

PRESIDENT'S COMMENT

The surveys continue to trickle in, 1997 dues are arriving, and Ken Olsen has agreed to be the guest speaker at Chapter 1776's May meeting. Tip of the hat to Marilyn Goodrich for that last bit of interesting news.

24 members attended the General Membership meeting in Chelmsford. Another GMM is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Thursday, March 13, at the Aldersgate Methodist Church in Chelmsford. The guest speaker is Lillian Lund-Files known locally as "the Bluebird lady." Her one hour program is called "Bring back the Bluebirds." I've heard her speak before and think that you will all find her interesting and the program informative. You may even wish to join her campaign, come and find out. Brochures will be available at the Feb. Chapter 1776 meeting.

I recently became one of the million to respond to JUNO's "E-mail was meant to be free" slogan. So far the DRA e-mail address list includes 23 members. If you haven't heard from me it is because I don't know your e-mail address. So, please send me a message.

If your label says LAST NEWSLETTER it is because we think you haven't paid dues since 95. **Please correct me if I'm wrong** (simple phone call ☎, I don't need a canceled check just your word) or send a check payable to DRA in the amount of \$20 (\$10 for 96 and \$10 for 97) to remain a paid up member.

If your label says 12/96, you should consider sending a check for \$10 before March 15, 1997.

The GMM in May will include an election of DRA board members. Please read the BOARD OF DIRECTORS article on page 3 for more details.

Please let me know of anything that DRA should be concerned about.

Bob



GMM REPORT

A general membership meeting was held on December 10 in Chelmsford. Attendance was 26, with two visitors who joined the DRA that night, two board members and one Chapter 1776 officer, Marge Morrissey, who took minutes and filed a detailed report of the evening. That report is available for your perusal and was used to prepare the synopsis that follows.

As of 12/10/97 there were 283 paid up DRA members including 32 new members who joined during 1996 as a result of work done by Chapter 1776. The chapter has 67 charter members and 42 others who have attended more than one meeting.

On 12/10/96 the DRA treasury had a working balance of \$4,331.50.

There were unanswered questions raised about pensions, specifically TFSO retiree pensions. (TFSO Concerns p3)

Al Rubio, president of Massachusetts Silver Haired Legislature spoke about problems created by the increasing number of seniors. (That's us ☺) Al related the history of the SHL from its beginning in the early 70's when Frank Manning a retired labor organizer began an effort to make politicians aware of issues unique to seniors.

In 1980 Massachusetts became the third state to have a SHL. Early on problems arose about how the SHL should be populated, how long they should serve and what they would be allowed to do. From 1983-1991, the SHL was under the Board of Regents during which time 12 senior bills were addressed and they all failed to pass.

In 1991 the SHL was transferred back to the Elder Affairs. With no budget the group had to be satisfied to be informed with no input or ability to lobby for any issue. The last couple of years have seen the SHL begin to become a viable unit. They are looking forward to a National Congress of SHL's from >p2c1

☎ PHONE NUMBERS ARE ON PAGE 2

CHAPTER 1776 NEWS

This group meets four times a year at the **Fairbank Senior Center** in Sudbury. DRA members who regularly attend are urged to join the chapter. Currently, there are no additional Chapter dues.

The next meeting is February 20 at 2:00 p.m. Sally Mauro, Digital Benefits Coordinator will be the guest speaker.

For everyone's edification, Beverley Robbins-Gordon will no longer be attending DRA meetings. We will miss Beverley. She always tried to answer our many questions and concerns as we walked the new paths of being unemployed with the uncertainty as to what was coming next from Digital. If you should see Beverley make sure you wish her well with her new responsibilities at Digital.

In accordance with the Chapter 1776 constitution, Vice Chairman, Marilyn Goodrich becomes Chairman effective May 1997. The 1776 officers are seeking nominations for a new Vice Chair. Bring your nominations to the February meeting or call Marge Morrissey, 1776 Secretary ☎. The election of the new Vice Chairman will take place at the May 22 meeting. This is an evening meeting, starting at 7:00 p.m. The ultimate life after Digital person, Ken Olsen, will be the guest speaker, the subject of which is at Ken's discretion.

Note: Because of the popularity of the speaker for the March evening meeting it is requested that you **RSVP before March 15**, so that adequate seating (or standing) can be arranged. RSVP to Marge Morrissey ☎ or by e-mail to jayhawkbob@juno.com. Tell Marge or Bob if you need a ride to attend. No promises but we will try to find someone who can be your chauffeur.



(continued from GMM Report p1c2)

22 states meeting in February. Hopefully, we will hear more in the media, and will definitely try to keep you informed.

As mentioned elsewhere there are two upcoming GMM meetings. Please plan on attending. Hopefully, you will find the speakers informative and entertaining and the business portion non-threatening, but important, as you help set the direction for DRA. These both will be evening meetings. We will try to arrange rides for those of you who don't drive after dark. Just let us know.

SHL NEWS

Norma Millette, DRA Treasurer, and SHL Legislature for the 1st Middlesex district is a Co-chairperson of the SHL Ways & Means Committee. This committee oversees/reviews and gets involved with supporting bills on taxation, social security, and money items regarding seniors by the legislature. At present there are numerous filings of bills regarding the lowering of estate, town, and school taxes for Massachusetts residents over 65. Norma promises more information as these bills move along.

GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON AGING

The 12th Annual conference will be held May 28, 1997 at the Boxborough Woods Holiday Inn.

An all day event for elders, advocates and professionals regarding matters that concern us all.

DRA is on the mailing list for the press release and it will be included in the next *DEC'ed Out*.

Keep the date open and plan on attending so that the organizers know we are interested in what the commonwealth is planning for us.

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Digital did away with voicemail for a particular function. Hiring 600?? to answer the phones.

If pro is the opposite of con what does that make congress? *Richard Lederer*

FREE e-mail article in next column.

To get maximum attention, it is hard to beat a good, big mistake.

WORTH SENDING FOR

Nothing new to send for, but "Plane fares depend on whom, when you ask," is the headline of an article by Bruce Mohl on page B1 of *The Boston Globe*, Friday, 12/20/96. MassPIRG contacted 5 airlines and 10 travel agents for lowest-priced fares for travel on specific dates and times between Boston and Houston or Portland, OR. The ranges in the quotes for round-trip were:

	Sat. Stayover	no Stayover
Houston	\$380-\$552	\$370-\$1338
Portland	\$373-\$504	\$504-\$1323

"The bottom line is that you need to shop around because you can get different answers even if you ask the same question." *Jenise Shields MassPIRG*

Copies of the complete article which has a table of the actual responses may be requested by sending a SASE to DRA. Of course, those of you in New England can visit your local library to read the referenced *Globe*.



Thanks to Paul Devivo for the following.

For those of you who don't have an Internet Access Provider (ISP), and are wary of signing up for one, there is a wonderful alternative: **Free e-mail**.

A company called Juno has rolled out an advertising-supported, free to the users, e-mail system. Their trademark motto is: "E-mail was meant to be free." In 8 months they have over 1 million subscribers. It requires Windows 3.1 or Windows 95 computer and a modem with a speed of at least 9600 baud. There are local access dial-in lines in most of the large cities and towns in the DRA states. There are 16 for MA and 2 for NH - Manchester and Nashua.

To subscribe, have someone send an e-mail message on your behalf to signup@juno.com with your name and postal address. Or, call JUNO ☎

Bob will bring some copies (3 1/4") to the Chapter 1776 meeting.

Information: <http://www.juno.com>

PHONE NUMBERS TO THE RIGHT

SOME THINGS TAKE FOREVER



Nothing absolute about the second distribution.

Latest "maybe" is February.

IMPORTANT: If you move or have moved, make sure that you notify the administrator of your new address.

David Berdon & Co. LLP
P.O.Box 1759
Grand Central Station
New York, New York 10163
Attention: Digital Insurance Litigation

CONTACTING DRA

REPEATED FOR EDIFICATION

Chapter 1776 folks should call one of the officers. Their phone numbers are shown in the box on page 3.

Others please call Bob Moore ☎ Early morning is best >5:30 a.m. Anytime is okay, but you may have to leave a message. When leaving a message please give me a "best" time to call back. If no response within 48 hours please call again. Please say your phone number with area code *slowly*. (I do a reverse lookup is I have trouble understanding your name.) Or, send e-mail to jayhawkbob@juno.com.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Please let us know of numbers we should add or more importantly any problems you have with using any of these numbers.

♪ **Benefits Express** is the only official connection to Digital.

- AARP District Office..... 508 872-4150
- AARP Hotline..... 800 826-8683
- Benefits Express..... 800 890-3100
- Speak to a representative *☐
- Help & Open Enrollment. #
- SAVE..... ☉#
- Pension..... ☉#
- Hearing impaired..... 800 828-8745
- Change of Address..... 800 323-2060
- CIGNA (Life Insurance).... 800 828-3485
- Digital Credit Union..... 800 323-8797
- Digital Investor Services.... 800 235-5069
- Fairbank Senior Center.... 508 443-3055
- IRS (Tax Forms)..... 800 829-3676
- John Hancock (Braintree). 800 332-2060
- Retiree Assistance..... ☐ on menu
- JUNO for free e-mail..... 800-654-5866
- Office of Elder Affairs..... 800 882-2003
- Purchasing Digital equip.... 800 377-1237
- Thomas Cook Travel..... 800 374-5858

PLEASE TAKE ACTION FORM

UPDATED RESULTS

131 responses. 15 TFSO, 114 SERP, 3 retired before 1992. Two said they were TSFO and SERP.

Working or Not: 39 are happy not to be; 11 would like to; 64 are working; two when they feel like it, one is disabled, four are volunteering and 11 didn't answer the question. The survey didn't ask whether part time or full time.

It isn't too late to send in your form, we would appreciate hearing from you.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As you have been informed in the past, currently there are just two active Board Members, Bob Moore and Norma Millette. We have a checking account with Fleet and any checks require two signatures. Our primary expenses are *DEC'ed Out* printing and mailings, Chapter 1776 postcard mailings, and occasional hall rental. I'm happy maintaining the membership roster, writing a newsletter when there is something to say and holding a general membership meeting when requested.

The DRA has a constitution and technically speaking we are probably not operating as we should. This is of great concern to the Chapter 1776 officers and they are anxious to have a full DRA board. To that end nominations for the DRA board are open and you are encouraged to send your nominations to DRA by USPS, e-mail, or bring to the February Chapter 1776 meeting, or the March GMM. The May GMM meeting will be held for the election of DRA Board members. As before, mail in votes will be accepted to accommodate those who can't attend the May meeting in person.

TSFO CONCERNS

We haven't said much about TSFO as most of us took the SERP package. We can schedule a meeting just to air your concerns and plan a course of action to get answers. Let's hear from you so we can start the data gathering. Remember, most of us are ignorant about the TSFO process. FYI - DRA has an attorney of record willing to ask the difficult questions if necessary.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

As promised the membership list has been divided into "active" and "inactive." Inactive (181) have not paid dues since 1995. Active (312) is anyone who paid dues for 1996, 1997, or 1998. Renewal of membership will always be open but the active list will be culled again on March 16, 1997 for those who have not paid 1997 dues.

The inactive list is retained in case we have a really hot item that we think needs broad distribution.

Thanks to those who responded last time to our request for help in fixing our database. We corrected 3 addresses. One in Las Vegas was corrected within 48 hours of mailing the newsletter. You guys are really good. Try some more. We need to correct some listings that cause USPS to return mail with several unhelpful reasons for non-delivery. Some of these people paid dues in 95-96. If you know them ask them to give us an update on their address.

Yes. I have tried NYNEX and AT&T long distance information.

Ray Archambault
55 Arthur Ave or 48 Camelot Dr
Manchester NH 03104

John Earon
22 Newton St
West Boylston MA 01583

Lorraine Hayes
2 Woodfield St
Nashua NH 03062

Stephen A. Kallis, Jr.
8417 N Armenia #810
Tampa FL 33604

Ronnie Kimball
404C Ridgefield Cir
Clinton MA 01510

Kyong Liliedahl
8 Escumbuit Rd
Atkinson NH 03811

David Nash
1 Walker St
Westboro MA 01581

Paul Saia
1243 Adams St. #303
Boston MA 02124

following last name may be misspelled
James Walach
Costa Mesa CA

PHONE NUMBERS ARE ON PAGE 2

DEC'ed Out is a newsletter published by and for the Digital Retirees Association.

Byline articles may contain conclusions and opinions of the writer and not necessarily of the Digital Retirees Association or its Board of Directors.

Board of Directors

Ed Braniecki
Tony Ippolito
Norma Millett, Treasurer
Bob Moore, President 508 256-9537
jayhawkbob@juno.com
Penny Kelley, Secretary

Chapter 1776 Officers

Chair	Bob Latvalla	692-5634
Vice-chair		Marilyn
Goodrich		443-6865
Treasurer		Frank
Kinchla	879-1858	
Secretary	Marje Morrissey	897-2568

Mailing Address: e-mail
DRA
jayhawkbob@juno.com
c/o Bob Moore
3 Judith Rd
Chelmsford, MA 01824

CHAPTER 1776 MEETINGS

There are four meetings a year for Chapter 1776 members. All meetings are held at the Fairbank Center, Fairbank Rd, Sudbury. Two in the afternoon (2-4) and two in the evening (7-9). Guest speakers are chosen who represent the interests expressed by 1776 members to the Chapter officers.

PUBLISHER'S COMMENT

The editor job is still open. Nice if you have an "under the gun attitude" about getting things done. Using e-mail should simplify the task. But please, I could really use the help. Might even change my modus operandi. Stranger things have happened, the Patriots made it to the Super Bowl.

Submitting an item for *DEC'ed Out* is easiest with e-mail, but Mac or PC disks are still okay, or send fax Mon-Sat to Chelmsford Copy & Secretarial Center at 508 256-1869. (I haven't yet perfected sending and receiving faxes.)

So how about it? Submit your item of interest to share, especially you non-New Englanders. What's life like in Downs, Kansas, or Clover and Conway, South Carolina? Your fellow

DRA members would love to know.

Bob

C. Robert Moore (DRA)
3 Judith Rd
Chelmsford MA 01824-4717
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

New Date for Chapter 1776
Meeting

Chapter 1776
Thursday, February 20, 1997 2:00 pm
Thursday, May 22, 1997 7:00 pm
Fairbank Senior Center Sudbury, Massachusetts

General Membership Meetings
Aldersgate Methodist Church
Route 4 South in Chelmsford
Thursday, March 13, 1997 7:00 p.m.
TBD, May 1997 7:00 p.m.

Central Baptist Church is the church on the common without a steeple clock.
Estimated travel times from certain locations are:
128/Rte 3 Burlington, 30-45 mins
495/Rte 3, Chelmsford, 5 mins
495/93, Andover, 20 minutes
Rt 3/Exit 1, Nashua, 20 minutes
Rt 3/Exit 8, Nashua, 35 minutes
Listen to WBZ 1030, for traffic on the three.

Aldersgate Methodist is on Route 4
2.5 miles North from Treble Cove Rd
1.6 miles South from 4 way stop in Chelmsford Center

Estimated travel times are about the same as shown above.

