

Kaiser Aluminum Salaried Retirees Association



Carlos Xavier
KASRA President

**MESSAGE FROM KASRA PRESIDENT
CARLOS XAVIER**

I hope you have all survived the bloodbath on Wall Street, the stresses on Main Street and the seemingly endless presidential election campaign. Let's hope we can leave 2008 behind, and that 2009 will bring good health, happiness and a return to more prosperous times.

I would first like to thank our outgoing President **Dick Kauffman** for the excellent work he has done for us. I had the pleasure of working closely with him and observing the countless hours he has spent on improving the contents of both the newsletter and website, increasing participation in the enrollment of VEBA and transitioning the outstanding and voluminous work done by **Evo Alexandre** and **Colleen Geary** to others. His is a job well done, leaving me with big shoes to fill. I would also like to add my thanks to the two board members, **Alan Longmuir** and **Ron Radakovich**, who have termed out after volunteering their services for six years. Gentlemen, thank you!

It is my pleasure to also add my welcome to the current Board – **Blanca Ostrovsky**, **Ross Hambly** and **Will Schnieder**. We are very fortunate to have them volunteer their time.

While there are some remaining issues on benefits, the main goal of **KASRA** now is **communication**. We disseminate information of interest to our members and provide a significant link between retirees and surviving spouses. We do this through our newsletters six times a year, website, email and snail mail. Since this communication is a two way street, we ask you to contact us with your concerns, news, questions on VEBA, **KASRA** or other issues through any of the above media, including by telephone and we will endeavor to address all of them. All the contact addresses and numbers are listed in the newsletter and the website. When you move, please also remember to send your forwarding address to us and to the VEBA administrator so that we can both remain in contact.

Newsletter. We will continue to look for improvements to your newsletter. For example, we will be asking the regions to initiate and prepare the profiles for their regions. These could take the form of retiree profiles and profiles of activities and volunteer work in the communities. **Chris Laszcz-Davis**, our Board member who oversees the newsletter, will be contacting the regions directly and working with them so that they can take periodic ownership of this section of the newsletter. We encourage all contributors to "What's Going On" to continue sending in your retiree travel or other leisure experiences and thank you for your contributions. In addition, please let us know about some of the volunteer work you are doing. If you can, please also include some pictures of you and other retirees sharing the occasion.

Website. I hope many of you have visited your retiree website. In the November 2008 issue of our newsletter, we profiled our webmaster, **Steve Abernathy**, who has done an outstanding job in creating and maintaining this site. If you have not done so, I urge you to visit this site. It contains a wealth of information about **KASRA** and archived newsletters, communications, photos, including contacts numbers and forms you need to file VEBA claims etc. Unlike the newsletter, the site is not constrained by space, so it can offer a lot more detailed information for your benefit than we could otherwise provide. A number of people have written in to say how much they enjoy looking at pictures of the various luncheon events. So please continue to send them electronically to Steve.

Email. As we have said before, the fastest and most economical way for **KASRA** to communicate information to you is through email. Please provide or communicate any changes in your email address to us as soon as you can. We will also use regular mail, but this is slower and more costly.

With our warmest wishes for 2009!

- Carlos

"We encourage all contributors to "What's Going On" to continue sending in your retiree travel or other leisure experiences and thank you for your contributions."

Visit website at
www.e-kasra.com

WHAT'S GOING ON



Evo & Martina
At KARLA Christmas
Party in December

Send KASRA Your News & Pictures

Write us your news,
travel stories and funny
tales. Also please tell us
about your Volunteer
Community service.
Send note to:
Mark Murray, Editor
2471 San Miguel Dr.
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
or email:
mamwmipr@aol.com



Travels galore... **Evo Alexandre, Jr.** and his wife, Martina (Moraga, CA) enjoyed a long awaited cruise to Italy and Greece. **Kirk McVean** (Walnut Creek, CA) went on a twelve-day cruise to the Mediterranean. **Anthony Chetta** (Baton Rouge, LA) visits his sons, grandchildren and great grandchildren in Georgia, Virginia and Florida.

Carl E. Hinger of Spanish Fort, AL, takes trips to San Antonio, TX, Hunstville, AL and Greenville, SC to see his kids, and drops in on old friends at Newark, OH. **Dean A. Gressley** (Huntington, IN) likes traveling with Senior Tours. He spent six days in Washington DC.

Don Ekstrom and his wife (Polson, MT) take the Amtrak train once a year from Whitefish, MT to Charleston, WV and last year attended the KASRA Christmas dance at Ravenswood.

Roger Underwood of Arroyo Grande, CA, toured Eastern Europe to study the effects of WWII and the Cold War on the Czech and Slovak Republics, Ukraine and Romania.

John Principe Jr. (Pantelo, TX) visited Bristol, RI. **Tom Smith** (Colorado Springs, CO) made a three-week road trip to British Columbia and Alberta Canada, visiting 5 Canadian and 3 U.S. National Parks. **Ahmad Abrishamian** (San Mateo, CA) reunited with Cal alums this past summer. **Ernie Dill** of Waco, TX, took a two-week vacation in West Virginia, enjoying the beautiful fall foliage in the WV hills. **Jim Mire** (Baton Rouge, LA) and his family spent two weeks at the beach in Panama City, FL. **Sidney "Zeke" Breaux** (Plaquemine, LA) took a Royal Caribbean cruise last Thanksgiving. **Jim Haun** of Oxnard, CA, made trips to Italy and Hawaii last year. **Frank "Beef" Lewis** and his wife, Bidy (Baton Rouge, LA) favor the beaches of Gulf Shores, AL and Florida. Sarah A. Heatly (surviving spouse from Apple Valley, CA) likes to go on cruises.

Hobbies that keep them busy... **Samuel S. Jones** (Tucson, AZ) likes to give talks to residents at the assisted care facility where he resides. **Dennis Przybycien** of Sonoma, CA, is on his way to becoming a Master Gardener. **Elizabeth Atkinson** of Castro Valley, CA, is

now published online – posted 28 children's stories she wrote in 1998 on the worldwide web.

Half yearly's... **Marshall Eubanks** of Hebron, OH, bought a place in Florida to divide his time. **Don Donneaud** (Post Falls, ID) spends half the year at a condo in Bucerias Nayarit, Mexico. **Dan Reynolds** of Washington, WV, spends the winters at his home in Florida.

Ken Johnson (Spokane, WA) enjoys hiking, jogging, photography and Bible study.

Chuck Totten of Kent, WA, is an usher at Washington Husky and Seattle Seahawks football games. His day job is Director of Finance, for Spacelabs Healthcare. **Althea M. Haywood** (New Orleans, LA) and her husband joined the Faith team on her church's New Israel Mixed bowling league. Their team won first place last winter. **Earl J. Gonzales** (Chalmette, LA) enjoys fishing, gardening, hunting and visiting casinos. Betty Lou Koska, surviving spouse from Winnemucca, NY, goes horseback riding, does quilting and enjoys learning to play piano.

Thomas O. Harvey (Slidell, LA) vacationed last spring in Mexico with friends and last summer visited his son and family in Nederland, CO where the younger Harvey started a company called Mountain Men Aerospace Design, LLC with three other engineers. Speaking of Mexico, that's where **Mel Clark** (Clarkston, WA) spends his winters. Hot or cold... **Earl Hazan** thought he'd escape the heat of his Palm Desert, CA home by spending a month in Friday Harbor, WA. It was so cold, however, Earl had to pile on three sweaters every day to keep warm. Extended stay... **Wayne Erwin** (Kingman, AZ) spent six years cruising on a sailboat, primarily in the seas of Mexico. **Judy Dunn** of Burbon, CA, went to New Orleans and took a paddle wheeler down the Mississippi River.

Darrel J. O'Dell (Ravenswood, WV) spent a week with his sons in Houston, TX and while vacationing in Florida, played golf and had dinner with **Peter and Doris Elicker** (Sorrento, FL). He manages JO construction, installing and repairing air conditioning systems. Surviving spouse Sherry Hellyer (Ravenswood, WV) took a trip Maine last summer and really enjoyed that lobster. **Robert Stephens** (Portland, OR) traveled to Costa Rica, Turkey and visited the copper canyons of Mexico.

COMMUNITY SERVICE HEROES

Many KASRA members devote their time to volunteer activities that help make their communities a better place to live, especially for those less fortunate than ourselves. This new section on Community Service Heroes turns the spotlight on several members and their volunteer efforts.

Diana Kemmerle of Auburn, CA, is president and barn manager of Horses for Healing, which provides therapeutic horseback riding for disabled children and adults. After 30 years of office work, Diana became interested in the outdoors program because, as she writes, "I was the typical teenage girl who was horse crazy and had a horse of my own for years." As the name suggests, Horses for Healing promotes physical fitness, self-esteem and confidence among the disabled of all ages through horseback riding lessons given by certified instructors. You can reach the organization through Diane who carries with her at all times the Horses For Healing cell phone, (530) 887-9573.

Thanks to the tireless support of individuals like Oakland retirees and residents **Dave Fenton** and **Cornell Maier**, thousands of minority students have received college educations as a result of their early years at Northern Light School, a K-8 private school that provides a superior education to disadvantaged students. Nearly two thirds of the 140 students receive financial aid from individual sponsors, many of whom continue to sponsor the students through college. For the past twenty years, Cornell has been not only a major supporter but also a regular volunteer at Northern Lights. He's also a fixture at Oakland's Children's Hospital, where he volunteers several days a week in the nursery.

Jerry Denny of Morgan Hill, CA is a member of the Board of Directors for Breathe

California, a non-profit Organization that fights lung disease and promotes air quality in the Bay Area through asthma management workshops, stop smoking classes and support groups for patients with lung disease. Jerry tells service groups about the non-profit, assists in its "Breath of Life Walk" and coordinates statewide efforts among affiliates. He writes: "I have reached a stage in my life where it brings me great satisfaction to give back to the world that has treated me so well."



Jerry Denny (Above)



Diana Kemmerle – (middle photo) pictured to far right



Below: Cornell Maier with Northern Light Students

Finally, you can do volunteer work without ever leaving your home. That is, if you have a computer with internet access. Check out an article on virtual volunteering, written by Robert J. Rosenthal at Volunteer Match, by clicking on this link: http://www.bottomlinesecrets.com/article.html?article_id=44296

MEMBER PROFILE: RAY GENDRON



“Claire loves to cut a mean path on the dance floor. We’re like Ginger and Fred – that being Ginger Rogers and Fred Flintstone.”

Ray Gendron was born in Edgard, LA, right across the Mississippi River from the Gramercy alumina plant. Gendron graduated from LSU with a degree in industrial technology in 1963, then joined the Marine Corps as a 2nd Lt. His three years of active duty included a tour at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He continued to serve the Marine Corps Reserves for 19 years (retiring as a Lt. Col), concurrent with a career at Kaiser Aluminum that spanned nearly 35 years. Gendron retired in 2002, having held general manager positions in all phases of aluminum production – bauxite mining, alumina refining and reduction. Today, he and his wife Claire live in Baton Rouge, where he raises Angus cattle, honey bees and loves to hunt and fish.

Q. Tell us about your career at Kaiser Aluminum.

A. I joined the corporation in 1967 as an industrial engineer and my first assignment was

at the Chalmette reduction plant. In 1974, I moved to Jamaica to work for Alumina Partners of Jamaica (ALPART), the alumina refining partnership between Kaiser, Reynolds and Anaconda Aluminum. Two years later I returned to the U.S. to work at Baton Rouge raw materials. I spent the next decade in the Pacific Northwest, mostly at Mead reduction before returning to Jamaica in 1990. By the time I retired in 2002, I had served as general manager of Kaiser Bauxite as well as general manager of ALPART.

Q. What were some of the most memorable periods?

A. There were many, mostly having the good fortune to work for some great individuals at a good company that enjoyed a worldwide reputation. I’d also put our return to Jamaica to run both the bauxite mining operations and alumina refining pretty high on the list. Along with running a smelter at Mead, I have had the opportunity to serve as general manager of all phases of aluminum production, which from a personal standpoint I consider to be the most significant aspect of my career.

Q. What were some of the most challenging times?

A. Aluminum pricing volatility and competitive disadvantages in the worldwide market in the ‘80s had a profound impact on Mead reduction. Our costs were fifty percent above what the market was paying for aluminum. We had to make tough cost-cutting decisions, drastically reducing our potlines from 8 to 2 and slashing employment from 1300 to 250. Working with the unions was crucial to Kaiser’s survival. Thanks to solid leadership, cooperation and hard work from all the employees, some good technical moves, and a little help from the market, eventually we were able to return to full production.

Q. Tell us about your family.

A. I met my lovely wife, Claire, in high school. I was a senior and she was a sophomore. Later at LSU, she was a Golden Girl on the Dance Team who gave a nod to a guy with two left feet. We’ve been married for 44 years and have three kids –two sons and a daughter

January 2009

The oldest son and daughter have produced six grandchildren. Our youngest son will be married this month. We spend quite a few of our weekends watching the grandkids play sports.

Q. What are your hobbies?

A. I raise Angus cattle – about 40 head on 65 acres. Ever since my first job working on a ranch I knew it would be something to do in retirement that could involve the whole family. Nieces and nephews have shown the cattle for the last 10 years at state and national shows. Our oldest grandchild just turned 10 and is now eligible to participate. I hope they will carry on the tradition. I sit on the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Angus Association. We also keep bees on the ranch. I love to duck hunt in Louisiana and hunt for pheasant in South Dakota. I fish for speckle trout and redfish in the marshes nearby. I also get together a couple times of year with some Kaiser buddies to go salt water fishing. Clair and I spend a lot of time at L.S.U, having season tickets



Claire & Ray with their six grandchildren

HENRY J. KAISER, ENTREPRENEUR

An extensive multi-part article on industrialist Henry J. Kaiser, by Hawaiian Reporter writer Randall O'Toole, was recently published online. Below is an excerpt from part one. As space allows we will continue to print excerpts in subsequent issues of KASRA News. Meanwhile, for those with internet access, here is a link to part 1.

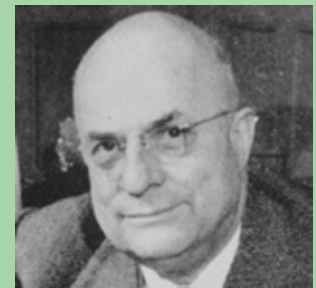
<http://www.hawaiireporter.com/story.aspx?title=Henry+J.+Kaiser%2c+Entrepreneur>

“In the Antiplanner’s not-so-humble opinion, Fortune magazine made a mistake in declaring Henry Ford to be the businessman of the twentieth century. True, Henry Ford made a lot of cars. But Henry Kaiser built roads, dams, houses, hotels, ships, and planes. He made cement, steel, magnesium, aluminum, and a variety of other chemicals and building materials. He funded and built the first and still the greatest health maintenance organization in the world. Plus, he also made cars. Chances are, you see a

car made by one of his former companies just about every time you go out on the street.

To show that Kaiser was the epitome of an entrepreneur, I’ll present Kaiser’s story in four segments: through 1939, the war years, the post-war years, and Kaiser’s Hawaii ventures, with a wrap-up segment about his legacy.

Kaiser gained a reputation for hard work, audacity, and finishing his jobs well before the deadlines. His audacity showed one day when his foreman told him that they didn’t have enough money to make payroll. “How much do we have?” he asked. “\$600.” So he took the \$600, went to a car dealer and made a down payment on a brand new Lincoln. He then parked the Lincoln outside the office window of a bank president and entered the bank to ask for a \$10,000 loan. The banker eyed the car and gave him the money. “Now we can make payroll, he told his foreman.



Henry J. Kaiser

**KAISER
ALUMINUM
SALARIED
RETIREES
ASSOCIATION**

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JANUARY 2009

LUNCH BUNCH

KARLA Christmas Luncheon Dec. 8



**Bob Irelan, Joanne Cunningham and
Jed Daniel enjoy the get together.**

Jan 5 Los Angeles

Lunch at noon at The Elephant Bar,
14303 E. Firestone Blvd., La Mirada.
Contact Norm Manger (310) 377-2135
or email normmanger@cox.net. L.A.
meeting held the 1st Monday of each
month.

Jan 8 Baton Rouge

Lunch at noon at Mansur's, 5720
Corporate Blvd. Call Bob Eisenbach
(225) 926-1334 or email
bobeisenbach@cox.net. Baton Rouge
meets 1st Thursday of each month.

Jan 8 Mead

Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Cathay Inn, on
North Division. Contact Phil
Marksbury at (509) 325-1798 or email
pjmarksb@comcast.net. Mead meets the
2nd Thursday of every month.

Jan 30 Belpre

Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. at Shoney's,
Garfield Ave., Parkersburg, WV.
Contact Betty Lou Blair (304) 489-1337
or email bettylou13@suddenlink.net

Feb 10 Newark

Lunch at 11:00 a.m. at Stacy's
Hometown Buffet in Heath, Ohio.
We plan to have guest speakers along
the political line, locals running for
office. Contact Bob Abel (740) 323-
2268 or email rpabel@alltel.net. Costs
are paid for by the Newark plant.

Feb 19 Trentwood

Lunch at 11:00 a.m. at Valley Eagles,
16810 E. Sprague Ave. Call Del
McKinley (509) 924-3077, email at
delcree@msn.com or Jan Gorman (509)
926-5476, email at jandon4@hotmail.com

Mar 10 Chalmette

Lunch 11:30 a.m. at Jasmine French
Restaurant (across from the Slidell Train
Station, on the corner of Teddy Avenue in
Olde Town Slidell), 1768 Front Street
(US Hwy. 11, Blue Star Hwy. RSVP
Sherman Faught (985) 690-4942 or Chuck
Schimmel at (985) 643-0437 or email
schimcol@aol.com.

In Memoriam

Ian Anderson - Parkersburg, WV

Evelyne H. Cara - Alameda, CA

William I. Carmack - Baton Rouge, LA *

Herbert E. Clark, Jr. - Bristol, RI

James F. Crissman - Hardy, AR

Robert L. Dix - Mt. Vernon, WA

Charles Dussel, Jr. - Slidell, LA

Bernard W. Fitch - Erie, PA *

Flonell H. Grace - Savannah, GA

Mildred A. Kull - Bothell, WA

Ernest "Ernie" Lasseter, Jr - Savannah, GA.

Kerstine "Kit" Lee - Ashland, OR

Thomas J. Miller - Hattiesburg, MS

Charles H. Miller - Tinton Falls, NJ *

H. Stuart ("Stu") Spaulding - Moraga, CA

Mary Ann Stemp - Capitola, CA

Ralph E. Weatherford - Mission Viejo, CA

Richard J. "Dick" Webster - Novato, CA

* Died more than a year ago

The KASRA Board of Directors expresses
its deepest sympathy to families and loved
ones.