



Chris Laszcz-Davis  
KASRA President

Visit website at  
[www.e-kasra.com](http://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](mailto:kasra@e-kasra.com)

### *Kaiser Aluminum Salaried Retirees Association*

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE KASRA PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Retirees/Surviving Spouses:

We hope that you've had a chance by now to slow down after the holiday rush and anticipate the new year with some wonderful adventures, family and friend visits, and community work opportunities.

**Newsletter.** The response to our request for you to share with us your pictures of retiree events or your vacation photos has been positive. Keep them coming! Also, your response to sharing with others the volunteer work in which you are currently engaged has been interesting and energizing for us all. Please continue to let us know about the volunteer work you are doing, the activities you're engaged in, the travels you take, how your family is faring, what anniversaries you've welcomed, and any other special events. We encourage any suggestions from you on how we can improve our newsletter.

**Website.** This resource gives us greater flexibility in providing news and information to our members since we are not constrained by space or cost. We try to provide current news and articles as we receive them. You can read more on the website [www.e-kasra.com](http://www.e-kasra.com). Our webmaster, **Steve Abernathy**, will be happy to receive your feedback at [web@e-kasra.com](mailto:web@e-kasra.com).

**Email.** This is the fastest and most economical way for KASRA to communicate information with all of our "connected" members. Please continue to provide us with any changes in your email address as soon as you can. About half of our retirees now receive their newslet-

ter via email. For those who do not use email, we will be happy to hear from you through regular mail as well.

**VEBA.** If you are aware of anyone who has not yet applied for the VEBA benefits to which they are entitled, please contact us at [kasra@e-kasra.com](mailto:kasra@e-kasra.com), and we will be happy to follow up. As a reminder, this benefit is not automatic, and the eligible person must first enroll and then annually apply to the VEBA Third Party Administrator for reimbursement. Application forms are available on our website or on request to us. KASRA provides copies of all VEBA Benefit Program materials on its website.

Please continue to keep us informed so that we can continue to keep you informed. Above all, stay active and positive!

And parting thought: Try and stay as healthy as you can and remember the five L's:

**Live** – enjoy life;

**Love** – family, friends, and let them know;

**Learn** – never stop learning;

**Leave a Legacy** – did you make a contribution to your world? And most of all....;

**LAUGH** – and never take yourself too seriously.

*Chris*

Chris Laszcz-Davis  
President, KASRA

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### Accomplishments . . .

**Colin Ward** (St. Petersburg, FL), who worked at the Extrusion Division Office in Dallas, TX, is into sailing and photography. His greatest love, however, is music, and he just released a new music disc called "Dream on Down to the Keys."

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

Spending time with family and friends keeps **Sam Brady** (Erie, PA) active. He has been going to a family cabin since he was 13, a tradition he continues with his own children, grandchildren and friends. He also helps family with household repairs, goes to the gym three days a week, volunteers at his church, and finds time to go hunting and fishing. **Richard "Dick" Nowell** (Spokane Valley, WA), who worked at Ravenswood Works, WV, traveled through the Pacific Northwest in 2012. When at home, he enjoys golf, yard work and theatre shows. **William Maher** (North Muskegon, MI), who used to call on GM, Ford and Chrysler for Kaiser, enjoys gar-



**Art Wilson, Les Foster and Rob Buller at the Tacoma, WA, December 2012 luncheon.**

dening and boating. **Daniel Perry** (Deer Park, WA), a former garage supervisor in Spokane, WA, suffers from dementia and needs 24-hour care. Another veteran of Mead Works, WA, **Stephen Moran** (Deer Park, WA), enjoys fishing and yard work and, most especially, visiting his kids who are all in the Air Force.

**Leslie L Buchholz** (McMinnville, OR), who used to work at Trentwood, WA, loves to garden as well as camp in his new teardrop trailer. Enjoying time with his wife, children and grandchildren, Leslie still finds time to volunteer at the McMinnville Garden Club and the Gallery Theater. **Aprina Leavy** (Oakland, CA) works as a travel consultant and loves exercising, attending the opera and listening to classical music. The 96 years young **Mrs. Wilbert J. Lawler** (Mountain View, CA), the surviving spouse of Kaiser employee **Wilbert (Wib) Lawler**, loves traveling and reading and "keeping up with what's happening with my husband's contemporaries."

**Betty Lou Koska** (Winnemucca NV) helps during her hometown county fair, while **Bill Reeve** (Troutdale, OR), who worked in air control at Tacoma Reduc-



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tion, WA, enjoys train trips to Everett, WA, for family get-togethers. He takes pride in working in his church garden to grow produce for Snowcap Charities, a county unit that provides food to people struggling because of unemployment or life tragedies. He also enjoys helping with children's sports activities. **Otto Vondrak** (Bend, OR) likes to work puzzles since his knees gave out. His wife, **Charlotte**, is doing well and, according to Otto, takes good care of him.

Former Mead Works, WA, employee **Anna Louise Slusser** (Newport, WA) keeps busy with church work, going on



**A large group at the Bay Area's KARLA December 2012 gathering enjoyed a delicious lunch and great speakers.**

trips to the casinos, and bowling, including the State Women's Tournament and the national tournament in Reno, NV. **Joseph Whittington** (Summit, MS), who last worked at Valco, Ghana, W. Africa, spends October in the Smokies at Hidden Mountain Resorts, TN. He keeps busy volunteering at his church and Sunday school and keeps very busy around the house as chief cook and bottle washer, repairman and "catcher of everything that's wrong." He has a dog named Yoda and a cat named Tiger, and a veterinarian who loves him!

**Elbert (Al) Vogel** (Flagstaff, AZ) paid

a visit to Mehoopany, PA, for his family's annual reunion. When at home in Arizona, he likes to snow ski, golf and attempt to grow Ohio grass in Arizona. "Trimming our buckeye tree, watching the Ohio State football team on TV, and working with the Knights of Columbus are my main events," says Elbert. **DeDe Cook** (Ashville, OH) hopes the strike at the former Ravenswood, WV, plant ends soon so they can sell their home in Ravenswood, WV, and live full time in Ohio. DeDe loves floating in their pool in Ohio and skyping with their six grandchildren.

Volunteering is important to **Dar Ekstrom** (Polson, MT) who works with Share the Spirit, distributing gifts to about 800 local kids.

The former Ravenswood,

WV, employee also works as a substitute teacher in his local middle and high school and raises cherries to give away to friends. Former Oakland, CA, Extrusion Division worker **Ralph Tomson** (Rancho Murieta, CA) has been the chairman of the Sloughhouse Fire District for the past eight years. He also serves as Treasurer of the Sons in Retirement Branch 150. Lots of changes for **Jim Simmons** (Mountain Brook, AL). He returned home to the Birmingham, AL, area after 44 years living in the greater Atlanta, GA, area. His wife passed away last year and he recently remarried.

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When not traveling between her son's home in Valley Springs, CA, and her daughter's home in Visalia, CA, **Helen Knight** (Oakland, CA) likes to golf, knit and go hiking. **Joe Darling** (Bristol, RI) is still active as a ham radio operator and manages to sail now and then. But most of his time right now is taken up training his new dog – a Yorkiepoo. "He's a tiny little thing," says Joe.

### Anniversaries, Birthdays and other Milestones . . .

Over 150 family and friends gathered at the home of **Norman Whitford** (Otis Orchards, WA) in September to celebrate his 90th birthday. The former Trentwood, WA, worker keeps busy talking to a local 4th-grade class about history, current events and keeping up his home on two-acres. **William "Bill" Bartlett** (Ravenswood, WV) celebrated his 65th anniversary with wife Mary in October. Bill, who recently enjoyed an excursion to Raleigh and Charlotte, NC, has logged 3500 miles on his road bike despite being a four time cancer survivor and having had both knees replaced.

Congratulations to **Clifford Rolie** (Spokane, WA). Not only did he turn 94 this year, but he also got to hold his first great great granddaughter. He has great memories of working for "the greatest company



**Norman Whitford celebrated his 90th birthday with over 150 family and friends at his home in Otis Orchards, WA. While Norman declined to send a photo of himself, he did graciously send this photo of his gorgeous great grandchildren.**

ever – Kaiser," especially his time abroad in India, Africa and Wales. His daughter Mary reads him the KASRA Newsletter each time it comes out and they play cribbage everyday. "His math is on the spot," says Mary. **Larry Tillman** (Elk, WA) and his wife Pam, weekly church goers, enjoyed their 50th class reunion at Shadle Park High School in Spokane, WA. The two 1962 grads are building a cabin with a beautiful deck at Elaika Lake, WA.

### Traveling Near and Far . . .

**Sally Donneaud** (Coeur d'Alene, ID), surviving spouse of **Donald Dean Donneaud**, likes to travel "anywhere that I think will be interesting!" She spends the winters in Bucerias, Nayarit, Mexico, close to Puerto Vallarta. In the last year, **Frank Gerlach** (Harborcreek, PA) has hunted moose and caribou in Newfoundland, mountain lions in Idaho, elk in New Mexico, and deep sea fished off Key West in FL. "Life only gets better," he says. Also traveling is **Elizabeth "Betty" Peach** (Tacoma, WA), who enjoys exploring the Northwest coast as well as cruising to Alaska. **Larry Britton** (Hudson, OH) and his wife Janet like to travel to



**Clifford Rolie celebrated his 94th birthday by holding his first great great granddaughter Adelyn. His daughter Mary (L), son Bradley (upper L), and grandson Bradley (upper R) joined in the fun.**

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Cape Cod, MA. When not traveling, Larry rides his motorcycle and helps Janet with her pet sitting business.

Traveling north in the summer, south in the winter and Pennsylvania in between keeps **William Miller** (West Chester, PA) and his wife Bette busy as they visit grandchildren. He says he's still making up to Bette for working too much over the years. **William Warfield** (Rancho Mirage, CA) plans a big trip every year vis-



**Frank Kraus, Dr. Frank Incaprera, George Guelfo and Earl Phillips at Chalmette, LA, December 2012 luncheon.**

iting the Mediterranean in 2010, Norway and England in 2011, and the European waterways in 2012. **Michael Garven** (Graham, FL), who worked at Jacksonville, FL, lost his wife in 2011. Michael really enjoys the outdoors and getting to know his great grandchildren. He travels back and forth to Ohio a couple of times a year and down south to St. Petersburg, FL.

**Margaret Cooper-Terrell** (El Sobrante, CA), who worked in Kaiser's credit department, plans to take an Alaskan Cruise the first week of June 2013. This past

year, she traveled to Lake Chelan, WA, in April and Breckenridge, CO, in July. She calls both "beautiful places." It's amazing that **Bobby Osborn** (Watsonville, CA) has time for gardening, exercise and the American Legion Post 121 with all the traveling he does. He's been to Disneyland, Disney World, Branson, MI, Australia, Luxemburg, Germany and London, England.

Former Trentwood, WA, Works employee

**Arthur Hoener** (Bayview, ID) has also done quite a bit of traveling during the past two years. He visited Utah, New Mexico, Nevada, California, Oregon, Washington and Colorado. He also traveled to Scottsdale, AZ, for laser spine surgery. When he is home, he enjoys being part of the American Legion Post 149.

Also burning up the highway is **Russell Radach** (Porterville, CA) and his wife Leona. They have traveled around the U.S. three times and "Rv'd" in 49 states. "We just returned from a two month trip to Nevada, Idaho, Washington and Oregon, visiting family along the way," says Russell. **Sherry Hellyer** (Ravenswood, WV), the surviving spouse of **Homer Hellyer**, loves going to bluegrass shows. She also went to Alaska and headed for Florida in February. She plans to drive all the way to Washington State in May. When at home, Sherry works as a hair stylist.

### 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](mailto:sallyhogarty@gmail.com).

\* Photos encouraged.

## MEMBER PROFILE: Jack Hopper

**Jack Hopper**, former Production Superintendent at the Trentwood, WA, facility in Spokane, WA, and former Plant Manager at the Ravenswood, WV, facility in Ravenswood, WV, lives in Spokane with his wife of 62 years, **Shirley**.

### Tell us about your career with Kaiser.

After earning my Bachelor's Degree from the South Dakota School of Mines and, subsequently, my Masters Degree in Metallurgical Engineering from Washington State University in 1950, I was one of 15 hired by Kaiser Trentwood, WA, as a management trainee. From 1950 to 1965, I managed essentially every production department in the plant.

In 1965, Works Manager **Ira Davidson** promoted me to the position of Production Superintendent. During this time period, the Production Superintendent managed the total plant on a 24-hour basis, which included responsibility for multiple capital projects, i.e. the new 2-side scalper, induction furnace, scalper, ingot saw, cladding center, and the 5" shear. Ira was responsible for the staff functions of Accounting, Labor Relations, Security, Industrial Relations, Technical, Engineering, Maintenance, and Environmental, as well as corporate management and staff.

In 1970, I was transferred to the Kaiser facility in Ravenswood, WV, as the Fabrication Plant Manager. The plant was very different from Trentwood, WA, in that the fabrication and reduction plants were joined together by a hot metal tunnel. We employed 3,500 people in the fabrication plant and 1,000 in reduction. In Spokane, WA, the Trentwood fabrication and Mead reduction facility were located about 11 miles apart.



**Jack Hopper and his wife Shirley.**

At the time I arrived in Ravenswood, the plant was producing approximately 17 million pounds of aluminum monthly. Ten years later (1980), on my last day as Plant Manager, we were producing 62 million pounds! During my tenure, I was blessed to work with a world class group of people – both in the hourly and salaried positions. While labor issues in Ravenswood were admittedly more time consuming, we never missed our production target, and we made money.

On March 9, 1973, I began communicating to all employees through a monthly newsletter. My goal was to inform the employees of our achievements, problems we were experiencing, results of what we were doing, and the goals we hoped to accomplish. I also wanted to commend and thank each one for the dedicated support and personal contribution they were making to guarantee their future, as well as the growth and future of the Ravenswood Works, the Union, and of our entire company.

Our foremost achievement involved employee safety. Our team at Ravenswood was focused on being the benchmark in the industry, and we were

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honored to have earned eight Kaiser Cups and two President's Cups during the 10-year period I was privileged to manage this talented workforce. My closing comment in my last newsletter to the employees was, "Working together, we have the capability to satisfy the needs and demands of our customers better than any plant in our industry. We, working together, have the capability and the talent to operate the most efficient and lowest cost plant in our industry. The challenge today is to do it – safely."

#### **What did you do after your assignment as Fabrication Plant Manager?**

On January 23, 1980, I was promoted to the position of Assistant Works Manager at Ravenwood, WV. I held this position for five years, and was responsible for all corporate functions, Center for Technology, Labor Relations, and staff related functions. In 1985, Trentwood, WA, was installing a new hot mill, so when I was asked to assist on the project, we moved back to Washington state. The plant today supports the aerospace industry, which is what it was originally built to do. I retired from Kaiser in 1990 after 39 years of service.

#### **You still have a connection to Kaiser through your children, correct?**

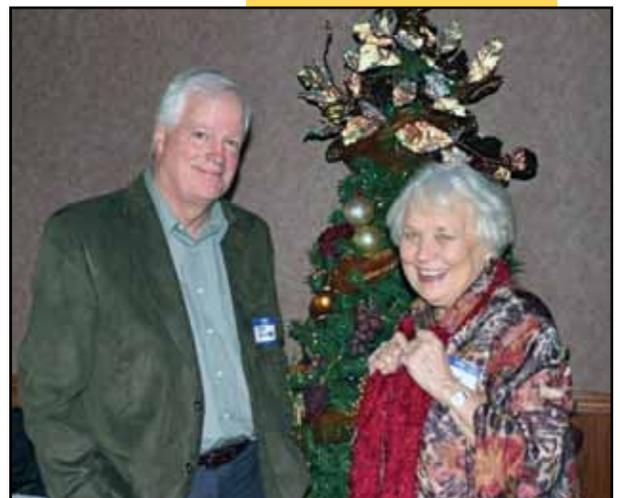
Yes. Our daughter, Melissa Burke, works in the Inside Sales group at Trentwood, WA, and is responsible for servicing the Boeing account as well as the largest distributor of aluminum in Canada and various other domestic customers. Our son, Gordon Hopper, is the Ravenswood, WV, Plant Manager for Century Aluminum (formerly Kaiser).

#### **Can you tell us about your other son, Carl, who is going through a difficult time right now?**

Four days before Christmas last year, Carl was rushed to the hospital with signs of a stroke. He was only a week away from turning 60 years old. After performing further testing, we were advised that not only had he had a minor stroke, but they discovered he had stage 4 cancer. They discovered four tumors on his brain, one located on the brain stem, which was responsible for the stroke. The cancer originally started in the kidney and spread to the chest, lymph system, lung, and brain. He is receiving outstanding care and is responding well to his treatment plan. We are hopeful for positive results. What is most frustrating for him is that he is no longer able to drive a vehicle, and here his 87-year-old dad and 86-year-old mom can!

#### **What are you doing during your retirement?**

Shirley and I have been blessed in that we are still able to live independently in our own home. We love our home in Spokane, WA, but we also have a summer place at Twin Lakes, ID. We spend about four months during the spring and summer there enjoying the wonderful golf course, lake and great friends. It's close enough that we are able to commute between the two residences when required. Between our three children, we have six grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren that keep us young! Just sending Christmas and birthday cards to that crew can make you go broke. Since we send more than just cards, we're destitute! Just kidding!



Admiring the Christmas tree at Tacoma, WA's, December 2012 luncheon are John Baker and Rita Mae Jones.

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E-Mail:  
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**March, April, May Ravenswood**  
The date and time is to be determined.  
Contact Lee Corder at (304) 273-9457  
or Dave Whitman at (304) 273-5548 or  
dwhitman@wirefox.com.

**March 4, April 1, May 5 Los Angeles**  
Lunch is normally held at noon on the  
first Monday of each month usually at  
The Elephant Bar, 1403 Firestone Ave,  
La Mirada. Contact Bob O'Leary at  
(714) 898-7463 to confirm.

**March 7, April, May Chalmette**  
Time and location to be determined.  
Contact Chuck Schimmel at (985) 643-  
0437 or schimcol@aol.com or Sherman  
Faight at (985) 690-4924.

**March 14, April 11, May 9 Mead**  
Lunch 11:30 a.m. at Cathay Inn, North  
Division St. Contact Danny Petruss at  
(509) 483-2171 or Dpir70@comcast.net.

**March 19 & April 16 Trentwood**  
Meet at 11:00 a.m. at The Valley Eagles,  
16801 E. Sprague Ave. Hot lunch will  
be served at 11:30. Mead retirees are  
always welcome. Contact Steve Harvey  
at (509) 924-1132 or slharv3y@comcast.  
net.

**April 9 Newark**  
Meet at 11:00 a.m. at Stacy's Hometown  
Buffet, Heath, OH. Meal is paid for by  
the Newark plant. Contact Bill Snider at  
(740) 403-8328 or colbill44@roadrunner.  
com.

**April 25 Baton Rouge**  
At Oak Lodge. Contact Bob Eisenbach  
at (225) 926-1334 or bobeisenbach@att.  
net for specifics.

**April 26 Belpre**  
9:00 a.m. at Shoney's on Garfield Ave.  
Parkersburg, W.V. Contact Betty Lou  
Blair at (304) 489-1337 or bettylou13@  
suddenlink.net.

**April 27 Bay Minette**  
3:00 p.m. at Streets Restaurant, Bay  
Minette. Contact Betty Wilson at (251)  
626-1262 or Bsw1939@netzero.com.

**May 13 KARLA (Bay Area)**  
11:00 a.m. social hour. Lunch at Noon  
followed by speaker on the Bay Bridge  
Retrofit. Wedgewood Banquet Center,  
San Ramon Golf Club. Contact Sharon  
Fraetis at (925) 934-4334 or lafnaty@  
sil-con.com

### In Memoriam

*Leslie R. Burnett - Berkeley, CA*  
*Donald Lewis Davis - Salem, SC*  
*Anne M. Ferreira - Walnut Creek, CA*  
*Joseph Dewey Gregoire - Prairieville, LA*  
*Annette M. Harris - Spokane, WA*  
*John Roger Holliday - Newark, OH*  
*James Don Jenkins - Lodi, CA*  
*Frank Eugene Outen - Plant City, FL*  
*Vincent Harry Poettgen - Vallejo, CA*  
*Elouine S. Ryan - West Jefferson, NC*  
*Carl J. Ryskamp - Highland, IN*  
*Robert Quentin Sayre, Sr. - Ripley, WV*  
*John K. Signer - Whitesboro, TX*  
*Ray D. Woodward - Greenwood, SC*

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 help-  
ful. Contact Klaus Adler, 1127 Rachele  
Rd., Walnut Creek, CA 94597 or (925)  
935-2938 or [kcharlie34@comcast.net](mailto:kcharlie34@comcast.net).

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