

KASRA NEWS



Chris Laszcz-Davis
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

Kaiser Aluminum Salaried Retirees Association

A MESSAGE FROM THE KASRA PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Retirees/Surviving Spouses:

On behalf of the KASRA Board, staff and volunteers, we hope you had a memorable holiday season and hope the year 2012 brings you joy, health, prosperity and wonderful memories. I am delighted to continue one more year as your President.

The Christmas holiday season often allows us to pause long enough to reflect on what really matters. It is during this holiday season that we are often reminded again of the wonders of life, and its fragility. The textures of both joy and sorrow weave a fabric of the year as we close one and begin another. At the end of the day, it comes down to "all of life being a gift."

"Giving thanks" is an important part of this holiday season's traditions, and I have many I'd like to acknowledge here. My "thanks" to retiring KASRA Board members **Carlos Xavier, Will Schneider, Blanca Ostrovsky, and Steve Abernathy** for their contributions while on the Board -- "special thanks" to Steve Abernathy who, although leaving the KASRA Board, will continue as the membership database and website steward. "Thanks" to our regional directors and reporters – **John Billips, Norm Manger, Bob Eisenbach, Bob Mohr, Dave Whitman, Tim Healy, Charlie Alexandre, Chuck Schimmel, Jim Bope, and Dan Petruss** -- for keeping the Board informed of news in their respective regions and to the many members who have shared their lives with us in the "What's Going On" section of the newsletter. "Thanks" to the following KASRA Board members who

remain on the 2012 Board-- **Ed Quinlan, Ed Westerman, Doug Mann, Mert Van Dreser, Paul Flores, and Klaus Adler**. I'd also like to thank **Doug Allen, Art Donaldson, and Jed Daniel** for their invaluable advice on VEBA matters. In addition, we are grateful for the many behind-the-scenes efforts of **Joanne Gutierrez, Bill Alsup, Sally Hogarty** (freelance journalist), **Sharon Fraetis, Dan Dahlen, Bob Irelan, Dick Kauffman, Carol Brown, Kari Dahlen** and **Michelle Alviso** (A-Mailing) -- all of whom helped us meet our objectives to communicate with you on issues of importance. We simply couldn't do it without everyone pulling together!

Some reminders -- some of you recently visited our **website** at www.e-kasra.com expressing how pleasantly surprised you were at the wealth of interesting information it includes. While many contribute to its contents, it is **Steve Abernathy** almost singlehandedly who has spearheaded its development and continued maintenance. For those who have not yet had a chance to visit our website, look for the following:

News/Communications – News on KASRA, the VEBA, and the aluminum industry, as well as general communications to our members and a link to the Kaiser Aluminum website.

Events – A listing of regional events and announcements.

Newsletters – We archive copies of these dating as far back as September 2001 - so if you wish to refer to any missed past newsletters, you can access them here.

Photos - We have numerous photos

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WHAT'S GOING ON

Birthdays and Anniversaries . . .

Former Gramercy Works, LA, employee **Frank W. Lewis** (Baton Rouge, LA) celebrated his 60th wedding anniversary in July at Ft. Walton Beach, FL, with lots of children and grandchildren in attendance. Although a bad knee keeps Frank from playing golf, it doesn't keep him from his volunteer position at the U.S.S. Kidd (DDG-100), a former WWII destroyer now berthed in Baton Rouge, LA, on the Mississippi River.

Celebrating 68 years of wedded bliss are **Elmer F. McDaniel** (Spokane, WA) and his wife Marian, who were married on December 26, 1943. The former Mead Potrooms, WA, employee and his wife

have five sons. Celebrating a 64th wedding anniversary are **John Principe, Jr.** (Pantego, TX) and his wife Priscilla. Also celebrating 64 years of marriage is **Bill Fulks** (Liberty

Lake, WA). When not visiting his two daughters in Las Vegas, NV, the former Trentwood, WA, employee likes to golf, garden, and play double deck pinochle.

Len Sedlin (Baton Rouge, LA) can hardly believe it's been 50 years since he wed his bride. Still feeling like newlyweds, the two celebrated with a 20-day Adriatic and Mediterranean cruise. Len, who worked in raw materials at the Baton Rouge, LA, plant, keeps his business skills sharp as the Director of Score Louisiana District 0679. The nation-wide volunteer organization provides mentoring and counseling to

entrepreneurs and small businesses.

Also celebrating a wedding anniversary with a cruise are **Dick Hughes** (Enumclaw, WA) and his wife Pat. The two spent their 60th wedding anniversary cruising around Alaska. September 2 was a special day for **Julian R. Smith** (City of Central, LA) and his wife Velva as they celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. Julian previously worked as the maintenance supervisor at Kaiser Baton Rouge, LA, and Jamaica. He and his bride traveled extensively visiting every state in their motor home prior to Velva becoming bedridden the past year.

Gretta Byrne (Haines City, FL), surviving spouse, who worked at Gramercy Works, LA, celebrated her 86th birthday in July before attending her grandson's wedding in October and her granddaughter's wedding in November. A very special congratulations goes to **Ann M. Canna** (Chicago, IL), surviving spouse, who turned 100 in May!

A Little of This, A Little of That . . .

Ardene Dodson (San Jose, CA), the surviving spouse of Kaiser employee **Cecil Dodson**, remembers her husband's dedication to Kaiser as an employee of over 41 years and as a good baseball pitcher and a golfer. Cecil also managed the high school baseball team prior to his death six years ago.

Former Ravenswood, W.VA, employee **Elmer M. Francis** (Parkersburg, WV) keeps busy with his woodworking while **Joanne Clevenger** (Letart, WV), who also worked at Ravenswood, WV, likes to quilt and design scrap books when not participating in her local Lion's Club. **Ange Ploussard** (Little Mountain, SC) prefers bridge, Mah Jongg, knitting, an



Paul Harris, Ray Garavaglia, Naomi Harris, and Ralph Schwarz attended the Bay Area Christmas luncheon.

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occasional golf game, and trips to places such as Cabo San Lucas in Mexico to keep her busy.

Having a good time with his grandchildren is **Alan Morasch** (Spokane Valley, WA). The former Trentwood, WA, employee also finds time to fish, hunt, go snowmobiling and traveling. **Nancy M. Brown** (Severna Park, MD), the surviving spouse of **Lafayette Brown, Jr.**, enjoys working at the Annapolis, MD, Visitor's Center when not spending time with her son and daughter who live nearby. **Richard Harrison** (Walnut Creek, CA) says he's too busy keeping track of his five children, 12 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren to have time for hobbies or volunteering. **Jim Jackson** (Struthers, OH) also primarily keeps busy with the activities of his six children, 19 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. "Thirteen out of college, six in college, and seven more to go," says Jim. Also on grandpa duty is **Andrew Lang** (Fremont, CA) who loves to watch his one-year-old grandson Jack. When not enjoying Jack, the former employee in the corporate tax department at Oakland, CA, plays golf all over the San Francisco Bay Area.

Finding time to volunteer with the



Celebrating the holidays at Chalmette's December lunch are **Ralph Veller, Frank Kraus, John Malm, Sherman Faught, Al Miller, and Wanda Miller**.

Shore Line Restoration Committee at Elioka Lake, WA, is **Larry A. Tillman** (Elk, WA). Formerly with Kaiser in Trentwood, WA, Larry enjoys woodworking and yard work and is building a cabin at Elioka Lake, WA. A very fruitful garden has been keeping **William Salassi** (Ponchatoula, LA) busy and his neighbors in lots of produce and delicious figs and pears. The secretary of his Masonic Lodge and former Chalmette, LA, employee also loves to perform and was recently in a local production of "Fiddler on the Roof."

Previously with Kaiser Ravenswood, WV, **Donald Waldie** (Point Pleasant, WV) is currently the president of the Point Pleasant River Museum Foundation and vice president of the Point Pleasant Alumni Association. In between cruises to such places as Alaska, he finds time for gardening and golf. **Joan Thompson** (Wilmington, NC), a former receptionist at Kaiser's Erie, PA, plant, also traveled to Alaska as well as the United Kingdom and Spain. She volunteers at her local senior center and at the Wilmington, NC, airport when not traveling. **Ralph Fleming, Jr.** (Parkersburg, WV), who worked in the environmental division at Ravenswood, WV, keeps current in his field by working as an environmental consultant for the city water manager in his town. Also still working is **Carl Lupp** (Erie, PA), who works for Erie County in the assessment department. The 81-year-old certified real estate appraiser is helping reassess 220,000 parcels!



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K. Tim Yee (Honolulu, HI) worked for Kaiser Aluminum Chemical Corporation for almost 25 years and spent seven of those years working on a daily basis with Henry J. Kaiser. He would be happy to share his experiences “with that wonderful man” with anyone visiting Hawaii. You can reach him at (808) 735-1200.

Traveling Near and Far . . .

Jack Holtzapple (Lafayette, CA) and his wife haven’t been spending much

time at home lately. They’ve been having too much fun traveling. Formerly with Kaiser Oakland, CA, Jack and Nancy recently took cruises to such far away locales as the Panama Canal, Antarctica, Morocco, Athens, Barcelona, Sydney, and Hong Kong. This fall they also journeyed to Bulgaria and Macedonia. Also finding other lands fascinating is former Trentwood, WA, employee **Don Dewar** (Spokane, WA). Don spent some time in Egypt, London and Edmonton, AB, Canada. He plans a tour of India for 2012 in between spending time with his six great grandchildren and working for the aerospace industry.

Also traveling to Egypt and Africa were **Joe Reger** (Meridian, ID) and his wife Melba. Previously with Trentwood, WA, Joe spent six weeks in Africa and two weeks in Egypt plus a week in Kenya where he and Melba were charged by an elephant. “What an experience! We also made new friends from Sweden and Florida,” says Joe.

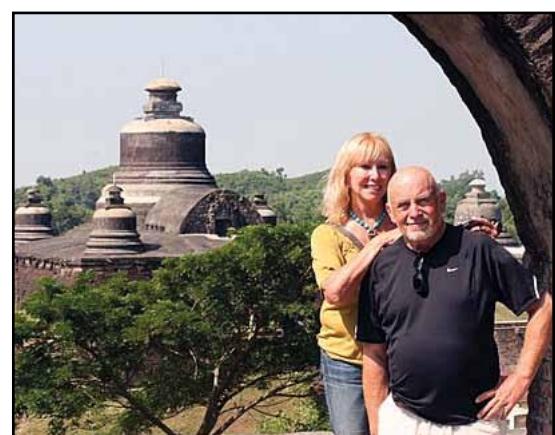
Fishing calls **Kenneth Mikes**

(Parkersburg, WV). Previously in human resources at Ravenswood, WV, Ken likes to spend his time hunting, fishing, gardening, and woodworking. He and his son went striper fishing at Lake Murray, SC, as well as fishing for muskie in the Ottawa River in Canada.

Playing with the big cats appeals to **Tony Procanik** (The Woodlands, TX). Formerly in sales at Kaiser’s Los Angeles, CA, plant, Tony and his wife Kathy toured Southern Africa where they came eye-to-eye with a lioness. They also spent time at Victoria Falls and Cape Town, South Africa, and most recently, returned from an eye-opening trip to Burma.



Joe and Melba Reger in Egypt



Tony and Kathy Procanik in Burma

James Holland (North Port, FL) spends his time traveling between his farm in Granville, OH, and his home in North Port, FL. Last summer, he also drove up the coast to Cape Cod. Retired farmer **Paul Mestemaker** (New Weston, OH) recently took an Alaskan cruise followed by a Caribbean cruise. He has also traveled across the country several times and took a trip to Italy. He has nine children, 22 grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

Honolulu, HI, and Myrtle Beach, SC, were among the places **Robert**

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MEMBER PROFILE: Ralph Cheek

Ralph Cheek worked in a variety of capacities for Kaiser Aluminum for 31 years. He and his wife Jan currently live in Cupertino, CA, where they are active members at their retirement community -- The Forum. Trying their hand at performing, Ralph and Jan performed in a spoof of the musical "Anything Goes" for the annual Christmas program this year. Ralph would love to hear from former Kaiser employees and encourages people to call him at 650-969-1848.

1. How did you get involved with Kaiser Aluminum?

My parents managed an apartment/hotel in Spokane, WA, where we also lived. The Alcoa Plant Managers, who were setting up the Trentwood, WA, plant stayed at the place, and we got to know them.

They asked my dad if he'd like to work for the war effort, and he said yes. He was a cowboy from Montana with a third-grade education, but he learned how to read blueprints and became a Hydraulic Specialist at Trentwood, WA.

I went on to Oregon State on a Navy scholarship, and following graduation as a business major, I served my three years in the Navy. When I got out, I started looking for a job and found one

in Portland, but my dad said I should go to Trentwood, WA, first and talk to them. It was the first time my dad ever raised his voice to me. He was pretty determined that I work for Kaiser.



Ralph and Jan Cheek today

2. It appears that the first job at Trentwood, WA, led you to jobs at Kaiser plants all around the country and Europe. Tell us about it.

To my dad's delight, I started off in 1955 at Trentwood, WA, as a Scrap Foreman and went on to be a Planner, then a Shift Foreman, Planning Scheduling Supervisor and, finally, General Foreman before transferring to Ravenswood, WV, as a Chief Planner. I was only 29 years old, and it was a little intimidating working with all these people who had much more experience.

Two years later, I was back in California opening a new Mobile Home Panel Division in Anaheim, CA, with such great teammates as Jesse Erickson, Nadine Egner Blansett, and Sid Weber. I asked that Nadine be transferred with me from Ravenswood, WV. She was the first woman in Kaiser that I knew of to be transferred across the country. Bill Edmunds gave us \$99,000 and told us to lease everything, which we did. It was such a success that we started a second plant in Elkhart, IN.

In 1965, I had my biggest transfer yet. Kaiser sent me to Tokyo as a Technical Advisor to build the SKY aluminum rolling mill in Fukaya. It was a little



Ralph Cheek with Japanese engineers - 1965

Send KASRA Your News & Pictures

Write us your news, travels, stories... humorous tales welcome. Send a note to Sally Hogarty, P.O. Box 84, Canyon, CA 94516 or sallyhogarty@gmail.com.

* Photos encouraged.

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daunting working with all these Japanese engineers. I understood the business side, but I sweated out the technical side. Dave Fenton was the Marketing VP, and he was great.

After four years, I was transferred back to the states and worked as a Foil and Container Manager, with the can plants added subsequently – that made nine plants to visit. I went on to work at several plants and positions including the Manager of the Rod, Bar, and Wire Division, Forgings Division, and Sheet and Plate Division Manager. In 1980, I was sent to Düsseldorf, Germany to be Vice President of Manufacturing and Sales for Kaiser Aluminum Europe (KAE) with Manfred Knauer as a partner handling everything else expertly. It was a great job and our boss was nine time zones away! I was still on the KAE board when we moved to Portland, OR, where we negotiated with the Bonneville Power Administration for the power to run Kaiser's three Northwest plants. I finally retired in 1986 when KAE was sold.

3. How did your family fare with all this traveling?

Jan and I were already married when I first started working for Kaiser. We've now been married 58 years. She was a pharmacist and, luckily, really enjoyed traveling and was able to register as a pharmacist in four different states. But it was hard on her when we moved to Japan. I had to go ahead, leaving her in the states to sell the car and house, and get the kids through



Jan and Ralph Cheek at their youngest daughter Andrea's wedding.



Ralph and Jan Cheek in Germany - 1980

school before she came over. Our girls, Andrea and Diana, were 6 and 10 at the time and our son, Kevin, was 8. The kids thrived.

4. Although you retired from Kaiser in 1986, you stayed in the field didn't you?

I was happily retired when a headhunter showed up and offered me a position as CEO of IMCO Recycling. They had a plant in Oklahoma and one under construction in Tennessee. With the help of three younger Alcoa teammates and six great KACC consultants, we grew to multiple plants in the United States and Europe. We became the world's largest aluminum can recycler. I stayed on until 1994 and then retired to serve on their board.

5. What are you doing now?

Jan and I are enjoying our lovely retirement community in Cupertino. There is so much to do here at The Forum. It's a very active place. We also enjoy traveling and, a few years ago, we went on safari in South Africa with a family we had

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met when we were living in Düsseldorf, Germany.

We are very fortunate that all three of our children and our five grandchildren all live close by in Los Altos, CA, so we see

them often.

Work wise, I've sort of come full circle. I started out working in scrap at Trentwood, WA, finished in scrap in Dallas, TX, and now Jan has me picking up cans!

(What's Going On, from Page 4)

Workman (Cross Lanes, WV) visited recently. When not traveling, the former Ravenswood, WV, worker likes to golf and go boating. **Anna "Louise" Slusser** (Newport, WA) hops a plane to Seattle, WA, whenever she needs a "grandma" fix with her youngest granddaughter. The very busy former Mead Works, WA, employee does mission projects for her church as well as working on booths at the county fair for several organizations.

Evelyn Schwab (Slidell, LA) cruised to the British Isles and to the Scandinavian Isles. Formerly with Chalmette, LA, Evelyn also likes to golf and volunteers at Ochsner Hospital. Another former Chalmette, LA, employee, **Earl Gonzales, Sr.** (Chalmette, LA) took time out from his fishing and gardening to travel to Branson, MO, and Pigeon Forge, TN. A fairly recent newlywed, Earl married in Eureka Springs, AK in 2009.

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of events and your former colleagues in the Bay Area, Baton Rouge, Chalmette, Mead, Ravenswood and Tacoma. It is wonderful to hear of activities and view recent snapshots of retirees and surviving spouses whom we knew and who now reside some distance away. Please feel free to share and transmit digital photos of your special events along with descriptive captions by emailing them to web@e-kasra.com.

Forms – This section contains various forms. You can download all the KASRA and VEBA forms, including enrollment and reimbursement forms for your VEBA claims.

Contacts – General contact information is provided in the event you need to reach KASRA, The VEBA Third Party Administrator, Kaiser Aluminum, or the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

In terms of simple day-to-day logistics, please advise us of any **change in your postal and email addresses**. We want to be sure that you receive all of our communications. On the other hand, if you do not wish to receive any further communication from us, please let us know, and we will respect this and make a note of it in our database.

I trust by now that all of you who are eligible have filed your 2010 VEBA claim for reimbursement. For the year 2011, you have another year to file, but this has to be filed no later than December 31, 2012.

Here's hoping that you all have a happy and safe 2012 and, above all, continue to stay healthy and active!

Chris

Chris Laszcz-Davis
President, KASRA



John D'Antonio at Chalmette's December luncheon

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

January 12 Mead

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

February 9 Mead

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

February 14 Newark

Lunch at 11:00 a.m. at Stacy's Home-town Buffet in Heath, Ohio. Contact: Jim Bope (740) 601-7034 or email jbopeky@yahoo.com. Costs are paid by the Newark plant.

March 8 Chalmette

Lunch at 11:30 am at Todd Schaeffer's Original Family Restaurant 348 Robert Boulevard, Slidell, LA 70458. Cost is \$23.00/ person. RSVP by February 24th. Contact: Sherman Faught (985) 690-4942 or Chuck Schimmel (985) 643-0437 / schimcol@aol.com.

March 8 Mead

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

March 20 Trentwood

Lunch at 11:00 a.m. at the Valley Eagles located at 16801 E. Sprague Ave. Hot lunch served at 11:30 a.m. Mead retirees are always welcome. The cost for the meal and dues is \$11.00. Speaker



Evo Alexandre, Howard Nelson, and Colleen Geary attended the Bay Area December luncheon.



Roy Brennan, Clara Kenney, Clark Kenney, Carol Hamm, and Les Foster renewed friendships at Tacoma's December lunch.

from Spokane County Master Gardener Program. Please notify Steve Harvey at (509) 924-1132 or email s1harv3v@comcast.net.

In Memoriam

Dorothy V. Bagley - Erie, PA
Rufus Emmet Berry - Metairie, LA
Haskell W. Bramlett - Diablo, CA
William H. Cooke - Federal Way, WA
Junius E. Cox - Lacombe, LA
Fred C. Ferrell - Gallipolis, OH
E. Arthur (Art) Haglund - Spokane, WA
Edward F. Kenard - Savannah, GA
Claudette E. Kranson - San Leandro, CA
Albert S. LeBlanc - Baton Rouge, LA
James (Jim) P. McMahon - Spokane, WA
John F. Naddy III - West Linn, OR
John R. (Jack) Nemes - San Francisco, CA
Edward W. Pfeifer - Plymouth Meeting, PA
Paul E. Richards - Portland, OR
Robert L. Shelton - Marietta, GA
Henry R. Snyder - San Diego, CA

Thank you to everyone who sent information about the death of a loved one. In 2011, this column informed retirees of the passing of 99 former colleagues.

Please inform us of a loved one's passing by contacting Klaus Adler at 1127 Rachele Rd., Walnut Creek, CA 94597, (925) 935-2938, kcharlie34@comcast.net.

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