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Kaiser Aluminum Salaried Retirees Association

A MESSAGE FROM THE KASRA PRESIDENTS

Dear Fellow Retirees/Surviving Spouses:

As we reach the midpoint

of 2020, we find ourselves confronting the worst public health crisis in our lifetime. The Covid-19 pandemic has forced all of us to make changes in virtually every aspect of our daily lives and with no vaccine or cure currently available, it is clear many of these changes will be necessary for several months, if not longer. As we are all aware, our age group is the most vulnerable, which increases the need for all of us to take appropriate steps to reduce the risk of infection of this highly contagious virus. These changes include things like social distancing, avoiding large gatherings, limiting travel and exposure to other high-risk individuals, or just staying home. The unintended consequence of living with these measures over an extended period is the risk that we become isolated, which can negatively affect both our mental and emotional wellbeing. We encourage all our members to reach out to anyone you may know who may be at risk of becoming isolated. A simple phone call or email can make a tremendous difference.

Midyear also means it's time for our annual membership drive. We sincerely thank all current members for your continued support of KASRA and encourage you to complete and return the "Dues Renewal" form as early as possible. Annual dues are \$10, and in the past some people have chosen to submit

payment for more than one year. If you prefer to pay for more than one year, please limit your payment to \$20, covering a maximum of two years. Limiting dues payments to a maximum of two years greatly simplifies the records and bookkeeping required of our support staff.

By now, you should have received this year's letter from the Board of Trustees of the Kaiser VEBA announcing a benefit of \$4000 per family unit for 2020. While this represents a \$900 reduction from the record benefit declared for 2019, it is one of the highest amounts provided since the VEBA Trust was created in 2004 and reflects the dramatic market decline in the value of Trust assets experienced earlier this year. The good news is Kaiser's contribution to the Trust, based on the profit-sharing formula we have described previously, will be \$2.9 million this year, the maximum allowed under the formula, and the financial markets have shown significant improvement during the second quarter.

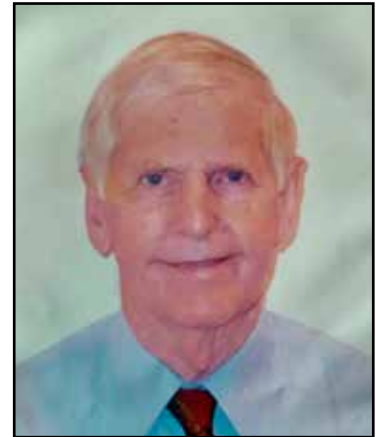
The VEBA benefit is provided to offset health care related insurance premiums paid by eligible retiree family units. We encourage all eligible retirees and surviving spouse to take advantage of this benefit by filing the necessary paperwork in a timely manner to ensure they receive the maximum benefits they are entitled to receive each year. As a reminder, vision, dental and qualified long term care premiums are also eligible for reimbursement in addition to traditional medical related premiums.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Accomplishments . . .

Congratulations to **Cecil Leonard** (Tiverton, RI) for his appointment as Professor Emeritus of Business at Bristol Community College (BCC). Chosen by their peers, the award recognizes retired members of the faculty for excellence in teaching and community service. Cecil joined the BCC faculty as Chairman of the Business Administration Department after a nearly 30-year career in corporate America. He worked for 19-plus years for Kaiser beginning at Trentwood, WA, and finishing in the Electrical Products Division. "The last plant I worked at was as Plant Manager for the EP Division Portsmouth, RI, Wire and Cable," says Cecil. "My last 10 years in the corporate world were mainly with Wardwell Braiding Machine Company in international sales and marketing. Almost four of those years were in Germany. I did a brief stint as Managing Director of an East German firm after the wall came down.

Earlier in his academic career Cecil had been recognized by a division of the University of Texas for his work and leadership to improve the community college curriculum. During his time at BCC,



Cecil Leonard was chosen by his peers to be a Professor Emeritus at Bristol Community College.

he also participated in a three-year US Agency for International Development project to assist two colleges in Morocco to establish an Entrepreneurship curriculum. In his hometown of Bristol, Cecil has served two terms as elected Town Treasurer and three terms on the Town Council. He had also served as chairman of the Town Budget Committee as well as several other elected and appointed roles in local government.

Chris Laszcz-Davis (Orinda, CA) was asked to submit a "COVID related think piece" to the, Geneva, Switzerland based



Bay Area KARLA retirees Kirk McVean, Andy Lang, Klaus Adler and Ursula Seifert toasted the season at a festive holiday luncheon at the San Ramon Golf Club.

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United Nation's International Labour Organization (ILO). "On April 28, I was up at 6 a.m. on a zoom conference call, which hosted 5,000 attendees from around the world. I was one of six presenters, all 'think piece' contributors. Exciting, but getting up that early and being able to talk coherently is not my cup of tea!" You can catch Chris' piece on the ILO website at https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/safety-and-health-at-work/events-training/events-meetings/world-day-safety-health-at-work/WCMS_742064/lang--en/index.htm.



Lee Corder outside his home in Ravenswood, WV.

of our children, we got it done," she says. Myrl was born on a farm just six miles from where they now live.

Barbara Muller (Boise, ID), surviving spouse of Fred Muller, moved to Boise, ID, in 2019 to be close to her two daughters who lived there. Now, a third daughter has moved there as well keeping the 91-year-old Barbara busy with family activities.

Ravenswood, WV, retiree **Lee Corder** (Ravenswood, WV) enjoys spending time with his grandson Colt.

Traveling Near and Far
...

Margaret Zaffran (Sacramento, CA) is now enjoying living in Sacramento with her daughter Lisa. The two of them took a sightseeing trip to

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

Former RN at Kaiser's Trentwood, WA, plant **Virginia Thiesies** (Dallas, OR) reports she and her husband Myrl are well and enjoying their new, larger condo at the Dallas Retirement Village. "We moved right before Christmas. The timing made it a bit hard, but with the help



Henry J. Kaiser's birthplace in Sprout Brook, New York. A new book, "Best in Class," tells of Kaiser's industrial life and the rise of the company up to the present day. The free publication will be available in electronic form on the website, www.kaiseraluminum.com or in print by contacting **Melinda C. Ellsworth**, V.P. of Investor Relations and Corporate Communications, 27422 Portola Parkway, Suite 200, Foothill Ranch, CA 92610 or melinda.ellsworth@kaiseraluminum.com.

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MEMBER PROFILE: ART DONALDSON

Starting his Kaiser employment following his MBA degree in 1966 from UC Berkeley, a four-year stint as an Air Force officer during Vietnam, and three years as an auditor, **Art Donaldson** made the most of his 24 years at Kaiser. He had many interesting career experiences from accountant to controller and even managed to try his hand setting carbon at Mead in Spokane, WA, during the steelworkers strike of 1995. Art and his wife Mary Alice live in Walnut Creek, CA, where they enjoy seeing their two children and four grandchildren.

Tell us a little about your career with Kaiser?

I was surprised how many different things I was exposed to while working as an accountant. I couldn't have written out a more satisfying career, and I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunities I did. In all the departments that I worked,

without exception I encountered savvy, dedicated employees who were focused on doing their jobs effectively. Mary Alice was always there ready to go with me. She was a career elementary school teacher and ended up teaching in five different districts in three different states with all our moves. But she loved it and always wanted to teach wherever I was transferred. You think when you're moving around that it's important to have a financial background, but it's teachers that communities really need. Mary Alice was always very welcome and felt appreciated.

Where did you start your Kaiser career?

I had just finished three years working at an accounting firm in order to be certified as a California CPA when Kaiser in Oakland, CA, (my home town) had an opening in the Controller's Department.



(seated) Art and Mary Alice Donaldson surrounded by their family (L-R) daughter-in-law Christie, son Jim, granddaughter Katie, grandson Ben, grandson Kenny Rapmund and son-in-law Neil Rapmund, granddaughter Mary Rapmund, daughter Kathy Donaldson Rapmund.

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It was 1973 and **Ralph Schwarz** was the Controller at the time. He just turned 100 in February 2020 and is one of the founding members of KASRA. A fine gentleman.

I worked in financial accounting in Oakland for six years when they asked me if I'd like some plant experience, something I was definitely interested in. In Oakland, I'd had the opportunity to tour an electrical products plant in San Leandro, CA, a can plant in Union City, CA, and an aluminum foil rolling operation at Permanente, CA, so plants had aroused my curiosity.

Off to Ravenswood, WV, Mary Alice and I went with our two kids, a couple of cats and a dog. My entire family loved our three years at Ravenswood. I had a one-mile commute to work with one traffic signal, very different from the Bay Area. I learned so much about how a plant operated by having the opportunity to walk around the plant floor, something that never happened in Oakland. I once rode in an overhead crane and learned from the operator that he always kept a building support post between himself and the furnace he was loading, in case of an unexpected explosion!

You mentioned an interesting story from Ravenswood. Tell us about it.

I had agreed to become the Scoutmaster of my son's troop and we took the kids off camping from time to time. One of our trips coincided with the signing of payroll checks for the steelworkers. The checks were all signed by an automatic check signing machine (no direct deposit then) to be hand-distributed to the hourly workers. Well, the check signer broke while I was camping. It is not allowed to be late getting checks to the steelworkers,



Art Donaldson at his desk in Ravenswood, WV, in 1980.

so the payroll manager loaded them into his car and drove out to the camp site. I spent the evening signing several hundred checks by hand on a picnic table by lantern light. Fortunately, no one complained about any food stains on the checks!

Where did you go after Ravenswood?

Back to California to Moss Landing on the Monterey Peninsula. Such a beautiful spot. Moss Landing was part of Kaiser's refractory division. I was the Works Controller there for three years until Kaiser sold it in 1985. Moss Landing operations consisted of three plants. Natividad mined and calcined dolomite ore, which was then trucked 12 miles to the Moss Landing seawater plant where it was mixed with seawater (magnesium extracted from seawater) and calcined to produce magnesium oxide (periclase). The Moss Landing refractories plant combined the periclase with chrome ore and other binding materials to produce basic refractory brick and mortar mixes. The end products were used in the steel, copper, glass, and cement industries as furnace linings. Similar Kaiser plants in Missouri and Maryland produced silica-based products used for aluminum

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furnace linings.

What was one of your most exciting adventures working for Kaiser?

After three years in Moss Landing, we found ourselves back in Oakland where I got into financial reporting. After Kaiser went through the friendly acquisition by Maxxam, I had to travel back and forth to New York to work with our Investment Bankers, lawyers and auditors to register Kaiser financial securities with the New York Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Those investment bankers in New York are a different breed of cat. They work 24/7, and they expect everyone from the company to be available as well. But it was really a challenge and I enjoyed it. The investment bankers would look at the stock market and see if the “investment window” was open in their opinion. If so, we wanted our financial statements to be ready to go. Lots to do quickly, including getting current financial results from back in California and having the auditors and lawyers sign off, before filing it with the SEC. Then wait for questions. There would be several of us around a speaker phone in the center of the table answering their questions on all aspects of Kaiser operations. There were also some false alarms when the “window” closed quickly, and we’d have to come back to California. Quite different from what I had been used to!

You had another exciting adventure when you worked in Pleasanton, CA. What happened?

I was asked to be the Assistant Controller in Pleasanton, CA, and had some additional accounting responsibilities including financial accounting, payroll accounting, accounts receivable and accounts payable. But the adventure



Art Donaldson with his new friend the sloth during a recent cruise on the Amazon.

took place at Kaiser’s Mead plant in Spokane, WA. It was 1995 and the steelworkers went on strike. Kaiser asked for volunteers to go to Mead to keep the “pots” of molten aluminum from solidifying. I ended up volunteering to set carbon, far and away the most physically demanding job I had ever had. They called for volunteers at 10 a.m. the first day of the strike and by 1 p.m. several of us were on a plane to Spokane. I set carbon for seven days. You use a crowbar to break the crust that develops on top of the aluminum pot which is 970 degrees centigrade so a new carbon anode can be inserted. It was backbreaking work. About four days after I started working at Mead, I was walking to the potroom near the picket line to start my shift when an egg whizzed past my head and I heard a guy call out “Idaho scab.” He thought I was a roughneck brought in from Idaho. If he’d known I was a corporate type brought in from Pleasanton, CA, he

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might have thrown two!

I had lots more to talk about when I returned to Pleasanton besides the egg. I had also managed to set my pants on fire while working over the pots. I guess someone had heard about my pants catching on fire, because at an office assembly to thank the volunteers, I was presented with a purple (paper) heart.

What was the final Kaiser location where you worked?

After a few years at Pleasanton, the decision was made to move the Corporate Headquarters to Houston, TX and CFO **John La Duc** asked me to be the Corporate Controller. Our children were in college by then, and Mary Alice was gone, so we moved to Houston. **George Haymaker** and **Ray Milchovich** were down there already. It was a challenging time to move the financial accounting department of 16 employees from Pleasanton to Houston and keep closing the monthly books on time. Corporate Vice President **Jim McKnight** was invaluable in helping with the personnel issues involved and, of course, the positive attitudes of all the people affected were critical to making it succeed. In Houston, I had the incredible opportunity to interact one on one with our corporate board members and division vice presidents plus travel to domestic and foreign plant locations. I am so thankful to Kaiser for that experience that made the moving and long hours worth the effort.

You can't seem to get away from Kaiser, can you?

Two years after we retired and moved back to Walnut Creek, I was asked to join the board of KASRA as treasurer, replacing Ralph Schwarz. I served as

treasurer for five years until **Dave Perry**, who was the first chairman of the newly formed VEBA, asked if I'd be a volunteer trustee. Again, I said yes and joined Dave and **Doug Allen** for five years as trustee. Dave told me that running the VEBA was like running a business—the Trustees hired lawyers, claim processors, investment managers, auditors, actuaries, and bankers, and monitored their performance. If it wasn't up to snuff, we had to replace them. We also maintained a close relationship with Kaiser Aluminum since the VEBA relied on their records for accurate retiree personnel information. Sadly, in 2010 Dave passed away. I agreed to become chairman of the VEBA Trustees and Doug and I recruited **Jed Daniel** to join us as the third trustee. I served another six years as chairman. We trustees always enjoyed our quarterly meetings and the interaction with our service providers. One of the highlights of my 11 year VEBA career was to travel to Ravenswood at the invitation of **Dave Whitman** to answer retiree questions about the VEBA. It was a real treat to reconnect with so many former Ravenswood colleagues. By 2017, after over 40 years as a Kaiser Aluminum employee and volunteer, I decided it was time to retire for good and hung up my Kaiser spikes.

What have you done since retiring?

I've set a few posts during retirement and, to this day, I can use a crowbar like nobody's business! With tutoring from my friend and former colleague **David Geary**, I took up golf but that didn't turn out so well. I tried playing for 18 months, and during that time, I got hit by golf balls twice -- in the head and leg—but did manage to score a hole in one. I decided to get into something safer, and David introduced and tutored me in

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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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duplicate bridge. We have continued to partner at duplicate bridge two or three times a month for over 15 years, and I have developed a love for the game. I also joined Sons in Retirement (SIR), a retired men's group. Our Walnut Creek branch has about 200 members involved in 25 separate activities including bridge, hiking and walking, golf, and computers. Currently there are 10 Kaiser Retirees in SIR, and we sit together at our "Kaiser table" for monthly luncheons, or at least the luncheons before COVID-19. The coronavirus has also stopped another of my favorite pastimes – attending Oakland A's baseball games. I have a pair of season tickets that I manage between eight other couples, complete with an annual ticket draft at our house in March. As I've gotten older, it's become a challenge managing the 160 tickets and 80 parking passes but it's really an accountant's dream. I have eight different piles and I can't make any mistakes, or some A's fans will be very angry.

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Request an email
only copy of the
newsletter. Email
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(President's Message, from Page 1)

Several members have asked how Kaiser's operations have been impacted by the pandemic. We can report that all of Kaiser's plant operations have continued to operate in that the company is considered an essential business. The company has taken a number of steps to ensure employee safety and health, including physical modifications, working at home or remotely when possible, reduced travel, etc. And while overall performance remained strong through the first quarter, the balance of 2020 is uncertain but will almost certainly be less robust. By way of example, Kaiser recently announced that commercial aerospace revenue, 33% of Kaiser's total, is expected to decline by 20-25% when compared to last year. We

Our four grandchildren have been a tremendous addition to our lives. As it happened, the first one was born a year after I retired, which was also the time Mary Alice retired from teaching. Two of our grands live very close by and the other two live about 90 minutes away in Santa Cruz, CA. We had regular babysitting dates and overnights when they were younger and enough experiences to fill a book! Now they range in age from 17 – 20 and with the shelter in place orders, we visit via zoom on our computer about once a week. Mary Alice and I also love to travel, and we've been fortunate to travel to all seven continents. We took a 25 day round trip cruise from Miami down the Amazon River last December, but our trip to Spain and Portugal in May was cancelled due to the virus. We're hoping to make a tulip cruise to Holland and Belgium next spring.

remain confident, however, that the company is in a strong position, financially and strategically, to prosper as the markets improve.

Finally, as we navigate this difficult and uncertain period, let us all help each other stay well, stay safe and remain positive.

Erach
Michael Venie
Steve Ping

All the best!
Erach Tarapore, Mike Venie and
Steve Ping

Co-Presidents, KASRA

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Oregon prior to the shelter in place rules. Margaret reports how fortunate she feels being able to enjoy so much beauty. Two additional daughters in California and a love of crafts keeps Margaret busy as does baking using the oranges and lemons from her trees.

Best Wishes . . .

Our condolences to **Howard Nelson** (Alamo, CA) who suffered two terrible losses this past year. His eldest daughter **Ann Nelson** was killed in a hiking accident Aug. 4, 2019. An internationally known physicist, Ann received many awards including Guggenheim Fellow; Harvard Junior Fellow; Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; Member of the National Academy of Sciences; and winner of the 2018 Sakurai Prize in Physics. Subsequent to her death, her position at the University of Washington was memorialized as the Dr. Ann Nelson Endowed Professorship in Physics. She was a very active member of the Mountaineers, a Seattle-based organization of about 250,000 members, for whom she moderated websites about hiking and climbing. "Her husband and I received over 1000 messages of sympathy in the first 24 hours following the confirmation of her death," says Howard. Then on April 24 of this year, Howard lost his wife of 64 years **Dorothy Ann** following a three-year illness. Howard has two remaining daughters, both born in Australia when he was with Comalco, who now live in the United States and six grandchildren.

Our deepest sympathies also go to the family of **Shirley Putnam** (Spokane Valley), who passed away Dec. 27, 2019. Shirley was the surviving spouse of **Bill Putnam**.

In Memoriam



*Reldon Barre
Washington, WV*

*Arthur E. Brewster
Metairie, LA*

*Charles Henry Cager
New Orleans, LA*

*Ellie E. Comfort
Newman Lake, WA*

*Peter W. Elicker
Sorrento, FL*

*James Fickle
Henderson, NV*

*Willard "Bud" Leslie Goodwin
Belpre, OH*

*William Mancari
Ravenswood, WV*

*John Moore
Winter Park, FL*

*Ann Placek
Flemington, NJ*

*Donald M. Rigoni
Steeger, IL*

*Jarrell W. Williams
Galax, VA*

*HR Bud Wood
Penn Valley, CA*

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:
www.e-kasra.com

Due to the ever-changing restrictions resulting from the coronavirus, lunch meetings for the various KASRA groups have been postponed. They will be back as soon as it is safe for all our members. Contact information for the groups is listed below, and, hopefully, in the September issue of the KASRA Newsletter, we will have a full listing of meetings!

Baton Rouge

Email Bob Presson at leilap3@cox.net, or Bob Schoen at bobschoen@cox.net, or call Bob Schoen at (225) 937-2984.

Bay Area, KARLA

Contact Sharon Fraetis at (925) 330-8533 or email lafnatv@gmail.com.

Belpre

Contact Betty Blair at (304) 489-1337 or email bettylou13@suddenlink.net.

Chalmette

Contact Chuck Schimmel at (985) 643-0437 or email schimcol@aol.com.

Erie

Contact Tim Healy at (814) 402-1062 or email thealy1931@gmail.com.

Los Angeles

Contact Bob O'Leary at (714) 898-7463 or email

robemmet39@gmail.com

Mead

Contact Dan Coe at (509) 944-7264 or email dancoe33@comcast.net.

Newark

Contact Bill Snider at (740) 403-8328 or email colbill44@roadrunner.com

Ravenswood

Contact Pete Westenhaver at (304) 266-4109 or email Pete26164@gmail.com or call Lee Corder at (304) 273-9457.

Tacoma

Contact Bob Mohr at 253 820 6569 or bobmohr1942@gmail.com.

Trentwood

Contact Steve Harvey at (509) 939-7132 or email slharv3y@comcast.net.



Enjoying a fun lunch before COVID-19 put a halt to social gatherings are Tacoma retirees Les Foster, Rob Buller, Kirk Cockran, Diane Cockran and Gloria Walker.