

DEC'ed Out *Newsletter of the Digital Retirees Association*

Volume VII Issue No. 1

By Special Request

May 2003

President's Comment

The Special Request in the dateline means that Chapter 1776 Officers said they would like to see another issue of *DEC'ed Out* before the Chapter's next meeting. That request was made in August 2002. Now it is happening in time for the May 2003 meeting. Normally a postcard is sent to many of the towns that Revere and Dawes visited that April of long ago – this newsletter is a substitute for the May 2003 postcard.

Like most of you we are all busy and most of us are enjoying "life after DEC."

An important action item: read the **Membership List** article and act accordingly.

Personal note. I may be slow to respond, not news to some of you, during the month of June. I am walking down the aisle, May 31, 2003 and am not sure when and where I might be during June. If you have a question about DRA send a message to a 1776 officer. I will respond to anything you send – just might not be as prompt as you would like.

Bob

Some Important Phone Numbers

Digital Retiree Association's First Decade

by Vince Tarbassian

[Note: The following is reprinted from the June 2000 *Digital Alumni*.]

The initial DRA started in October 1990 in the Drake, Beam, Morin Outplacement Offices in Marlboro, MA. Their purpose was to enable those folks who wouldn't return to the workforce to network and stay connected. A notice was posted and (The Gang of 7) seven people came together - Fred Koved, Judy Sargent, Mary Reed, Vince Tarbassian, Eli Effinger, Tig Tigerson and Bob Latvalla.

They created a Mission Statement, which they tell us, still stands today. Then a constitution was created using Polaroid Retiree Association's Constitution as a guide. After some fine tuning it was submitted to the general membership, accepted unanimously and is still used today.

The initial group were known as TFSOers. Later came SERPers and the organization grew. Folks wanted to start DRA Chapters so along came Northboro, Nashua, Framingham/Sudbury Chapters. The Framingham/Sudbury chapter is still healthy and maintains quarterly meetings at the Fairbank Community Center in Sudbury, MA. Vince tells us that this chapter is populated by hardcore members and the Chapter leadership works energetically to maintain interesting programs. They hold two evening and two afternoon meetings annually. Guest speakers have covered wide areas from Ph.Ds in psychology, fire and crime fighters, tax preparers and estate experts, Ken Olsen and Win Hindle and members who have created businesses of their own.

The year 2000 marks DRA's first decade. DRA must reach out to retirees who can't attend meetings primarily due to geography and must learn what Hewlett Packard can and will do to help the organization remain viable.

Anyone interested in joining DRA may call Bob Moore at 978-256-9537 or email him at jayhawkbob@juno.com.

Chapter 1776 In Review

by Marje Morrissey

This review is based on minutes of each Chapter 1776 meeting.

June 1998 through June 1999

The first of the four meetings we hold each year began in September with a representative from the Shine Organization explaining to a packed room at the Fairbank Center in Sudbury, about why we should be concerned about the changes to Medicare. Various scenarios were presented with a lively discussion around supplements, coverage, and dependents. Each area has (or should have) a representative of Shine connected with their Senior Center if further information is needed.

(continued on next page)

Membership Booklet

We plan to update the booklet that was published during May of 1998. If you have joined since then you probably don't have one.

The booklet consists of several address sections: home, business, e-mail, and a city/state listing of just names. If you still have a booklet, check the entries that pertain to you and tell us of any needed changes. There is a form for this on the insert to this newsletter

Most important: Tell us if you don't want your phone number listed or if you don't want to be listed at all. ☺

Inclusion of business cards in the booklet was well received and they will be included again this time based on your response. If you want yours included, mail your current card(s) to Bob Moore.

Ten days after this newsletter is mailed we will send an e-mail message to make sure our address book is current. If you have e-mail and DO NOT receive a "DRA May 2003 Test" message and you would like to receive information from DRA by e-mail send a message to

jayhawkbob@juno.com Twice a year we send a good IMHO joke to test the validity of the address book.

There is no schedule for this update but the sooner I hear from you the closer it is to happening.

Bob

Unknown Addresses

Sometime in the past two years mail sent to the following people was returned with Forwarding Order Expired notation. We have tried with no success to find current addresses. If you know any of them please let them know we would like to be updated

You should not give us that information unless they tell you that you may.

Steve Allen, Bolton, MA

Ray Archambault, Raymond, NH

Jack Fu

June MacArthur, Maynard, MA

Richard (Dick) Vogt, Hopkinton, NH

Chapter 1176 In Review (continued from first page)

In December, Chuck Clark assuaged our fears about investments held through the Compaq takeover. We were advised to secure a tax consultant, or at least someone to help with the tax issues regarding stocks. The last half of the meeting was refreshing as most members joined the Fairbank "Fit for the Future" group for a workout that included sit down exercises as well as a little "Tai-Bo" -- a meeting that met the needs of mind and body.

In March, we began our general meeting with a pizza party that all members present seemed to enjoy and wanted repeated. Gordon Homer from the Massachusetts Psychological Association then led an interactive session about transitions that occur throughout life. The members present "circled their chairs" and began sharing experiences that proved everyone could relate to changes.

Our final meeting of the "year" on May 20, brought the newly-elected Pam Resor to Sudbury to answer some pertinent questions about how tax laws will affect older citizens. The annual election of officers was held, with the following results: Chairperson: Vince Tarbassian, Vice Chairperson: Marilyn Goodrich, Secretary: Marje Morrissey, Treasurer: Bob Reichard.

June 1999 through June 2000

Again, we had four meetings: September, December, March and May, all of which were held at the Fairbank Center.

In September, Dr. Frank Miller, OD, was our guest speaker. Dr. Miller gave a wonderful presentation on eye ailments of older people. Specifically, he spoke about macular degeneration, cataracts, and retinopathy.

[[some good words about impressions of the audience, charts, handouts whatever]]

In December, Win Hindle, a Digital VP, recalled the "wonderful days" from his perspective. His talk was well received and full of "stuff" which some of us were hearing for the first time. A Liberal Arts major, Win was hired as Ken's assistant in 1962 and brought a different outlook to the business-minded hierarchy of DEC. Recalling the growth from 1100 employees and 12 million dollars in sales in 1964 to 30,000 employees and 1 billion dollars in sales in 1977, Win spoke of many things that contributed to that success but also to what pre-

mentioned the 90's— a time of vulnerability. He remarked that we shouldn't dwell on it as the first 35 years of Digital Equipment made such a difference in how businesses "worked" in the years that followed. He urged us to concentrate on the past accomplishments. In response to questions, Win told us that he retired in 1994 and keeps active physically and mentally. He serves on several corporate Board of Directors, does philanthropic work and is a trustee of Emerson Hospital.

Of course Chapter 1776 continues to meet four times a year and did so in 2001, 2002 and 2003. If you are interested in the minutes from those meetings please contact Marje by e-mail or give her a phone call.

DEC'ed Out is a newsletter published by and for the Digital Retirees Association. Byline articles may contain conclusions or opinions of the writer and not necessarily of the Digital Retirees Association or its Board of Directors or Chapter 1776 officers.

The May 2003, newsletter was mailed to 189 addresses of folks who have paid dues since 1999.

Mailing Address

DRA
c/o Bob Moore
3 Judith Rd
Chelmsford, MA 01824

Changes Of Address

Please let us know when you change addresses, right after you tell your next of kin.

List omitted this time. Please refer to previous issues.

Contacting DRA

Chapter 1776 folks should call one of the officers. Their phone numbers and e-mail are in the box that follows.

Others please contact Bob Moore. When leaving phone number please do so **slowly** with area code.

Board of Directors

Bob Moore, President 978-256-9537
after May 31, 2003 781-270-0252
e-mail jayhawbob@juno.com

No other officers at this time ☹ bad news!

Chapter 1776 Officers

Co-chair, Marilyn Goodrich	978 443-6865
Co-chair, Vince Tarbassian	508-877-4643
Consultant, Lou Swinand	508-842-1069
Treasurer, Harriet Willens	978-897-3189
Secretary, Marje Morrissey	978 897-2568
Marilyn	marilyn.goodrich@worldnet.att.net
Vince	etarbassian@juno.com
Lou	lou@swinand.com
Harriet	momandmag@aol.com
Marje	morriseymf@cs.com

Digital Alumni

Peter Koch – about fifty words

Hewlett Packard Retirement Group (hp-REM)

By Marilyn Goodrich

When Compaq ended the wonderful life of Digital Equipment Corp, Compaq retirement organization did not want any connection with our group. In spite of that, DRA has survived. Now as you know, Hewlett Packard is in control because of their recent purchase of Compaq. Hewlett Packard has a very active retirement group.

The purpose of this message is to provide the members of our Digital Retiree Association with information about hp-REM (Hewlett Packard-Retired Employees of Massachusetts). The Executive Board for DRA has met with the hp-REM Board of Directors for the purpose of exchanging information about how each of our groups operate, with the desire to learn if our DRA, Chapter 1776 might join the hp-REM group.

The hp-REM group has about 180 members in the Metro West area. They have 3 meetings each year. They are primarily a social group and provide travel opportunities during the year. Currently there is a trip to the Amish country planned for March. They go to the gambling casinos in CT. They go to Boston for specific art exhibits or shows. All the trips are arranged by an event planner within their group.

They have a Board of Directors made up of 9 people, plus past presidents. Each person has an assigned responsibility to report on at each meeting. In addition to the trips that are being planned, they are preparing for their annual meeting which will be a dinner meeting with guest speaker.

We want all our members to learn about the hp-REM group. The hp-REM people have welcomed our DRA group, and they feel we might have a wonderful time sharing with their activities, plus their desire to contribute to our group.

DRA
c/o Bob Moore
3 Judith Rd
Chelmsford, MA 01824

OPEN CAREFULLY – SPECIAL INSERT INSIDE

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Open Carefully and Remove Insert

Chapter 1776 Notice at bottom of this page

DRA Chapter 1776 Meetings
Fairbank Senior Center, Fairbank Road, Sudbury
Thursday, May 22, 2003 7:00–9:00 PM
Annual Meeting with Special Guests and Election of Officers

Guest Speaker:

Questions or comments should be directed to one of the 1776 Officers. See box on page 3.

This notice was also e-mailed to 45 addresses on or about May 8, 2003.

Please Let a 1776 Officer know if you would prefer NOT to receive these notices or if you know someone who would like to get the notice but didn't.

INSERT TO MAY 2003 DEC'ED OUT

This insert contains some personal information about you and a survey. Please review and complete the information as requested and return it ASAP so that we can determine how we want to proceed in the immediate future of the DRA organization.

When preparing for mailing, please refold this sheet so that the DRA address and stamp appear on the outside of the tri folded sheet of paper. The USPS would like the paper sealed at the bottom with a piece of tape.

Of course, as always e-mail is always welcome. Please send to Bob Moore or any of the 1776 Officers listed in the newsletter. Be forewarned. Bob is being married on May 31, 2003 – so e-mail may not be answered between May 28 and June 10.

If this newsletter was forwarded to you please make sure that you update the erroneous information shown in the following section.

DRA Survey May 2003

Fill in the blanks, circle a choice, or write a short comment. Dissertations are best handled with e-mail or a separate mailing to the address shown on the other side. Write long comments on the same panel that shows your name and address.

Do you need a ride to Chapter 1776 meetings: Daytime? Yes No Evening? Yes No

Do you use Digital Credit Union: Yes No

Do you have Medicare: Yes No Name of Supplemental Health Insurance if any _____

Name of HMO if any: _____

What kind of activities would you like DRA to provide? _____

How can you help DRA? _____

Do you belong to AARP Yes No AARP Chapter if any _____

Any other Retiree organization? _____

Are you a paid subscriber to Digital Alumni? Yes No

How are you involved in volunteer activities in your community? _____

What if any musical instrument do you play? Consider voice an instrument. _____

Name of any musical groups you belong to (don't forget church choir) _____

Do you own your own business? Yes No Type of product or service _____

Any outstanding, knock 'em dead awards you may have received since putting Digital behind you

DIGITAL RETIREES ASSOCIATION
c/o BOB MOORE
3 JUDITH RD
CHELMSFORD, MA 01824-4717

May 2003 Survey