



Steve Ping  
Erach Tarapore  
Mike Venie

KASRA  
Co-Presidents

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 the Delta Fund Administrators toll-free at (888) 344-8322 or email [VEBA@deltafund.com](mailto:VEBA@deltafund.com).

### *Kaiser Aluminum Salaried Retirees Association*

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE KASRA PRESIDENT

Spring is such a great time of year. Ok, those of us with allergies tend to suffer

for a few months until the spring pollen count drops way off. But still, the new seedlings, bright and copious flowers and warm air brings a big lift to one's heart and soul. We hope all of you endured the winter blues and kept your KASRA friendships going strong.

As KASRA's board of directors plans for future issues of our newsletter, one theme to cover has come up repeatedly: "The life and times of Henry J. Kaiser and his great influence on the many tens of thousands of employees and hundreds of thousands of family members." We all owe a great deal of gratitude to Henry J., or at least to his legacy of building so many businesses, instilling in us that one person can make a difference and feeling blessed for our Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation (KACC)-Family friendships. Only a few retirees are still alive who interacted with Henry J., but all of us felt his spirit. So the KASRA co-presidents are asking our members to send us any story/memory you have of Henry J. or how his legacy influenced your life. We will include the stories in upcoming newsletters for all members to enjoy.

If anyone knows of a Kaiser retiree or spouse who is having difficulties and could use help with their yearly submission for qualified medical expenses to VEBA, please take some time and help

them through the paperwork. **Help is also available by contacting the VEBA plan administrator, Delta Fund Administrators, LLC at 888-344-8322, or via email at [VEBA@Deltafund.com](mailto:VEBA@Deltafund.com).** As our members age gracefully, it is natural that some of us will find the VEBA filing process increasingly difficult or we simply forget to file. One great benefit of keeping local and long distance relationships with KACC retirees is the ability to easily ask for help from friends or to volunteer to help a friend. If even more difficult issues arise that your local area KASRA group or the VEBA plan administrator cannot solve, then please let the board of directors know via the KASRA website or write a letter to the board office address. We will do what we can to help.

Enjoy this beautiful time of year and stay happy and active!

All the best!

*Crach.*

*Michael Venie*

*Erach Tarapore*

Erach Tarapore, Mike Venie and  
Steve Ping  
Co-Presidents, KASRA

## WHAT'S GOING ON

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

**Fred Chambers, Jr.** (Waynesboro, GA) still finds “plenty to do” at the age of 89. Besides attending church weekly with his wife, Fred enjoys hunting wild turkeys, hogs and deer. At 91, **Alda H. Almeida** (Bristol, R.I.) is “trying to stay healthy. “I take it easy, read, and watch TV.” **Edward Marshall** (West-erly, R.I.) last worked for Wire and Cable in Portsmouth for Kaiser. He enjoys golfing and fishing, recently took a trip to Las Vegas, and works part-time in the produce department of a local Stop & Shop.

**Violet P. Johnson** (Zachary, LA) just moved from Minnesota to Louisiana to be near her granddaughter. Violet, who retired from the Permanente Foil Plant in California in 1982, still “misses California very much.” She says that Louisiana “is a lot different atmosphere,” and notes that “Gramercy is a long way south from here.”



Rebecca Edwards, Tom Edwards and Dick Kauffman have fun at the Bay Area's holiday luncheon at the San Ramon Golf Club.

**Betty Lou Koska** (Winnemucca, NV) enjoys taking art classes at her senior center: “This quarter I am taking painting. I’ve almost finished painting a cat on a slab of wood carved in a feline shape. I also take music classes at the center. Twice a week we entertain the seniors. Because there is another couple that needs a walker, I don’t feel bad about my own inability to walk well.” Betty Lou, who also enjoys playing in the water though she doesn’t swim, notes that she was dragged by my horse three years ago

and “last year I slipped in a restroom at WalMart and broke my hip.” Betty Lou, adjusting well, began therapy in March.



Kathleen Pilie', Augie Albano, Earl Bellanger, Ted Aucoin, Doc Incap-rera, John Malm and Pat Arnold renew friendships at Chalmette's March 7 luncheon.

**Best Wishes . . .**  
Condolences to the families of surviving spouses **Mary Velma Clark** and **Mary Lou Oxley**.

## MEMBER PROFILE: Joe Bonn

**Joe Bonn** worked for Kaiser for 37 years, retiring as Executive Vice President in 2004. He received his BS from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and his MBA in Finance from Cornell's Johnson Graduate School of Management. He and his wife Barbara live in Alamo, CA. They have two sons, Chris and Bryan, and six grandchildren.

### *What attracted you to Kaiser?*

Would you believe, for a science/finance person, the Summer of Love and surfing? Of course, there were other reasons, but San Francisco, CA, with everything going on and the prospect of surfing the California coastline factored into my decision.

It was 1967. I had just finished my MBA and was going through the typical process where companies came to schools to interview graduating students.

Kaiser was one of several companies I talked to and one of three that made me a job offer. Ford Motor Company wanted me to work in Detroit, and Exxon offered me a place in New York City. I opted for Kaiser, in Oakland for three reasons:

1. I liked the people I met and also the culture at their headquarters with a history going back to Henry and Edgar Kaiser, both of whom were still alive at the time.

2. Kaiser gave me more

opportunity, clearly explaining what I would be doing and indicating where I'd be going if successful;

3. It was the late '60s, and with Haight/Ashbury and everything else involved with San Francisco, I was interested in going to the West Coast. I lived in San Francisco and commuted to Oakland during that very vibrant time.

Also, I was a surfer. I had learned to surf in New Jersey, of all places. Two older guys from Hawaii with long redwood boards had gotten me started. Another guy and I were the only other surfers at that beach. I did get a big surprise when



**Joe Bonn and his wife Barbara with their two sons, six grandchildren and a cousin enjoying the Jersey shore in July 2017.**

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I first surfed in the San Francisco Bay Area (Ocean Beach, Pacifica and Santa Cruz) where the water temperature was 55 degrees. I had to wear a full wet suit, which I wasn't used to.

***Tell us about your tenure at Kaiser.***

All in all, I worked for Kaiser from 1967 to 2004. In those days, when you were hired by a big company, management would move you around for development and experience. I started in Oakland, CA, then went to Europe, came back to Washington, Ohio and Louisiana, before coming full circle back to Oakland. It's not typically that way today where people seem to take much different career paths.

***What were your early years like with Kaiser?***

From 1967 to 1969, I was in Oakland with the Domestic and then the International Treasury Departments. Because of that, I was sent to Europe in the fall of 1969, where Kaiser was working on a joint venture for their aluminum business with a German company, Preussag. It was supposed to be just a two month stay, but it ended up being five years. Until 1974, I was

located in Frankfurt, Germany.

At first, I wasn't married, but then I got married when I knew I'd be there for a while. My wife Barbara and I did a lot of traveling since we didn't have any children yet and it was still pretty cheap. Our first son was born in Frankfurt in '72. The second son was born in '74 when we were in transit back to the States. My wife went first to stay with her parents in the U.S., while I stayed in Germany to pack everything up.

The next stop was Trentwood in Spokane, WA. I was there from 1974 until 1979. I started as the Mills Services Superintendent before running different production departments in the plant. I was making a transition from being purely a finance kind of person to learning about plant production processes.

Here's a funny story about my first day at Trentwood: Coming from Europe, I show up the first day in a suit to meet my new boss, Bob O'Neill. O'Neill was famous among the Kaiser ranks as the hourly guy who had been union president and ended up being the plant manager. You wouldn't meet a crustier guy. My suit disappeared after the first day.

Dealing with O'Neill was really something. I'd come in at 7 a.m., and he'd already been at the plant and had the daily production control information stuck in his back pocket. He'd have all kinds of instructions and problems he wanted to talk about. So, I decided to come in a little earlier to get ahead of him. I came in at 6 a.m.; he was already there. So, the day after,



**Joe Bonn accepts the Best Operating Team Award for Kaiser's Toledo plant in 1980. The award was presented by the head of Local USWA**

*(Member Profile, continued Page 5)*

*(Members Profile, from Page 4)*

I came in at 4:30 a.m., and he'd already been through the plant. Finally, I came in around 4 a.m. the next day, and he didn't come in at all. I was completely worn out. He was a person who loved the plant and knew all the hourly guys. He ran the plant based on what he saw rather than printouts from a computer. I learned a lot working with him.

Spokane was also a very good place to live. It didn't have a high cost of living, and we enjoyed excellent medical care. It was a good place to raise kids.

Within three months of arriving, an economic downturn hit the aluminum industry hard. Being in the Mill Services Area, I ended up traveling with sales people to try to find business. In a three-month period, we went from running 40 million pounds a month to around half that. Back in those days, it was either boom or bust.

### ***Tell us about your other Kaiser experiences?***

In 1979 I went to Toledo, OH, to run a plant. Aside from being a plant manager for a whole plant as opposed to managing a part of one, the step was significant given the plant's operating problems. I



**Joe Bonn on a plant bus tour of Chalmette in April of 1982 as part of the Southwest Regional Energy Council.**

worked with the local union and sales people as well as running the plant. I was very proud of our team when we won the competition for the Best Operating Team for our size plant in 1980.

I went to New Orleans, LA, to work at Chalmette, Kaiser's large reduction plant, in 1981. I was sent there to be the manager of the reduction plant and the power house. It ran on natural gas. At that time, there were ,2700 people in the complex. I worked for Bill Cooke and learned that you can do everything possible to make a plant run better, but the aluminum smelting business depends upon the price of power. While I was there, we experienced another economic downturn. All the smelters in the South shut down over a three-year period in large part because of rising power prices.

In the Fall of '82, I came back in Oakland, CA. At first, I was the Manager of Electrical Products Division. A couple years later, I was made VP of Die-Form products -- not only electrical, but also extrusions, forging, casting, rod, bar and wire. In short, anything that was a fabricated product other than flat-rolled. In 1987, I became VP of Planning and Administration, taking on a corporate administrative role.

### ***How had Kaiser changed when you came back to Oakland almost 20 years later?***

It was a very different company. As we got into the late '80s and '90s, Kaiser started to sell off its non-aluminum assets. As a capital-intensive company, we might have been too diversified, unlike Alcoa or Alcan which only dealt with aluminum. Eventually, Kaiser had to sell off its non-aluminum assets and finally went into bankruptcy in 2002.

### **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.

*(Members Profile, from Page 5)*

***It must have been hard to watch the company change?***

It was. In the period from 1987 to 1991, Kaiser had been taken over by a European corporate raider by the name of Alan Clore, but he got caught in one of the stock market downturns, and we subsequently were taken over by Charles Hurwitz of Maxxam.

Thus, Kaiser went from being a public company to a highly leveraged private company under Maxxam. The consequence was that we had to cut costs and sell assets to pay down all the debt incurred in the takeover. Kaiser ultimately filed bankruptcy in 2002. During bankruptcy, I had to shut down or sell all the commodity assets, smelters, alumina plants and such. I was also involved with the sale of the peripheral aluminum assets, remaining chemical and real estate assets that we had.

Very few people thought Kaiser would survive bankruptcy given that we had debt, pension, retiree medical and asbestos issues. It is to the credit of all the people involved that Kaiser survived that process and a company actually emerged from that process that still exists today as a public company. It is doing fine now. And for the KASRA people, that is what in part supports the medical funding in their retirement program.

***What are some of your best memories working at Kaiser?***

It was such a wonderful company to work for. I made life-long friends. One of my best memories is the quality of the people. Kaiser compared favorably to some of the other aluminum companies that I dealt with that were much more cut-throat and competitive. As I noticed



**Joe Bonn in Frankfurt, Germany in 1970 with Ira Davison and Kurt Wiesinger.**

out of grad school in 1967, there was a much more collegial atmosphere at Kaiser. It all goes back to Henry Kaiser, the entrepreneur.

***Tell us a little more about your family?***

I met Barbara in California. She was a nurse and also a flight attendant for United Airlines. In that era, flight attendants had to retire at age 33 or sooner if they got married. They also had height and weight restrictions and required an RN on every flight over water. So, Barbara flew with United out of San Francisco to Hawaii and also worked part-time as a nurse in San Francisco. When we got married in 1970, she quit and joined me in Frankfurt, Germany.

We have two sons, Chris and Bryan. Chris lives in New Jersey with his wife and two daughters, aged 11 and 13; Bryan lives in Las Vegas with his wife and four children, ranging in age from five through 11. We try to spend time visiting both.

How was your wife with all the moving you did with Kaiser?

If I were to ask her, she'd probably say "you don't want to do that again." For instance, when we had been living

*(Members Profile, from Page 6)*

in Spokane for four years, I went to Bob O'Neill and said I wanted to buy a bigger house and asked if I'd be at Spokane for a while. He said, "Yes, you're not going anywhere." Three months later, I was transferred to Toledo, OH. I had bought the house, and my wife was still staining the wood in the basement we had just remodeled. But, off we went.

Then, when we went from there to New Orleans, LA, to run the smelter, we decided to build a house. It took us a year to get that done. But we only lived in it for 9-10 months before coming back to California. I like to remind my wife that we've pretty much been here in California since 1982. She, however, reminds me of all the stops in the interim.

What have you done since leaving Kaiser?

I started a consulting company in April 2004, with Kaiser one of my clients. I also did work for Alcan and Alcoa and quite a few other industrial clients as well as banks and hedge funds. I got back into the financial arena. I do less of that nowadays but still do it part-time.

In 2007, Luxfer asked me to go on its board. Spun out from British Aluminium, its located in Manchester, United Kingdom, with businesses in high pressure cylinders, zirconia based catalysts and magnesium products. In 2016, I became Board Chairman.

Is retirement on the Horizon?

I am going to step down in 2019 as Board Chair at Luxfer. I hope to spend more time with family and playing golf. Barbara and I still travel quite a bit.

## *In Memoriam*



*Raoul Joseph Barrios  
Covington, LA*

*Bernard E. Burcham  
Point Pleasant, WV*

*Richard Elvin Davidson  
Puyallup, WA*

*Grover L. Dobbins  
Baton Rouge, LA*

*Roger Johnson  
San Jose, CA*

*John F. Riedle  
Greenview, IL*

*Gilbert E. Rouhselange  
Simpson Ville, SC*

*William C. Weyer  
Narrows, VA*

*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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See us at:

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### Baton Rouge

Apr 18

Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Oak Lodge, 2834 South Sherwood Forest Blvd., Email Bob Presson at leilap3@cox.net, or Bob Schoen at bobschoen@cox.net, or call Bob Schoen at (225) 937-2984.

### Belpre

Aug 25

Lunch at noon at Western Sizzlin in Parkersburg. Contact Betty Blair at (304) 489-1337 or email bettylou13@suddenlink.net.

### Chalmette

Jun 6, Sep 5

Lunch at 11 a.m. at NOLA Lagniappe, 1375 Gause Blvd., Slidell. Cost \$21. Contact Chuck Schimmel at (985) 643-0437 or email schimcol@aol.com.

### Erie

May 19, Jun 16, Jul 21

Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at Peggy's, 3512 Liberty Street., Erie. Contact Tim Healy at (814) 402-1062 or email thealy1931@gmail.com.

### Los Angeles

May 7, Jun 4, Jul 2

Lunch at noon at Marie Callendar's, 540 N. Euclid, West Anaheim. Contact Bob O'Leary at (714) 898- 7463 or email

robemmet39@gmail.com.

### Mead

May 10, Jun 14, Jul 12

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

### Newark

Jun 12, Aug 14

Lunch at 11a.m. at Stacey's Hometown Buffet, Heath. Lunch paid for by the Newark plant. Contact Bill Snider at (740) 403-8328 or email colbill44@roadrunner.com.

### Ravenswood

Jun 21

Lunch at 1p.m. Riverfront Park. Hot Dogs provided. Bring your drinks. Contact Pete Westenhaber at (304) 266-4109 or email Pete26164@gmail.com or call Lee Corder at (304) 273-9457.

### Tacoma

Jun 6

Lunch at noon at Johnny's Dock, 1900 East B St., Tacoma. Contact Bob Mohr at (253) 820-6569 or bobmohr1942@gmail.com or call Roy Brennan at (253) 535-4942.



Enjoying Chalmette's March 7 luncheon are Randy Taylor, Billy Doyle, Charlene Taylor, Cathy Franklin and Tom Franklin.