

1-25-2021

Greetings Elfuns,

2020 was a unique year for the world, our country and our Elfun Society. It has been challenging for many of us. Your Elfun Board thanks you for your patience as we worked our way through the last months, and venture into the future.

We hope that you are safe and healthy during these 'trying times', and are looking forward to Elfuns gathering together later in 2021.

Our 2020 Elfun Annual Report is below.

Best regards, Your Elfun Society Board



## ***Elfun Society – California North Inc. 2020 Annual Report***

This Annual Report will cover:

- Our overall status
  - Other Elfun chapters\* in the US
  - Member services
  - 2020: a look back
  - 2021: a look ahead
  - A Board request of the membership
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- In this report, Elfun 'chapters' are actually not-for-profit, stand-alone corporations - 501(c)7s.

### **Our Overall Status**

Annual General Meeting & Election of Officers: Per our bylaws, we must hold an Annual General Meeting of the membership, and a bi-annual Election of Officers. Due to Covid-19 virus restrictions, the Board decided that the 2020 Annual Membership Meeting should be cancelled as an in-person event, and be replaced with this Annual Report. Similarly, the Election of Officers will be conducted via email. (Look for an email with 'Elfun Officer Election' in the subject line.)

Membership: At the end of 2020 we had 349 paid members. There was a decrease of 65 members during 2020. This decrease was due primarily to 'members dropped' due to non-payment of dues for 2 consecutive years, and members moving and/or passing.

Funds: Our members' dues fund our activities (with partial subsidies) and operating expenses. Elfun operating expenses include 2 liability insurance policies (totaling ~\$2,000 per year), printing and postage for dues notices (~\$1,200), software & hardware needed by our Treasurer, a Zoom license, and some of our volunteer projects. New in 2021, our funds will also pay for a Zoom license that is referenced below.

Dues Notice The 2021 dues notice will be mailed out via USPS in January. Annual dues are \$15. Please send in your dues per the instructions on the notice. Response to the dues notice is the primary way we maintain your current contact information. If you do not receive a 'dues notice', we probably do not have your current address – please email your new contact information to us at [Fred@Wassem.com](mailto:Fred@Wassem.com).

Elfun Board There are 17 Board members supporting items summarized in this Annual Report. Our members are: John Armenta, Terry Chapman, Tim Christman, Yogi Dayal ( 2019-2020 President), Sandra Delvin (Treasurer), Garrett Harms, Jim Leonard (2019-2020 Vice President), Hugh Miller, Earl Nichols, Matt Polomik, Willard Roit, Tom Ruffo, Judy Scally (newest Board member - thank you Judy!), Carl Stewart, Fred Wassem, and Gretchen Zane (Secretary-Communications). A big 'thank you' to Yogi Dayal who has been our President for the last 2 years!

Zoom license: The Board has approved getting a Zoom license. This would be used for our monthly Board meetings, and as a tool to enable members to see/hear our information lectures while we are all sequestered during the pandemic. More news to follow.

### **Other Elfun 'Chapters' in the US**

To recap recent Elfun history: in 2013 there were 28 active Elfun 'chapters' in the US, with ~31,000 members. On 12-31-2014, Global Elfun was formally liquidated. 'Chapters' had to decide whether to create their own (non-profit) organization or to fold. Approximately 15 'chapters' decided to continue.

Currently there is no formal network connecting the remaining 'chapters'. Based on Elfun websites we have found on the Internet, we have information on 8 of those 'chapters': Greater Boston, CA North, Greater Cincinnati, Florida, Schenectady, Syracuse, Utica, and Wisconsin.

Right now, all the 'chapters' are basically in an 'on-hold' status due to the Covid-19 virus. In your GE career, if you worked at one of these locations, you might be interested in looking at the Elfun chapter's website. Links to those websites are at the end of this Annual Report.

### **Member Services**

Our Great Elfun Shred-Out had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 virus restrictions. We expect it will return in 2021.

Our Elfun website ([www.ElfunNorCal.org](http://www.ElfunNorCal.org)) provides a lot of current information on our 'chapter' and its members. We have had ~72K hits on our website.

The tabs across the top are: 'Welcome', 'Upcoming Events', 'Past Events', 'Board' and 'Nuclear Pioneers Corner'. And, over to the right is a collection of 'links'

If you scroll through the 'Welcome' section, you'll discover lots of interesting information:

- Updates/messages sent to Elfun membership
- Photos of various Elfun events
- Video of a recent "fireside chat" between US Energy Secretary (Dan Brouillette), GEH Nuclear CEO in Wilmington (Jay Wileman), and GE Power Sector Executive Russell Stokes.
- A list of possible upcoming events

- Links to LinkedIn pages for both GE Hitachi and Jay Wileman
- An early 1958 APED video of the San Jose Facility that is an excellent account of the early GE Nuclear Days
- Descriptions of Elfun volunteer activities

If you scroll through the 'Nuclear Pioneers Corner' section, you'll see information provided by Elfun Roger Baird.

- A partial list of Nuclear Pioneers who have passed (2018-2020)
- Information related to GE and the nuclear industry
- A link to Takuya Hattori's power point presentation on nuclear power plant construction "On Time and On Budget"
- Several articles of interest including these topics: the need for nuclear power, drastically decreasing the use of fossil fuel, GE being removed from the Dow Jones average, and GE's decommissioning experience.

The 'links' section to the right includes:

- o Our 'chapter' incorporation documents (Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws), plus recent Annual Reports
  - o Information on the Honor Flight organization
  - o An 'Elfun Survivors Guide' with valuable information needed by a surviving spouse or family member.
- In addition, we have 2 new features currently being prepared to upload to our website:
- o 'A Photo History of GE': There are 4 volumes, but only 2 can be uploaded due to copy right laws.
  - o An application form for becoming an Elfun: If you have GE friends who are interested in becoming an Elfun, please point them to the form.

Once these new features are uploaded, we will get the word out via the monthly email that goes to current members.

## **2020: A Look Back**

Monthly Board Meetings were initially held at the GE-Hitachi facility in San Jose. In March, the in-person Board meetings converted to teleconferences, with Board members participating remotely. Meeting minutes are available upon request.

### Monthly luncheons:

- January: We had our Annual Membership Meeting with a 'chapter' summary by President Yogi Dayal, a member 'Interest Survey', and an update by Dave Hamon on the GE Pension Plan.
- February: We had lunch without a speaker (he was unavailable at the last minute).
- March – December: The remaining luncheons were cancelled due to Covid-19 virus restrictions and the (hopefully temporary) closing of our luncheon restaurant, The Three Fames in San Jose.

Field Trips and Events: There were no Elfun field trips or events in 2020. Typically, the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter is rather 'quiet'. However, with Covid-19 virus restrictions, all Elfun face-to-face events were either cancelled or put on-hold.

Information talks: Aside from our talk on the GE Pension Plan in January, our 'chapter' did not host any information talks. However, our membership was invited to join various talks hosted by Ed Dawson of Wells Fargo. Elfun did not endorse any Wells Fargo products or services.

Volunteer projects: Our standard volunteer projects were put on-hold (due to COVID-19 restrictions). Listed below are the standard projects that we have participated in for years, and hope to re-start in 2021.

- AARP TaxAide: prepare income taxes for seniors and/or low-income people
- Honor Flight: honor our nation's veterans with an all-expense paid trip to the veteran memorials in Washington D.C.
- Almaden Elementary tutoring: primarily math tutoring
- Lions Eyeglass collection: collect used eyeglasses & cases for Lions Club to distribute
- Lego Robotics: mentor & judge Lego Robotics competitions
- MESA (math, engineering, science & achievement) support students' skills/knowledge in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math)
- 'Engineer for a Day': introduce students to what it is like 'to be an engineer'
- Toiletry collection for San Jose homeless shelters

## **2021 – A Look Ahead**

Because our 2020 plan was basically put on-hold, there are several opportunities to pursue in 2021. As soon as there is a break in the virus restrictions, the Board will meet to plan out the remainder of the year. Following are some of the exciting possibilities:

Attention: Using our new Zoom application, we have tentatively scheduled an update on Chernobyl by Jeff Hren and a Chernobyl resident for early March. We will email details when they are firmer.

### Field trips and events:

- Yosemite annual camping trip, Mt. Umunhum
- Tours: Filoli Gardens, Computer Museum tour, Monterey Bay Aquarium
- Social events: Elfun Gourmet Luncheon, local wine and/or barrel tasting, a golf outing, a San Jose Giants baseball game, Bocce Ball, Santa Clara Chorale performance.

### Member Services:

- 'Great Elfun Shred-Out
- Our Elfun website: ([www.ElfunNorCal.org](http://www.ElfunNorCal.org)):
  - o Elfun 'survivors planning guide & checklists
  - o GE history photographs - 2 volumes pdf'd

### Monthly luncheon talks being considered include:

- Technical topics: GE-Hitachi business talks, state of nuclear industry, BWRX 300, VTR (Versatile Na Cooled Test Reactor), Chernobyl update, US Geologic Survey, home solar panels
- Health topics: hearing loss, heart issues e.g. A-Fib, eye health, 'End of Life' planning guide
- Financial topics: estate planning
- Home/garden topics: warm season vegetable gardening, water conservation

Volunteer projects: All the volunteer projects listed in 'A Look Back' will be included in 2021.

## **Board request of our membership:**

The Elfun Board is always looking for: New Board members, project/activity leads (or co-leads or helpers), and new activity ideas. If you are willing (and/or eager) to join in and help, in any of those capacities, please contact either Fred Wassem ([Fred@Wassem.com](mailto:Fred@Wassem.com)) or Gretchen Zane ([Gretchen.Zane@pacbell.net](mailto:Gretchen.Zane@pacbell.net)) . Thank you for your consideration.

We hope to see you soon at an Elfun gathering ... In the meantime, stay safe and healthy.

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***Links to other Elfun websites:***

Greater Boston: [Greater Boston Elfun Association - Home \(wildapricot.org\)](http://wildapricot.org)  
Calif. North: [Elfun Society California North \(elfunnorcal.org\)](http://elfunnorcal.org)  
Greater Cincinnati: [Microsoft PowerPoint - Greater Cincinnati Elfun Website Overview.ppt \[Compatibility Mode\] \(gcelfun.org\)](#)  
Florida: [Home \(elfunsocietyfl.org\)](http://elfunsocietyfl.org)  
Schenectady: [GE Elfun Society \(elfunschenectady.org\)](http://elfunschenectady.org)  
Syracuse: [Syracuse Elfuns \(syracuseelfunsociety.org\)](http://syracuseelfunsociety.org)  
Utica, NY: [Elfun Society of Utica, Inc. in Utica, NY | Company Info & Reviews \(bizapedia.com\)](#)  
Wisconsin: [Wisconsin Elfuns \(memberplanet.com\)](http://memberplanet.com)

