

MOTOROLA LONE STAR RETIREES CLUB OF TEXAS

LONE STAR NEWS

July 2004 Issue, Volume 9 Number 3

Reminder -- The next Regular Club Meeting is Tuesday, August 10, at 10:00 A.M.**

NOTE LOCATION CHANGE:

Marimont Cafeteria

623 W. 38th Street (at Guadalupe)

**The doors won't be opened until 10:00 A.M., so the actual meeting itself won't start until 10:15 (at least).

The following meeting is Tuesday, November 9, 2004

Program

Speaker: Scott Anderson

Topic: We advised Scott of our intention to become the Motorola AND freescale retirees club, and suggested that he might comment on this and the future of our relationship. However, we'll be happy to hear absolutely anything Scott wants to talk to us about.

President's Message

From Danna Redford

Given the record attendance at our last meeting, the advertised subject was of great interest to the membership. I have to confess, though, that I was a little disappointed, although I now don't know why I would have expected anything different. I had talked to Kevin O'Connell and we used the people he recommended as the experts (he was going to be out of town). But either I know more than I think I do, or the subject isn't as complex as I've been led to believe, or I'm as clueless as ever, or... you fill in the blank. At any rate, in an attempt to get us more Motorola benefit specific information, I visited Texas Assurance Care on our behalf (it WAS free, by the way), and did a follow-up article in which I tried to hit the high spots, especially for those who didn't attend the meeting.

On another front, confirming that our newsletter does actually contain helpful information (at least sometimes), the Florida club requested permission to reprint Alan Alaspa's article on the problems with his partial 401K withdrawal. Good on you, Al.

ANNUAL RETIREES PICNIC

Submitted by Alan Alaspa

On Tuesday, May 25, over 50 people gathered at freescale's Parmer outdoor pavilion to enjoy food, fun and frivolity with other Motorola retirees. Many participated in a variety of retiree-oriented games (i.e., no running, jumping, or heavy lifting) with friends cheering and jeering. Again our walking around drink, provided by the club, was the popular frozen lemonade made in a margarita machine. Betty Temple filled everyone up with an excellent barbecue brisket, roasted chicken, beans, salads, salsa, chips, and strawberry shortcake.



After lunch, we did the highly entertaining water balloon toss contest. I'm not sure who has more fun in this event, the contestants or the gallery of spectators. The winners of the water balloon toss were Wayne Harned and LeRoy Kosacz – they beat out Mike and Betty Temple in a sudden death playoff and took home the “Texas chairs” for their efforts.







Bingo was back by popular demand. Game prizes were given out for Bingo and the “winners” in the other games. Prizes went to Ed Reinhardt, Ruth Reinhardt and Janet Tidwell in the Frisbee toss, Brent Brown in the free throw contest and Carmelity Meny for the putting contest. Many people just enjoyed talking and watching. It was a fun time for all.

Editor's note: There may be pictures with the email edition. I won't bore you with the saga of my technical problems, but I'll be satisfied to just get this basic edition out in time.

LET'S GO GAMBLING - Coushatta Grand Casino Tour

Submitted by Betty Temple, Tour Chairman

A full busload of winners left bright and early Wednesday June 2nd from freescale Ed Bluestein in anticipation of lady luck smiling on them. Some experienced their luck early by winning the door prizes given out on the bus (rolls of coins to feed the hungry slots).

The Grand Casino Coushatta has over 3100 slot machines to choose from plus poker, roulette, blackjack, and craps to name just a few. We were housed in the newly built Coushatta Grand Inn, which is just a short walk to the casino. We could partake of the buffet meals or choose from 5 other restaurants in the casino. Mike and I hosted a cocktail party in our room Wednesday evening and then it was back to the slots. A happy group boarded the bus at 2:30 for the return trip to Austin.

Keep your eyes peeled for more great adventures in the future.

2004 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Submitted by Fred Thomas, Membership Chair

The 2004 paid membership, as of 26 Jul 04 is 193. This is equal to our 2003 membership. I wish to thank all of our new members and all of our loyal returning members. I would like to urge any of you receiving this newsletter that are not yet members to give joining us very serious consideration.

2004 Dates to Remember

General Membership Meetings (2nd Tuesday of the 2nd month of the quarter)
August 10 November 9

Board Meetings (2nd Tuesday of 1st month of the quarter)
October 12

Christmas Party: Tuesday, December 14. Location TBD

Newsletter Article Deadlines: October 22
Submit articles to any Board member – see Newsletter for addresses

Newsletter Labeling: October 27

Minutes of May 11, 2004, General Membership Meeting

The MLSRCT general meeting was held on Tuesday, May 11th, at the Senior Activity Center. President Danna Redford called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

Mike Temple's Treasurer's report was posted before the meeting for members to review. Boots Montgomery moved to approve. John Mitchell seconded, and the report was duly approved.

Secretary Patricia Jett requested a motion that the minutes be approved as written in the April 2004 newsletter, if there aren't any changes, additions or corrections. Mike Temple moved to accept the minutes, Allan Alaspa seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Vice President Pearl Burke reported that she and Ted have moved out of the city and that consequently she would not be able to fill the President's position next year. She asked for recommendations for a replacement. No responses forthcoming.

Tour Chairman Betty Temple asked everyone to be sure to view the display of items from the recent club members' cruise. Everyone seems to have had a good time. She hopes to have a RiverBoat Cruise next year.

Membership Chair Fred Thomas says we have 184 paid members and a record attendance today of 91!

Scholarship Chair Jim Wilson introduced the 2004 Scholarship winners – Brittani Crook, Paayal Gupta, and Alexandra Hunt. We presented them with a certificate and their scholarships will fund to their individual schools.

Our new business was the announced proposal to 1) include freescale retirees in this club, and 2) alter the general age/service requirement to include former Motorolans and/or freescale employees who are a) 55 years of age or older and b) have 5 years of service – the 5 years being

with either Motorola or freescale or some combination thereof. Lou Stubble made the formal motion as stated in the last newsletter and Brent Brown seconded the motion.

Clarence Mehlow asked that we make sure spouses were included. Ans.: It's in the constitution.

Bill Dunn asked how we will know if they worked 5 years and their age? Ans.: We won't really. Right now, club membership technically requires one to be eligible for Motorola retiree benefits. In other words, Motorola makes the determination. But we don't really ever ask anyone to prove this to us. Even so, our Board can still approve anyone not meeting the current requirements for membership.

Bob Bolander commented that the way it is worded you could have 5 years with Motorola and be retired from another company. Ans.: Yes that's true. But we're basically a social club with our mutual employment being our main initial commonality. Participating in club activities then lets you become better acquainted and provides the basis for the further socializing we all enjoy. This would still be the case even with the years of service occurring in the more distant past rather than the nearer present. (Remember, even today employees hired at more advanced ages can retire from Motorola with relatively few years of service.)

The question was called and the motion carried.

Gordon Annon asked if we are going to receive financial support from freescale? This is, of course, an issue to which we hope to get a resolution once the furor over the IPO has settled down.

The politically correct question on the table, however, is "what does it take to become recognized by freescale." "Recognition" by the company is the term used in our constitution. Any potential funding is then a budgetary issue for the company and may depend on whether freescale wants to continue the scholarship program.

By the way, "recognition" and funding are not synonymous. Recognition allows the company to continue some of the benefits we currently enjoy such as the use of facilities for meetings and parking lots for tours, etc. These are seriously helpful to us and cost the company nothing.

Program chair Brent Brown introduced the speakers for the meeting: **Harry & Lynn Shank**, Senior Planning Specialists from Texas Assurance Care, Inc., and an **AARP volunteer** to specifically cover the new Medicare Prescription Drug benefit and AARP's lobbying efforts in that area.

Respectfully submitted, Patricia Jett, Recording Secretary

May Program Highlights and Follow Up

Submitted by Danna Redford

Just for starters, I tried to get us an answer to Roger Countryman's earlier question about the wording in the employee benefits section in freescale's SEC filing that could possibly be interpreted to suggest that freescale would take over the medical benefits for retirees (former employees). Reyes Martinez told me that she couldn't answer because there was a moratorium on all commentary at that time. Motorola Benefits Administration in Schaumburg just flatly said they had not been informed of any impact of the freescale spin-off to current retirees

With all the handouts provided by our speakers, I find, in retrospect, that we got more information than I realized at the time. In addition – as I mentioned earlier – I had a special session with Harry Shank in which he reviewed our specific Motorola benefits for me. The bottom line, as we’ve all figured out, is that we need to haul the old kneepads out and start praying that Motorola doesn’t take advantage of the opportunity provided by the EEOC ruling to allow companies to reduce or eliminate benefits for retirees at age 65.

AARP provided a booklet entitled “Medicare Changes that Could Affect You” which documents the various new provisions, gives a timeline, and clearly charts exactly how the prescription drug benefit itself will operate. If you didn’t get a copy of this at the meeting, you can get one from AARP (see the contact info below). Some of the same information was on the “Fact Sheet” provided by Texas Assurance Care. During the presentations, several things became clearer:

#1, the Medicare-approved Discount Drug Cards are available NOW from a wide variety of issuers and are effective until phased out by the drug benefit in 2006,

#2, you can still get ONE (and only one) of these discount cards even if you have some other discount card (use the one with the best deal), OR if you have drug coverage through a former employer (but then you may not need one). Also, you can get one at any time, there’s no penalty for waiting.

Of course, in choosing a particular card you’ll need to do some research to determine which one gives you the best deal for the lowest prices. Some card issuers (like HEB) don’t even charge a fee.

The most interesting thing in this booklet, however, is the clear picture of how the drug benefit due in 2006 will work. Just for fun, I trotted down to my local pharmacy to find out what my prescriptions actually cost, then did the math to see what would happen if Motorola eliminates our drug coverage. Pretty horrifying. For me, what costs \$460 annually now would cost me \$3100 without the Motorola benefit. Someone whose actual drug costs are over \$5100, would pay \$3600 and then 5% of the costs above \$5100. All this is due to the major coverage gap between \$2250-\$5100. Like I said, get out the kneepads.

The good news is that if our coverage is ended, even before 2006 when the Medicare drug benefit becomes effective, we have “guaranteed issue,” i.e., acceptance without medical underwriting to Supplement plans A, B, C, or F. Harry advises me, however, that changes in the various Supplement plans can be expected in 2005. I gather that some are changing and some will be eliminated entirely. AARP is lobbying hard to improve the entire offering (drug benefit and supplement plans).

Texas Assurance Care also provided a handout on Medigap basics, which I didn’t even read until preparing this article. Should have read it sooner because it actually did answer my key questions about Supplement Plans and even advised which plan gave the best overall coverage for cost (Plan F with Plan G as next best), but the real answer is that it all depends on the individual situation.

Texas Assurance Care (Harry and Lynn Shank) also spoke on the Long Term Care Issue (and provided a handout – a Texas Dept. of Insurance publication) and again the decision on what to do is an individual choice depending on the individual circumstances. Key point: Texas has joined the ranks of Mandatory Recovery states and even your homestead could be used to recover costs if you depend on Medicaid, so DO SOME ESTATE PLANNING.

In addition, Mary Gilcrease (contact also provided by Kevin) attended the meeting and provided a nice little booklet on Senior Options which is an 80 page resource guide for seniors in Austin and the surrounding cities.

Contact Information:

Mary Gilcrease, President, Elder Special Forces, (512) 459-7947 or 866-217-7947
mg@gilcreaseconsulting.com. See also www.sroptions.com and www.elderspecialforces.com

AARP: 888-687-2277 and www.aarp.org

Harry Shank and Lynn Shank, Texas Assurance Care, Inc. at 4100 Duval Road, Bldg.4, Suite 207, Austin. (512) 343-5400 and www.txassurance.com

Texas Department of Insurance, P.O. Box 149104, 333 Guadalupe, Austin 78714-9109.
Consumer help line (512) 463-6515 or 800-252-3439. See also www.tdi.state.tx.us. For publications they have a special order line (512) 305-7211 or 800-599-7467 if you don't have or don't want to use your Internet access.

Publications of interest to Texans are the Shopper's Guide to Long-Term Care Insurance and the Long Term Rate Guide (Internet only). They also publish a Medicare Supplement Insurance handbook and rate guide, which is wonderful.

For those of you not living in Texas, I suspect that each state department of insurance has something similar.

The Executive Board Meeting, July 13, 2004

This meeting was cancelled. We had so many members out of town or otherwise engaged, including myself, that I called the three or four potential attendees and cancelled the meeting. There was very little business to conduct, and we handled it via email, as follows:

The deadline for newsletter articles is Friday, July 23, and the labeling and mailing will be Wednesday, July 28 at 10 in the Parmer Lane cafeteria. Mike, will you send me the appropriate mailing list? I still have beaucoudles of labels from last year. *Mike sent the label list (from far, far away).*

Brent, I called Scott's admin and we are still on his calendar for Aug. 10. I'll send you the contact info separately. *Brent sent Scott our suggestions for subject matter.*

Pat, if your schedule does work out, then yes, let 's do go investigate a few places for the Xmas party. I even have an idea! *Pat's still working on this.*

We received a letter from the IRS based on a mix-up of tax years that Mike has resolved. However this prompted us to discuss our desire to proceed with getting "not-for-profit" status in order to avoid possible future problems. *Mike will initiate our application for not-for-profit status with the IRS.*

I'll get my you-know-what in gear to redo our constitution to incorporate freescale per the approved motion at the last general meeting.

We'll participate in the next "International Diversity Day" if possible. I've asked Jim to coordinate again if he can.

I've turned in our application and will also go to the SAC meeting Aug 11, to confirm our reservation of their room for next year's meetings.

That's all, folks!

Motorola Lone Star Retirees Club of Texas 2004 Officers and Board Members

Elected Officers:

President Danna Redford, 3416 Hillview Road, Austin 78703, djredford@earthlink.net, 371-7332
 V - President Pearl Burke, 3606 Catalina Dr, Killeen, 76549, (254) 690-3222; cell (512) 799-5606
 Secretary Pat Jett, 1302 Althea Ct., Austin 78753, pjett45@aol.com, 837-6609
 Treasurer Mike Temple, 12426 Deer Track, Austin 78727, mbtemple@earthlink.net, 258-6960
 Pres. ProTem Al Alaspa, 9713 Tree Bend Dr, Austin 78750, aalaspa@austin.rr.com, 258-1408

Board Members (Committee Chairs):

News Letter Danna Redford, 3416 Hillview Road, Austin 78703, djredford@earthlink.net, 371-7332
 Membership Fred Thomas, 2201 S Lakeline Blvd #15101, Cedar Park, 78613, fthomas6@austin.rr.com, 219-1077
 Tours Betty Temple, 12426 Deer Track, Austin 78727, mbtemple@earthlink.net, 258-6960
 Volunteers Louis Struble, 11802 Buckingham Rd, Austin 78759, ltstruble@mail.ev1.net, 258-2742
 Events Al Alaspa, 9713 Tree Bend Dr, Austin 78750, aalaspa@austin.rr.com, 258-1408
 Scholarship Jim Wilson, 1208 Wilderness Dr, Austin 78746, aggiejim57@email.msn.com, 327-3040
 Program Brent Brown, 708 Minturn Ln, Austin 78748, BBrown841@aol.com, 292-0147
 Mailing Lists Mike Temple, 12426 Deer Track, Austin 78727, mbtemple@earthlink.net, 258-6960
 Photographer Jerre Butler, 1104 Hermitage Dr., Austin 78753 jbutler@onr.com, 837-7925
 Motorola Advisor Nancy Lesch, at Parmer PL14, nancy.lesch@motorola.com, 996-4031

Motorola Contact List

Name	Phone	Loc	MD	Service Center
Reyes Martinez	895-2653	OHT	OE 24	Rewards/Benefits
Nikki Kreuger	895-2040	OHT	OE 58	Community Affairs
Sandi Aitken	895-7888	OHT	OE 24	Director, Premier Employee Services
Sheila Nunley	895-7447	OHT	OE 322	Food Works – OHT
Chris Pitts	996-4054	PL		Food Works – Parmer Lane
Nancy Lesch	996-4031	PL	F3	Premier Employee Services
Elizabeth Parker	(830) 372-7014			HR - Seguin
Jackie Garcia	933-7851	EDB	F 9	Rewards/Benefits Administrator
Tina Ramsey	895-8675	OHT	OE 24	ETC/Premier Employee Svcs Admin
Richard Strauss	895-2699	OHT	OE 11	Security
Earl Jordan	933-6949	EDB	K2	Security
Shawna DeShazo	895-3096	OHT	OE 342	Manager, Austin Activity Centers
<u>Activity Centers:</u>				
OHT	895-3069	OHT	OE 342	
EDB	934-6228	EDB	H 1	
Parmer	996-7129	PL	PL 41	
<u>Credit Unions:</u>				
All locations	996-4000	OHT	OE 13;	EDB H6; PL PL
OHT	996-4003			Anita Palmieri
EDB	933-7320			Ellien Navarro

Return Requested
P.O. Box 10252
Austin, TX 78766

MOTOROLA LONE STAR RETIREES CLUB OF TEXAS

Application for membership

NAME: _____ YEARS OF SERVICE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

SPOUSE'S NAME (If applicable): _____

RETIREE'S BIRTHDAY: _____ SPOUSE'S BIRTHDAY: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MLSRCT

Rev: 05/02

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

JAN ---- DEC \$10.00/MEMBER OR NEW MEMBER APR --- DEC \$7.50/NEW MEMBER

JUL --- DEC \$5.00/NEW MEMBER OCT --- DEC \$2.50/NEW MEMBER

LIFETIME \$100/MEMBER or NEW MEMBER

Don't forget that Spouses need to be members also. We need your other half as part of our club, so sign them up!

MAIL TO: MLSRCT at P.O. BOX 10252, AUSTIN, TX 78766