

TSRA NEWSLETTER

Publication of the Textron Systems Retirees Association

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www.tsretirees.org

2018 Annual Spring Luncheon Highlights

The annual Spring Luncheon was held at Angelica's Restaurant & Functions in Middletown on May 17. With their fine food, great service, attractive function venue, and convenient centralized location, Angelica's has quickly become a favorite spot for our annual luncheons.



Loring Webster and Noel Thyson share smiles with style to kick off our Spring Luncheon.

Members and guests were greeted by a return of the spring Trivia Quiz, this time broadened in scope to include new topic categories – Boston Sports and Early U.S. history – in addition to the usual AVCO/Textron trivia. Questions on these and a few extras brought the total to 11 which proved a real challenge for our trivia scholar gathering. The winners were **Gordon Dryden, Norma Lochmann, Naomi Nelson** and **Loring Webster**.

A concise, well written handout sheet entitled "Information for a Retiree's Surviving Family" was developed and provided to attendees by the Retirements Benefits Affairs Committee (RBAC). It contains key reference and contact information on retiree benefits including pension, medical, life insurance, 401K, veteran issues, and more. Additional copies are available on request.

The delicious buffet lunch included a mouthwatering strawberry shortcake, appropriate to the spring season. Throughout, attendees were treated to a running slide show put together by **John Lescher** and **Steve Wisotsky** that featured pictures from our previous Fall Luncheon and select photos from past social events.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Beginning with the Spring Luncheon in May 2019 and for all future TSRA social events, flyers will be sent only via email.

The TSRA Newsletter will continue to be sent to all members via snail mail. They will also continue to be posted on the TSRA website at www.tsretirees.org.

If you do not have email or would prefer to receive your flyers via snail mail, please indicate this preference by emailing tsramembership@tsretirees.org or sending a letter to:

TSRA
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2018 Spring Luncheon Highlights (continued from page 1)

After lunch, the President's Update was followed by our popular door prize drawings. Gift certificates in the amount of \$25 each were won by **Richard Curless, Tom Henze, Freda Koralishn, Marilyn Nolan and Tony Scorpio.**

It was a fun and relaxing way to spend a nice spring afternoon.



Dottie Dryden picks the next raffle winner with a little help from Joe Martino.

Visit the TSRA Website for many more luncheon photos taken by Steve Wisotsky!

(Joe Martino)

Summer Trip to the Great Lakes (Part 2) (Steve Wisotsky)

Editor's Note: In the last issue of our TSRA Newsletter, we read about Steve and Jo Ann's extensive trip to the Great Lakes. Here is Part 2 of Steve's article.

Holland, MI, is the home of America's tulip industry. The streets and sidewalks of the downtown area are kept snow-free all winter by a series of heating pipes from the nearby power plant.

The town is home to several beautiful beaches on Lake Michigan. We were treated to a glorious sunset at Tunnel Park Beach and enjoyed a swim at Holland State Park Beach next to Big Red – the Holland Harbor Lighthouse.



Tunnel Park Beach



Big Red – the Holland Harbor Lighthouse

Our last stop was Chicago – the Second City! As parking in the city is limited and expensive, we returned our rental car and took advantage of public transportation which is easily accessible. We stayed in a hotel just off the Magnificent Mile or Mag Mile, as it is known. This is a section of Michigan Avenue, which is known for shopping and restaurants. It is convenient to most of Chicago's attractions, either by foot or public transit.

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Summer Trip to the Great Lakes (Part 2)

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We visited the Art Institute of Chicago, one of the top art museums in the world. In addition to its collection of Impressionistic and post-Impressionistic artwork, it is the home of some of our favorite artwork including Grant Wood's "American Gothic," Edward Hopper's "Nighthawks," and numerous works by Georgia O'Keefe and Marc Chagall. We took the Architectural Boat Tour around Chicago's waterways. Docents from the Chicago Architectural Foundation describe the various building styles that populate the city. Following the Great Chicago Fire in 1871, the city had the opportunity to "start from scratch." The world's greatest architects rebuilt and continue to enhance the city. Dinner at Portillo's Hot Dogs gives you a fun way to taste old Chicago.

The Chicago Bean, more correctly called "Cloud Gate" is a stainless steel sculpture in Millennium Park, between the Loop and Lake Michigan. It was unveiled in 2006 and, while at first controversial, is now beloved. Expected to last 1,000 years, the sculpture was completed without the use of public funds. The highly polished sculpture both reflects and distorts the city's skyline. Visitors can walk up to and under the Bean and see a variety of "funhouse" reflections of themselves and others. Navy Pier is an amusement park and restaurant area that juts into Lake Michigan. From this vantage point, one can enjoy excellent views of sunset and the city skyline at night.



The Bean

After 17 days, our journey was complete. Nature provided us with heavily wooded forests, dramatic waterfalls, spectacular multi-colored cliffs, and giant sand dunes. Beautiful lighthouses dot the shores.

We saw the engineering marvel of the Soo Locks and the artistic genius of Cloud Gate and the Chicago Art Institute. We traveled from the tranquility of sparsely populated, remote areas to the hustle and bustle of big cities and enjoyed every moment. It was a trip of contrasts and fond memories.

Medical Coverage During Foreign Travel

(Mark Kovacs)

Original Medicare Coverage

In general, health care you get while traveling outside the U.S. isn't covered. The 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa are considered part of the U.S.

Medicare may pay for inpatient hospital, doctor, ambulance services, or dialysis you get in a foreign country in these rare cases:

- You are in the U.S. when a medical emergency occurs, and the foreign hospital is closer than the nearest U.S. hospital that can treat your medical condition.
- You are traveling through Canada without unreasonable delay by the most direct route between Alaska and another state when a medical emergency occurs, and the Canadian hospital is closer than the nearest U.S. hospital that can treat the emergency.
- You live in the U.S. and the foreign hospital is closer to your home than the nearest U.S. hospital that can treat your medical condition, regardless of whether an emergency exists.

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Medical Coverage During Foreign Travel (continued from page 3)

In some cases, Medicare may cover medically necessary health care services you get on board a ship within the territorial waters adjoining the land areas of the U.S. Medicare won't pay for health care services you get when a ship is more than 6 hours away from a U.S. port.

Medicare drug plans don't cover prescription drugs you buy outside the U.S.

Your costs in Original Medicare

You pay 100% of the costs, in most cases. In the situations described above, you pay 20% of the approved amount, and the Part B deductible applies.

In the situations above, Medicare pays only for services covered under Original Medicare:

- Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance) covers hospital care (care you get when you've been formally admitted with a doctor's order to the foreign hospital as an inpatient).

- Part B covers emergency and non-emergency ambulance and doctor services you get immediately before and during your covered foreign inpatient hospital stay. Medicare generally won't pay for services (like return ambulance trips home) in either of these cases:

- Medicare didn't cover your hospital stay.
- You got ambulance and doctor services outside the hospital after your covered hospital stay ended.

- You pay the part of the charge you would normally pay for covered services. This includes any medically necessary doctor and ambulance services you get in a foreign country as part of a covered inpatient hospital stay. You also pay the coinsurance, copayments, and deductibles you'd normally pay if you got these same services or supplies inside the U.S.

Medicare Supplement (Medigap) Coverage

Medicare supplement insurance (Medigap) policies may cover you when you travel outside the U.S. Your Medigap policy may offer additional coverage for health care services or supplies that you get outside the U.S.

Standard Medigap Plans C, D, F, G, M, and N provide foreign travel emergency health care coverage when you travel outside the U.S.

Plans E, H, I, and J are no longer for sale, but if you bought one before June 1, 2010 you may keep it. All of these plans also provide foreign travel emergency health care coverage when you travel outside the U.S.

Medigap coverage outside the U.S.

If you have Medigap Plan C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, M or N, your plan:

- Covers foreign travel emergency care if it begins during the first 60 days of your trip, and if Medicare doesn't otherwise cover the care.

- Pays 80% of the billed charges for certain medically necessary emergency care outside the U.S. after you meet a \$250 deductible for the year.

- Foreign travel emergency coverage with Medigap policies has a lifetime limit of \$50,000.

Please visit www.tsretirees.org for additional information regarding Medicare Supplement Plans in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Veteran's Day (John Lescher)

Veterans Day -- a celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Veterans Day is observed on November 11 regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. It was originally known as Armistice day and celebrated the end of World War I. November 11, 1918 is generally regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars." In 1954, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day. It was briefly celebrated on Mondays (1971 – 1978) but has returned to its original date.

Missile Systems at AVCO/ Textron Defense Systems

(Noel Thyson)

The development of long-range missiles and space capsule systems in the United States got its major start post-World War II. Approximately 1,500 German scientists and engineers came to the US and went to work for a number of entities/companies (military, NASA, private companies, or university facilities). This included Vernher von Braun, who worked on the German V2 booster. Von Braun went to Aberdeen Proving Grounds in the United States. A large number of the German technical people also went to the USSR. Hence, the missile business got "off the ground" and under development. This was the start of NASA space activities and the Cold War.

Most of the Air Force missile programs in the development stage were managed by Air Force personnel located at Norton Air Force Base in San Bernardino, CA. AVCO/TDS had a field office located there. Private contractors Northrop-Grumman and Thompson Ramo Wooldridge (TRW) handled most of the contractual monitoring work. When Air Force Missile Systems became operational, the interface was with the Strategic Nuclear Air Force Missile Group at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado. The AVCO/TDS interfaces with the Nuclear Weapons Warheads were the Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories.

AVCO/Textron Defense Systems (AVCO was acquired by Textron in 1984 and became Textron Defense Systems) had a group of organizations that were involved with the Air Force Nuclear Strategic Missiles and with NASA Space Systems. There was the Advanced Technology Group that conducted preliminary designs of missile front end reentry vehicles, penetration aids, and associated engineering activities with the post-boost/deployment modules atop of the missile boosters. Typical range of the Air Force missiles was 5,000-6,000 nautical miles. Reentry conditions of the reentry vehicles at 300,000 foot altitude included a velocity of 20,000-25,000 feet/sec (roughly 17,000 miles per hour) and a flight path angle of -20 to -30 degrees.

This advanced missile technology group also performed work associated with the ground testing of reentry vehicles (e.g., wind tunnel tests, ballistic range tests, and ablation material ARC tests). This testing supported development of heat shields, nosetips, fuzing, and structural load capabilities of reentry vehicles. In addition, the group worked with the design and data analysis of flight test vehicles.

The Advanced Missile Technology Group consisted of preliminary vehicle design, aerodynamics, thermodynamics, flight mechanics, and advanced reentry materials sections. A great deal of work done by these groups went into the development of computer codes to predict the hypersonic flow fields (inviscid shock layer flow, viscous boundary surface friction and heat transfer, surface pressure, vehicle loads, heat shield temperatures and recession, and nosetip recession and shape). These codes were used to determine the effects of changes in weather vs. clear air, vehicle flight dynamics, and vehicle impact CEP (circular error probability) accuracy.

Following the Advanced Missile Technology Group work, the preliminary design vehicles slated for operational deployment underwent final design development by an engineering organization with AVCO/Textron. These final vehicle designs were then manufactured by the manufacturing organization and supplied to the Air Force Strategic Nuclear Missile Force.

Program Office groups led the contractual interface with the Air Force and NASA customer organizations and were aided by legal and financial AVCO/Textron organizations.

Many materials were developed in conjunction with AVCO Materials Organization (located in Lowell, MA). These included the Apollo AVCOAT 5025 carbon/silica filled honeycomb heat shield, reentry vehicle heat shields made from carbon phenolic, silica phenolic, Teflon, tape-wrapped carbon phenolic, RV nosetip 3D quartz phenolic, and 3d carbon-carbon. The AVCO 5026 material is slated to be the heatshield for the Mars Orion vehicle.

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Missile Systems at AVCO/Textron Defense Systems

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In the 1950s and 1960s, there was considerable work done on the development of the MK 11 reentry vehicle for operational deployment for the Air Force Nuclear ICBM Force. This reentry vehicle was deployed on the Atlas and Titan boosters.

In the 1960s and 1970s, the Minuteman boosters (MM I, MM II, and MM III) were developed for the Air Force and GE/Valley Forge, PA developed and manufactured the MK 12 reentry vehicle atop MM. AVCO continued to develop penetration aids and conduct flight test of both ballistic and maneuvering reentry vehicles. Orbital Sciences was the principal booster company that provided the flight test boosters. These flight tests were conducted from a number of shoreline sites out over the ocean.

By the 1970s to 1980s, the emphasis moved to the Peacekeeper ICBM. AVCO/TDS designed and developed the MK 21 reentry vehicle for Peacekeeper. This system was deployed as an operational system at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in the late 1980s. Fifty of these systems are deployed at that base.

Throughout the 1960s through 1980s, AVCO/TDS had a number of Air Force contracts associated with such programs as Advanced Ballistic Reentry Vehicles (ABRV), Advanced Ballistic Research Systems (ABRES), Technology Reentry Program (TREP), Reentry Systems Technology (REST), and others. In these contractual efforts, a variety of work was conducted including aerothermal modelling computer code development, ground testing in wind tunnels, and ARC facilities. These included testing in facilities at Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC) in Tennessee and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. In addition, the missile group helped support the AVCO/TDS Cobra Ball Intelligence program.

Efforts of the Advanced Development Missile Groups consisted of assuring/designing the reentry vehicles to survive extreme reentry load and heating environments.

A large amount of effort went into designing vehicles to have high accuracy during reentry as judged by a small CEP – the size of a circle in which it would be expected to impact 50% of the time. Higher accuracy leads to the necessity for a decreased payload to attack a hardened target.

Prior to operational deployment by the Air Force Nuclear Strategic Missile System, operational type flight test were conducted. These flight tests were launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California out over the Pacific Ocean into the Kwajalein Atoll area – a total range of 4,400 miles. Hawaii, located about 2,000 miles from VAGB was the half-way point in the trajectory, making it a perfect spot for an observation location, but that is a story for another day.

In more recent years, going into the 2000s, defense budgets have not been sufficient to continue development of new systems. There has been an ongoing debate as to whether the current force should be refurbished or whether to develop and build a new missile force. Currently, the present administration seems to favor the development and deployment of a new, lower nuclear yield, smaller booster system. Time will tell.

In Memoriam

TSRA sends its condolences and sincere sympathy to the families of the following former AVCO/Textron employees/or spouses.

James M. Farino, 05/21/01

Michael R. Tremblay, 03/24/14

Mary F. Plamowski, 05/09/18

Olga T. (Sot) Parlin, 07/21/18

David "Dave" Tinkham, 07/31/18

John A. Mottola, 08/10/18

Anita Ruth Adams, 08/12/18

James R. Talarico, 08/23/18

Ronald J. Becotte, 09/01/18

Dr. Michael H. Smotrich, 09/04/18

Patricia A. (Dempsey) Mitchell, 09/14/18

Marion Louise Carew, 09/21/18

Jim Henshaw, 09/24/18

Zaro Salibian, 09/25/18

(spouse of Harry)

Barbara J. (Cudworth) Mahoney, 10/22/18

(spouse of John)

Clifton Gordon Stone III, 11/30/18

2018 John J. Mahoney Memorial Golf Tournament

(Art Dunford)

On June 12, 2018, the annual John J. Mahoney Memorial Golf Tournament was held at Hillview Country Club, North Reading, MA. Once again, **Art Dunford** used his Ouija board to handicap the foursomes. However, this year his Ouija board appeared to be broken as the team of **Angie Caini, Dick Preble, and Bill Stuart** won both low gross (69) and low net (49). However, Art said that his Ouija board was fine and the team of Preble, Caini, and Stuart blew the rest of the field away because they were the only group to take advantage of Art's offer to play the senior tees. The other teams struggled from the regular tees which, that day, were set back, refusing to accept the fact that time had greatly diminished their skills.

Following the tournament, the participants were unable to retire to Hillview's Lounge for hors d'oeuvres and drinks which, unfortunately, had not yet opened for the season. However, they improvised and enjoyed Pu-Pu platters from the local Chinese restaurant served under the tent adjacent to the pro shop. Although the field has diminished to only eleven players, they talked of looking forward to next year's tournament. A great time was had by all who, in addition to those listed above, included **Jim Gorman, Ron Milauskas, Charlie Neckyfarow, Bernard Noon, Bob Norbedo, Tony Scorpio** and **Ron True**.

Free Credit Freezes

(John Lescher)

Thanks to a new federal law (which took effect on September 21), you can get free credit freezes and year-long fraud alerts. A credit freeze restricts access to your credit file, making it harder for identity thieves to open new accounts in your name. A fraud alert will tell any business that runs your credit that they should check with you before opening a new account. In addition, you may also "thaw" their files, temporarily or permanently, without a fee. [Equifax](#), [Experian](#) and [TransUnion](#) must each set up a webpage for requesting fraud alerts and credit freezes. The FTC will also post links to those webpages on IdentityTheft.gov.

TSRA Members Attend Mamma Mia

(Selena Evans)

On August 8, twenty-nine members and guests attended an afternoon performance of **Mamma Mia** at the North Shore Music Theatre (NSMT). Several of those members and guests enjoyed lunch at the Wenham Tea House before driving the short distance to the NSMT.

The performance was professional, lavish and filled with ABBA songs and numerous dance routines, all clever and a few definitely humorous. The well-known songs included *Mamma Mia*, *Dancing Queen*, *Take a Chance on Me*, *The Winner Takes It All* and 18 others for a total of 22 ABBA numbers, all delivered in delightful manner with excellent voices.

All attending commented on how wonderful the performance was and how they want to return to the NSMT for **Jersey Boys** – the production announced for next summer by the NSMT owner Bill Hanney.

TSRA members who, with their guests, enjoyed the day's activities included **Sylvia Bonaccorso, Jeanne Bumstead, Rick and Judith Curless, Selena Evans, Vito and Helga Frazzette, Richard Fredholm, Dick Homewood, John Lescher, Joe Martino, Ron Milauskas, Charlie Neckyfarow, Weldon and Naomi Nelson** and **Thomas O'Connor**.

Watch for upcoming newsletters featuring articles about our Annual Fall Luncheon, Lobster Cruise activities (and photos!), Nashoba Valley Winery Tour, Membership news, and an interview with Bob Ricles as well as an interesting article submitted by fellow TSRA Member Dan Trainor entitled "After the Big Bang"!

TSRA Newsletter

**Cindy Mayer Merlini, Editor
Steve Wisotsky, JCC Chairman**

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Visit the TSRA website (www.tsretirees.org) for current and past editions of the Newsletter as well as other important information.

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