

# May 2021 Syracuse Elfun Society Newsletter

## In Memoriam

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

**James "Jim" Helmer Franson**, 87, formerly of Cranston, RI and most recently of Cicero, NY passed away in June 2020 in the presence of family.

**Alfred Kirsche, Jr.**, 87, of Port Orange, FL, passed away on Tuesday, February 2, 2021.

**Arthur Dennis Toll**, "Denny," of Baldwinsville, NY, 79, passed away peacefully on February 22, 2021 at the Nottingham after a long battle with Alzheimer's.

**Clayton Russell "Clayt" Roberts**, 95, went to be with the Lord on February 24, 2021.

**Robert Harold Laird**, 85, of Marcellus, NY, passed peacefully away Tuesday, March 16, 2021 while supported by his loving wife, June, of 62 years and children.

**Donald F. Dixon**, 87, a longtime resident of Central Square passed away on March 24, 2021.

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

## Symphoria Discount

A reminder that Symphoria still has 3 concerts scheduled between now and the middle of May. The promotional savings code Symphoria assigned to the Elfun Society is still active and you can still take advantage of the discount on any and all remaining concerts. The code is **ES2021** and the remaining concerts are:

April 25<sup>th</sup> – **"April in Paris"** - Young violinist Hannah White is featured in the perfor-

mance of Chevalier de Saint-Georges Concerto No. 1, 3:00pm.

May 8<sup>th</sup> – **"The Best of Symphoria Pops"** - Sean O'Loughlin leads Symphoria in your favorite orchestral showpieces, 7:30pm.

May 15<sup>th</sup> – **"Natasha Returns"** - Sean O'Loughlin leads Symphoria in your favorite orchestral showpieces, 7:30pm.

All concerts are livestreamed to your home TV set and more information about the concerts as well as ticket purchases may be found at [experiencesymphoria.org/events/](https://experiencesymphoria.org/events/).

## Seek Igloo, DEW and North Warning System

The Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line system across northern Canada and Alaska was built using 1950s-era AN/FPS-19 radars produced by Raytheon. These radars used two 500 kW magnetrons on huge always-turning parabolic antenna systems and rooms filled with tube-based electronics to drive them. The systems required constant maintenance by on-site staff and were enormously expensive to operate.

Desiring a much simpler, and less-costly system, in 1977 the Rome Air Development Center (RADC) began the "Seek Igloo" project to find a replacement for the AN/FPS-19 that would require less power and would run for extended times without maintenance. In 1980, General Electric in Syracuse, NY won the contest with their GE-592 design, and the final design was accepted by RADC on 30 September 1983, passed acceptance tests that year, and was designated as the AN/FPS-117.

Installation of the radars is another story as the far northern sites featured some of the harshest and most challenging locations where the AN/FPS-117

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radars were ever installed.



SEEK IGLOO was officially concerned only with the radars in the Alaska area, while SEEK FROST addressed the rest of the DEW line. Conversations among NORAD commands about the DEW line had been ongoing for some time, and the Canadian Air Force was aware of the plans to convert to the new radars. As part of the 24-hour whirlwind “Shamrock Summit” in 1984, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and US President Ronald Reagan signed an agreement to create the North Warning System with 47 radars to replace DEW. Implementation of the North Warning System resulted in a reduction in operations and maintenance spending by up to 50% compared to the DEW. Shortly thereafter, the Air Force purchased another AN/FPS-117 to replace the aging AN/FPS-67 Bendix radar at Berlin Tempelhof

Airport and a series of international sales of the AN/FPS-117 followed

In the 40 years since General Electric received that first contract for SEEK IGLOO radars there have been a continuous stream of support contracts awarded to Lockheed Martin’s Syracuse Operations. Recent contracts have included:

- November 7, 2011 - \$46.8M for upgrades
- December 16, 2012 - \$16.4M for additional upgrades
- March 22, 2019 - \$98M for maintenance kits
- September 29, 2020 - \$25M for maintenance and support.

But all things must come to an end and the SEEK IGLOO technology just cannot cope with the threat of modern weapons which leads us to.....

## SEEK IGLOO Modernization

If you read **THE WALL STREET JOURNAL** you might have seen the following article in the March 1, 2021 edition:

*"The U.S. and Canada plan to modernize a network of defense satellites and radar in the Arctic, in a bid to counter a growing military presence in the north from Russia and China.*

*President Biden asked Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to ramp up Canada's spending on defense, including an upgrade of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, commonly known as NORAD, during a bilateral meeting between the two leaders on Tuesday, according to an official familiar with the discussions.*

*NORAD was a central part of the U.S. and Canadian military's Cold War deterrence strategy against the former Soviet Union. Consisting of satellites, ground-based radar, and air force bases located mostly in Alaska and the Canadian Arctic, the sur-*

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veillance system was designed to give the military allies notice of any impending attack from the north. The system, once state-of-the-art, has since become outdated. New missiles being deployed by Russia and China can travel at more than five times the speed of sound and fly much farther than their predecessors, which would overwhelm the existing surveillance network, said Michael Dawson, who served as Canadian political adviser to NORAD command in Colorado from 2010 to 2014.

In addition, a melting polar ice cap is leaving the once impassable Arctic Ocean ice-free for longer periods of time, creating new vulnerabilities for the U.S. and Canada, current and former military officials say.

'The Arctic is no longer a fortress wall, and our oceans are no longer protective moats; they are now avenues of approach for advanced conventional weapons,' said retired U.S. Gen. Terrence O'Shaughnessy during testimony last March before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

President Biden made a pointed reference to NORAD in his comments after the Tuesday meeting, Mr. Biden's first bilateral with a foreign leader since his election. He said the countries had agreed to modernize the system, which is jointly controlled by both governments.

Mr. Biden also said he expected NATO members, including Canada, to spend at least 2% of their economic output on defense, as outlined in a 2014 pledge made by members of the trans-Atlantic alliance. Canada's annual defense spending is about 1.5%, according to the latest NATO figures.

The White House and a spokesman for the Pentagon didn't respond to a request for comment. On Friday, the U.S. State Department listed the defense system as one of the priorities for the U.S. and Canadian bilateral relationship, ahead of a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Mr. Trudeau along with other senior officials.

U.S. military and political leaders like Sen. Jim Inhofe (R., Okla.), the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, see the Arctic warning system as an important tool for keeping abreast with China and Russia's growing military presence in the Arctic. Russia has been developing ports along the Northern Sea Route, a shipping route that snakes along the Siberian Coast. President Vladimir Putin has also embarked on a military buildup in the region, adding new airfields, air-defense installations and bases.

China, which views the Arctic as a key shipping route, according to government documents, and has tried investing in northern mines that give the country access to minerals like zinc, nickel and gold, has forged partnerships with several countries that border the Arctic."

What will be the role of Lockheed Martin, and Syracuse in the new system? Stay tuned.

## Social Events

For well over a year, we have had nothing to report. Now that we are beginning to be vaccinated, and good weather abounds, perhaps we are ready to socialize later in the summer. We are considering some outdoor or semi-outdoor events. Rev Theater (Merry-Go-Round Playhouse) in Auburn would seem ideal if they could transition to an outdoor performance, but so far that does not look promising. The Syracuse Mets will allow attendance of 2163 in socially distanced pods of 1-6. Erie Canal Cruises in Herkimer plans to sail, but there is no word yet from Mid-Lakes in Skaneateles. We are watching Symphony to see whether we will have an opportunity to see and hear them in concert live. Perhaps most attractive initially may be an outdoor luncheon. Let me, or another board member, know your thoughts about attending an event. We are all anxious to reunite, but want to do so in a safe and comfortable manner.

Cindy

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## In Case You Missed.....

Reprints of the following 3 articles and a link to a video concerning General Electric were e-mailed to all members of the Syracuse Elfun Society who receive communications by e-mail. If you did not receive one of these articles and would like a copy, an e-mail to the newsletter editor will get you a copy by return mail.

**February 5, 2021** – A WALL STREET JOURNAL interview with Jeff Immelt discussing his recently released book “**HOT SEAT – What I Learned leading a Great American Company.**”

February 22, 2021 – A link to a CNBC February 21 **Video Interview With Jeff Immelt:** “Jeff Immelt takes most of the blame for his rocky time as CEO of GE, but does call out others, too.”

March 8, 2021 – A WALL STREET JOURNAL article “**GE Nears Big Deal To Merge Jet-Lease Business.**”

March 11, 2021 – A WALL STREET JOURNAL article “**GE to Sell Division To Exit Lending.**”

## Chairman’s Column

Last Summer, I said that we looked to 2020-2021 with cautious optimism. We cancelled live events such as the Merry Go Round Theater, Syracuse METS Baseball Game, Skaneateles Mailboat Cruise and the annual Holiday Party due to the risk they may present to our members. Thanks to Steve we stepped up the newsletter content to help fill the void. We also experimented by added virtual events with St Joseph’s Health and Symphoria. We are optimistic that we will be able to get together later this year and I am excited that we will have an Annual Meeting, although it will be virtual. The Zoom meet-

ing will be held Friday May 14, 2021 at Noon. The following is a summary of what we will cover at the Annual Meeting.

We currently have 223 paid members on our roster.

We began fiscal year 2020-2021 with \$5,400 in our treasury and Joe Kinzel taking over as Treasurer. Our major sources of income were dues payments and interest and the largest expenses were our mailing costs and liability insurance. Our projected year end statement follows:

<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Dues		\$3,465
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>		
Supplies & Meetings	\$210	
PO Box	\$190	
Postage & Newsletter	\$1,800	
Insurance	\$665	
Total		\$2,865

Assets at year-end \$6,000

We have 4 existing directors up for reelection (Cindy Chermak, Marv Hahn, Don MacLaughlin and Bob Ruth) to 3-year terms. Neal Schantz moved to Florida this past year and resigned from the board. Thanks to Neal for his years of service to the Syracuse Elfun Society and we wish him well in his new home. We are fortunate that Don MacLaughlin has volunteered to fill the remainder of Neal’s term. Please complete the ballots included with this newsletter and return them to Bob Ruth.

## For Lockheed Martin Retirees

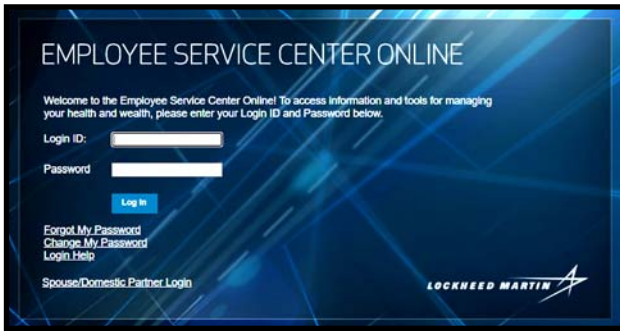
For GE retirees, the contact points and procedures that you use to contact the company with queries about pension, medical coverage, life insurance, etc. have not changed.

For Lockheed Martin retirees, things are changing a little. Up till now a Lockheed Martin retiree had on-

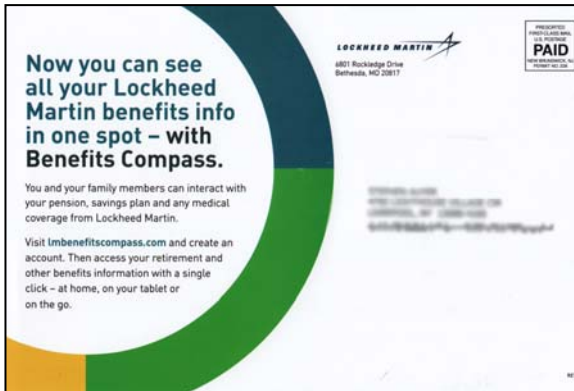
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ly to sign on to the [lmc.lifeatworkportal.com](http://lmc.lifeatworkportal.com) to get to the Employee Service Center Online:

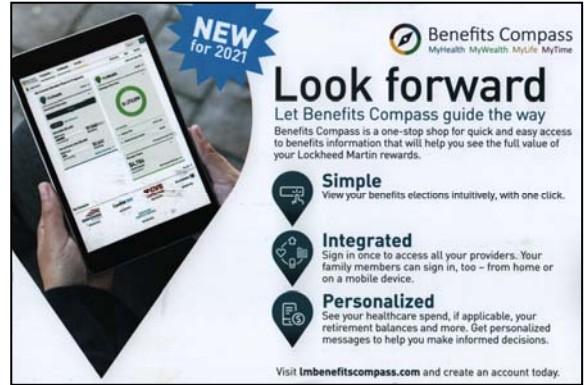


As of right now you can still do this. But Lockheed Martin has now released a new application that they refer to as their “Benefits Compass” which appears to offer the same information as the Employee Service Center but in a more organized and easier to use format. This was announced to Lockheed Martin retirees through a recent mailing which provided information on how to use the new offering.



If nothing else, the new site seems to be designed to be displayed and used more easily on smaller touch-screen devices than the traditional large computer displays that we have been used to using. It also pro-

vides better security by using a two-step authentication process.



To use the **Benefits Compass** site you have to initially sign on to it as shown above and then go through several steps to:

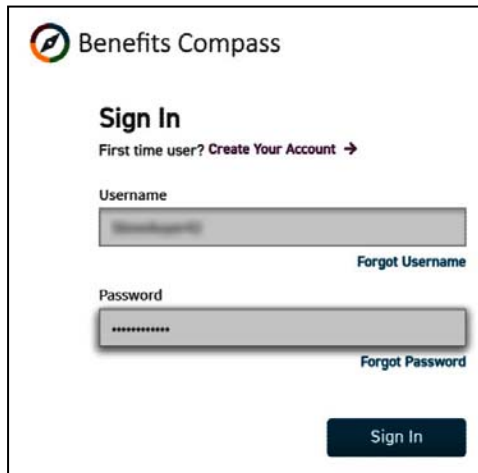
### Verify Your Identity

### Add Contact Information

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## Sign-In



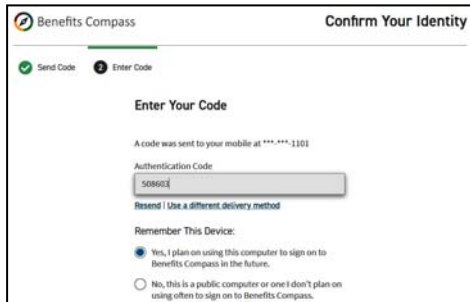
The screenshot shows the 'Sign In' page for Benefits Compass. At the top left is the logo and the text 'Benefits Compass'. Below it is the heading 'Sign In' and a link for 'First time user? Create Your Account →'. There are two input fields: 'Username' and 'Password'. Each field has a 'Forgot' link to its right. At the bottom right is a blue 'Sign In' button.

## Confirm Your Identity – Send Security Code



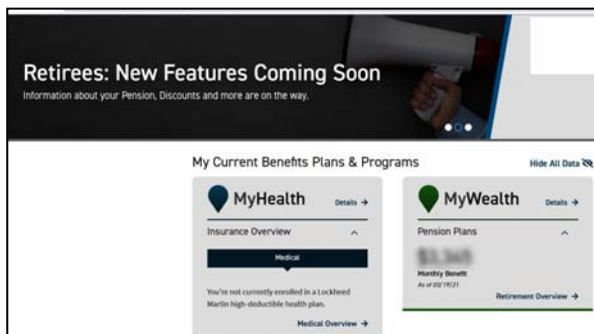
The screenshot shows the 'Send Security Code' step of the identity confirmation process. It includes a progress indicator with 'Send Code' and 'Enter Code' steps. The main heading is 'Send Security Code'. Below it, a message states: 'We need to confirm your identity before you can sign in.' There are two radio button options for 'Delivery Method': 'Email: [email address]' and 'Text: [phone number]'. A blue 'Continue' button is at the bottom right.

## Confirm Your Identity – Enter Your Code



The screenshot shows the 'Enter Your Code' step. It includes a progress indicator with 'Send Code' and 'Enter Code' steps. The main heading is 'Enter Your Code'. A message states: 'A code was sent to your mobile at [phone number]'. There is an 'Authentication Code' input field containing '56562'. Below it is a 'Resend | Use a different delivery method' link. At the bottom, there are two radio button options for 'Remember This Device': 'Yes, I plan on using this computer to sign on to Benefits Compass in the future.' and 'No, this is a public computer or one I don't plan on using often to sign on to Benefits Compass.'

Subsequent sign-ons eliminate the first two steps and allow you to Sign-In and then go through the Two-Step Process.



The screenshot shows a dashboard titled 'Retirees: New Features Coming Soon'. Below the header is a section 'My Current Benefits Plans & Programs' with a 'Hide All Data' link. It contains two main cards: 'MyHealth' with an 'Insurance Overview' and 'Medical' section, and 'MyWealth' with a 'Pension Plans' section. The 'MyWealth' card shows a 'Monthly Benefit' of '\$1,500' and a 'Retirement Overview' link.

So, why a Two-Step Process? This is designed to protect you from a “hacker” or other undesirable person who has somehow managed to learn your User Name and Password.



In a Two-Step Process you need to provide those two pieces of information but also an additional means of contacting you. Typically this will be a phone number or an e-mail address.

When you sign on to your account you enter your User Name and Password as usual, but then receive a text message on your phone or mail in your e-mail account. When you respond to the text message or the e-mail (usually by clicking on a “yes, this is me” in the message) you complete the second step in the Two-Step Process and are granted access to your account.

While it turns out that nothing is completely “hacker free” in today’s environment, the Two-Step process is really a big step forward in making it less likely that someone other than you can manage to access your accounts. And in fact you may have already used this process since internet applications such as Facebook, YouTube, Gmail and others have already begun to use it.

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## Dues 'n Stuff

Depending on your membership status, in addition to this newsletter you will be receiving some additional items along with this newsletter. If you are a:

**Dues-Paying Member** of the Syracuse Elfun Society, you will receive this newsletter, a form to be returned in the enclosed envelope with your dues payment for the July 2021-June 2022 season, and a ballot to elect three members to the Board of Directors to 3-year terms to the board. Annual dues have been reduced from \$15/year to \$10/year for the coming season to reflect the cancelation of our usual in-person events during the past season. Note that we must receive the ballot for the three board members by July 1<sup>st</sup> if your vote is to be counted.

**Surviving Spouse** of a member of the Syracuse Elfun Society, you do not have to pay dues but you do need to keep us informed of your current mailing and e-mail addresses, and preferably a telephone

number, if you wish to continue to receive our quarterly newsletter.

**Receiver of complementary copies** of our quarterly newsletter, you do not have to pay dues but you do need to confirm your current e-mail address and indicate that you would like to continue to receive our newsletter for another year.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact any of the members of the Board of Directors listed below.

But no, we are not recommending the following:



### 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	Steve.Auyer@gmail.com	315-451-7359
Seniors	Fred Wenthén	Fred.Wenthén@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	Don MacLaughlin	donaldjmacLaughlin@gmail.com	315-652-5792
At Large	Ray Terry	raygterry@gmail.com	315-677-3008
At Large	Nick Vaccaro	nvaccaro@twcny.rr.com	315-457-3632
At Large	Pete Scalzo	none	315-457-0598

# 2021 Syracuse Elfun Society Annual Meeting

**Date:** Friday, May 14, 2021  
**Time:** 12:00pm  
**Location:** Your computer, smartphone or telephone  
**Cost:** Only your time

This will be an on-line **ZOOM** meeting. You can sign-on to the meeting in 3 different ways:

1. Use a direct link on your computer (copy and paste this link into your web browser):  
**zoom.us/j/6983520917?pwd=QWRjUGtoMmpyRjlzenFFQUxUK0FSZz09**
2. Logon to the **ZOOM** app on your computer or smartphone using:  
Meeting ID: **698 352 0917** and  
Passcode: **0v7q4S**
3. Join by telephone (NY residents only):  
dial **1-(929)-205-6099**, and use Meeting ID: **698 352 0917**, and Passcode: **664119**

Have a question that you would like answered, or a topic you would like to have discussed?

Send Carl Chermak an e-mail at **CarlChermak@gmail.com** at least several days prior to the meeting to allow him time to prepare. Please include your name and either an e-mail address or a telephone number where he can contact you if he has any questions.

Or, fill out the comment/question slip below, tear it off, and mail it to Carl at:

Carl Chermak  
10 The Orchard  
Fayetteville, NY 13066

----- Tear Here -----

Carl, (please note that Carl has to receive this at least one week prior to the meeting!)

I have a question, or would like to have you discuss the following topic: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you need to get in touch with me, call me at: \_\_\_\_\_

or send me an e-mail at: \_\_\_\_\_