



Chris Laszcz-Davis
KASRA President



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Kaiser Aluminum Salaried Retirees Association

A MESSAGE FROM THE KASRA PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Retirees/Surviving Spouses:

It's the close of yet another year, and we again have much to be thankful for. I'd like to thank you for letting me serve as your President, learning more about the KASRA organization and its stewards than I ever knew existed, and putting me in touch with so many with whom I'd worked with over the years. It has been an enriching year, and I'm grateful for the opportunity!

As you know, KASRA's main objective is to provide a vehicle for our retirees and surviving spouses to communicate current information about benefits and other retirees via the newsletters, website and mass e-mailing; answer queries about matters concerning retirement by phone, regular mail or e-mail; and share information about your many activities with your colleagues and friends. To enable us to keep our database current, **it is important that you provide us with any new address, e-mail or phone number change.** This way, we can continue to keep in touch with you and also facilitate communications between you and the many former colleagues and lifelong friends with whom you have shared a common path during your association with Kaiser.

After serving out their terms on the Board, Secretary **Ed Westerman** will earn a well-deserved retirement from the Board sometime in the spring of 2013 as **Steve Ping** moves into his role following his return to the United States.

Also transitioning for personal reasons is one of our Directors, **Mert Van Dreser**. We thank them both for volunteering their services and for the fine contributions they made. We are very fortunate in having **John Schnittker** and **Erach Tarapore** join us, and having **Steve Abernathy** continue to steward the website and database functions even after he left the Board. I continue to be amazed at the willingness of folks to step up to the plate for the broader KASRA retiree effort.

I would also like to acknowledge the other Board members, staff and retirees who make the KASRA efforts possible: **Ed Quinnan, Doug Mann, Paul Flores, Dan Dahlen, Klaus Adler, Carol Brown, Bob Irelan, Joanne Gutierrez, Bill Alsop, Sharon Fraetis, Sally Hogarty (freelance journalist), Kari Dahlen** and **Michelle Alviso of A-Mailing**. Without their help and that of the retiring members mentioned above, none of our objectives could have been met.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the regional directors (**John Billips, Norm Manger, Dave Whitman, Bob Eisenbach and Bob Mohr**) and plant reporters (**Tim Healy, Charlie Alexandre, Chuck Schimmel, Dan Petruss and Bill Snider**) - for keeping us all informed of news in their respective regions. I am also thankful to the many members who have shared their activities in the "What's Going On" section of the newsletter.

And finally, I must thank our former Presidents, **Dick Kauffman** and **Carlos Xavier**, for all their sage advice and help

WHAT'S GOING ON

Correction . . .

In the November newsletter, we inadvertently listed **Rodney McMillan** (Mount Vernon, OH) as restoring old flat and dome top trucks. It's trunks, and not trucks, that he restores!

Most Memorable Experience while at Kaiser . . .

Bob Gurtis (Ravenswood, WV) cites the strike in 1990 at Ravenswood, WV, as one of the most memorable times of his career. "We were escorted from the plant by a SWAT team, and my car was struck by an arrow on the way home. Pretty exciting times."

Roy Brennan remembers his 27 years with Kaiser first in Chalmette, LA, then Oakland, CA, and finally Tacoma, WA. "I have two most favorable memories during my career: 1) I served as Kaiser's Loaned Executive to United Way Pierce County campaign in 1996. For four months I called on companies in the area soliciting donations to the United Way Campaign. This was relaxing and fun. 2) I loved the social activities surrounding the operations of our facilities. For many years, I provided the computer scoring and organization details for the annual Tri-Plant Golf Tourney in the

NW. This competition was between the Mead, Trentwood and Tacoma plants." As an avid photographer, Ron took pictures for many years at Tacoma's Christmas for Kids party. Today, he takes pictures of the Tacoma retirees at their luncheons, which you can see in the KASRA newsletter and on the website.



Carolyn and Roy Brennan have many fond memories of Roy's years with Kaiser.



Bob Gurtis enjoying his retirement at the beach in Naples, Florida.

Birthdays and Anniversaries . . .

Several retirees celebrated 60th wedding anniversaries this summer: **Edward Bergquist** (Monroeville, LA), who worked at the Valco, Africa, Reduction plant, and his wife Beth, and **Carl Holland** (Bay Minette, AL) and his wife Betty. Carl has become quite the musician. He plays and sings country, bluegrass and gospel music with the group Southern Sunshine. They can often be heard at the local Veterans Home, Oakwood Manor Nursing Home, and various churches throughout the area. Also celebrating 60 years of wedded bliss is **Frank "Beef" Lewis** (Baton Rouge, LA). The former Gramercy Works, LA, retiree also volunteers on the U.S.S. Kidd anchored in Baton Rouge and plays golf.

Former KASRA president **Carlos Xavier** (Walnut Creek, CA) and his wife celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a trip to Maui, HI. Carlos' children and grandchildren also attended, making a grand total of 12 in their party.

Ida Kloner (Bristol, RI) says she's

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doing lots of relaxing, a bit of gardening, reading and a few trips to Cape Cod, MA. The former Portsmouth, RI, employee is grateful that she and her husband, who is 91 years young, are still able to get around, take care of their own yard, and enjoy their many nieces and nephews. Celebrating her 91st birthday is **Phyllis Glubka** (Lincoln, CA), the surviving spouse of **Vincent Glubka**.

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

Richard H. Possner (Wellfleet, MA) who worked at the Bristol, RI, plant, enjoys woodworking, gardening and traveling. He has visited Daytona Beach, FL, and Cape Cod, MA, recently, has also found time to volunteer for Meals on Wheels, and participates at his local American Legion post.

Former design supervisor for Trentwood, WA, **James Burgess** (Stuart, FL) has been caring for his wife who had a stroke in 1992, which left her arm and leg paralyzed. "I'm fortunate that our condominium is only two miles from the nursing home she is in since suffering a fall. Being there for my beautiful wife is my full time retirement." At 91-years-young, **Lilly Mitchell** (Deer Park, WA), surviving spouse of **James Mitchell**, doesn't travel as much any more and enjoys making aprons for Christmas gifts. When James worked for Kaiser, the two traveled to India.

Not quite ready for retirement, **Carl F. Lupp** (Erie, PA) recently left his full time job at the Erie County Court House for a 20-hour a week position at the Erie County Library as a security guard. When not traveling to Maui, HI, with his son Jon or visiting Lake Tahoe, CA, **Bob Irelan** (Rancho Murieta, CA) volunteers at the campaign office for U.S.

Congressional candidate, Ami Bera. "We also joined Kaiser alums **Gary Simpson**, **Joe Piedmont** and **Tim Conlon** in Walla Walla, WA, for our annual get together. When at home, I try to be as responsive as possible to Jocko, the cat."

Lynn Huston (Erie, PA) wants to say "Thank You" for the KASRA Newsletter. The former worker at Erie Forgings, PA, now restores old furniture and repairs religious statues. **Janice Coon Smith** (Erie, PA) recently organized a political campaign for a local supervisor. Former Ravenswood, WV, employee **Daniel Reynolds** (Washington, WV) divides his time between Washington, WV, and Debary, FL. "I load bikes, kayaks and other toys in a cargo trailer and spend the winter in Florida. I also find time to run a hotshot truck that I haul cars with."

Quilting is the latest hobby for former Ravenswood, WV, worker **Joanne Clevenger** (Letart, WV). **Lee Thach** (Clarkston, WA) sings four times a month at various retirement homes. "We sing songs from the '30s,'40s, and '50s, and it's very rewarding when we see people's reactions to songs they grew up with. Some even sing along with us." Golf and boating keep **Robert Workman** (Cross Lanes, WV) busy, as well as trips to Myrtle Beach, SC. "Life has much to offer; sample



Former Mead employees, family and friends enjoyed the May luncheon. (Circular from L) Sharon Patteson, Jack Lee, Margie Bailey, Ila Atwood, Bob Jewett, Don Smith, George Austin, Harold Totten, Trula Hedstrom, Danny Coe, Vern VandeVander, and Dan Petrus.

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everything,” says **William Salassi** (Ponchatoula, LA). William spends time gardening, canning, doing house and yard maintenance, reading and keeping up with his “Honey Do” list.

Andrew Barlay (Phoenix, AZ) was with Kaiser’s Law Department in Oakland, CA, for 26 years. Following his retirement in 1986, he moved to Hayden Lake, Idaho, before moving to Arizona this year to be near his grandchildren.

Meanwhile, **George Deishl** (Pahrump, NV) is “loving life” in the desert after years of “infernally” rain in Oregon and Washington. The former Trentwood, WA, Rolling Mill employee now enjoys making jewelry, doing yard work, and gardening. **Edwin Donnell** (Walnut Creek, CA) enjoys being involved with the I.O.O.F. Lodge in Berkeley. He’s a 65-year member.

Reading the KASRA Newsletter keeps **Don “Woody” Woodward** (Oakbrook, IL) informed about colleagues. To give his four daughters an idea of why they were each born in a different state, he wrote “The Glory Years of KACC,” which chronicled all the moves he made as a Kaiser employee as the company grew and expanded. “I showed it to my youngest daughter, and she wasn’t all that impressed.” **Betsy Ross Grant** (Oakland, CA) keeps busy with crossword puzzles and reading. She recently moved into an assisted living facility.

Otto Weil (Bennington, VT) is now teaching at a local tutorial center. He enjoys music and recently traveled to Japan. Meanwhile, **William Prior** (Heath, OH) considers his retirement a permanent vacation as he enjoys the



Larry Nuzum stands by the boat he and his family used to cruise the United Kingdom -- a 32', two bedroom, bath, kitchen and dining area inboard diesel.

beaches of Florida. When at home, the former worker in environmental affairs, volunteers as an income tax preparer and publishes “The Good News,” a monthly religious paper. Also volunteering is **Jack Holtzapple** (Lafayette, CA), who drives seniors who can’t drive anymore to appointments. He took a break from his volunteer duties in May to take a 24-day cruise and traveled with his two granddaughters (ages 10 and 11) on an educational trip with Road Scholars.

Traveling Near and Far . . .

Larry Nuzum (Pinetos, AZ) found traveling on the water was a unique way to see the countryside on a recent trip to the United Kingdom. “We cruised the River Thames from London to Oxford two times and also an area west of Norwich called ‘The Broads,’ which is across from Holland,” he says. The boats for hire will accommodate 2 – 10 people. I don’t recommend the more narrow canal boats.”

A great time was had by all when **Bill Snider** (Newark, OH) hosted his son and daughter-in-law from Bangkok, Thailand, for a 32 day visit. Other family members

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Slidell's Chuck Schimmel Describes Recent Storms

My wife and I stayed during Isaac. We had minor wind damage (lost shutters, fascia down, roof leaks, lots of tree debris), but no flooding. We live in north Slidell as opposed to south Slidell which saw two bayous cause flooding as far up as Olde Town. We lost power for two days, but we have two small generators, which allowed us to keep our freezers and ice box going without spoilage. It also allowed for the dispensing of ice cubes and water, which made single malt that much more appealing. Having cold beer is also a good thing when dealing with natural disasters. For us, Isaac was more of an inconvenience or bump in the road. We had less than \$1,000 in damage as compared to Katrina's damage of \$50,000.

Other Kaiser retirees were not as lucky. **Al Miller** and his wife Wanda are in Plaquemine Parish (south of New Orleans) lived outside the levee protection and lost it all with their property totally immersed in floodwaters. Al and his family lost everything in Katrina and have now decided to relocate. Another retiree **Jerry Mullett** and his wife Carol live on a bayou in Slidell and his home flooded on the ground level. Katrina flooded them also. He and his family are now living on the upper level and renovating the lower. They plan to stay.

Hurricane Katrina and the flooding and forced evacuation of New Orleans was a



A dog named **Buster** stares out to where his front yard used to be.

situation like no other. In the past seven years, some \$15 billion has been spent on the levee system protecting New Orleans. It worked this time during Isaac. Those improvements following Katrina, along with Kaiser retiree relocations, allowed less severe impact to our group during Isaac.

However, the coastal areas were impacted negatively. Storm surge, abetted by long lasting, heavy rains caused river overflow and flooded areas not normally affected. As you would expect, there were many power outages - some extensive. Our oldest son and his family in Baton Rouge were without electricity for a week.

So the storm impact, in addition to flooding, was wide spread. One intangible that probably comes from the hurricanes is the fact that the rest of the USA finally realizes (hopefully) that the Gulf Coast is very critical to the well being of the entire nation. As Rodney Dangerfield would say we're "finally getting some respect."

As far as coping, this region is pretty pragmatic. The French saying C'est la vie (roughly translated: "That's Life") pretty much applies. The people here are proud, tenacious and simply suck it up and carry on. Everybody moans and groans, but in the end, they praise God that the situation was not worse.

And, we all love to tell war stories when it's over.



Slidell Flooding: Residents of Slidell had to use boats to get around their neighborhoods following the flooding caused by Isaac.

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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joined them for a trip to the Battle Creek, MI, air show. "Very exciting with the Blue Angels and 44 hot air balloons," says Bill. The group all jumped into Bill's large Chevy van and went to Niagara Falls for three nights. "We got very wet standing in the middle of the mist and in the caves, but we had a great vacation."

Formerly with Human Resources in Oakland, CA, **Lew Albright** (San Diego, CA) and his wife Shirley went to the Utah Shakespeare Festival in September and then on a fall foliage tour of New England in October with time to see plays in New York. Shirley recently took up watercolor painting and had one of her pictures accepted into a prestigious juried exhibit in La Jolla, CA. Lew, meanwhile, continues to work on his golf game!

Robert Stephens (Portland, OR) enjoyed 10 days in Germany, Holland and Belgium this summer and his seventh trip to Alaska in September. The 94-year-old former worker at Moss Landing Refractories in Monterey, CA, also volunteers at a local computer recycle

center and finds time for fishing, doing woodworking and playing bridge.

Family keeps **Robert Farris** (Bella Vista, AR) traveling about. The former employee of CFT in Pleasanton, CA, attended his granddaughter's college graduation from Humboldt State in Arcadia, CA, his grandson's wedding in Manteca, CA, joined his youngest son in Maui, HI, and attended another granddaughter's law school graduation in Philadelphia, PA!

Surviving spouse **Gretta Byrne** (Haines City, FL) took time off from bridge and gin rummy to travel to the Bahamas, as well as visit family in New York, NY, and Pennsylvania.

Best Wishes . . .

Betty Blair (Mineral Wells, WV), former senior secretary/receptionist at Belpre, OH, certainly knows how to make the best of every situation. A severe stroke affected her optic nerves three years ago making it difficult for her to see clearly. She refuses, however, to let that slow her

down. She remains active with her sorority, relatives, and many friends. In addition, she organizes the quarterly breakfasts for the former Kaiser members in Belpre. "I just pray daily that it never gets any worse," she says. She shares a saying that has helped keep her going these past three years in the hope that it may help others as well. "Life is not always the way it is supposed to be . . . It's just the way it is. The way you cope with it is



(L-R) Jack Beck, Susan Hutchinson, Rae Beck, Rose Brady, John Hutchinson, and Ray Gendron renewed friendships and good times at the April lunch in Baton Rouge.

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what makes the difference.”

John Lambert (Gonzales, LA) is fairly healthy physically but suffering from Alzheimer's reports his wife Iris. Former Chalmette Works, LA, **J. Dewey Grecore** (Prairieville, LA) had a pace maker installed this summer. The 85 year old had a heart bypass in 1997 and a valve replacement in 2007 but he says, “everything is still ticking!”

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over the past year; also **Doug Allen, Art Donaldson** and **Jed Daniel** for their invaluable advice on VEBA matters.

Please continue to send in your pictures and your news stories. Be sure to check out the KASRA website at www.e-kasra.com for forms, archived newsletters and new pictures from regional lunches and dinners. One last and final thought: **If you have not filed your VEBA claim for reimbursement of up to \$2,100 per family unit for medical premiums paid in 2011, you must do so before the December 31, 2012 deadline. However, you have until December 31, 2013 to file your VEBA claim for reimbursement of up to \$2,100 per family for medical premiums paid in 2012.**

Enjoy the holiday season wherever you may be these days! Here's hoping you enjoy the memories of family, friends and colleagues as you gather round the table for a fine holiday meal. Our prayers and thoughts are with you all.

Chris

Chris Laszcz-Davis
President, KASRA

In Memoriam



L.E.(Lee) Gardner - Summerall, MS

Paul R. Ehmke, Jr - Parkersburg, WV

F. Brooke Hall - Skippack, PA

*Ernst N. Hochberger -
Montgomery, TX*

*Richard J. Hoskinson -
Zanesville, OH*

*Gerald L. Hunt -
Winter Haven, FL*

*James (Jim) K. Johnson -
Tacoma, WA*

Robert R. Keleher - Fremont, CA

Richard E. Lee - McDonough, GA

Peter J. Lucido - Prairie Village, KS

Jack D. Orndorff - Humboldt, IL

Frank O. Ransom - Pascagoula, MS

*Sidney (Sid) G. Roberts -
Chandler, AZ*

Ralph L. Sheneman - Carmichael, CA

*Alan Keith Sprouse -
Palm Springs, CA*

Daniel K. Squires - Yorba Linda, CA

Charlotte A. Thorestad - Tacoma, WA

Janet L. Vogelgesang - Roseville, CA

Doris L. Wright - Moraga, CA

** Died more than a year ago*

Please inform us of a retiree or spouse passing. Include date of death, city and state, and first name of surviving spouse. If possible, a copy or link to the obituary or name of the newspaper would be helpful. Contact Klaus Adler, 1127 Rachele Rd., Walnut Creek, CA 94597 or (925) 935-2938 or kcharlie34@comcast.net.

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

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
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November 5 Los Angeles

Lunch - Noon at The Elephant Bar 1403 E. Firestone Blvd., La Mirada. Contact Bob O'leary at (714) 898-7463. Lunches are always first Monday of each month.

November 8 Mead

Lunch - 11:00 a.m. at Cathay Inn, North Division St. Contact Danny Petrus at (509) 483-2171 or dpjr70@comcast.net.

November 8 Baton Rouge

Lunch - Noon at Oak Lodge in Baton Rouge. Contact Jerry Ordeneaux at (225) 273-6637 or Camp Matens at (225)769-9020 or cematens@cox.net.

November 20 Trentwood

Meet at 11:00 a.m. at The Valley Eagles, 16801 E. Sprague Ave. Hot lunch served at 11:30 a.m. Mead retirees always welcome. Contact Steve Harvey at (509) 924-1132 or s1harv3y@comcast.net.

November 24 Bay Minette

Meet at 3:00 p.m. at Street's Restaurant, Bay Minette. Contact Betty Wilson at (251) 626-1262 or bsw1939@netzero.com.

November 30 Belpre

Breakfast 9:00 a.m. at Shoney's, Garfield Ave. Paarkersburg, W.V. Contact Betty Lou Blair at (304) 489-1337.

December 1 Ravenswood

McCoy's Conference Center. Contact Dave Whitman at (304) 273-5548 or dwhitman@wirefox.com or Lee Corder at (304) 273-9457.

December 5 Tacoma

Lunch - 11:30 a.m. at Johnny's Dock, 1900 East "D" Street, Tacoma. Contact Bob Mohr at (253) 820-6569.

December 6 Chalmette

Lunch - 11:30 a.m. at Todd Shaffer's Original Family Restaurant, 348 Robert Blvd. Slidell. Cost \$23 per person. Con-



John Malm (L) and Clif Arnold caught up on all the news at Chalmette's September luncheon.

tact Chuck Schimmel at (985) 643-0437 or schimcol@aol.com or Sherman Faught (985) 690-4924.

December 10 Los Angeles

Lunch - Noon at The Elephant Bar, 1403 E. Firestone Blvd. La Mirada. Contact Bob O'Leary at (714) 898-7463. Lunches are always the first Monday of each month.

December 10 KARLA - (Bay Area)

11:00 a.m. social hour. Christmas lunch at Noon. Wedgewood Banquet Center, San Ramon Golf Club. Contact Sharon Fraetis at (925) 934-4334 or lafnatv@silicon.com. E-mails will be sent to all Bay Area KASRA members announcing guest speakers and program.

December 11 Newark

Lunch - 11:00 a.m. at Stacy's Hometown Buffet, Heath. Meal picked up by Newark Works. Contact Bill Snider at (740)

403-8328 or colbill44@roadrunner.com.

December 13 Mead

Lunch - 11:30 a.m. at Cathay Inn, North Division St. Contact Danny Petrus at (509)483-2171 or dpjr70@comcast.net.

December Erie

Contact Tim Healy regarding date, time and location of gathering at thealy7@verizon.com.