

VSP Newsletter February 2024

VSP Board

Chair
Open

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Board Members at Large
Bob Gabler
Donna Bailey
Patrick Johnson
Tim DeLapp

Website
<http://mdt retirees.org/>



*Medtronic VSP
Retiree Group
Minnesota*

Learning – Connecting – Serving

In this issue:
VSP Board Opportunities
Volunteer Summary and Opportunities
VSP Holiday Party Recap/Spring Get-Together March 21
In Memoriam: John Vaala

Looking for some Very Special People

VSP Board Opportunities – Chair and Webmaster

With long-time VSP chair Ron Stuedemann stepping down, this is a time of transition for the Medtronic Retiree VSP group. The “Very Special People” that co-founder Earl Bakken identified us as when VSP was started.

The current board members and board members at large are reviewing the group’s mission, responsibilities, and funding structure. In addition, to the social and volunteer aspects of this group, we will be exploring how we can strengthen and add value to Medtronic and to our members.

As this effort begins, we are also looking for some very special people to volunteer for the board. These open positions will have term limits and, as always, will be fully supported by the rest of the board members.

Open Positions

Board chair – The chair leads the board, hosts several semi-annual events, and maintains critical working relationships with Medtronic internal groups -- Benefits, the Medtronic Foundation, and the Employee Resource Groups. The chair also stays current on Medtronic’s strategies and priorities.

With that in mind, ideally, the new chair will be a more recent retiree who still has connections to the internal teams. (But even if you’re not, we’ll still take ya!)

Webmaster – Since our group’s inception, the website has been managed by Jerry Hartlaub. Jerry would like to pass the baton (or mouse) to a new webmaster who would take on a range of responsibilities including web design, routine site and content maintenance, and various updates to ensure the site aligns with the goals and objectives of our group.

Please contact any of the board members listed on this page to discuss these opportunities.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities – Bridging and Feed My Starving Children

NOTE: Additional retiree volunteer opportunities in April (The Food Group) are available for sign-up on the Medtronic YourCause site. Be sure to check it out.

If you would like to volunteer, but have trouble accessing the Your Cause Site, please contact Anne Coldwell at amc57@comcast.net

BRIDGING in Roseville Tuesday, February 13, 2024 Registration is open

Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Time: 1-4pm

Location: Bridging-Roseville 1730 Terrace Drive, Roseville, MN 55113

(NOTE: Be sure to enter city and zip since there's another Bridging address in Shoreview that often misdirects people)

To register:

1. Sign into the Retiree Medtronic Foundation Volunteer and Giving Website:
<https://medtronic.yourcause.com/auth/basic>
2. Click on **Volunteer** and search for **Medtronic Retiree Event-Bridging**
3. Click **Sign Up** and choose the **Main Session**

Feed My Starving Children in Coon Rapids Wednesday, March 13, 2024 Registration is open

Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Time: 9:30-11:15

Location: 401 93rd Ave NW, Coon Rapids, MN

To register:

1. Sign into the Retiree Medtronic Foundation Volunteer and Giving Website:
<https://medtronic.yourcause.com/auth/basic>
2. Click on **Volunteer** and search for **Medtronic Retiree Event-Feed My Starving Children**
3. Click **Sign Up** and choose the **Main Session**

Recent VSP Team Volunteer Event at Second Harvest Heartland

Many thanks to the great group of volunteers who participated in packaging rice on January 17. In a mere two hours, our team helped pack enough rice for 4500 meals!



VSP Holiday Social Recap

The VSP Holiday Social on December 6th at the Mermaid was a huge success with over 125 attendees. This was the largest attendance ever! It was exciting to see so many new retirees, as well as several old timers who had never attended in the past. Many stories of the good ol' days and lots of laughs were shared.

Watch the monthly newsletter for informal gatherings that will be scheduled throughout the year. It is a great way to stay connected. Wishing you all the best in 2024!



Spring Get-Together
Thursday, March 21
4-6 pm

Another informal VSP Group get-together is being planned at Edinburgh in Brooklyn Park on Thursday, March 21, 4-6 pm. More details in March newsletter.

In Memoriam – John Vaala



The Medtronic VSP Board wishes to extend its condolences upon the passing of John Vaala.

John Leland Stuart Vaala passed away on December 29th amongst the presence of a loving family at the age of 86 years old. Born with a twinkle in his eye and a humorous quip at the ready, he charmed people young and old.

He will be proudly remembered for his career in science. He spent 27+ years at Medtronic leading the development of the pacemaker. He also was an employee at Honeywell and Plastics, Inc. where he was a part of the team who developed the joystick used in the Apollo missions including the handle utilized by Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins on the Apollo 13 moon landing.

Serving the family is Dare's Funeral Home of Elk River, MN. 763-441-1212.
www.daresfuneralhome.com

Sources of Retiree Information

As VSP Board Members, we get many questions from retirees as to where they can obtain information on their benefits, how to get Medtronic Foundation grants and charitable giving matches, or whom to contact if they have questions. Listed below are the key sources for that information.

A. Benefits

1. Go to benefits.medtronic.com
2. Click on **Retirees** on the top line of the page
3. If you have not done so, please register to create a username and password. This will give you access to the site and, also, your specific information.
4. Once you open the site, you will have access to multiple resources on retiring, health summaries, health plans, pre-65, post-65, etc. Specifically, if you open the **Retirement Planning Guide** (on left hand side of page, under **Resources**) and go to page 23, you will find a list of key phone numbers and websites for your use.

B. Medtronic Foundation –Volunteer and Giving Site

Note: As a retiree, you will need a new login to access MDT Foundation Resources. Your employee login will no longer work after you retire. To do this, you must go to:

<https://medtronic.yourcause.com/auth/basic>

Once you login, you will have access to the volunteer grant and charitable matching site which is managed by YourCause for the MDT Foundation.

- C. You also can gain access to these and other sites by using the **VSP website: mdtretirees.org** and clicking on **Benefits**

End