



Steve Ping
Erach Tarapore
Mike Venie

KASRA
Co-Presidents

Visit website at
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.

Kaiser Aluminum Salaried Retirees Association

A MESSAGE FROM THE KASRA PRESIDENTS

Dear Fellow Retirees/Surviving Spouses:

On behalf of the KASRA Board

of Directors, we send our greetings and best wishes to all members and surviving spouses. There is almost no place on this planet where people have not been affected by, or at least heard of, the coronavirus and the COVID-19 illness. It has infected so many around the world in such a relatively short time that the great fear of becoming infected and spreading it to highly vulnerable people is something we have never experienced in our lifetime. Each state has initiated protocols on physical distancing, disinfecting and home sheltering. We assume all our members are sheltering in place, trying their best to stay away from the virus. It is a lonely and scary time for all of us.

We hope you are taking extra time and effort to reach out (at least electronically) to your family members and dear friends during our hunkering-down period. That personal touch will likely be even more special during this crisis. Please don't hesitate to be proactive in calling or emailing your friends. Now is also a good time to contact those who you haven't heard from for some time. It is a great way to get a mental boost and ray of hope during these difficult times. We all know this virus crisis will pass and the world will be smarter and more prepared to deal with any similar future crisis. Our prayers for good health are flowing your way.

While you perhaps have a few extra

moments available, please send a letter or e-mail to the newsletter team with an update on what's happening in your life and include pictures if you can. Those messages from our members have significantly dropped off during the past few months.

For VEBA questions, you can still email VEBA@deltafund.com or write to Delta Fund Administrator, 1234 West Oak Street, Stockton, CA 95203. VEBA should be announcing at least by the end of May the maximum benefit per family unit for the calendar year 2020. You still have until the end of this year to submit receipts for qualified 2019 expenses.

In closing, we want to give a grateful shout-out to all first responders and medical industry workers who are interacting every day with ill patients while risking their own health. We are also very appreciative of those workers who are keeping our food delivery systems successfully active, our utilities and key government offices functioning, and for every individual who is helping someone less fortunate in this serious economic shutdown. Be well, keep protecting yourself, stay positive, and keep as active as you safely can until this virus dies out.

Crach. *Michael Venie*
Erach Tarapore *Steve Ping*

All the best!

Erach Tarapore, Mike Venie and
Steve Ping

Co-Presidents, KASRA

WHAT'S GOING ON

Coping with the Coronavirus . . .

Known for their strength and resourcefulness, Kaiser retirees are finding ways to deal with this devastating pandemic, live as normally as possible and even do good for others. Here are a few of their stories.

Steve Ping (Broomfield, CO) writes how the State of Colorado was hard hit by the coronavirus. "It started in our ski resorts and now has spread to every county in the state, although the rural ones in the eastern part of the state are least affected so far," writes Steve. "My wife, Wendy, and I have been in sheltering in our home since March 13. Wendy is a good seamstress, so she has been making masks for our medical-industry, family members and other relatives. Now, she is making them for our local neighbors."

Being a metallurgist, Steve's job is to form the steel wire that fits the mask snugly to the nose. Wendy has made over 60 masks so far. If she can find some



B and Ed Coyne celebrated their 34th wedding anniversary during shelter-in-place.



Steve and Wendy Ping model the masks Wendy has been making for neighbors and people in the medical industry.

more elastic, she hopes to fill many more requests. "We're just doing our quiet, small part during this lockdown. We hope all the Kaiser retirees do not become ill from this nasty contagion. We also hope you have been keeping in contact via email and phone calls with your friends and family. Stay well and as active as safely possible," says Steve.

"We are hunkered down in our over 55 age community in Florida," says **Ed Coyne** (Leesburg, FL). "We all take it seriously since most of us are well into the most vulnerable age. We adhere to the washing hands and social space pretty rigorously, which isn't hard for most of us since our community is made up of individual private homes." When they want to talk with neighbors, each stay in their own yards and talk across the street or with plenty of space between them.

They've also reduced going to the grocery to about once per week. "Only one of us goes," Ed adds. "My wife, B, insists that she goes because men are more likely to come down with Covid-19 than women plus she is 15 years younger than me!" Recently, the Coyne's neighborhood grocery store started a delivery service, and they now take advantage of that ser-

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vice. Ed reports that he and B call friends and family far more often now. “We are going to throw a party for our anniversary complete with a birthday cake, cut into big pieces. We’ll deliver the pieces to the door of our neighbors and back up before they open the door. We will then talk to each neighbor on the phone and ask that they each wait and eat the cake at 6:30 that night - so we can all be celebrating together at the same time. Where there is a will, there is a way!”

Chris Laszcz-Davis (Orinda, CA) former Corporate VP, Environmental, Health, Safety & Operational Integrity, became a first-time grandparent in early January. Fortunately, she had an opportunity to visit the precious tyke in Sydney, Australia where her daughter and son-in-law live prior to the coronavirus lockdown. “Given the new world order, it’s zoom calls each day until the world awakens from the coronavirus shadow,” says the proud grandmother.

A Rotarian and Past-President of a local Bay Area chapter, Chris is involved in a COVID-19 inspired initiative sponsored by Rotary International, Yale University, the Red Cross and a host of companies to provide support to healthcare workers in North America. That initiative is Volunteer Surge, which provides free, online training of volunteer community health workers to perform the most basic care-taking tasks for vulnerable people so that professionals can focus on the most acute needs.

“Volunteer Surge hopes to train 1,000,000 volunteers as soon as possible. There are two options for the training,” Chris explains. “One is a 30- to 35-hour course that provides 75 percent of the requirements needed to become a certified



Chris Laszcz-Davis was able to visit her first grandchild just before COVID-19 restrictions made travel impossible.

nurse assistant. The other is an 8- to 10-hour course to train telehealth volunteers who will work from the comfort and safety of their homes to check on vulnerable people sheltered-in-place, and to refer them to professional healthcare providers, when necessary.”

Go to The Global Impact Group to register your interest in becoming a volunteer, www.theglobalimpactgroup.org. The following is a brief video narrated by the Dean of Yale University’s School of Public Health Dr. Vermund, <https://vimeo.com/406420744>. The second video speaks to the telesupport opportunities within **Volunteer Surge**, <https://vimeo.com/406400491>. Please feel free to contact Chris at ChrisLD@EQ-Organization.com if interested.

Birthdays and Anniversaries . . .

Eugene Gibbs (Pleasanton, CA) reports that he had his second knee replacement just four months before his 90th birthday, which takes place on June 27. “I’m carrying two more chunks of titanium metal,” he jokes. “They might have been aluminum if that didn’t corrode. Now,

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MEMBER PROFILE: MIKE KACHELMEYER

Born in Western New York, **Mike Kachelmeyer** (Vonore, TN) moved to the little town of Pryor, OK, as a youngster. A graduate of Oklahoma State University, Mike started out as an engineering major before switching to accounting. A good choice, Mike enjoyed 28 years as an accountant and controller for two Kaiser plants. He and his wife Kathy celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this coming December. They have two sons, Jeff and Ryan, and two grandsons Trey and Drew. They currently enjoy a very active retirement at Rarity Bay, which is southwest of Knoxville, TN.

Why did you decide to work for Kaiser?

I had just finished graduate school and started interviewing for jobs. Kaiser's Tulsa, OK, plant needed an accountant. They had transferred **Sam Work** from the Gramercy, LA, plant and I interviewed with him. Fortunately, I was called back for a second interview and met with Plant Manager **Lou Taggart**, Sales Manager **John Propst**, **Bob Teel** in Production and **GL Smith** in Purchasing. They were all very impressive. At the same time, I also interviewed with Cities Service, now known as Citgo, a very professional organization. From my interview, however, they seemed rather stuffy, distant and cold. They were nothing like my interviews at Kaiser where everyone was so friendly, genuine and warm. I knew right away I wanted to work for Kaiser. I also thought working for a manufacturing plant would involve more variety, whereas Cities Service would have been a home office situation, starting in accounts receivable or accounts payable.

Did Kaiser live up to your expectations?



Mike and Kathy Kachelmeyer on a cruise last year.

Sam Work was a great mentor and I enjoyed working with plant manager **Lou Taggart**. The accounting department was just two people. Sam was the Controller and I was number two. We got along great but, after about five years, he decided to go back to Louisiana, and I became Plant Controller. I hired an eager young individual named **Eric Angermeier** as my number two. When Lou retired, **Bobby Holmes** took his place, a great guy to work with who was well known and liked throughout the organization.

What was different about the Tulsa plant?

A lot of people aren't familiar with Tulsa because it wasn't in Kaiser's mainstream of operations. Kaiser bought it sometime in the 1960s. Called Standard Magnesium at the time, it consisted of the Tulsa plant and a plant in Wendover, Utah, where

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they mined potash. Kaiser really wanted the Wendover operation and planned to sell the Tulsa plant since magnesium wasn't in their normal product line. That's why it was never brought into the corporate system. But then they realized that Tulsa operated pretty well and made a profit. Basically, operating as an independent business, Tulsa stayed a part of Kaiser. **Gene Parker**, Controller in the Industrial Chemical Division, had a hand in keeping us independent. Tulsa ultimately closed in 2008 and a portion of its products transferred to other extrusion plants.

Tulsa was a small plant with about 35 salaried people and about 100 hourly employees. It appeared to be a bit heavy on the salaried end because Tulsa did all of its functions in-house rather than at corporate. Being a small plant, people wore several hats. I was the Plant Controller but also the Safety Manager, which I really enjoyed. It allowed me to get out on the floor and work with different people – not just hourly but also the supervisors. I got to know them

personally rather than just through a memo.

I still had to close the books each month but, as Safety Manager, we did a big push on house cleaning. It's so important because bad house cleaning leads to accidents. For instance, we had a problem with excessive hydraulic press oil usage and that oil was pricey. Our goal was to reduce that by 90%. We didn't quite make it, but we got close. The surprising thing was that after our house cleaning push, people started cleaning up more around the plant. All of a sudden, I'd see guys walking across the floor and picking up whatever they saw rather than leaving it lie there. Definitely a cultural change.

What did you make at the Tulsa Plant?

Some of the things we made were pretty interesting. We produced cathodic protection anodes which went into water heaters. We also made underground anodes for gas lines. Using the extrusion press, we made various magnesium shapes, one of which was used in IBM Selectric Typewriters. At the heart of

the rubber roller that the typewriter ball would strike was a piece of our magnesium. It helped quiet the sound much better than other types of metal. Since businesses had secretarial pools at that time with lots of employees typing at the same time, reducing noise became important. Some of our magnesium extrusions were



Mike Kachelmeyer with Ed and B Coyne in the 1980s in Gatlinburg, TN.

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used in Samsonite's hard-sided luggage and racks for the bakery industry. Tulsa also developed and produced aluminum cathodic protection anodes for offshore drilling platforms and a more cost-effective aluminum anode for water heaters.

Where did you go after Tulsa?

In 1983, I left Tulsa and went to Newark, OH. It was a much larger plant and totally different. Here, I became more directly involved with accounting. There was also a large staff along with industrial engineers who developed the work standards. After I was there a few years, **Ed Coyne** became the RBW Division Manager. I couldn't have found a better manager and I truly respected his capabilities.

Tell us about the big change that occurred while you were at Newark.

In the late 1980s, while Ed Coyne was Division Manager, the decision was made to move some of the screw machine stock (SMS) operations to Jackson, TN. The move was for cost efficiency and consisted of the extrusion of small diameter material and all SMS finishing operations. This project had a major impact on all Newark departments including technical, engineering, marketing, production, IT systems, purchasing, accounting etc. When the dust settled, Tennalum was born and continues to flourish.

Changes in the economy and the business forced Kaiser to do more with less. At the time, Newark used the corporate office for things like accounts payable and payroll. But with the cutbacks, corporate stopped providing those services and we



A family portrait of the younger Kachelmeyers (front row) Jeff and Ryan with Kathy and Mike in the back.

had to take them over. We had also gone from five accountants and five clerical people down to three of each.

Newark was a steelworker master agreement plant, which included numerous payroll complexities. **Ron Arnsmeier** in IT, our Payroll Clerk **Barb Hughes** and I developed our own payroll system. Instead of the paper timecards we had been using, we went to an electronic time collection system that also calculated the data for the master agreement pay practices. The project involved a lot of effort and dedication, but we finally reached our goal.

As the Accounting Manager, I was so fortunate to have excellent people to work with. One of the many outstanding individuals was a gentleman named **Mason Mullins**. He was a remelt foreman, but he wanted to get into accounting, so he went back to school. We thought so highly of him when he worked in remelt that we felt fortunate to hire him once he finished his degree. Jill Bending, one of our clerks, was also an

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outstanding member of the team.

When did you retire from Kaiser?

I decided to retire in 2002 and, of course, had to tell the plant manager, who just happened to be Eric Angermeier, formerly my number two at Tulsa. Eric had left accounting and pursued production planning. It was kind of funny that he started out working for me and I ended up working for him.

Tell us about your family.

I met my wife Kathy at a sorority/fraternity party at Oklahoma State University. We were both sophomores. We've had a wonderful time together and are looking forward to celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary this coming December. We have two children, Jeff and Ryan. I still remember Eric Angermeier coming over to my house when we both worked at Tulsa and the kids were young. He was carrying Ryan around at the time and started calling him Crying Ryan. A really good name for him. Jeff was



Mike and Kathy's grandsons Trey and Drew Kachelmeyer.



(L-R) Ron Arnsmeier, Barb Hughes and Mike Kachelmeyer having lunch at Lancer's in Ohio. Jill Bending took the photo.

always quiet, whereas, Ryan was just the opposite.

Jeff, who became a contractor, met the love of his life when he was going to the University of Cincinnati and stayed in town following graduation. Jeff and Andrea gave us two grandsons Trey, now seven years old, and Drew, who is five years old. Ryan went to school at my old alma mater, Oklahoma State, and after graduation he found employment in Oklahoma and stayed there.

How are you keeping busy in retirement?

Anyone who knows me knows that I love living by the water. So, when I retired, Kathy and I moved to Southwest Knoxville on Tellico Lake. We live in this very active retirement community called Rarity Bay. You could buy a condo or home already built but I wanted to build our own house. I had built a couple of houses when we lived in Ohio,

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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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I can walk again,” says the former CFT employee.

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

Playing duplicate bridge and getting used to her new home in Canyon Country, CA, keeps **Sally Sittel** (Canyon Country, CA) busy. “I went to my grandson Tom’s graduation from Dartmouth last spring. He’s now at Columbia Law School.” In between cooking for family and friends, Sally is exploring her new home, which is closer to her daughter. “I love the community here. Everyone is very nice, and it is a very active place.”

Arnold Hayes (College Station, TX) still enjoys golfing and watching Texas A&M athletic games. He loves the KASRA newsletter and hopes it “keeps coming.” Genealogy holds **Theodore (Ted) Aucoin, Jr’s** (Slidell, LA) interest. “We’ve discovered 4021 family members in our family tree.” Retired since 1998, Ted volunteers at Slidell Memorial Hospital.

Best Wishes . . .

Our thoughts are with the families of **Janet Ramona Holliday** (surviving spouse of **John Holliday**), who passed away in March and **Lorraine Warrington** (surviving spouse of **Meredith Warrington**), who died in October.

An Example of the American Dream

Long-time Kaiser employee, **John R. Cady**, could never afford to go to college, but that didn’t stop him from rising to the upper echelon of Kaiser with hard work and grit. He started his career with Kaiser Jeep in many regional sales offices including Detroit, West Virginia, Pittsburgh and New York. His work ethic helped him rise to Vice President of Kaiser Jeep in Toledo, OH. According to his son Kevin,

John credits his long-time friend, mentor and boss **Steve Girard** with his success.

“When Kaiser Jeep was sold to American Motors in 1970, Dad

moved to Kaiser Design Facilities in Columbus, OH, and then in 1971, he transferred to Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation in Oakland, CA.” Kevin recalls his dad’s new position required a lot of travel to the many operating plants throughout the United States. “I remember him negotiating with the United Steel Workers of America,” says Kevin. “My fond memory of my dad is his rock-solid integrity and honesty. I know his dealings with others was always firm and fair.”

John retired from Kaiser in 1990. He and his wife Margot moved to Bend, OR, on the Deschutes River before moving to Rio Verde, AZ in 2000. The couple moved into a graduated living facility called Sagewood in 2010. “Dad had a pretty bad motorcycle accident in 2008 that severely hindered his left hand and limited his ability to play golf, something he so enjoyed and loved,” says Kevin. John passed away on Feb. 5, 2020. Margot still resides at Sagewood and would love to hear from her husband’s friends and former colleagues. She can be reached at Margot Cady, 4555 E. Mayo Blvd., Unit 171754, Phoenix, AZ 85050-3795.



John Cady began with Kaiser Jeep and finished his long career at Ravenswood. He passed away Feb. 5, 2020.

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but, at Rarity Bay, you have to have a contractor's license. I studied, got my contractor's license and built our home right on the water. We really enjoy our pontoon boat and jet ski. The boat is perfect for sharing a glass of wine with friends on the lake before going over to one of the restaurants for dinner.

One thing about Rarity Bay, it's full of very active retired people who are very involved. There are groups for everything. I belong to a jet ski group, a pistol range group, several couples card groups and a poker group. The poker is just social. I don't think anyone is up or down more than \$100 over the course of a year.

Kathy belongs to several groups as well, but her favorite thing is being part of Angel Tree. They make Christmas presents for needy kids. One year, they collected enough money to buy 100 kids' bikes. A neighbor and I spent a lot of time putting those 100 bikes together in my garage. Luckily, once you figure one out, it makes the others a lot easier!

We live about an hour from the Smoky Mountains and Gatlinburg. If any Kaiser retirees are in the area, let's arrange a visit.

In Memoriam

*Jean Baysinger
Mexico, MO*

*John R. Cady
Phoenix, AZ*

*Eugene Peter Miller
Baton Rouge, LA*

*David Lee Monnastes
Spokane, WA*

*John Atkin Moore
Winter Park, FL*

*Jerry Mullett
Slidell, LA*

*Paul Pierre Petit, Jr.
Baton Rouge, LA*

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.



(L-R) Guy Robicheaux, Frank Kraus and Doc Incaprer at Chalmette gathering in March prior to Coronavirus restrictions.

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We're on the Web!
See us at:

www.e-kasra.com

Belpre

Aug. 29

Lunch, 12 p.m. at Western Sizzlin restaurant, 37 Neal Run Blvd., Parkersburg. Contact Betty Blair at (304) 489-1337 or email bettylou13@suddenlink.net.

Chalmette June 3, Sept. 2, Dec. 2

Meeting at 11 a.m. followed by lunch at NOLA Southern Grill, 1375 Gause Blvd., Slidell. Cost \$21. Contact Chuck Schimmel at (985) 643-0437 or email schimcol@aol.com.

Los Angeles

June 8, July 6

Lunch, 11:30 p.m. at Ruby's Diner, 1128 W. Lincoln Ave., Anaheim. Contact Bob O'Leary at (714) 898-7463 or email robemmet39@gmail.com

Mead May 14, Jun 11, Jul 9, Aug 13

Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Cathay Inn, North Division St. Contact Dan Coe at (509) 944-7264 or email dancoe33@comcast.net.

Ravenswood

Aug. 20, Dec. 4

Aug. gathering at The Dawg Pound, 1125 Co Rte 2/19 beginning at 1 p.m. Dec. Holiday gathering at GreenHills Country Club. Confirm to Pete Westenhaver at (304) 266-4109 or email Pete26164@gmail.com or call Lee Corder at (304) 273-945.

Tacoma

June 3, Dec 2

Usual meeting place of Johnny's Dock Restaurant is going out-of-business. June meeting will probably be canceled. For future meetings and location, contact Bob Mohr at 253 820 6569 or bobmohr1942@gmail.com.

Trentwood

No meetings scheduled through September. For information on Oct/Nov meetings. Contact Steve Harvey at (509) 939-7132 or email s1harv3y@comcast.net.



(L-R) Charlotte Grannan, Pat Grannan, John Malm and Bridgette Malm enjoyed a luncheon for Chalmette retirees in early March.