

Kaiser Aluminum Salaried Retirees Association

A MESSAGE FROM THE KASRA PRESIDENT



Carlos Xavier
KASRA President

Visit website at
www.e-kasra.com

Do you know a retiree who has not signed up for the VEBA? Suggest they call KASRA at (925) 685-1313 or email at kasra@e-kasra.com

Dear Fellow Retirees/
Surviving Spouses:

Each year in July, we send out a hard copy of our newsletter to all retirees and surviving spouses, regardless of KASRA membership status. The purpose is to invite those who are not currently members to join by sending in their annual dues of \$10. This is not a large sum to cover the modest costs associated with keeping in contact with your former colleagues and their surviving spouses around the country, and indeed the world, since our newsletter is also posted on our website. However, if the cost is something that approaches a hardship for you, please let us know and we will continue to include you in our newsletter distribution, even if you cannot pay the \$10 fee.

For your information, we currently have 2,408 paid up members, 1,888 retirees and 520 surviving spouses. Our records indicate that we still have 949 retirees who have either not paid their dues or may have overlooked them. In any case, we will continue our drive in July again to see if we can increase our membership to include everyone. A few of our Board Directors will have termed out at the end of this year and we will also ask for your vote to approve a slate of new candidates.

We have very favorable feedback from members telling us how much they enjoy reading about what's going on with their fellow retirees and the photos sent in. We try to include all the letters we get into our current issue. As I have previously stated, if we can't get them all in, we will endeavor to include them in our future publications. The newsletter is about

YOU and so your continued contributions are welcomed. We periodically get suggestions from our members for people to appear in our "profile" section. If you know of any retiree in your region you believe would make an interesting "profile", please let us know. Also we welcome any suggestions you may have to improve either the format or content of the newsletter. Send your suggestions to either our mail box @ PO Box, 1171, Lafayette, CA 94549 or by email to news@e-kasra.com.

News from the VEBA ... The Board of Trustees has declared a benefit of \$2,000 per Family Unit for 2010. Information and reimbursement request forms have been mailed out to enrolled participants in April. Copies are also available on the KASRA website at www.e-kasra.com. An updated Summary Plan Description for the VEBA Plan is being prepared and will be mailed out to participants in June along with the VEBA Plan's Summary Annual Report for 2009.

As of April 1, 2010, the VEBA Administration relocated its Concord office to Stockton, CA. If you have questions concerning the VEBA Plan, you should contact the VEBA Administration directly at: Delta Health Systems, P.O. Box 2308, Stockton, CA 95201-2308. Telephone: Toll-Free (888) 344-8322. E-mail: dfs.veba@delapro.com. Please make a note of these changes. Let us know if you need any help.

As of December 31, 2009, there were 3,865 retiree Family Units eligible to participate in the VEBA Plan. 3,544 of the retiree Family Units were enrolled in the VEBA Plan for a participation rate of 92%.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Members of the 403D support group who served at Keesler AFB under the command of Chalmette retiree **Col. Charles 'Chuck' Schimmel** have dedicated a granite memorial stone in his name at the Camp Shelby, MS Armed Forces Museum. (see photo to right) Over a 30 year period, Chuck and his squadrons spent many hours in the Mississippi mud at Camp Shelby. CFT retiree **Ralph Woods** of Pleasanton, CA, consults on brazing issues with Sapa (Granges) Aluminium of Sweden. Ralph has co-authored a paper which was published in the Corrosion Journal. He also helps out at the family Consignment store in Lafayette, CA, and babysits two grandsons. **Jim Falk** (Anacortes, WA) was the principal founder of the Anacortes Parks Foundation in 1991 and continues to be actively involved with the organization. A \$600,000 wetlands interpretive center is being constructed at the Anacortes ferry landing. Check out www.anacortesparcsfoundation.org.

Refractories retiree **Berton Altmann** of Los Gatos, CA, has traveled to every continent except for Australia. He enjoys ballroom dancing and painting in acrylics. Los Angeles, CA, sales retiree **Tony Procanik** (Monarch Beach, CA) and his wife, Kathy, toured the Mediterranean and visited Egypt, Greece and Turkey. Kaiser Chemicals retiree **Bill Prior** (Heath, OH) provides litigation support for a major law firm and may start a business later in the year. He supports his church as trustee, investment manager and assists in elder care as needed. Congratulations to Mexico, MO, retiree and resident **John Dial**, who received the Col. C.R. Stribling Jr. Community Service Award from the Chamber of Commerce for his outstanding community service. Dial, a former mayor, has served on the boards of the YMCA, Rotary Club, United Way, Audrain Medical Center Foundation, and many more local organizations.

Peter A. Miranda of Plaquemine, LA, raises cattle on a 40-acre ranch. There, he has set up a children's petting zoo that he makes available to schools and churches.

Trentwood, WA, retiree **Janet Prendergast** (Cheney, WA) volunteers and serves as treasurer for Cheney Outreach and Food Bank and secretary of Emmanuel Lutheran Church. She recently vacationed in the British Isles. Retirees **Dick & Judy Mace** spend the winter in Mesa, AZ, and summer in Hope, ID. They are avid tennis players and enjoy hiking and bike riding. Last year the Maces took a trip to Europe, including a barge on the Danube River and a bike tour through Italian villages. Surviving spouse **Evelyn M. Fulcher** moved to Packwood, IA, when she remarried. Her new surname



Memorial Stone at Camp Shelby, MS Armed Forces Museum

Chalmette Mar. 9, 2010 Luncheon: Karen Kraus, Earl Phillips, Ed Bergquist and Frank Kraus



(What's Going On, from Page 2)

is Evelyn M. Bradfield. Savannah, GA, Ag Chem retiree and resident **Marion J. Lowe** plays golf as much as possible. Chalmette retiree **Ford Evans** of Nicholson, MS, enjoys gardening, traveling and singing gospel hymns to patients at the rehab center.

Refractories retiree **William E. Boyd** of Moraga, CA, attended the reunion of the 305th bomb group, 8th USAF last year in Philadelphia. He also traveled to CA, MO, NY and Sao Paulo, Brazil to visit family. Tacoma, WA, retiree **Sidney D. Jones** (Lakewood, WA) enjoys traveling and spending the winter months in Florida. Baton Rouge, LA, retiree **Bobbie S. Mut** of Poplarville, MS, was forced to relive her grief when the driver of a car that killed her second daughter in 2007 made a court appearance last summer. In 1991, Bobbie's first daughter was killed by a drunk driver. Prayers for healing go out to Bobbie and her family. **Evelyn B. Barker** (Ashburn, GA) enjoys reading and is involved with senior citizen events in her community. Rod, Bar & Wire (RBW) retiree **DeDe Cook** (Ravenswood, WV) goes to rock concerts of musicians from the '60s - '80s. **William R. La Force** of Pt. Richmond, CA, took a cruise through the inland passage of Alaska. The stamp collector enjoys crossword and jigsaw puzzles.

Chalmette Mar. 9, 2010 Luncheon: Shirley Delhomme, Evelyn Schwab and Linda Duhé



Dettmar (Bob) Tietjen moved last year to a continuing care community in Rockville, MD, for assistance in coping with Parkinson's disease. Gramercy, LA, retiree **James W. Miller** (Rocky Point, NC) and his wife spend winters living in their RV bus in Key West, FL.

Surviving spouse **Carol Easterling** of Baton Rouge, LA, regularly plays bridge with other Kaiser retiree wives. **Leslie G. Lawson, Jr.** (Fair Bluff, NC) retired on the family farm, raising horses and cattle. He and his bride of more than 54 years, Shirley, are enjoying growing old together.

Farbest Chemicals **Joe O'Connell** of Mission Viejo, CA, runs ERI, an environmental company. Last year he took the extended family, including 9 grandkids, on a bare boat charter in the British Virgin Islands. Sullivan, IL, Ag Chem retiree **Lawrence Farison** (Louisville, KY) spends the winter in his Florida home. **James S. McEacharn** of Delhi, LA, plays golf every Tuesday and Friday. Trentwood retirees **Carl & Barb Thompson** (Spokane Valley, WA) are snow birds who head south every winter. Gramercy, LA, retiree **Robert Newsom** of Baton Rouge, LA, visited family in Danville, CA, last summer. He does a little gardening and volunteers for the Mormon Church.



Baton Rouge Luncheon: Camp Matens, Jerry Orde-neaux and Ray Gendron

Refractories retiree **David A. Schutte**

(What's Going On, continued Page 4)

(What's Going On, from Page 3)

(Tampa, FL) had to give up golf and flying at age 94+. He's still involved with Masonic and Shrine activities, and more importantly, he says he takes his medication on time. **Will & Margaret Roussel** of Baton Rouge, LA, took a riverboat cruise last year from Vienna to Amsterdam. Will makes 'tiger cages' for LSU fans. Chalmette retiree **Doris Modica** and Gramercy retiree **Chuck Modica** of Kenner, LA, went on a Caribbean cruise with their daughter last year. **Evo Alexandre, Jr.** and his wife Martina enjoyed two weeks on Maui last year and took a Mediterranean cruise to Turkey, the Greek Isles, Venice and Rome.

Chalmette retiree **Kathryn A. Amico** (Houma, LA) hurt her knee, leg and hip during a bad fall at work. She thanks God and her angels for helping her heal. Kaiser Chemicals Sullivan, IL, retiree and resident **Ina Buxton** keeps busy as a volunteer at the senior center. Foil and Container retiree **A. Keith Sprouse** and his wife live in California, dividing their time between Palm Springs and Davis, CA. Erie, PA, Forgings retiree



Baton Rouge Luncheon: Kay and John Holeman

and resident **Dick Millhouse** is a self described slave to the household. He keeps busy cleaning, cooking, fixing faucets, mowing the lawn, trimming shrubs and doing the shopping.

CFT retiree **Chuck Carroll** of Georgetown, CA, directs stage plays in Placerville. On his 50 acre property, Chuck raises horses for trail riding. Refractories retiree **Bud Rother** (Lake Wylie, SC) and his wife attended family reunions last year in St. Louis, MO, and Olney, IL. **Rodney C. LaRocque** of Las Vegas, NV, and his wife spent a month in South Africa, two weeks in Napa Valley, CA, and 20 days at Lake

Chalmette Mar. 9, 2010 Luncheon: Margaret Anderson, Dot Creel, Dot Drennan, Joe Drennan and Howard Anderson



(What's Going On, continued Page 7)

MEMBER PROFILE: Jim Owen

In 1965, after serving 4 years as a rifle platoon leader and company commander, **Jim Owen** was completing his commitment to the Marine Corps at Camp Pendleton, CA. The Baton Rouge, LA, native wanted to stay in California and grow a family with his wife, Jessica and newborn son Michael. Owen, who graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1961 with a BBA degree, accepted a position with Kaiser Aluminum as a management trainee in Oakland. After training, he was transferred to production control at Trentwood, WA, as Finish Mill loading and scheduling supervisor. Owen was named administrative manager of the Benicia, CA, casting plant, a new part of the Electrical Products Division formed to supply electrical components for the third rail of the Bay Area Rapid Transit system (BART). He later became the engineering coordinator of all electrical contractors performing the installation of the BART system.

When the BART project was finished, Owen moved to Rhode Island as production control manager of both the Bristol and Portsmouth Electrical Products plants. Shipping and receiving operations of both plants also eventually

Jim and granddaughter Emily Owen



came under his wing. He returned to California as production superintendent of the San Leandro wire and cable plant, and was promoted to plant manager. After several years, Owen was named to the plant manager position of the Los Angeles Extrusion plant. When the sales function and the plant combined to form a complete business unit, Owen became the general manager. He was promoted to division manager of the Extrusion Division that included plants in Los Angeles, CA, Sherman, TX, and Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Tulsa, OK was eventually added to the division.

In 1992, the corporation consolidated Rod Bar & Wire (RBW) which included Newark, OH, Tennalum in Jackson, TN and Macon, GA, with Extrusions into one division and named Owen President of the Extruded Products Group.

A state of the art extrusion plant was built in London, Ontario, prompting the division to relocate its headquarters to Dallas for easy travel accessibility. Sadly that same year, a swift bout with cancer claimed Jessica, leaving a void for the father of four.

After relocation to Dallas, the Division continued to grow with the addition of the Richland, WA, hard alloy extrusion facility and the opening of two joint ventures in China.

In 1994, Owen remarried. After 31 years with Kaiser Aluminum, Owen retired in 1996. He and his wife, JoAnn, reside in North Dallas with their children.

Q. What was the most challenging experience you had while working for the company?



Jim and Jessica Owen and children: John, Michael, Leslie and Audrey

Send KASRA Your News & Pictures

Write us your news, travels, stories... humorous tales welcome. Send a note to Roberta Wong Murray, KASRA News, 78-6833 Alii Drive, B-5 Kailua Kona, HI 96740 or wmipr@aol.com.

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A. From a technical perspective, one of the most challenging experiences involved the field engineering and electrical installation of the third rail for the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system. Due to a number of specification errors by construction contractors, numerous surveys and insulator adjustments were required in the tube under the bay and the Oakland underground section.

From a plant management perspective, I'm proud to have contributed to the Best Operating Team performance of the San Leandro and LA Extrusion plants.

From a general management perspective, the merger of RBW with Extrusions and the construction of the London plant in the same year in which I lost my wife were extremely hard.

Working for an international company like Kaiser Aluminum also afforded me the opportunity to travel extensively. Joint venture projects in the Szechuan province of China were particularly memorable.

Q. Tell us about your family.

A. Four of my six children are adults – two sons and two daughters from my first wife Jessica – a 15-year old adopted daughter and 3-year old adopted son with my second wife, JoAnn. I have two granddaughters, 8 and not quite 1.

Q. Where do you live?

A. We live in



Rosanna and JoAnn Owen

North Dallas at the Bent Tree Country Club. Our home is on the 18th fairway, about 120 yards from the clubhouse.

Q. What are your hobbies?

A. I play golf. My handicap is not as low as I'd like it, but I enjoy the game and play four times a week. Last year my partner and I won the putting championship.

Also, I've always liked scuba diving and in 1999 co-founded a diving business in St. Croix called St. Croix Ultimate Bluewater Adventures (the name spells SCUBA). We have been recognized by dive industry publications numerous times. Among our awards are #1 dive staff in the world, #2 dive operator in the world, best dive shop in the Virgin Islands, and best dive operator on St. Croix. Our shop has a web site at www.stcroixscuba.com.

I also look after a family rice farm in Oberlin, LA.

Q. What was the last movie you saw and liked?

A. I liked The Blind Side a lot.

Q. What kind of books do you read?

A. I read a lot of different books but I would have to say that my favorite author is Wilbur Smith, who writes historical novels set in Africa.



JoAnn and Ryan Owen

Leslie Owen and Audrey Owen Bates



(What's Going On, from Page 4)

Geneva, Switzerland. Frostburg, MD, retiree **William 'Bill' Wood** (Avon Park, FL) volunteers with the 'Jolly Gents', a church group that does odd jobs and repairs for residents in need.

Ravenswood, WV, retiree **Howard W. Brownlee** resides in Gig Harbor, WA, where he enjoys long walks and activities in his community. Trentwood, WA, retiree **Alan Morasch** of Spokane Valley, WA, does small engine repairs. He enjoys fishing and cruising in the RV. Oakland, CA, retiree **John Lullo** (Clio, CA) is assistant chairman of the board of Portola Hospital and treasurer of the Graeagle Mens Golf Association. He makes and sells rustic furniture at local craft fairs. **Jean Tygrett** of Ripley, WV, visited family in MD and attended her granddaughter's dance recital.

Finally, we've reported on the search for commissioned aluminum murals by late artist Nikos Bel-Jon, that were displayed at various Kaiser companies. His daughter, Rhea Bel-Jon Calkins, sent this thank you to KASRA readers for their response.

Dear KASRA,

I would like to send a big thank you to the KASRA Board and its members who took the time to help me in my search for my father, Nikos Bel-Jon's Kaiser murals. I was sent some wonderful background and further leads as to what may have happened to the Chalmette mural. Even more special was hearing from Glenn and Annette Hatfield that one of his murals had been preserved by them when the refractory plant closed in Mexico, Mo. and that it is now available to be seen by the public in their new Fire Brick Museum at the Audrain County Historical Museum. And what a surprise it was to learn that it was one of his murals I had never even seen a photo of before!!

With Best Regards,

*Rhea Bel-Jon Calkins
Curator
Bel-Jon Studios NY*



(President's Message, from Page 1)

One final very important point – when you move, in addition to telling KASRA, please remember to notify the Third Party Administrator of your change of address. At present, the VEBA is unable to locate a number of retirees and surviving spouses who have moved and have left no forwarding address. When this happens, the VEBA's mail is returned by the Post Office as "undeliverable." If the VEBA is unable to contact you, you may miss out on important information concerning the VEBA Plan, including benefit amounts, and benefit claim filing deadlines.

If you have missed any of our previous newsletters, I encourage you to visit our website at www.e-kasra.com. If you have trouble accessing the website, let us know by email at www.web@e-kasra.com. Remember, stay active and healthy and, if you are not already a KASRA member, please consider joining.

Carlos

Carlos Xavier
President, KASRA

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.e-kasra.com

May 6 Baton Rouge
Lunch at noon at Mansur's, 5720 Corporate Blvd. Spouses are welcome. Call Bob Eisenbach (225) 926-1334 or email bobeisenbach@att.net. Baton Rouge meets the 1st Thursday of each month.

May 13 Mead
Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Cathay Inn, on North Division. Contact Danny Petrus at (509) 924-5838 or email dpjr70@comcast.net. Mead meets the 2nd Thursday of each month.

June 3 Ravenswood
Summer Picnic at 1:00 pm at CERA (KERA) if open with Greenhills Country Club as second choice. Free hamburgers and hotdogs, bring a side dish and drink. For information call Dave Whitman (304) 273-5548 or email dwhitman@wirefire.com.

June 3 Baton Rouge
Lunch at noon at Mansur's, 5720 Corporate Blvd. Spouses are welcome. Call Bob Eisenbach (225) 926-1334 or email bobeisenbach@att.net. Baton Rouge meets the 1st Thursday of each month.

June 7 KARLA (Bay Area)
Lunch at noon at the Wedgewood Banquet Center located at the San Ramon Golf Club. Please RSVP to Sharon Fraetis (925) 934-4334 or email lafnatv@silcon.com.

June 8 Newark
Lunch at 11:00 a.m. at Stacy's Hometown Buffet in Heath, Ohio. Contact Bob Abel (740) 323-2268 or email rpabel@windstream.net. Costs are paid by the Newark plant.



June 9 Chalmette
Lunch at 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 by 5/28 to Sherman Faught (985) 690-4942 or Chuck Schimmel at (985) 643-0437 or email schimcol@aol.com.

June 10 Mead
Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Cathay Inn, on North Division. Contact Danny Petrus at (509) 924-5838 or email dpjr70@comcast.net. Mead meets the 2nd Thursday of each month.

July 1 Baton Rouge
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July 8 Mead
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In Memoriam

Walter R. Bloss - Pisgah Forest, NC
Charlcie Grasser - Penn Valley, CA
Darline Hobock - Tulsa, OK
Thomas H. Johnson - Sandpoint, ID
Raymond C. Kamstra - Chattaroy, WA
Floyd J. McCrea - Spokane, WA
Ronald D. Miller - Gig Harbor, WA
Homer N. Ogle - Heath, OH
Vivian E. Phillipson - Medical Lake, WA
Patrick F. Williams - Deer Meadows, WA
David Roy Wilson - Baker, LA
Sidney H. Woollett - Cheney, WA

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