

Syracuse Elfun Society

2026 Fall Newsletter



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

- Thomas J. Hennessey, 95, of Camillus, peacefully passed away at home on Sunday, May 31, 2026. Tom retired from GE in 1992 after a 32 year career in the Syracuse sonar department. Tom proudly belonged to the Elfun Society.
- Donald T. Doherty, longtime Cazenovia resident, passed away on June 9, 2026, of natural causes, just over a month shy of his 100th birthday. Working for GE, first in Utica and then in Syracuse, Don designed and oversaw the installation of radar systems for use by the US military at sites as far-flung as the Philippines and Turkey.
- Peter Frederick Scalzo, 95, of Liverpool, passed away peacefully at home on June 19, 2026. For many years, Pete was the Syracuse Chapter's Community Affairs Chairman, tirelessly developing and implementing the Chapter's volunteer activities. Pete was nominated for National Senior Elfun of the Year in 1994 and was Chairman of the Syracuse Chapter in 1996-1997.
- William R. Patterer passed away June 25, 2026. Bill worked on sonar systems as an Electrical Engineer at General Electric for 31 years and served the Syracuse Elfun Chapter for over a decade as our Membership Secretary and Database Manager, and later as Senior Representative. Bill was the Syracuse Chapter Elfun of the year in 2001.

Remembering Bill and Pete

The Syracuse Elfun Society board and the entire chapter bid a fond farewell to two of our longtime board members and officers. Bill Patterer became our secretary in 1994 and served as our membership secretary and database manager until 2004. If you received our newsletter during this period (and you did), thank Bill for safeguarding your membership information and printing the mailing labels. Pete was the public face of the chapter for many years, coordinating our volunteer efforts with Camp Goodwill, the Salvation Army, the Food Bank, WCNY, the Boys and Girls Club, and more. To this day, when we identify ourselves as the Syracuse Elfun Society, the first reaction we hear is "Pete Scalzo." Thank you, Bill and Pete, for all you have done for the chapter and for the many local organizations. We will miss you.

Note: Since it is not possible for the board of directors to keep tabs on all member passings, especially when the notices weren't in the local Syracuse Post Standard, we request that, if you are aware of a member passing, please notify a board member so we can include the announcement in our newsletter. Thanks

Chairman's Column

Thank you all for renewing your membership for the upcoming year. Your involvement in our program means a lot. It's always great to get together and share stories with coworkers and their families. If there's a specific activity you'd like us to try, don't hesitate to call or send me a note.

This summer, the United States celebrated its 250th birthday. Philadelphia, the birthplace of our nation and the heart of the revolution, holds so much history. Since our kids and grandkids live in the Philadelphia area, we decided to spend a few weeks there. The smoke from the Canadian wildfires and the 100-degree temperatures slowed us down, but we had a memorable time. How did you celebrate? We'd love to hear your stories.

The General Electric Company has quite a fascinating history of its own. Check out the quiz on the back page to test your knowledge!

One last thought. The Chermaks have finally moved into the 21st century and turned off our landline 315-637-0380. If you need to call Cindy for Elfun business, dial my cell phone number 315-436-8696.

Social Events *by Cindy Chermak*

Elfun Family Day at the Ballpark

Sunday June 7 @ 1:05 pm
Syracuse Mets vs Scranton/Wilkes-Barre
RailRiders

We like to schedule our game when the RailRiders are in town in order to accommodate the Yankee fans in our group. It was a close game, and despite a rally by the RailRiders in the 9th inning, the Mets prevailed 4 to 3. The weather was beautiful, and we all had the opportunity to mingle in our usual seating in the Left Field Terrace.

Bonus Outing

Cortland Repertory Theater at Little York Lake
Theater and Pavilion

Dutch Treat Dinner at Bob's Barbeque
Wednesday June 10 @ 2:00 pm

We had a small group for our casual outing to the matinee of "Oklahoma!" at the summer theater at Little York Lake. The company presented a rousing show, with a well-cast and particularly menacing Jud Fry. A surprise rainstorm ended our plans to eat at the picnic tables at Bob's Barbeque, so we had a nice indoor dinner at Dasher's in Homer.

Broadway in the Finger Lakes

Wednesday August 19 @ 2:00 pm
"Carousel" at Merry-Go-Round Playhouse in
Auburn

We have a group of 19 planning to attend the sold-out matinee of "Carousel", with a pre-theater luncheon at our old favorite, The Sherwood Inn in Skaneateles. We will report on the show in the fall newsletter.

Holiday Luncheon

Thursday November 19 @ 11:30 am
Tassone's Wine Garden

Forget the summer heat and think holiday time. **Mark your calendars for our mid-November luncheon** and cross your fingers that we don't have a snow day again this year. We will distribute the flyer and take reservations in the fall.

Other Plans

We are anxiously awaiting the opening of Harborview Aquarium. The website showcases some exciting developments, including the delivery of the shark tank window via the NY canal system, and introduces us to the cutest little otters you have ever seen. We will schedule our visit once the Aquarium opens to the public.

Beware of Scams

(Continued from page 2)

GE Aerospace Philanthropy

Back in the day, many of us were involved in volunteer activities through Elfun and, later, GE Volunteers. It's good to hear that GE Aerospace is continuing this tradition. Did you know that in 2025, GE Aerospace was involved in \$22.5M in family giving, contributed 50,000 volunteer hours, and reached 30,000 STEM students globally? In addition, GE Aerospace donated over \$1M to local partners in support of veteran causes and over \$2M toward disaster preparedness. For more information, follow the link <https://www.geaerospace.com/company/philanthropy> and then click the "Our full philanthropy story" button.

GE Aerospace delivered a strong second quarter

In a recent press release, GE Aerospace Chairman and CEO H. Lawrence Culp, Jr., reported that "GE Aerospace delivered a strong second quarter with revenue and EPS both up more than 20% driven by robust commercial services growth. FLIGHT DECK continues to fuel significant operational improvements across services and equipment with record internal shop visit output in the quarter and 31% growth in total engine deliveries in the first half."

Culp continued, "Given our exceptional year-to-date performance and visibility for the remainder of the year, we are raising our full-year guidance across the board. As we look forward, we remain focused on advancing what matters most for our customers: delivering on our over \$210 billion backlog while investing in current and next-generation technology to improve time-on-wing and cost of ownership."

Many of us still have shares of GE stock. One of our members had a disappointing experience that we would like to share with you. They were contacted several months ago by a company that looked and sounded legitimate. The company knew the number of shares of GE stock our member had and offered to buy the stock for the lump sum amount indicated on the paperwork. Our member signed, notarized, and sent in the paperwork, and months later hasn't received a cent. I cannot say the name of our member or the company, but I can say that there is a good possibility that this was a scam.

We also received mail from a company that offered to buy our GE stock, and they also knew how many shares we had. In our case, the offer price was way below the current book value, and we shredded the paperwork. If we received a similar solicitation, you may have as well.

Only do business with reputable companies and brokers that you know and trust. If you receive an offer that sounds too good to be true (the promise to buy your stock and avoid paying commissions), **beware!**

The other day I received an email from one of our Elfun members that contained an ecard with a button to open the card. I noticed that the sending address was not what I knew the member's address to be. I sent the member a separate email and he confirmed that he had not sent me an ecard. If I had clicked on the button, a virus would have downloaded to my computer. **Never** click on a button or a link in an email unless you know that it is legitimate.

GE/Elfun Trivia answer key

1.b) Walter Ransom Gail Baker, 2.c) Charles Coffin, 3.e) All of the above, 4.c) 2015, 5.d) Henderson Harbor, 6.) True, 7.) False, GE was founded in 1892, 8.) True, 9.) False, "Electrical Funds", 10.) True

GE/Elfun Trivia

So, you believe that you are an expert in GE and Elfun history. Please answer the following 10 questions to test your knowledge. Answers are located on page 3.

- 1.) A prestigious IEEE award is named after WRG Baker. WRG Baker stands for..
 - A) William Roco Garth Baker
 - B) Walter Ransom Gail Baker
 - C) Walter Richard George Baker
 - D) Warren Roland Gerald Baker
 - E) Wilber Ronald Gail Baker
- 2.) Which one of the following was a President of GE
 - A) Lawrence Kulp
 - B) Jack Walsh
 - C) Charles Coffin
 - D) Reginald James
 - E) Gerald Immelt
- 3.) Which of the following is an iconic tagline of the General Electric Company
 - A) We bring good things to life
 - B) Imagination at work
 - C) Progress is our most important product
 - D) Live better electrically
 - E) All of the above
- 4.) What year was the Syracuse Elfun Society founded
 - A) 1928
 - B) 1946
 - C) 2015
 - D) 1982
 - E) 2000
- 5.) Early GE leaders met at Association Island to discuss strategy. Where is Association Island located?
 - A) Port St. Lucie
 - B) Glacier Bay
 - C) Isle of Wight
 - D) Henderson Harbor
 - E) Ogdensburg
- 6.) GE Vernova was formed as part of the 2024 breakup of the General Electric Company. True or false: The name Vernova is a derivation of 'ver/verde', which signals the Earth's verdant and lush ecosystems, and 'nova' which represents a new era of low-carbon energy.
- 7.) True or false: General Electric Company is an American multinational conglomerate founded in 1893, incorporated in New York State, and headquartered in Boston.
- 8.) True or false: In 1911, General Electric absorbed the National Electric Lamp Association into its lighting business. Nela Park in Cleveland, Ohio is named after this legacy.
- 9.) True or false: GE President Gerard Swope introduced his concept of a new society which represented the brains, the leadership of the Company, and the hope for its future. The Society adopted the name "Elfun"- a contraction of the words "Energy Funds".
- 10.) True or false: GE owned television stations such as KOA-TV in Denver and WSIX-TV in Nashville, but like WRGB, General Electric sold off most of its broadcasting holdings. In 1986, when GE bought RCA, the Denver station became affiliated with NBC and changed its call letters to KCNG-TV.

Syracuse Elfun Society Board of Directors

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