

August 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:

Frank R. Hastedt, 87, of College Station, TX passed away on April 19, 2021.

Douglas D. Currie, 95, of Baldwinsville, passed away Friday, June 18, 2021, at Syracuse Home at McHarrie Place.

Carl L. Muscarella, 87, of Camillus passed away June 22nd, 2021 at Upstate Hospital after a short illness.

Ronald R. Shoemaker, 84, of Fremont died on July 27th, 2021.

Stanley Theodore (Ted) Duda, 85, a life-long Central New York resident, transitioned to his eternal life on Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at St Joseph's Hospital after a short illness.

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

Chairman's Column



As I write this, it is Summer in Upstate New York and we are looking forward to our first live Elfun events in almost two years. Cautiously, we are getting together for the Syracuse Mets and Merry-Go-Round Theater events. You can tell Summer is

coming to an end when the State Fair approaches. Autumn is my favorite season of the year. Leaves turn from green to red and orange. Elfun leaf peepers come out to see them. Even more Elfuns go apple picking. Finally, Elfun snowbirds start their annual migration down South. For those who are left, we will have our Holiday Party at the Cavalry Club

in Manlius, NY and I look forward to seeing you there. In the meantime, if you have any comments or suggestions, address them to me at: carlchermak@gmail.com.

Carl

What You Sign Up For.....

..... isn't always what you get. A typical Plan F Medicare Supplement (one of the more expensive ones) from UnitedHealthcare is a good example.

Back in November 2020 a recipient of a particular UnitedHealthcare plan received a letter stating: "*We at UnitedHealthcare, recognize the impact of COVID-19 on the health care system, and we are doing all we can to keep your rate as low as possible and stable from year to year. As a result, for your AARP Medicare Supplement Plan from UnitedHealthcare that was issued in the state of New York, we will be continuing this plan's rate through May 2021. You will receive updated billing materials prior to June 2021.*" The letter continued to say that the monthly individual rate would continue to be **\$245.75** – which was the 2020 rate.

Then in May 2021 UnitedHealthcare sent a second letter noting: "*We are still working to finalize your rates for 2021. We will continue to send you monthly coupons until all rates for your plan are final. At that time, additional information and updated billing materials will be sent to you.*" The first monthly coupon was for the amount of **\$240.50**.

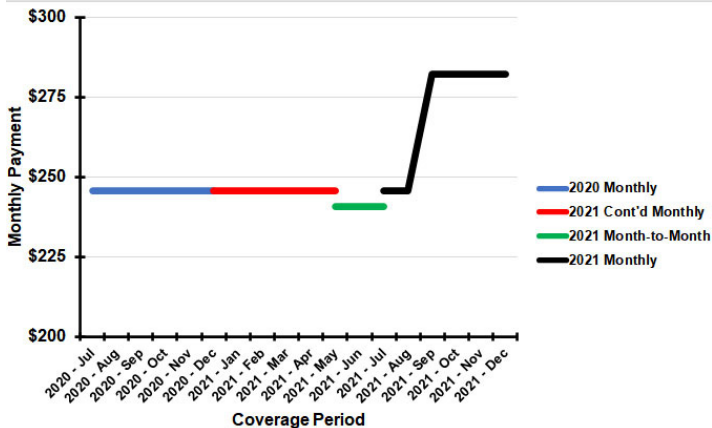
In June 2021 UnitedHealthcare sent the following: "*Your rate is driven by changes in the costs of health care services members receive. As health care costs continue to increase, UnitedHealthcare strives to keep your rate as low as possible and stable from year to year. We are doing all we can to keep rates affordable while making sure the coverage is there when you need it.*" The rate for July and August be-

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came **\$245.75**, and the rate for September 2021 through May 2022 would be **\$282.25**. Payment coupons through May 2022 were enclosed with the letter.

This chart shows the timing of the various rates:



It will be interesting to see what is proposed when information for the 2022 enrollment period is released.

Steve

Social Events

With the availability of the vaccine and as New York begins to re-open, we are easing back into social events in 2021. Many of our members are still wary of the delta variant, but a few intrepid souls have registered for our summer outings. Both of these will take place after this newsletter edition goes to press, so we will report on our experiences in the fall news.

Elfun Family Day at the Ballpark has long been a fun outdoor get-together. Some of us don't even pay all that much attention to the game. So far, we have 32 Elfuns and extended family members planning to welcome the Buffalo Bisons on Sunday August 22nd. Once we brave the COVID and security screening, we should have a level 200 section to ourselves to spend the afternoon in the sun enjoying some ballpark food and renewing old acquaintances.

On Wednesday, September 1st, we will "cut loose" and return to Rev Theater (Merry-Go-Round Playhouse) in Auburn for a matinee (and the closing

show) of Footloose. Let's see if we can remember how to dance as if it were 1984. Because we have been sequestered for so long, we have not planned the usual after theater dinner. Perhaps some attendees will gather for a Dutch Treat bite to eat. We will evaluate the success of this event as we plan for 2022.

Save the date. Plans are in the works for a December 2nd Holiday Luncheon at The Cavalry Club in Manlius. The club has promised us a large open room, suitable for social distancing, with a beautiful view. The parking is ample, the food is delicious, and the steps are few. Watch for the flyer in the fall newsletter and plan to finally have a reason to celebrate together.



In the past year we have said goodbye to several Elfuns who attended just about every event. We had so much fun on our outings and will miss them. Surviving spouses, please remember that you are so welcome to continue to attend. Syracuse Elfun Society is such an inclusive organization, everyone knows everyone, and we will do our best to ensure that you feel comfortable and included.

We appreciate your patience, input, and encouragement as we negotiate this new world of social events. Just so you know...the board regularly hears from members indicating how much they miss seeing everyone. We can't wait to return to the good old days:

Cindy

In Case You Missed....

Every so often an interesting article on General

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Electric appears in print or in a video and if we can, we'll capture it and e-mail it out to members of the Syracuse Elfun Society. Since the last newsletter, PDFs of the following have been e-mailed out to our members who have an e-mail address:"

"AT&T, GE Investors Oppose CEO Pay" – this May 5, 2021 article in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL tells how investors are becoming increasingly unhappy with the pay awarded to CEOs of some companies – AT&T and GE in this case.

"Jet Engines Are A Risky Gamble" – again from THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, this time on April 28, 2021, this article suggests that manufacturers of jet engines should not assume that orders for their engines which fell at the beginning of the COVID crisis will rebound when the crisis passes.

"GE Posts Loss on Sagging Revenue" – yet another from THE WALL STREET JOURNAL that notes that GE's revenue fell, and as a result, profits also fell.

Any members who do not receive our communications by e-mail can request a hard copy of any or all of the above articles by sending an e-mail to the editor, n2tkx@arrrl.net.

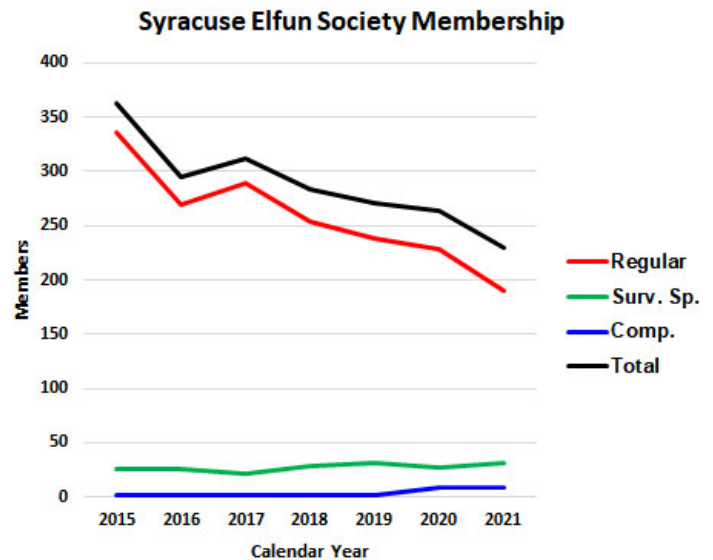
In addition to the articles listed above, a video was posted to the Syracuse Elfun Society's YouTube page:

"Recent GE Short Videos" – this video was uploaded to the Syracuse Elfun Society's YouTube page on July 31, 2021 and contains the following segments: **"Larry Culp CNBC Interview"**; **"People Who See The World Differently"**; **"Sustainability Report"**; **"GE's Small Nuclear Reactor"**; **"GE Uses Wind to Help Power 1 Million Homes"** and **"GE Advanced Turbo-prop."**

While we obviously can't mail a hard copy of a video, it can still be viewed by clicking on the following link: <https://youtu.be/akR8vCzJXpA>

Membership

The following chart shows membership trends in the Syracuse Elfun Society over the past 7 years. While there has been a general downward trend in membership, the final 2021 membership numbers are expected to be somewhat higher because we are still in the process of receiving dues payments.



Membership categories are: **Regular** - dues-paying members; **Surv. Sp.** - Surviving Spouses; **Comp.** - Complementary memberships with other Elfun Chapters and **Total** - sum of the above three categories.

GE Social Groups

In addition to the Elfun Society, there were a number of social groups that Syracuse-area GE employees could participate in. Probably one of the largest groups was the GE Foreman's Association which started out as just that, an association of GE Foremen. As time passed, membership expanded to the point where the group had the financial resources to bring some big-time performers to the Syracuse area as the flyers for their meetings on the following page show (and note the prices!).

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G. E. F. A.*



CABERET NIGHT


FEATURING *EYDIE GORME*
STEVE LAWRENCE

THREE RIVERS INN **\$4.75/person!**
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7th
COCKTAILS 6:30 pm DINNER 7:00 pm

*LIMIT 200 COUPLES MEMBERS ONLY \$4.75 PER PERSON - INCLUDES COVER CHARGE, COCKTAILS, STEAK DINNER AND GRATITUDE

GEFA presents
"CABARET NIGHT"

WED. NOV. 9 • featuring




Sammy Davis Jr.

\$6.50/person!

\$6.50 PER TICKET FULL COURSE STEAK DINNER
6:30 PM
SEE YOUR BLDG REP FOR TICKETS

GEFA
9th ANNUAL
SPORTS NITE




FEATURED GUEST
"STAN THE MAN" MUSIAL

WHERE: HINERWADEL'S
WHEN: MONDAY, JANUARY 20th, 1964
TIME: 5:30 P.M.
PRICE: \$3.00 EA.
450 TICKETS ONLY

1964!

SEE BUILDING REPS. REFRESHMENTS
DOOR PRIZES BUFFET DINNER
GOLF RAFFLE MASTER OF CEREMONIES



GEFA
INSTALLATION
NIGHT

MONDAY JUNE 6, 1966

LEMOYNE MANOR **1966!**
SOCIAL HOUR 6:00 DINNER 7:00

Delmonico Steak
GUEST SPEAKER
John Mackroy
ONONDAGA COUNTY EXECUTIVE

\$1.50
PER TICKET (INCLUDES 2 COCKTAILS)
MEMBERS ONLY! 66-67 DUES MUST BE PD.
TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!
BLDG. REP. _____ RM. _____ EXT. _____

GENERAL ELECTRIC FOREMANS ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS

RENO NIGHT
AT
Greggs Rest.
ON
TUESDAY, APRIL 18
LIMITED TO
150
GEFA MEMBERS
BEGINS AT
5:30 P.M.
ENDS
?????



TICKETS **\$2.75** EACH
AVAILABLE **NOW!**
BLDG. REP. _____ RM. _____ EXT. _____

Syracuse Elfun Society Board of Directors
SyracuseElfunSociety.org

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