Insurance	\$712
Other	\$601
Total	\$8,700

We had many great events in 2019-2020. We watched our first Syracuse Mets game, drank Paul DeLima Coffee, picnicked at Lakeshore CC, travelled to Auburn to see the Seward Mansion, sailed the South Pacific and had a holiday celebration at the Inn Between. In this coming year, Cindy has scheduled a mailboat cruise on Skaneateles Lake, Elfun Family Day at the Syracuse Mets, State Fair at the Merry-Go-Round Playhouse followed by dinner at the Springside Inn and our Elfun Holiday Party to end the year.

Our membership remains stable. We currently have 243 members in our roster. I want to especially thank Joe Kinzel, Nick Vaccaro and Ray Terry for volunteering to join the Syracuse Elfun Society Board of Directors. Please return the ballots you received with this newsletter so we can make it official.

Recent GE Articles

It's been our practice to occasionally send a reprint of an interesting article concerning GE out to members of the Syracuse Elfun Society (at least those members who receive communications by e-mail.). In January, the articles were on the usual subject – how GE was doing in its turnaround. Then in February we began to see hints of a new flu-like virus that was spreading outward from China. And in March “*The S*** Really Hit The Fan*” (as Norman Mailer wrote in his 1948 novel “*The Naked and the Dead.*”) and we began to realize that this was anything but just another flu-like illness that would rapidly pass. Articles in April began to paint a darker and gloomier picture of what life was going to be like in the next several months:

- January 30th - “GE’s Turnaround Gains Traction”
- February 20th – “GE Seeks Lift from Airbus as Boeing Struggles”
- February 24th – “Boeing Plans More Relief for Suppliers”
- February 24th – “How to Treat Sale of GE Transportation to WABTEC”
- February 25th – “GE Shed Quarter of Its Staff Last Year”
- March 3rd – “Jack Welch, Brash CEO of GE, Reshaped C-Suite Landscape” (Welch obituary)
- March 17th – “First Cases Confirmed in Onondaga County”
- March 24th – “Virus Takes Toll on Manufacturers”
- March 25th – “All Hands On Deck”
- March 25th – “GE Official Recruited, Mentored Welch” (Robb obituary)
- March 30th – “Ford and GE Team”
- April 3rd – “Half of GE Aviation Workers Furloughed”
- April 10th – “GE Warns Quarter Will Miss Its Forecasts”
- April 14th – “GE’s Downgrade is Overdue, Too Mild”

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Social Events

Elfun events are organized several months, often as much as a year, ahead. So, when we planned the May 11 Annual Meeting and July 1 Mailboat Cruise and August 9 Elfun Family Day at the Ballpark and August 18 “State Fair” in Auburn, the term “Covid-19” was not even in our vocabulary. Even in early March, when we dotted the i’s and crossed the t’s and designed the flyers, we could not anticipate the impact the coronavirus would have on our immediate lives and social events.

Governor Cuomo has extended the NY State on **PAUSE** through May 15. This effectively **CANCELS** our May 11 Annual Meeting.

At this point, the remaining events, as well as the Holiday Luncheon at The Inn Between on December 5, are active, pending governmental directives. All are poised to proceed if possible, and all are currently cancellable. There will be no negative impact on our finances should we cancel due to Covid-19. The Chapter subsidizes each outing, so if we cancel, the dollars allocated for that event will remain in the treasury to be utilized in the future.

Earlier this year we sent out flyers for the four events mentioned in the first paragraph. With the exception of the first event the remaining three events are a **GO** and you can continue to send in your reservations for them. As the situation with Covid-19 evolves we will send out additional mailings (hard copy and e-mail) to let you know the status of those events. And you can always check the Events page of the Syracuse Elfun Society to get the current status.

We have received positive correspondence from several Elfun members, some expressing an intent to attend every event, some adopting a wait and see attitude, and some telling us they are glad we are proceeding, but they will be unable to attend this year due to age and health. We will keep you in-

formed as this pandemic evolves. Stay well, and know that when the time comes for us to safely gather to have fun, we will hold our events. If you are missing our get-togethers, check out the Syracuse Elfun YouTube channel:

www.syracuseelfunsociety.org/

[ElfunYouTubeVideos.html](#) and re-live some of our previous outings.

Elfun Today

It all started on a Saturday evening when our Chair, Carl Chermak, mused about other active Elfun chapters. So, Cindy Chermak and Steve Auyer went on a Google expedition and found that there are a few chapters that are still thriving.

We have contacted the chapters, established communications, and initiated a newsletter exchange. The officers of these chapters were welcoming and enthusiastic to connect with other “survivors”. We didn’t look very hard, so there may be other active chapters out there. If you have additional information, please pass it along.

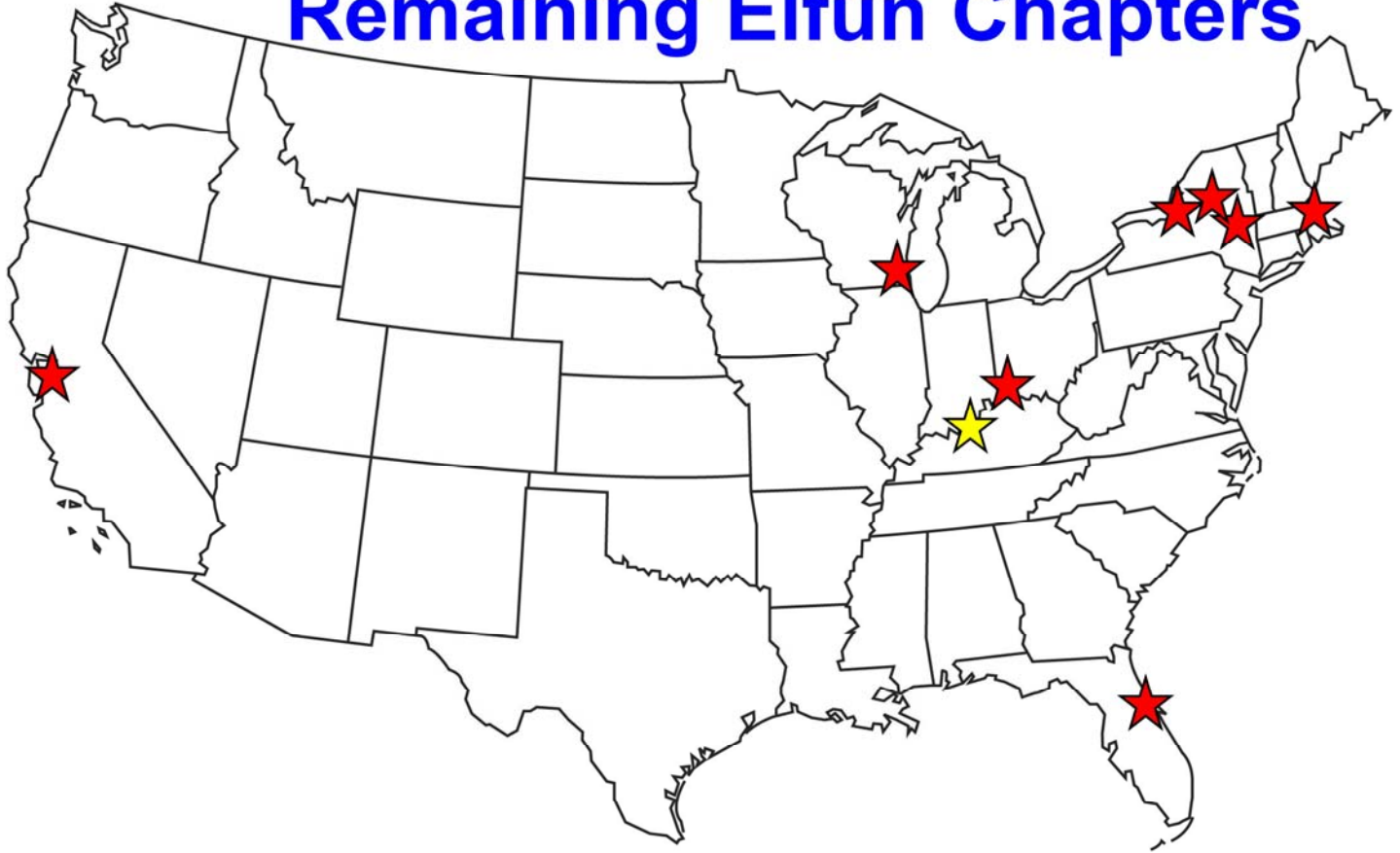
Cincinnati – Aircraft Gas Turbine heritage - This is a large chapter which has retirees and active members. They continue to hold as many as 50 events each year: monthly luncheons, social events, member appreciation events, new membership drives, smaller community service events supporting GE Volunteers, town hall meetings, and yearly membership meeting. Dues are \$25 annually. (<https://www.elfungc.org/>)

Florida – Apollo Support, Simulation & Control Systems heritage - This chapter has about 125 on the email list and 20 - 40 members and friends/spouses turn out for social events. They still do quite a bit of local volunteer projects as well. Annual dues are \$10. (www.elfunsocietyfl.org)

Greater Boston – Lynn Works heritage - This chapter is also large, as it includes Lynn, is active, and holds many events yearly. The membership base includes both active & retired GE employees. The membership directory has 837 entries, and dues are

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Remaining Elfun Chapters



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elfun

Greater Boston Elfun Association
connecting GE people... past, present and future

\$25 annually. (<https://gbea.wildapricot.org/>)

Louisville - Appliance Park heritage - We reached this chapter on the web, but ended up at a dead link to Points of Light (with a photo of President George H. W. Bush).

Northern California (San Jose) – Nuclear Power heritage - Is on the web and active. San Jose also has some active GE Employees, but the predominate membership is retirees. There are monthly luncheons and more exotic outings such as "Hamilton" in San Francisco and camping in Yosemite. There were 382 paid members as of September 2019 and annual

Elfun Society California North

Welcome Upcoming Events Past Events Board Nuclear Pioneers Corner



dues are \$15. (<http://www.elfunnorcal.org/>)

Schenectady – Turbines, Corporate R&D, Schenectady Works heritage - This chapter is now a social organization that has a monthly newsletter. It does not run volunteer projects, but many members still participate in computer rehab, toy modification and talking books. There are some social outings and monthly luncheon meetings with a guest speaker from September to June. Dues are \$10 annually. (www.elfunschenectady.org)

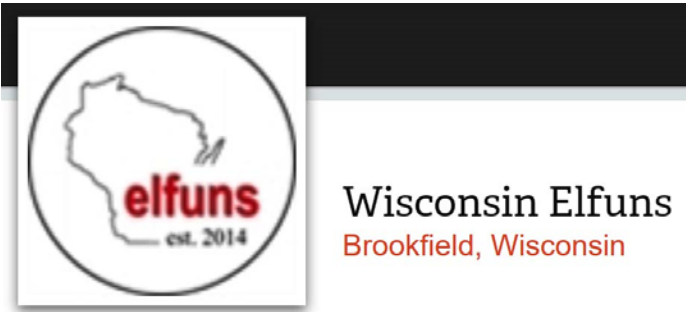
Syracuse – Electronics Park, Heavy Military heritage – as we know we are still active with several events each year and a website and a you tube channel. We have 243 members, with dues \$15 annually. (<https://www.syracuseelfunsociety.org/>)

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Comments

(<https://www.syracuseelfunsociety.org/ElfunYouTubeVideos.html>)

Utica – Light Military, Radio Receiver heritage -
Our own Stuart Schwartz is also a member of the Utica chapter. Stuart and Ruth tell us that Utica is “alive and kicking”. The chapter does not utilize a website, but has a monthly newsletter and a phone committee. 86 attended the 2019 Holiday Luncheon, there are some community service events, and annual dues are \$20. (dad@ronhoughtaling.com)



Wisconsin – Medical Systems heritage - Wisconsin Elfuns is a social club for GE retirees, with over 350 members. The chapter has a monthly newsletter and monthly luncheon meetings with a guest speaker from September to June. There are some social activities and volunteer opportunities. Dues are \$12 per year. (<https://www.memberplanet.com/wisconsin-elfuns>)

The most recent reprints e-mailed to members elicited the following comments:

“In 1957 experts told us a disaster loomed because the world was running out of oil. Now we can't find a place to put it.” – Fred Wenthen

“We are blessed that the virus hasn't hit our family yet and hope all is well with yours also. Happy Earth Day! Hopefully, the cleaner air change will stay with us after the virus subsides.”

“Sign at a motel in Oswego ‘we have toilet paper’, gotta smile, this too shall pass.”

“It's easy to maintain social distancing if you don't shower.”

“The past few months reminded me of Rod Serling’s ‘Twilight Zone’. On my return from Florida, I landed at the Syracuse airport at 6:45 pm and found an empty airport, no people, closed businesses, and empty parking lot. The only car I saw was one taxi-cab that took me home.” – Nick Vaccaro

“Stay warm??? We are in the high eighties down here in Florida!!! No more heat needed. Two days ago we had a big wind. It downed a large oak tree on the 9th hole. This made the 9th green more open. No strokes though. Have a good day.” - Bob Hays

Syracuse Elfun Society Board of Directors

SyracuseElfunSociety.org

<u>Position</u>	<u>Individual</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Chairperson	Carl Chermak	carlchermak@gmail.com	315-637-0380
Vice-Chairperson	open		
Secretary	open		
Treasurer	Joe Kinzel	jakinzel@msn.com	315-303-7347
Webmaster/DB	Bob Ruth	RuthRob@msn.com	315-451-0685
Communications	Steve Auyer	n2tkx@arrl.net	315-451-7359
Seniors	Fred Wenthen	Fred.Wenthen@gmail.com	private
Social Events	Cindy Chermak	Chermak@msn.com	315-637-0380
Work Projects	Marv Hahn	MarvH@twcny.rr.com	315-699-2621
At Large	Neal Schantz	NealSchantz@gmail.com	315-652-6467
At Large	Pete Scalzo	none	315-457-0598

Elfun Special Event

Life In The Finger Lakes!

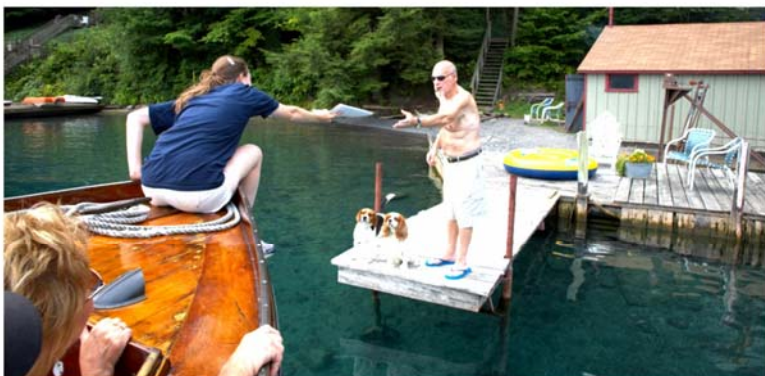
Ride A Mailboat on Skaneateles Lake As It Delivers Mail To Camps Along The Lake!



Ride the **Barbara S. Wiles** as it makes its 3-hour journey from camp to camp.

Space limited to a maximum of 34 passengers. You're welcome to bring your own lunch. Beverages must be purchased aboard.

Depart 10am, on Wednesday, July 1st (the inaugural cruise of the season). Cost is \$30/person.



Will they fall in?

This 3-hour cruise **departs 10:00am sharp on Wednesday, July 1st**. We will e-mail an attendees list so you can carpool if you wish.

Tear Off And Return

Cindy, I am enclosing \$_____ for _____ tickets (\$30/person). Check payable to "Syracuse Elfun Society".

Payments must be received by Monday, June 15th

PAYMENTS WILL BE REFUNDED IF THIS EVENT HAS TO BE CANCELED!

Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Mail to: Cindy Chermak
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Fayetteville, NY 13066

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Chermak@msn.com