

TSRA NEWSLETTER

Publication of the Textron Systems Retirees Association

Vol. 11 No. 3

www.tsretirees.org

Summer 2011

TSRA'S 10th Annual Golf Tournament

(Ron Milauskas)



Net Winners (Tie) - John Boness, Ray Lavigne, Red Trammel and Mark Kovacs

Tuesday, June 14th 2011. The early summer sun had already dried the morning dew from the greens at the Hillview Country Club as twenty-six members of TSRA gathered around the Pro Shop in anticipation of the start of the 10th Annual John J. Mahoney Memorial Golf Tournament. **Art Dunford**, longtime Chairman of this event,



Net Winners (Tie) - Dick Preble, Bill Stuart, Angie Caini, and Joe Pelletier

was the focus of everyone's attention as he announced the pairing of the teams, described the format of play, and distributed a few complimentary golf balls to each competitor in anticipation of the likelihood of their executing a few errant shots in the hours to follow.



Eve Beauchesne receives Longest Drive & Closest to Pin Awards from Art Dunford

The format was to be a "scramble" in which the "best" shot of each of the players on a team became the ball in play for the next subsequent shot of the team, a process repeated until the hole was completed. The team's "score" for each hole played in this fashion cumulated to the total team score for the eighteen holes. One of Art's most important functions was to "handicap" each team based upon their past performance such that each team theoretically had an equally probable chance of winning the Annual Trophy awarded to the team with the lowest "net" score. An award is also presented to the team with the lowest "gross" or actual score as well as prizes are given to individuals who have the longest drive on a specified hole and who execute a shot nearest to the flag on a designated par 3 hole.

This year, in a very competitive contest, seven teams battled it out on the fairways. At the end of the struggle, an incredibly large number of strokes, shared stories of times past, and many laughs, two teams emerged in a tie for first place in the "Net" category! The Team of **John Boness, Ray Lavigne, Red Trammel** and **Mark Kovacs** and the Team of **Dick Preble, Bill Stuart, Angie Caini, and Joe Pelletier** ended the day with the same net scores of 17 under par, a testament both to their skills as well as to Art's handicapping ability.

(continued on page 2)

ALSO INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

	<i>Page</i>
TSRA Welcomes New Members	2
What's New on the Web	3
Lowell Spinners Outing	4
In Memoriam	5
Upcoming Events	5
Health Insurance Options for Pre-Medicare Retirees	5

Golf Outing (continued)

Despite the absence this year of their longtime teammate, **Bob Evans**, the Team of **Art Dunford**,



*Gross Winners - Art Dunford, Tony Scorpio
and Ron Milauskas*

Tony Scorpio and **Ron Milauskas** still prevailed in the “Gross” category carding a gross 9 under par.

In the individual award categories, **Bill Stuart** won the Men’s Longest Drive competition and **Eve Beauchesne** won in the Women’s category. Eve



*Team of Al Guimond, Eve Beauchesne, and
Tom Henze*

also won the Combined Nearest To the Pin award on the par 3 18th hole.



*Team of John Lescher, Charlie Neckyfarow,
Jim Stamboni and Mario Sacco*

As the afternoon sun cast long shadows across the tired fairways and the maintenance crew swarmed back over the course to repair the wear and tear



*Ray Kahre, Jamie Cardillo, Gordie Bishop
and Bob Daverin*

inflicted upon it by our merry band, all the teams gathered in the Hillview Country Club’s restaurant. As is the tradition following the tournament, all the players shared an array of hors d’oeuvres and some



*Team of Bill Ames, Skip Atkins, Bob
Koralishn, and John Murray*

liquid refreshments as they recounted the better shots of the day, mused over what might have been, and warmed in the presence of old friends and colleagues. Precisely what TSRA is all about!

TSRA Welcomes New Members

The Textron Retiree Association is pleased to welcome the following individuals into the organization:

Rudolf & Joanna Boentgen
Bob & Evelyn Buckley
Richard & Helen Fredholm
Dorothy Jenkins
Patricia Lynch
Larry & Patricia Moylan
John & Maureen Yoder

ADDRESS CHANGES

In order to keep our mailing lists current and up-to-date, please notify us of any changes - name, address, phone or email. Please include the "old" information as well as your "new" information. Even if the change is temporary, you should submit the notification each time to be sure you do not miss any important notices. For all changes, contact Claire Flynn by mail or email. MAIL: Claire Flynn, c/o TSRA, P.O. Box 2155, N. Conway NH 03860. E-MAIL: cbcf1450@yahoo.com. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

An Important Message to TSRA Members

(Guy Berube/Bruce Pettengill)

Have you changed your status (*Life Event*) relative to Textron Benefits? Are you a current, retired or person in transition relative to Textron Systems? If you are affected by a *Life Event*, you will need to consult the Fidelity Benefits Service Center.

Typical *Life Event* changes that can affect your present and future status relative to Textron Benefits but not limited to are:

- Change of Address
- Change of Beneficiary
- Separation of Service
- Spousal Insurance Coverage
- Marriage/Divorce
- Death of a Spouse

Any of the above *Life Event* changes needs to be addressed as soon as there is a change to avoid future stress and/or delay in receiving a Textron Benefit. Contact Fidelity at the following website (www.netbenefits.fidelity.com) and follow the prompts. If you are without internet access, call Fidelity for assistance @1.866.698.9847 and follow the prompts.

Making changes to your status or any other Textron Benefit is important! Keep your benefit status up to date. As always with confirmations and/or changes to Benefit Forms, keep a copy of your records in a safe place.

What's New on the TSRA Web?

(www.tsretirees.org)

The TSRA Website provides information about TSRA events past and present and the organization itself. It is also a source for comprehensive resource for information pertinent to our retiree and pre-retiree members.

Information and articles are updated regularly, so plan to check the website often!

Recent information on the TSRA website includes:

- Information about the TSRA Whale Watching Trip
- Link to last edition (Spring) of the TSRA Newsletter
- Information on volunteering to help TSRA serve its membership.
- List of TSRA Representatives and Corporate Members by Service

New Articles of Interest:

- Social Security Stops Sending Benefits Statements
- Getting Your Affairs in Order Presentation
- Part 3 of the Medicare Quiz: [Test Your Knowledge of some of Medicare's Rules & Regulations](#) (Parts 1 and 2 also available)
- A link to a Massachusetts RMV License Renewal Reminder Service since Massachusetts no longer mails reminders
- Retirement Guidelines compiled by the TSRA Retirement Benefits Committee. Important information for people approaching and considering retirement.
- Health Insurance Options for Pre-Medicare Retirees.

Lowell Spinners Outing

(Don LaRosa)

About 40 TSRA members and guests experienced a very enjoyable evening on 14 July 2011 at the annual Lowell Spinners baseball game. The festivities began early with a delectable BBQ which included ribs, hotdogs, sausages, steak tips as well as a host of accompanying sides of pork and beans, corn on the cob, peppers and onions, fruit salad, garden salad, drinks and desserts. Baseball caps were featured as the door prize gifts.



The baseball game was enjoyable and finger biting all the way to the end with Lowell losing a squeaker, 3-1. All in all everyone had a great time once again. Thanks to Len and his committee for making this another successful and well attended TSRA social outing. Hope to “see ya all” next year!



In Memoriam

TSRA sends its condolences and sincere sympathy to the families of the following former Avco/Textron employees/or spouses.

Harold L. Neuman, 05/09/11
Francis Joseph Bettencourt, 06/03/11
Daniel “Dann” Sullivan, 06/16/11
Anita P. Davidian, 06/22/11
Harriet Jennings, 07/06/11
(spouse of Randy)
Ronald J. Bourque, Sr., 07/22/11
Frances E. Copeland, 08/05/11
Alice Webber, 08/07/11
John (Jack) F. Lyons, Jr., 08/11/11
Alfred G. Parent, 08/16/11

Upcoming Events

October 20th
Fall Luncheon
N. Reading Country Club,
N. Reading, MA

TSRA members in need of transportation to social events and seminars should contact Len Epstein, 508-877-9415, or lenepstein@rcn.com and provide the following information:

Name
Address
Telephone
E-mail address
Event of interest

TSRA will make every effort to accommodate your needs. We are striving to increase attendance at spring and fall luncheons and at other social events and seminars. Please provide the above information at least two weeks before the date of the event that you would like to attend.

Health Insurance Options for Pre-Medicare Retirees

(Jim Stamboni)

Question: I am planning on retiring before my 65th birthday and I am not disabled so I will not yet be eligible for Medicare. What are my options?

Answer: I was faced with this question a number of years ago when I retired at about 58 years of age. I had to find medical insurance for myself (my wife was already covered under Medicare) for a period of about seven years. In this article I will relate my specific experience to, hopefully, help those of you still pondering this tough question. The path I chose was specific to my needs and my situation; yours may be different so be sure to take into account those differences in determining the best option for yourself and your family. In the paragraphs that follow I shall also note other options and alternatives that were either not available to me when I retired or I just was not aware of them.

For the first 18 months of retirement I was enrolled in COBRA as it offered me a continuation of my coverage prior to retirement at a favorable premium rate compared to other alternatives. This MAY NOT be the case in all situations. Textron offers, for those that are eligible, continuation of your current insurance plan at the full cost until one reaches the Medicare eligible age of 65 under a “Retiree medical” option. The trade-off is that COBRA provides continued coverage of one’s current health insurance plan (same benefits as plan pre-retirement) for ONLY 18 months after separation, in some cases at a subsidized rate for a period of time. The COBRA vs. “retiree medical” decision must be made within 30 days of your separation commencement date. This applies only if you are under the age of 65; there is a different situation for COBRA if you are over 65 and Medicare eligible.

(continued on page 6)

Health Care Options

(continued)

The real challenge for me came after my 18 month COBRA period expired. As I looked into my options, I learned about a website (www.mahealthconnector.org) which enables Massachusetts residents to do comparative analyses on the different medical insurance plans that are available to them. I found this tool to be very helpful in my selection process. The differences in premiums and coverage are substantial. For an INDIVIDUAL, the monthly premiums ranged from about \$400 to over \$1000, depending on coverage! I imagine other states such as New Hampshire and Florida would have similar online tools available. Unlike the more streamlined plans that Textron employees have become accustomed to over the years, the way coverage is priced in the form of deductibles/co-payments within a given plan can vary widely by medical category of service provided. The standardized coverage format that Massachusetts has created on their website is a big help in making comparisons between plans. Note that healthcare coverage is mandatory in MA.

Other potential sources of health insurance are group insurance plans offered by associations such as ASME, IEEE, AARP, and AAA and your local Chamber of Commerce.

In selecting the right coverage I considered the following factors:

1. My objective in purchasing medical insurance;
2. My current health and past history;
3. My genetic predispositions;
4. My current prescription medication needs;
5. My requirements for maintaining my current set of MDs;
6. My requirements for in-network hospitals;
7. Selection of HMO, PPO, or PCP plan (note: specific definitions of HMO, PPO, and PCPs are beyond the scope of this article but should be adequately researched by the interested reader).

In my specific case I decided I wanted a plan that would protect me against major medical expenses such as complex surgery or long duration hospital stays for treatment and recuperation. On the other hand I planned on paying for minor medical expenses “out of pocket” and not incur a higher premium to include them in my insurance coverage. Since my current health, past history, and genetic predispositions were all good, and since my current prescription medication needs were low, I felt this was a good decision.

I wanted to maintain my current set of MDs as most of them have cared for me for many years, but I also wanted the freedom to go to any doctor at any hospital to receive treatment in the event of a critical need. If participating physicians are important to an individual, then one should recheck the MD list when re-evaluating health plan options each year – participation can change as plans and rates change. These requirements drove me to a PPO type of plan. Within the PPO category there are still many plans from many providers from which to select. Your specific needs, desires and requirements could very well drive you to a different type of plan, with different coverage and premiums.

The “bottom line” is that if you are a Massachusetts resident, www.mahealthconnector.org is a very valuable tool in helping you sort out your health insurance options. Since I am still less than 65, I evaluate my options every year during the Open Enrollment period to make sure the plan I have is best suited to my needs and my pocketbook.

While the above discussion addresses health insurance, it generally does not cover dental or vision care. In most cases you need to determine your need for these types of insurance and then seek them out separately, compare, and choose.

Note: Within the year that one turns age 65, he or she should check out the www.medicare.gov website for information on basic Medicare benefits and some good comparative tools for Medicare Supplemental and Prescription Drug plans.

TSRA Newsletter

**Carol Coombs, Editor
John Lescher, JCC Chairman**

Articles Submitted By:

**Guy Berube
Dom LaRosa
Ron Milauskas
Bruce Pettengill
Jim Stamboni**

Contributors:

**Anita Adams, Bob Cranton, John Dyer, Len Epstein, Selena Evans, Tom Heinze, Harry Lockhart,
Tony Longo, Dash Nahabedian, Joe Pelletier, John Petty, Leo Roy, and Bill Strickland**

**Visit the TSRA website (www.tsretirees.org/index.htm) for current and past editions of the
Newsletter as well as other important information.**