



Steve Ping  
Erach Tarapore  
Mike Venie

KASRA  
Co-Presidents

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## *Kaiser Aluminum Salaried Retirees Association*

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE KASRA PRESIDENTS**

Dear Fellow Retirees/  
Surviving Spouses:

We hope that you are all doing well this summer. It is the time of year when we send out our annual letter to all of you, requesting that you renew your membership in KASRA. Thanks to all of you who have already responded by sending in your annual KASRA dues.

Thank you to Joanne Gutierrez for organizing our annual “work party” to inventory and process the membership payments that come in during our peak renewal period. Volunteers this year included Steve Abernathy, Klaus Adler, Sharon Fraetis, Margaret Tacker and Erach Tarapore.

KASRA’s major effort these days is putting out our Newsletter, which we all rely on to keep in communication with each other about the VEBA, retiree activities and other retiree related issues. Thank you to all who have returned their “What’s Going On” forms and sent us pictures for the newsletter. Please feel free to contact us if you have inquiries about any retiree matter, and we will try to assist you in any way we can. We also welcome any suggestions you may have to improve on the contents of our newsletters and website. Our contact information is listed in the newsletter.

VEBA: If you have not already filed, there is still time to secure your maxi-

mum benefit of \$4,700 for 2018 and \$4,900 for 2019. It should be noted that if you do not file in a timely manner, all your rights to receive a Qualified Benefit will expire and be forfeit. The expiration dates for the 2018 disbursement and 2019 disbursement are December 31, 2019 and December 31, 2020 respectively. We encourage you to take advantage of this benefit if you are enrolled in the VEBA, as it can go a long way towards defraying your costs of medical care in retirement. In addition, if you know of someone who may be eligible but has not yet signed up, please encourage them to contact the VEBA and find out if they might be eligible for benefits. VEBA enrollment and reimbursement request forms are available by contacting the VEBA plan administrator, Delta Fund, at 888-344-8322 (toll free), or through their website at [VEBA@deltafund.com](mailto:VEBA@deltafund.com) or from the Forms page of the KASRA website.

We wish everyone good health and look forward to hearing from as many of you as possible during the year in the “What’s Going On” section of the newsletter.

All the best!

Erach Tarapore, Mike Venie and  
Steve Ping

Co-Presidents, KASRA

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### Accomplishments . . .

Congratulations to **Bob Irelan** (Rancho Murieta, CA) whose novel **Angel's Truth** won second place in the fiction category in the Northern California Publishers and Authors 25th Annual Competition. Bob is currently adapting the book to a screenplay. "I know it's a long shot it will ever see the big screen but I want to try," he says. Bob also had a short story published about his feline pal, Jocko. Bob, whose hobbies are golf, writing, theater and concerts, also found time to go to Maui and enjoy a European river cruise.



**Bob Irelan enjoyed a vacation on Maui before starting his next writing project.**

**Chris Laszcz-Davis** (Orinda, CA) recently stepped down after being President of the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club this past year. She says her "demotion" party was great fun with close to 85 folks wishing her well and "voting her off the island." Chris adds, "The year was a wonderful journey with the Club making a difference in the lives of senior citizens, foster children, families transitioning from welfare and young middle school girls involved in science, engineering,

technology and math programs." According to Chris, the Club also took on a couple global projects in Central America under the Common Hope banner. "The Club members are an accomplished group of fun loving, irreverent do-gooders with an incredible knack for making a difference in the lives of many. But, after a year, I'm ready to pass the baton on to someone new," Chris adds.



**Chris Laszcz-Davis finished her term as President of the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club at a special "demotion" dinner.**

Congratulations to **Gerry Carothers** (Danville, CA). The surviving spouse of **Theron Carothers** recently received her pin for 3,000 hours of volunteering at Kaiser Hospital in Walnut Creek, CA. Gerry also enjoys dancing and playing old fashion dominoes. "I enjoyed the profile of **Jim McKnight** in the last KASRA Newsletter," says Gerry. "I sit behind him and his wife Susie at the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church each Sunday!"

### Birthdays and Anniversaries . . .

A very special Happy Birthday to **Joe Graziani** (Parkersburg, WV) who turned 98 years old on August 12. Currently, Joe lives in a personal care facility in Belmont, WV, and is visited by his son,

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also named Joe. “We almost lost him three years ago to pneumonia and he has had reoccurrences the past two years, but he is still as witty and mentally sharp as ever. And he still loves to eat!” Son Joe says any prayers for his Dad’s continued health and well-being would be appreciated.

**Donald and Barbara Hebert** (Gramercy, LA) celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary on June 30 surrounded by family. Don worked at Gramercy Works (Gramercy, LA). Also celebrating 68 years of wedded bliss are **Donald and Mary Gallogly** (Marysville, OH). The couple has visited all of the states except Hawaii. Don turns 90 this September!

Congratulations also to **Robert and Trudie Heller** (Lake Worth, FL), who celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary with their children and grandchildren. **Dennis and Midge Seymour** (Escondido, CA) had a festive 65th wedding anniversary party this summer. Dennis, who worked at LA Extrusions, enjoys ocean fishing and a daily lap swim. “I’m getting used to a cochlear device,” he says. “Great to be able to hear better.”

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

No one can say that **Leonard (Len) Sedlin** (Baton Rouge, LA) needs something to fill his time. The former Baton Rouge employee has spent a great deal of time on projects left over from the major flood damage his home suffered in August of 2016. He also just completed his third, six-year term on the Board of Commissioners of the Louisiana Naval War Memorial Commission – USS KIDD. In addition, Len chairs the Strategic Planning Committee for a Louisiana Veteran’s Museum, dealing with budgeting and major fundraising.



**Joe Graziani recently celebrated his 98th birthday. Here with his son, Joe.**

His volunteer assignments leave little time for travel, but he fondly remembers attending the University of Alabama’s annual College of Engineering Distinguished Engineering Fellows Banquet, where he was named a Distinguished Fellow in 2000. “The technologies demonstrated, and the engineering capabilities of the college were outstanding,” says Len. “They simply blew my mind!”

**William “Bill” C. Carter** (Clare, MI) has certainly been busy since retiring from Kaiser. He established a consulting business that focused on labor contract negotiations and organization leadership change for 21 years as well as managed the growth of an aviation accessory repair business focusing on regional airlines. He also manages the family farm with his brother and sister, maintaining the farm buildings. Retired from the Big Brother Program a few years ago, Bill is still a State Certified Mediator and volunteers at his church. He and his wife Cappi have also traveled to Japan, China and to almost all states in the United State. They live on their boat “Seaduction,” which

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## MEMBER PROFILE: RAY LIGHTELL

**Ray Lightell**, Kingwood, TX, worked at the Chalmette, LA, plant for 31 years in accounting. He retired as Chief Accountant in 1984. Ray turned 90-years-young in January and lives independently in a senior condominium complex. His wife Bertha passed away in 2009, but he has his two children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren to keep him busy.

### What interests do you have these days?

I love to tinker with things. Right now, I'm putting together a model of a PT109, you know the boat that JFK, Jr. captained. It's kind of special to me because my dad, who served during World War I, was a carpenter during World War II, and he helped build some of the PT boats, also known as Motor Torpedo boats. Built at Higgins Shipyard in New Orleans, the boats required mahogany plywood from the Philippines to form the complex curves required for that model. As a kid,

my friends and I would bike over to Lake Pontchartrain and watch the sailors test the boats out. Very exciting for a young kid.

I also stay pretty social. My condominium has 59 units and a group of us get together regularly for dinner at various restaurants. Sometimes, there are organized dinners at the condo as well. I'm also active with various senior centers. Some people at my age are more restricted because of one disability or another, I'm very fortunate to feel good, have my health and be in pretty good shape. It doesn't stop me from doing anything I like to do except play golf. I used to play once a week, but I can't find any other 90-year-olds that want to play with me now.

### Where were you born and raised?

New Orleans! I love that place. I remember working part-time as a soda fountain attendant at a local drug store.



**Ray Lightell (1st row center) enjoyed a gala celebration of his 90th birthday in January with his family.**

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You had to be 15 years old for the job and I was only 14. I was big for my age, so I told them I was 15 and they never asked to see any ID. It was so much easier back then. I graduated high school in 1947 and started working full time, but I also went to night school at Loyola University.

### **How did you end up in Texas?**

Both my son Ray, Jr. and I were evacuated during Katrina. Our houses were destroyed. We went to stay with my daughter Patty and her family in Kingwood, Texas. I decided to stay, but my son and his family moved back to a suburb of New Orleans.

### **When did you start working for Kaiser at Chalmette?**

I started in 1953. They were looking for an accountant and I was also married by then, having wed my Bertha in 1950. Our first child, Ray, Jr., was born in 1951 and my daughter, Patty, was born in 1953. It was a busy time.



**Ray Lighttell at his senior condominium complex in Kingwood, TX.**



**Ray Lighttell with his four adult grandchildren.**

I loved working for Kaiser. We had such a good social atmosphere at Chalmette. A good group of people to work with who knew how to solve problems. Everyone was very accommodating. It's funny, but I remember back to when I was a little kid and I had a dog. We hadn't given him a name yet, and I was listening to a story on the radio about Kaiser Wilhelm and decided to call my dog Kaiser. I didn't know then how important that name would become to me.

I really looked up to Henry J. Kaiser. He was a great man and a great industrial developer. He toured Chalmette on occasion and was always very friendly with everyone, very hands on. He wasn't afraid to try something new or to experiment with building airplanes and boats. Of course, he always hired the right people. He was a really good judge of character and personality, which means a lot in any kind of a job.

### **Is there an achievement you're**

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they keep at the Pasadena Marina in St. Pete, FL. "We spend our time traveling the lower keys with family and friends," says Bill. "It's a hoot along with being very beautiful and warm."

**Alda J. Almeida** (Bristol, RI) is being cared for at home and enjoys receiving the KASRA Newsletter and watching TV. Reading and watching TV occupy **Richard J. Murray** (Fall River, MA), who previously worked for Kaiser at Portsmouth, Rhode Island. **Hilda DeMello** (Mesquite, NV) reports that she moved to Mesquite in 2005 and "enjoys it very much." She also enjoys reading the KASRA News. **Millie Lum** (Alameda, CA) also sends a thank you to all the KASRA volunteers who make the newsletter possible.

**Judy Kirby** (Fairview, TX) recently sold her home in Sherman, TX and moved into a 55+ active retirement community. "I love it and highly recommend it," says the former Extruded Products worker. Judy also loves to travel, read and go to Las Vegas!

Golf and fishing top **Edward J. Marshall's** (Westerly, RI) hobby list. The former Portsmouth, RI, Wire and Cable Division employee recently traveled to the White Mountains of New Hampshire and has been on two Caribbean cruises. He still works part-time at the "Stop and Shop" market in the produce department and volunteers for the RI Cancer Society. Golf is also a favorite of **Bernard J. Lowenthal** (Savannah, GA) when he's not busy volunteering with his local high school and church. Bernard

also takes care of his sister-in-law.

**Theodore (Ted) Aucoin** (Slidell, LA) enjoys genealogy and volunteering at Slidell Memorial Hospital. Ninety-years-young, Ted married Boni Johnson six months ago. Summers mean lots of children, grandchildren and great grands for **Ted Beveridge** (Wanatah, IN) and his wife Shirley. "We golf and spend our summers in Culver, IN, at our summer home near Lake Maxinkuckee," he says. "We also travel to Greenville, SC, where we have more family to visit."

**Rosalie Dwelle** (Millen, GA) says she no longer goes on vacations but still enjoys golf and fishing. Photography now occupies **Colin Ward** (St. Petersburg, FL). He gave up playing in a band to focus on his hobby. He also used to travel to Cuba before the recent ban.

Keeping up with her granddaughter makes life fun for **Jeane O'Rondolph**



**William Carter, wife Cippi Carter and daughter Ami on the bow of their boat/home moored at Marina, St. Pete, FL.**

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(Mornsville, NC). She also enjoys genealogy and an occasional trip to Ohio to visit her sister and other friends. **Howard Nelson** (Alamo, CA) is looking forward to his eldest granddaughter's wedding on Sept. 25 in Palm Springs, CA. All the best to his wife Dorothy Ann, who is in home hospice care after a series of strokes.

### Traveling Near and Far . . .

Aside from visiting family and celebrating events such as another grandson's college graduation, **Don Woodward** and his wife June (Oak Brook, IL) have taken to the high seas. "Last year, we brought the extended family and friends to Cuba to celebrate our 60th anniversary," says Don. We'll be heading down the Rhine shortly. Cruises have all the convenience of a road trip but less complaints from my back-seat drivers!" A special trip Don hopes to take in late November is an East-

West Panama Canal cruise. "My grandfather worked for the Panama Canal Commission as an attorney. I'd like once in my life to see the project he helped bring to fruition.

When not traveling, the former Mead employee likes to write (both technical and fiction), and tinker with antique tractors and steam engines, as well as keep his farm maintained. He has contributed articles to Prairie News, Old Iron and Antique Power and serves as consultant on a project to restore the oldest Case Tractor in the world. Don also tries to find time to scan and organize his 10,000+ slides taken at home and overseas. Somehow this busy retiree also finds time to be on the Board of Directors of the North Spokane Farm Museum; Editor of the Inland Empire Antique Tractor Club's quarterly newsletter; and a member of the Clayton/



**Norma Fameli, Ray Bates, Steve Fameli, Rob Buller and Gary Bennett had fun at Tacoma's June 5 lunch.**

### 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.

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Deer Park Historical Society.

**Joe O'Connell** (Mission Viejo, CA) has been busy traveling to Alaska and Hawaii, plus a sailing trip to the British Virgin Islands. He also travelled with his entire family to Cabo San Lucas and to Panama. "I opted out of a trip to the Dominican Republic," he adds. He and his four oldest grandsons (all 20-years old) travelled to Yellowstone National Park for a special trip.

In addition to travelling for fun, Joe made several trips to Central California to help rebuild fire-damaged homes.

Joe, who worked in the Chemical Division of Far Best Specialty Chemical Company, left Kaiser in 1988 when Far-Best was sold. He started his own environmental company after leaving Kaiser, which he sold in 2010 to an Australian Company, but he continues to work for them part-time.

**John Baker** (Mukilteo, WA) has certainly been busy traveling the last few years. The former Reduction Division (Tacoma, WA) employee, who also worked at Ravenswood, visited Denmark, Russia, the Baltics, former Yugoslavia, Albania, Montenegro, Columbia, Panama, Mexico, Aruba, Canadian Maritime Provinces,

Hawaii and Yellowstone National Park. I loved my time at Kaiser," he says. "I wasn't a retiree but had 14 great years at Ravenswood and Tacoma."

Vacationing with family members in Northern Michigan gave **Dennis English** (Venice, FL) a lot of pleasure. "I really enjoyed all the water toys: speed boats, pontoon boat, jet skis, kayaks and sailing. I also played the great golf courses of the Michigan Gold Coast." Dennis, who worked in the Sheet/Plate Division at Trentwood, WA, also likes interior design and landscaping.

#### **Best Wishes . . .**

Our condolences to **Harry Wenberg** who lost his wife of 55 years Jean on June 18, 2019 and to **Blanca Ostrovsky**, who lost her husband Moises on June 17, 2019. We also send our best wishes to the families of surviving spouses **Frances Wisniewski** and **Betty Branstad** who recently passed away.

**Jas W. Mann** (Bainbridge, GA) is also finding life difficult following the death of his wife **Barbara** in October 2018. They had been married 72 years.

All the best to **Guy Robicheaux** (Slidell, LA) who recently completed a 30-session cardio pulmonary rehabilitation program.

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#### **particularly proud of that happened while you were with Kaiser?**

I was one of the founders of the Kaiser Federal Credit Union and served as Treasurer for most of its existence.

#### **Tell us a little about your family.**

My children – Ray, Jr. and Patty – are grown with their own adult children.

Patty, a retired speech pathologist, has a son who now has a little girl and boy, my wonderful great-grandchildren. Ray, Jr., who is a CPA with a law firm, has two sons and a daughter. I don't see them quite as often since they live in New Orleans. But we had the entire family here in Texas for my big 90th birthday party.



## *In Memoriam*



*Robert P. Abel  
New Albany, OH*

*Patty Lohrenz  
Jenks, OK*

*John R. Atwell  
Mesa, AZ*

*Margaret Middleton  
North Eales, PA*

*Joanne Del Re  
Panama City, FL*

*Wayne E. Morris  
Covina, CA*

*Kent B. Evans  
Pine Grove, CA*

*Fred Peightal  
Bermuda Dunes, CA*

*Theodore "Ted" Frostenson  
Bend, OR*

*Harry Lee Priest  
Gloster, MS*

*Mary Fussel  
Macon, GA*

*William Robert Reeve  
Gresham, OR*

*Carol Jane Golden  
Hayward, CA*

*Lionel Templet  
Plaque Mine, LA*

*Quentin R. 'Quent' Huebner  
Okemos, MI*

*John Henry "Jay" Tofaute  
Williamstown, WV*

*Bernard J. Kieklak  
Ocala, FL*

*Francis Lee Thach  
Clarksonton, WA*

*Jean S. Kimball  
Bridgewater, MA*

*Charles Zerkle  
New Haven, WV*

*Robert William Leeson  
Spokane, WA*

*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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**Baton Rouge** **Nov 20**  
Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Juban's Restaurant, 3729 Perkin's Road. Email Bob Preson at leilap3@cox.net or Bob Schoen at bobschoen@cox.net or call Bob Schoen at (225) 937-2984.

**Belpre** **Oct 15**  
Breakfast 8 a.m. at Shoney's Parkersburg. Contact Betty Blair at (304) 489-1337 or email bettylou13@suddenlink.net.

**Chalmette** **Sep 4, Dec 4**  
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** **Sep 21, Oct 19, Nov 16**  
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** **Sep 2, Oct 7, Nov 4**  
Lunch, 11:30 am, at Marie Calendar's 540 North Euclid, West Anaheim. Contact Bob O'Leary at (714) 898-7463 or email robemmet39@gmail.com.

**Mead** **Sep 2, Oct 7, Nov 4**  
Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Cathay Inn, North Division St. - Contact Danny Petruss at (509) 218-4730 or email dpjr70@comcast.net.

**Newark** **Sep 2, Oct 7, Nov 4**  
Lunch at 11 am, Cottage Pizza Route 79. Contact Bill Snider at (740) 403-8328 or email colbill44@roadrunner.com.

**Ravenswood** **Dec 6**  
Mid-afternoon holiday gathering at Green Hills Country Club. Confirm to Pete Westenhaver at (304) 266-4109 or email Pete26164@gmail.com or call Lee Corder at (304) 273-945.

**Tacoma** **Dec 4**  
Lunch at noon at Johnny's Dock, 1900 East D St., Tacoma. Contact Bob Mohr at (253) 820-6569 or email bobmohr1942@gmail.com.

**Trentwood** **Oct 15, Nov 19**  
Meet 11a.m. Meal served at 11:30 a.m. at Valley Eagles 16801 E. Sprague Ave. Contact Steve Harvey at (509) 939-7132 or email slharv3y@comcast.net.



Photo/cap for lunch bunch: (L-R) Gordon and Barbara Richerson and Liz and Bill de-Bruller at Chalmette's June 5 lunch at NOLA Lagniappe in Slidell, LA.