

PRESIDENT'S COMMENT

I know it's been a long time since you received a *DEC'ed Out*. But I haven't heard from many of you either since they mailed the checks for the insurance settlement. Chapter 1776 board members still call as they are really involved with their chapter. 1776 continues to meet on a regular basis at the Senior Center in Sudbury. Their next meeting is November 7. They also have scheduled a day trip to the Big Apple for December 6.

The September *Benefits Today* said if your "Open Enrollment" package was not received by October 23 to call Benefits Express☎ and speak to a representative*☎.

Beverly Robbins-Gordon☎ is still the retiree's best contact. But, please make sure that you have tried the 800 numbers listed under Important Phone Numbers before calling Beverly. She has taken on additional non-retiree responsibilities but as always will try to answer your "unanswered" Digital related retirement question.

Please look at the "Important Phone Numbers" list as there have been several changes. What is listed is what we thought correct as of mid-October.

In the past we have reported on Elder Hostel and Habitat for Humanity. There is an exciting combined project of these two volunteer organizations underway. If you are interested please read the article and let me know if you pursue the opportunity.

The Digital Alumni magazine has received a lot of good press lately and one of the favorite features of that quarterly publication is the names and addresses of the subscribers. I have included a "Please Take Action" form for your response to help determine whether you would like us to publish a list of current DRA members. After many months I now can say with some confidence, that we have an accurate list of who paid 1995 dues. This news-

letter is being sent to every address in our database. The label indicates whether I have evidence that you paid 1995 dues. The next *DEC'ed Out* or other DRA communication will only be sent to those who we acknowledge as paid up members. (Some people didn't join until 1996.)

Please make sure you complete the "Please Take Action" form and return it or bring it with you to the next Chapter 1776 meeting. Bob

OPEN ENROLLMENT 1997

You should have received a "Benefits Package" from Digital which explains in great detail the open enrollment process this year. If not, call Benefits Express☎ and speak to a representative*☎. The centerfold explains the steps to take in using a touch tone phone. Be advised there is also a text telephone for the hearing impaired. Open enrollment began **Oct. 21** and must be done **before Nov. 15**.

Beverly's advice is to make sure you read everything so that you know all of your options. If you do not respond, it will be assumed that you wish to stay with your current selection.

This year they have also included the HMO report cards. You should review these to see how your HMO is doing.

CONTACTING DRA

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. If no response within 48 hours please call again. Please say your phone number slowly.

For the present DRA's official address is that of the President. **Please do not send anything to PO Box 86 Westboro.**

SOME THINGS TAKE FOREVER

BUT WE'RE ALMOST DONE

An Update from Bill Barron

This is the latest information on the Class Action Suit against Digital and John Hancock for the return of premium on our optional life insurance. As you know the money will be distributed in two checks. Those who were eligible received their first check by the end of June 96.

With the first distribution there still remained a few dozen people whose eligibility remained in question. If you are one of them, you were notified that there was a problem and were asked to provide additional information. When the mystery is solved and you are included in the group, your share from the first check will be included in the second one.

Some who were denied inclusion have filed an appeal and just as soon as those appeals are resolved the second checks will be sent out. (Hopefully by the end of this calendar year.)

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

Questions? Call Bill Barron at 508 475-3391

WORTH SENDING FOR

Free copy of *Fitting Fitness In, Even When You're Pressed For Time*, send a self addressed, stamped 9 by 12 inch envelope to: ACSM, c/o Fitting Fitness In, PO Box 1440, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1440

The short article I read attests to the fact that you can reap the benefits of good health through short intervals of moderate exercise—minus the sweat. Let us know if you get this new booklet and start to get healthy.

CHAPTER 1776 NEWS

This group continues to meet at the **Fairbanks Senior Center** in Sudbury. The next meeting is Nov. 7 at 2:00 p.m. These meetings are promptly over at 4:00, try to be there a few minutes early so that the meeting can start on time.

Jack Mahoney, an American Express Financial Services representative will be talking about Estate planning at the November meeting and Beverly Robbins-Gordon will be at the February meeting. If you are interested in joining the trip to NYC on Dec. 6, please contact Marilyn ASAP or send a check in the amount of \$65 payable to Marilyn Goodrich to 76 Robert Best Rd, Sudbury MA 01776. You may also bring your check to the November 1776 meeting. The \$65 includes round trip motor coach and admission to Radio City Music Hall. ETD is 7 a.m. from Fairbank Senior Center and ETR is 11 p.m. The show is at 2:30 p.m.

News from past 1776 meetings.

June 13—Ed Crisci, of Financial Network Investment Corporation was the featured speaker. This corporation is located at the DCU headquarters in Maynard. Their goal is to be a financial resource for members of DCU.

The services offered are varied, but tailored to your particular needs and objectives. Questions to Mr. Crisci centered on tax liabilities around IRAs and 401Ks. Ed suggested that we should all call 1-800-TAXFORM for the government publication #590 which explains the minimum you need to withdraw when reaching 70½. e.g., if you will be 70½ in February of 1997, you must start withdrawing by Dec. 31, 1998. You may call Ed for more information at 508 461-0706.

September 12—Sudbury Firefighter, George Moore gave an enlightening presentation about safety and medical issues. Some highlights—important to choose smoke detectors over carbon monoxide detectors; importance of large house numbers citing some frightening stories about misnumbered houses; have a pre-planned fire escape route that everyone in the house has rehearsed so that they know what to do; have a list of medications that you take

near your phone in the event you need to call for assistance, this will save EMT's valuable time; some common sense reminders and most importantly not to be embarrassed when you call for help and it ends up not being a heart attack.

With our rain and rising waters this year, George suggested that those in a flood danger area have a pump as part of your home maintenance program. The fire department can help sometimes but you may have to wait for others. There was some discussion about the use of fire extinguishers. We will be looking into the possibility of George's return for a demonstration of their proper use. In closing, George told a story about a squirrel with his tail on fire that caused quite a disturbance which left the members laughing.

A trip to Martha's Vineyard was interrupted by a Nor'easter that blew through the day chosen to take a bus to the ferry. Instead a small but hardy group braved the elements to visit the Ocean Spray Cranberry Center on Cape Cod. They were given a demonstration, looked at some historical artifacts and sampled some delicious cranberry recipes. The driver took a little known route to visit a war memorial and a typical Cape Cod lunch of chowder, etc. was enjoyed before visiting the National Seashore Park. There they saw a couple of films about the settling of Cape Cod. It was an exciting trip and the travelers were happy to return to the Senior Center just a little damp. Don't forget the next trip is to NYC on December 6.

Did you know that an ant only weighs 1/1000 of an ounce, but collectively they weigh more than all the human beings on earth.

Washington Post Magazine

From December 1996 Reader's Digest

Preparing for a garage sale, I came across some of my paintings and put them on display. One of my florals was brought by a man who seemed pleased when I told him I was the artist. I was thrilled that my work had sold. Later a woman selected two others. I was about to tell her that they were my works when I asked, "What made you select those two?" "Oh," she replied, "I'm only buying them for the frames."

—Contributed by Edythe N. Bein

Your Label this is a repeat from last year but we know more now. Please check the label and let us know of any necessary corrections to make it correct. Use PTA form.

The database is used to distribute **DEC'ed Out** and to assist with forming new chapters. We also used the list to 1) distribute information regarding a hearing in Boston affecting retirees and 2) for a survey done by a DRA member for a college course.

Your label may show more than name & address. The other stuff means:

PAID 95 you paid 95 dues.

NP we don't have your phone number.

CM charter member of Chapter 1776.

76 you receive Chapter 1776 mailings.

Unlisted phone numbers are only used by the Board members. Other numbers are welcome, i.e., work, fax and Email. Presently neither Bob Moore nor DRA has Email. We also maintain alternate address for "snow birds" so we can reach them in a timely manner.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

The Retirement Office number has been dropped as it no longer has a menu. All of the numbers in the message are included below.

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
Beverly Robbins-Gordon...	508 493-9658
Change of Address.....	800 323-2060
CIGNA (Life Insurance)....	800 828-3485
Digital Credit Union.....	800 323-8797
Digital Investor Services....	800 235-5069
Digital People Support.....	800 544-9944
also travel, discounts, etc.	
Fairbanks Senior Center...	508 443-3055
IRS (Tax Forms).....	800 829-3676
John Hancock (Braintree)..	800 332-2060
Retiree Assistance.....	☞ on menu
Office of Elder Affairs.....	800 882-2003
Purchasing Digital equip....	800 377-1237
Thomas Cook Travel.....	800 374-5858

LOOKING FOR A LABOR OF LOVE?

In the past we have reported on Habitat for Humanity projects in New England and Elderhostel happenings.

Habitat Global Adventure May, 1996 reported on what's going on around the world with Habitat. Some neat stuff. One example, Bike & Build, a project in Botswana. A bike ride across Africa's last unspoiled wilderness and then a week long build. This happened Aug. 5-24, 1996.

During October and November a new home is being built by Elderhostel volunteers and the Phelps, KY HFH. Hopefully more of this will happen in the future. There was a similar activity in Paterson, NJ. The difference with the Elderhostel/HFH partnership is that the workday is not quite as intense as those for normal Habitat builds. If interested you should contact Habitat's Elderhostel Coordinator at 800 HABITAT ext. 236. And of course let us know if you participate.

AN IDEA - ANY TAKERS?

Have you read anything interesting that you think your fellow DRA members would be interested in? Have you a neat idea for some seminar or general meeting? Folks beyond New England what exciting things are you doing? Please send information to Bob Moore, if your own creation, floppy would be nice, PC or Mac is okay.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION FORM

There's some stuff we would like to know to bring us up-to-date. Also, we have not had a general membership meeting since July 1995. We really should. Our constitution says we should be doing some things that we aren't and we should talk about this.

The form suggests a meeting in mid-December in the Greater Lowell area because that's where the organizer lives. If someone else would like to coordinate this please call Bob Moore and you can have it in your backyard as long as your backyard is within 45 minutes of the 128 - 93 - Route 3 - 495 area. The idea is a 6:00 feeding with a 7:00 business meeting and 8:00 speaker or speaker first business second. Looking at an entertaining speaking.

But this all depends on your response so please send the survey back ASAP. Notice your name is on the back of the survey, so you don't need to write this down again except to correct it. Also, if I don't have your phone number please write this somewhere.

HAVE YOU HEARD

The rumor that KO brought a couple of DEC's buildings. Modular must be catching on. And then did you hear about the recent announcement from MicroSoft about a stripped down PC for networks. That also sounds like a KO idea. Makes you wonder. Hope some of you benefited by all this.

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
Penny Kelley, Secretary

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

Mailing Address:

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

PUBLISHER'S COMMENT

Presently, we intend to publish **DEC'ed Out** a week before a Chapter 1776 meeting. If we had more to say we would publish more often. The spirit and hands are willing, the source for stuff to share is thin.

I would like items submitted on disk if possible. Mac or PC. Please don't be bashful about sending something. If you want to send a fax Mon-Sat send it to Chelmsford Copy & Secretarial Center at 508 256-1869.

Bob

Please Take Action Form

November, 1996

Please complete as much of this form as you are comfortable with and return to the address shown on the back. Information requested is solely for DRA planning purposes and a better understanding as to who we are. It's probably okay to simply put a stamp on it and drop it in a USPS mail box. But for your privacy it may be best to put it in a separate envelope that you address and stamp.
Bob

I'm someone who was TSFO took the SERP package really retired before all this downsizing stuff.

Presently I am not working and happy not to not working but would like to as a _____

I am working as _____ at _____.

I interested in a general membership meeting somewhere in the Greater Lowell area in mid-December and have indicated my three preferences of the dates offered. 9 10 11 12 16 17 18 19

I am interested in a serve yourself buffet before the meeting and willing to pay as much as _____ for the meal.

My label indicates I didn't pay dues in 1995, I agree and have enclosed a \$10 check payable to DRA to make sure I stay on the mailing list. I disagree, I sent a check in _____ or gave Bob Cash at a 1776 meeting on _____.

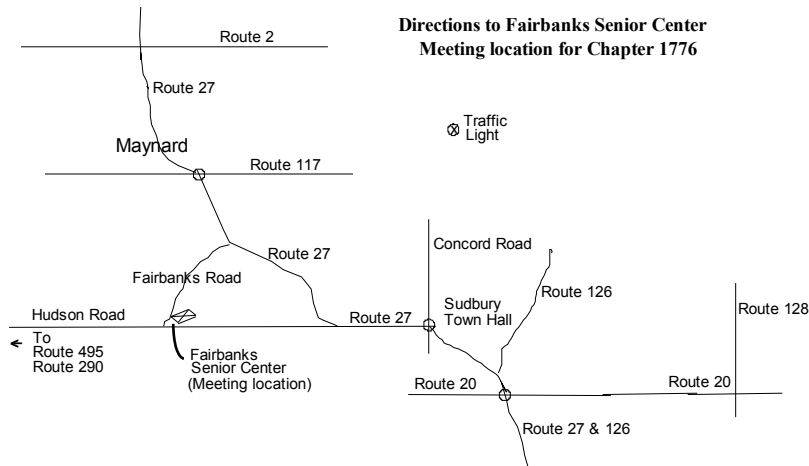
I would not like DRA to publish a list of members. If you do you may may not include my phone number

Some other connections for me work _____ fax _____ Email _____
Alternate address _____ (Month effective _____ Month change
back_____

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

Please complete the survey

Chapter 1776
Sudbury/Framingham Area
Thursday, November 7, 1996 2:00 pm
Thursday, February 13, 1997 2:00 pm
Thursday, May 22, 1997 7:00 pm
Fairbanks Senior Center
Sudbury, Massachusetts



Put label here

Digital Retirees Association
c/o C. Robert Moore
3 Judith Rd
Chelmsford MA 01824-4717