

MELPARTICULARS: UPDATE

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E-Systems Melpar Division

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E-Teamers Set to Walk/Run Across America

Fast forward to December. Wouldn't it be great if you could say that you spent 1995 crossing Montana (all 650 miles of it) on foot? Melpar's Health Center announces a new wellness challenge, "Walk/Run Across America," a program designed to help employees work together toward a common goal of getting and staying fit through exercise.

Hot on the heels of February's successful "Working on Wellness" (WOW) Challenge, the Walk/Run campaign challenges employees to exercise across the country. Individuals or teams can choose a state to cross beginning April 17 and log their total mileage until December 1. Participants are encouraged to walk or run at home or at work. The Health Center can

provide distances of measured courses in the vicinity of the Falls Church and University Center facilities.

Inauguration of an incentive award point system by the Health Center will reward employees for participation in a whole palette of wellness activities during this year. Walk/Run Across America participants will receive 50 points plus an additional point for every mile walked or run. Visit the Health Center to get more information about this latest wellness challenge or the new point system.

Walking or running across an entire state may sound a bit ambitious, but a four-person team which logs 2.9 miles per day can easily traverse the breadth of Montana by December 1. **M**

What's New at Melpar?

Several process improvement projects are in varying stages of development at Melpar. Three of these projects involve implementation of commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) software packages: PeopleSoft, Wyetas and Deltek. These activities were launched in response to last year's far-reaching COTS strategy developed at the Division level. A fourth project focuses on improving the Division's electronic mail system.

Project Manager Lynn Garland predicts increased functionality in a single, integrated, payroll/human resources system following next fall's anticipated implementation of the *PeopleSoft Payroll/Human Resources* software. Representatives from Human Resources and Accounting have teamed up to streamline such processes as payroll and salary administration, recruiting, training, and health and safety administration.

Systems Development Coordinator Jane Miley is in charge of two projects designed to enhance current financial systems: Automated Time Collection (ATC) and Financial COTS (FinCOTS). When fully implemented, the Wyetas ATC system will enable Melpar employees to record their time on-line or by telephone rather than by time card. The ATC system, featuring automatic checks and balances, will simplify the current time collection process by eliminating the need for manual collection of time cards and tedious data entry. The ATC system is expected to be in place by the end of this year.

The *FinCOTS* effort is slated to replace internally developed software supporting accounting and financial functions with an integrated system. The installation of Deltek software will be implemented in three phases. Phase I, scheduled for completion by early 1996, addresses the core financial functions of general ledger, labor distribution, billing, accounts receivable and project costing. Accounts payable, purchasing and materiel modules will be installed in Phase II. Phase III

WOW Challenge Stats In



Working on Wellness (WOW) challenge participants celebrate the arrival of their prizes. Sporting new water bottles are (left to right) Mary White, Pat Harbour, Norma Lofgren, David Meyer, Debbie Shows and Joy Banegas. The three-week challenge, which was completed by 166 employees, kicked off the 1995 Health Promotion Program. Among the highlights, 133 participants opted for the weight reduction challenge, posting a total weight loss of 433.5 pounds. **M**

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"Suggestion-of-the-Month" Awards Announced

Melpar's Continuous Improvement Working Group (CIWG) has chosen the first two recipients of its new "Suggestion-of-the-Month" award. Mechanical Engineering Supervisor *Mike Sassone* proposed downloading of military specifications and other technical data from the Falls Church Technical Library to University Center users. Senior Electrical Engineer *Brian Conant* recommended streamlining the weekly time card submission process. Mike and Brian will enjoy special parking spots during April in recognition of their suggestions.

Employees submitting general improvement suggestions may receive gift certificates for E-Systems company store merchandise, pizza or other awards if their ideas are implemented. Cost Avoidance/Reduction (CAR) suggestions can result in

employee cash awards of up to \$5,000 depending on projected company savings over the first year of implementation.

Suggestions may be submitted to the CIWG using Form PRF-0018, Employee Suggestion (for general suggestions); Form FAF-9004, Cost Reduction and Cost Avoidance Report (for CAR suggestions); or via e-mail (sugbox@fc). Procedure PR-0020, Suggestion Program for Melpar Employees, provides specific guidelines for submission of suggestions.

For more information on the "Suggestion-of-the-Month" program, contact any of the following CIWG members: Cathy Boleyn, Brian English, Janelle Hickok, Mike Howard, John Masiyowski, Marc McCracken or Wiley Peck. **M**

Calendar of Events

- April 3 Women's 3-on-3 Basketball Practice:** 8:45 p.m., Pine Spring Elementary School, Falls Church. Contact Elaine Payne, x. 4273, or Mike Ellerbe, x. 4866.
- April 4 Melpar Fast Talkers:** 11:45 a.m., Manassas Room, UC
- April 5 Melpar Amateur Radio Club:** 12:00 noon, Princeton Room, FC
- April 6 Melpar Toastmasters:** 11:45 a.m., Shenandoah A, FC
Women's Softball Practice: 6:00 p.m., Pine Spring Elementary School, Falls Church. Contact Lisa Bossert, x. 4474.
Employee Artwork Exhibition Registration Deadline: Contact Natalie Ramsey, x. 2729.
- April 10 Women's 3-on-3 Basketball Practice:** 8:45 p.m., Pine Spring Elementary School, Falls Church
- April 11 Melpar Fast Talkers:** 11:45 a.m., Manassas Room, UC
- April 12 Communications Council Meeting:** 3:00 p.m., Lexington Room, FC
- April 13 Melpar Toastmasters:** 11:45 a.m., Shenandoah A, FC
Women's Softball Practice: 6:00 p.m., Pine Spring Elementary School, Falls Church
- April 17 "Walk/Run Across America" challenge begins.** Contact Health Center for details.
Women's 3-on-3 Basketball Practice: 8:45 p.m., Pine Spring Elementary School, Falls Church
- April 18 Melpar Fast Talkers:** 11:45 a.m., Manassas Room, UC
- April 19 Credit Union Annual Membership Meeting:** 5:30 p.m., FC Cafeteria
- April 20 Melpar Toastmasters:** 11:45 a.m., Shenandoah A, FC
Credit Union Board of Directors Meeting: 12:00 noon, Antietam Room, FC
Continuous Improvement Working Group Meeting: 1:30 p.m., Appomattox Room, FC
Women's Softball Practice: 6:00 p.m., Pine Spring Elementary School, Falls Church
- April 24 Women's 3-on-3 Basketball Practice:** 8:45 p.m., Pine Spring Elementary School, Falls Church
- April 25 Melpar Fast Talkers:** 11:45 a.m., Manassas Room, UC
- April 27 Melpar Toastmasters:** 11:45 a.m., Shenandoah A, FC
Women's Softball Practice: 6:00 p.m., Pine Spring Elementary School, Falls Church

Recycling Reminder

Even though Melpar facilities are dotted with recycling receptacles, materials such as white paper, aluminum cans, telephone books and corrugated cardboard often get discarded along with regular trash. The Division's WasteWise Committee reminds all employees to deposit recyclables in the proper collection containers and help cut down on spiraling waste management costs.

To request a recycling bin for your area or get more information on Melpar's recycling program, contact Frank Harris at extension 4265 or Debbie Shows at extension 2669. **M**

WHAT'S NEW

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enhancements include a travel module and an executive information system.

Senior Network Analyst Janelle Hickok oversees Melpar's *E-Mail Improvement* project. A significant milestone was achieved earlier this month when electronic mail addresses were truncated. The next phase in this project focuses on evaluation of Z-Mail as a potential division-wide mail tool. Z-Mail's enhanced features are now being tested.

More details will be announced as project milestones are achieved. **M**

Web Traffic Increases



World-Wide Web, the emerging standard for information organization and dissemination over a network, is attracting many followers at Melpar. Principal Software Analyst Doug Toppin, who tracks browser queries on the BGPHEs internal Webserver, reports that at least 77 Division computers—some of them multiuser machines—currently run a software package such as Lynx or Mosaic that supports access to Web servers. Several organizations, including Publications, CAD and Reconnaissance Systems, are running internal Web servers.

The data offered by Melpar's internal Web servers is protected from outside viewers by a network "firewall." Consequently, the information stored on Melpar's Web servers is not accessible to outside Internet users.

Prior to the genesis of Web technology in 1989 at the European Particle Physics Laboratory (known by the acronym CERN) in Geneva, Switzerland, finding and accessing information across a computer network (i.e., the Internet) was difficult. Web permits a user to access data distributed across a network as though it were consolidated into a single, large data repository with a common data type.

Web technology can be used to improve numerous processes within the Division. An example of a practical application, according to Information Systems Engineer Paul Haskell, is database access. "Linking some of the internal systems or databases together with Web technology would allow a consolidated view of the numerous 'islands of information' within Melpar," says Paul.

The Web also offers the capability for electronic on-line maintenance, revision and processing of documents. The BGPHEs program is using an internal Web server to manage such data as schedules, charge numbers, project personnel phone numbers, engineering notes and approaches and pointers to other information sources.

Users interested in using a Web browser should contact their UNIX server system administrators for information.

NOTE: Recent issues of Melparticulars are available for on-line viewing at: <http://swindler.cm.melpar.esys.com/pubs/homepage.html> **M**