

**HEWLETT PACKARD  
RETIRED EMPLOYEES OF MASSACHUSETTS**



**PRESIDENTS NEWSLETTER**

**JULY 2006**

**Upcoming Events - Save These Dates!**

August 17 - Kimball Farm, Westford. A great place for lunch, miniature golf and pitch and putt. Drive yourself.

September 14 - St. Brigids, Lexington. Annual meeting, board election and lunch. Guest John Cahill will speak about protecting your home under the homestead act.

October 17 - Festival Italiano at Venus DeMilo.

**An Invitation To Join the REM Board**

Would you like to serve on the hpREM board? The board meets once a month for about an hour to plan club activities. At September's meeting, three new members will be elected for three year terms. If you're interested call Jim Phelps, who's handling nominations, at (978) 369-8834.

**Forever Irish Celebrate St. Patrick's Day**

Andy Cooney was the featured entertainer in the Forever Irish program at Swansea's Venus DeMilo on March 14th. The band played some great music for the Irish dancing group. Comedians Mac & O livened things up with typical Irish humor and Soprano Kathryn Smith from Dublin rounded out the performance with Ireland's greatest classics. Ten REMers attended and had a great time.

**April Social Enjoyed by REMers**

This years annual social was at Saint Brigid Parish on April 20th. Henry Theriault welcomed the 44 members and guests and thanked the food committee and volunteers for their work. An open buffet of cheese, crackers, cold cuts, salads, cookies and drinks was enjoyed by all. Thanks especially to Mary Peck for the coleslaw, brownies and blueberry cake.

Door prize winners were Pat Pierce, Maria Peixintna and Henry Theriault. The center pieces were awarded to the most mature person at each table. Henry announced that hpREM's annual meeting would be September 14th and said he looked forward to seeing everyone there.

**Reagle Players Entertain REM**

This year's Reagle Players Celebrity Series featured Shirley Jones and The Manhattan Rhythm Kings. Shirley is famous for her stage and movie roles South Pacific, Oklahoma, Carousel and The Music Man, and she's still going strong. She sang selections from Oklahoma and Carousel and impressed everyone with her beautiful voice and musical ability. The Rhythm Kings opened with a lively song and tap dance revue. Twenty-five REM members enjoyed the show.

**Mohegan Sun a Repeat Hit**

Seventeen people took the always popular bus trip to Mohegan Sun casino on May 18th and had a great time. The REM "casino experts" had a repeat success which has become a tradition on these trips.

## **Chocolates, Lunch and Brewery Tour**

(reported by Jim Phelps)

On Thursday morning, June 22nd, a group of HP REMers met at Saint Margaret' s church in Burlington to take a bus ride to southern New Hampshire for an outstanding trip. First of all, we went to Swan' s Chocolate Factory in Merrimack, NH to hear about the history of the chocolate bean and how it is used in making everything from white chocolate, to milk chocolate, to dark chocolate. We were also given pieces of each type of chocolate to taste and to enjoy and made some purchases for ourselves for later use before going on to lunch.

Following our visit to Swan' s, we went down the road to a restaurant called The Common Man located in a very old farmhouse that had been built by one of the signers of The Declaration of Independence. The meal was excellent, and for dessert we had a white chocolate brownie with ice cream, chocolate sauce and topped off with whipped cream. Believe me it was as good as it sounds.

Our next stop was the Anheuser-Busch brewery. This is an extremely large building and grounds, and yet we were told it is the smallest brewery that Anheuser-Busch has in this country. Not only did we get to see the Clydesdale horses (they weigh about 2200 pounds when fully grown), but we also saw a three-month-old-filly that weighed 110 pounds at birth. We toured the factory to learn how the beer is made and saw how automated the whole beer making process is. This very large manufacturing area had only five employees per shift. There are three shifts, and employees work five days a week. The other two days are used for repairs. When we finished our tour, we went to an area where each member of the tour could have a total of two of any of the brews that are made at the factory. There were between 25 and 30 different types of beer to choose from. What a way to end our trip! Someday, if you are looking for something different to do, try taking a trip to Merrimack, NH

## **HP Improving Retiree Communications**

One of the changes initiated by new HP CEO Mark Hurd is to improve communications to retirees. As a first step, HP is making EPP, the Employee Purchase Program, directly accessible to retirees. There' s more EPP information on the [hpretirees.com](http://hpretirees.com) website. To get the latest special offers, sign up for the Home and Home Office Newsletter at [hpshospping.com/hpepp](http://hpshospping.com/hpepp). If you have a problem being recognized as an HP/Agilent retiree, call the HP Directory at (800) 890- 3100 and select "Payroll and HR Operation".

## **Retiree Survey Results are In**

Here are the results of 319 retiree responses to a recent HP online retiree communications survey:

60% find HP retiree communications useful

53% feel they receive too little communication

59% prefer e-mail communications (not surprising since the survey was done online)

87% cited ' benefit information' as one of their top three choices

50% said they' d participate in a mentoring program for HP employees

Of the respondents, 2% were from Massachusetts.

## **New REM Members**

REM is pleased to welcome eight new members: Carol Doiron, Frances C. Paulsen, Charlotte L. Tomao, Thresa LeBlanc, Kathleen Tarabelli, Paula Stevens, Steve Feo and Mark Ducharme. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming REM events.

## **Newsletter Items Welcome**

Items for the **hpREM** newsletter are welcome.

Send them to Sylvia Cotton, [SYLVIACOTTON@COMCAST.NET](mailto:SYLVIACOTTON@COMCAST.NET).

Thanks to Monica Dickie, Jim Phelps and Don and Lois Brown for their help with the newsletter.