

*Kaiser Aluminum Salaried Retirees Association*



Dick Kauffman

**A MESSAGE FROM KASRA PRESIDENT**

Dick Kauffman

Dear Fellow Retiree/Surviving Spouse:

This July issue of KASRA News is special because it is sent to all Kaiser Aluminum retirees and surviving spouses to encourage new or renewed membership in KASRA. A letter tailored to your specific membership status is enclosed.

KASRA keeps members up to date on the VEBA, COBRA, the activities of fellow retirees, and senior issues, as well as providing lists you can use to contact other retirees. We do this through select mailings, e-mail, KASRA News, KASRA's website ([www.e-kasra.com](http://www.e-kasra.com)), and an e-mail directory. So, please consider renewing or joining.

That said, there are a couple of other items I want to cover.

First, on May 20, the Bay Area KARLA luncheon group hosted a tribute to Evo Alexandre in recognition of his many years of tireless, dedicated service to Kaiser retirees. Evo has earned the right to spend more time with his family rather than continuing to devote endless hours spearheading our communication efforts. The tribute luncheon was very well attended and included old friends as well as retirees who knew Evo only through his frequent communications. Recognizing that Evo is irreplaceable, we nevertheless will try to cover the bases with the help of several directors. Once again, our thanks to Evo for all that he has done.

Second, and I'm sure of great interest to you, here is the latest information on the VEBA:

The VEBA Trustees have declared a qualified benefit of \$2000 per family unit for 2008. Eligible retirees and surviving spouses will shortly receive a letter from the VEBA Trustees regarding the 2008 benefit program along with a qualified benefit reimbursement request form and return envelope. They will also receive a copy of the VEBA Plan's Summary Annual Report for 2007. Eligible

retirees and surviving spouses who have not yet enrolled in the VEBA Plan will also receive an enrollment form. Once you have enrolled in the VEBA Plan, you do not need to do so again.

A number of retirees and surviving spouses who were enrolled in the VEBA Plan prior to December 31, 2007 and are entitled to claim the \$1,750 benefit for the 2007 Plan year have not yet done so. The 2007 Plan year benefit must be claimed before the December 31, 2008 deadline in order for it to be paid. Please check your records to be sure that you claim your benefit before this deadline, if you have not already done so.

If you have questions concerning the VEBA Plan, require an enrollment or benefit claim form, or additional information concerning the VEBA Plan, please contact the Plan's Third Party Administrator at the following mailing address, telephone number or e-mail address:

Professional Administrators, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 4026  
 Concord, CA 94520  
 Telephone: Toll Free (888) 344-8322  
 E-Mail: [vebaplan@proadministrators.com](mailto:vebaplan@proadministrators.com)

Enrollment forms, claim forms, and contact information also are available on KASRA's website: [www.e-kasra.com](http://www.e-kasra.com).

One final point: When you move, please remember to notify KASRA and the Third Party Administrator of your change of address so that you continue to receive timely information concerning the VEBA Plan. A number of retirees and surviving spouses have forgotten to do so and have left no forwarding address with the Post Office. If you cannot be located, you may miss out on valuable VEBA Plan benefits to which you are entitled.

Dick Kauffman  
 President, KASRA

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



**UPDATE!**

## WHAT'S GOING ON

**Joseph A. Voss** (Palm City, FL) plays golf, works out at the gym, and enjoys vacations at a mountain cabin in Georgia. **H.J.**

**Ducote** (Saratoga, CA) focuses his full time care giving activities on providing daily nutritious meals for his wife, Jean.

Ravenswood retiree **Don Harvey** of Ripley, WV, enjoyed his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday with wife, Ollie, and family including five grandchildren. Bristol retiree and resident **Mary Reynolds** says that she's not running any races since taking several falls, but otherwise is doing very well.

**Roger L. Underwood** (Arroyo Grande, CA) traveled to the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Vienna and Budapest last year.

This month, **Ida Kajikawa** (Hayward, CA) is attending a family reunion in Hawaii. Last year, the family tradition took place at a dude ranch in Paso Robles. June and **Don Woodward** of Oakbrook, IL, celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the family on an inter-island Hawaii cruise.

**Claude A. Buckner** (Marion, NC) was inducted into the N.C. Association of Soil and Water Conservation District's Hall of Fame for dedicating more than 46 years to supervising erosion control through dams and conservation measures in McDowell County.

Kathy and **Tony Procanik** of Monarch Beach, CA, said their trip to India and Nepal was awesome, and that the Taj Mahal is everything it's made up to be and then some!

Happy Anniversary....Shirley and **Al Schroeck** of Baton Rouge, LA, celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> with a 10-day tour of the Grand Canyon, Bryce and Zion Canyons, as well as Lake Powell. Carol and **William Weyer** of Mineral Wells, WV, celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Everett, WA with five kids, 10 grandkids and 11 great grandkids who live in five states. Dorothy and **Keith Sprouse** (Palm Springs, CA) took a Hawaiian Islands cruise to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and stopped to visit the Marine Corps base in Kaneohe where Keith

had served active duty. Mr. and Mrs. **Robert Newsom** (Baton Rouge, LA) observed their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year.

Honors and Appointments...**Dee McGrane** (Collegeville, PA) is honorary vice president of the American Quarter Horse Association, which has 350,000 members.

**Jack Schwegmann** of Oakland, CA, was commended by UC Cooperative Extension, Alameda County, for his 13,000 hours of volunteer work as a Master Gardener since 1988. Jack fielded more than 800 phone calls a year for more than 20 years from residents. **Carolyn Waybright** (Ripley, WV) received a Community Service Award from the Jackson County Community Foundation.

Trentwood retiree **Jerry Ashby** (Spokane, WA) has an interesting hobby as a figure skating judge. **Helen Riordan** (Livermore, CA) has a fifth great grandchild, Samuel Ryan Walker.

**Anthony Muhafo** (Warren, RI) enjoyed reading the KASRA profile on Evo Alexandre, having worked with Evo at Bristol. Always a gentleman and very knowledgeable, says Anthony about his former colleague.

**Dean A. Gressley** of Huntington, IN, says he's been bowling for 60 years. That's a lot of strikes. **Betty Lou Koska**, who lives 22 miles from Winnemucca, NV, is learning to play the piano, likes horseback riding and taking photos of old barns.

Baton Rouge retiree and resident **Harold (Johnny) Fussell** likes to grow tomatoes... wonder if it's a bumper crop this summer.

**Sherry Hellyer** (Ravenswood, WV) invites retirees to stop by and visit her at the Hair Shack, where she is a stylist. Sherry is helping with October Fest activities and assists the elderly.

**Marey C. Wofford** (Athens, GA) plays bridge and bingo. **Guy Robicheaux** of Slidell, LA, enjoys gardening, watercolors and woodworking. He also plays with the newest of four great grandchildren.



Erica and **James W. Miller** (Rocky Point, NC) love to hit the road in their RV to visit kids, grandkids and a great grandson in Texas.

Lucky Seven... **Phil DeMasi** (Spokane, WA) has a 7-some of Mead retirees who play in his golf group thrice weekly. **William Zappie** of Baltimore, MD, enjoys fishing, golf and going to the beach with grandchildren. **Dorothy L. Feeley** (Lutherville, MD) traveled on the Danube and Rhine Rivers, visiting Budapest and Amsterdam. Speaking of ships passing in the night, Ravenswood retiree **John Rothwell** (Texarkana, TX) and his wife, Eileen, took a similar cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest on the Rhine, Main and Danube rivers.

Katrina and Rita updates: Surviving spouse **Ruth Zeller** is happy to be living back in Chalmette, LA, in a completely renovated home. Meanwhile, Chalmette retiree and resident **Anthony Fradella** is putting the home back together following Hurricane Katrina. **Lee Cadwell** (Metairie, LA) was recovering from losses. So was **Albert J Emilien** of Houston, TX, who has rebuilt a home. Sherman, TX retiree **Bill Hughes** (Diamondhead, MS) has one bit of good news for old hunting buddies - his Louisiana camp survived Katrina.

**Charles H. "Pete" Jordan** (Evans, WV) heads for the mountains of WV when he wants to get away. Farther travels include stops in Florida and Tennessee to visit siblings. **Bruce Wilson** and his wife (Moraga, CA) traveled to Thailand last year. With the price of gas these days, **Virgil L. Bryant** vacations near his home in Hodgenville, KY. **Willemina Bosch** (Santa Rosa, CA) had a great time visiting friends in Holland last month.

**Bob Hartnig** of Ashland, OR collects antique pocket watches, 19<sup>th</sup> century postage stamps, Indian artifacts and...to see if the editor reads his full note...he writes that he also collects dust. Condolences to Bob who lost his wife last year to Alzheimer's.

**Len Sedlin** of Baton Rouge, LA, is district director of six SCORE chapters in Louisiana. SCORE helps small businesses grow by providing volunteer retired executives to serve as mentors. **Roberta Cox** (Savannah, GA), great grandmother to six, helps her daughter with the summer programs at the Baptist

Church where her son-in-law is the pastor. **Dick Hoskinson** (Gratiot, OH) plays golf and is in a band, not saying which instrument he favors. **Agnes Kepert** (Munster, IN) reads and participates in group exercises. **Marjorie Miotke** of Puyallup, WA, met the newest great granddaughter in Arkansas. She volunteers at the nursing home, bringing residents personal grooming items.

**Evo Alexandre (right)** was honored by KASRA in May for his years of service to the organization. Evo set up the member database system, took KASRA News on-line through email distribution and kept members informed about Kaiser Aluminum. Enjoy your second retirement.

**E. Allen Holbrook**, who lives in Napa, CA, writes that he is also a tree farmer in New Hampshire. That's quite a long commute.

**Judith Navarro** (El Sobrante, CA) saved \$650 a month by canceling COBRA coverage and enrolling in AARP Medical Plan J. Her husband is on a separate AARP Medical Plan himself.

Last year, **Curt Harrison** (Saratoga, CA) and his family took AMTRAK to Wash DC from Emeryville, CA, for vacation. With today's gas prices, taking the train sounds even better this year. For vacation variety, **Bill McWhinney** of Santa Rosa, CA, visited New York and took camping and fishing trips. **William Hansen** (Walnut Creek, CA) likes gardening, woodworking and does some local traveling.

**Dan Dunaway** (Westerville, OH) plays a lot of golf, citing Hilton Head Island as a favorite spot. Even Dan's sales associate job at the Columbus airport PGA Tour store keeps him connected to his hobby. **Carol Cunniss** (Lehigh Acres, FL) had both hips replaced last year. She took a road trip to Montreal and through seven states before coming home. **Wil Taylor** (Spokane, WA) visited family in Birch Bay and Sedro Woolley. **Ted Birchill** (Ridge Manor, FL) spent two weeks in Richland, Tacoma and Spokane, WA.



### Send KASRA Your News & Pictures

Write us your news, travels, stories... humorous tales welcome. Send a note to Mark Murray, Editor, KASRA News, 2471 San Miguel Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 or email: [mamwmipr@aol.com](mailto:mamwmipr@aol.com).

JULY 2008

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## MEMBER PROFILE: ROBERT IRELAN



Bob Irelan

*“Undoubtedly, the couple of years fending off the hostile takeover bids followed by MAXXAM’s acquisition of Kaiser Aluminum (was the most challenging period of my career)”*

In 1967, Bob Irelan was an associate editor at Nation’s Business Magazine in Washington, D. C., reporting on a story about new towns. He came across Kaiser Aluminum’s master-planned community, Rancho California, which led to a serendipitous telephone meeting with then-Corporate Public Relations Director Ron Rhody. A year later, Irelan joined Kaiser for what turned out to be a 31-year career in public relations. For nearly a decade, he served as executive assistant to Edgar Kaiser, Chairman of Kaiser Aluminum and all of the other

Kaiser industrial entities. In 1979, Irelan returned to Corporate Communications, managing corporate relations, before moving to Ravenswood, WV, in 1982 to serve as the Midwest Region Public Affairs VP. In 1985, Irelan returned to corporate headquarters in Oakland as VP, Public Relations, and managed internal and external communications during two hostile takeover attempts and the subsequent acquisition of Kaiser Aluminum by MAXXAM Inc. He moved to Houston in 1990, serving dual PR roles for Kaiser Aluminum and MAXXAM before retiring from Kaiser in 1997 and MAXXAM in 1999. Today, Bob and his wife, Barbara, live in Rancho Murieta, CA.

**Q. You have a history few retirees have had an opportunity to experience – that is, working for the eldest son of the founder of Kaiser Aluminum. What was Edgar Kaiser like and what was it like working for him?**

A. It was a unique opportunity to work for Edgar. He was a very principled man, with the highest of ethics. He was generous with his praise and appreciation, and he also was very inclusive. Traveling with him, I saw a fair amount of the world, and he graciously included me in meetings with presidents and other world leaders. We often worked horrendous hours but I never felt I worked as hard as Edgar did. The memories are ones I treasure.

**Q. What was the most challenging period in your career?**

A. Undoubtedly, the couple of years fending off the hostile takeover bids followed by MAXXAM’s acquisition of Kaiser Aluminum. In 1985, on my very first day in the Oakland office after transferring back from Ravenswood, I received a media query asking for comment on a CNN report that some investor had acquired a chunk of Kaiser stock and “intended to do something with it.” That began an intense period of working closely with Cornell Maier, engaging employees, developing communications materials, and managing communications in a crisis mode to defeat a consent effort and win a proxy fight. By late 1986, Kaiser Aluminum struck a deal with Alan Clore, who controlled about 30 percent of our stock. However, when the stock market plunged in October 1987, Clore couldn’t meet margin calls on the stock he controlled and he was forced to seek a purchaser, who turned out to be Charles Hurwitz of MAXXAM. Then, in 1988, Mr. Hurwitz outbid another investor group to acquire the Kaiser shares he didn’t already control.

**Q. Your travels to the Valco reduction plant in Ghana were both professionally and personally rewarding. Tell us about your Godson, Jack.**

A. In the early ‘80s, I made numerous trips to Ghana – 8 or 9 visits in 2 ½ years. It was a great experience; I have great affection for that country and the people I met. On maybe the second of those trips I met Jack Kwabena Rahmey, who was 10 years old and very bright and personable. We visited on each of my subsequent trips and, in 1983, Barbara and I arranged for him to visit us for a month and a half in Ravenswood. He quickly became a member of the family as our Godson. He graduated from high school in Ghana, and worked in the potrooms at the Valco plant for several years. We committed to sponsor his college education in the U.S., but it took nearly seven years and a lot of effort to obtain a foreign student visa. Finally, at age 24, he got his visa. We helped put him through Sacramento City College and Sacramento State University. Today, Jack, 38, is an auditor with the State Controller’s Office in Sacramento and has a 2 ½-year-old son.

**Q. Tell us about your involvement with KASRA.**

**A.** I served two terms on the KASRA Board beginning in 2002 and worked closely with Jed Daniel and others to make sure we were doing the best job we could to communicate with retirees on what was happening with the company and our retiree benefits. Our goal was to tell retirees what we knew as soon and as completely as we knew it, and we did this through special messages from Jed, blast e-mails from Evo Alexandre, and the regularly published KASRA News. We also did a lot of government relations and media relations work to gain exposure for our efforts to preserve and protect the benefits retirees had earned. We produced a position paper which retirees sent to their elected representatives and we sent it to editorial page editors. It was a team effort from start to finish. Unfortunately, we were not successful in preserving the benefits but the Official Retirees' Committee succeeded in establishing the VEBA.

**Q. How did you and Barbara meet?**

**A.** On a blind date in West Virginia. I was a student at the University of Maryland and was working at the Washington Post. Barbara was working as a secretary in Washington. Her parents lived in Martinsburg, WV, and a fraternity brother who had gone to high school with Barbara told me he'd introduce me to a nice girl if I'd help him paint his parent's house. By far, the best deal I ever made. We'll celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary next year.

**Q. How many children do you have?**

**A.** We have two sons, Bob Jr., who is a sous chef in Las Vegas, and Jon, who is a sales operations director at AT&T in Sacramento, and Godson Jack. Among them, we are blessed to have four grandchildren – ranging from 2 ½ to 20.

**Q. What are your hobbies?**

**A.** Grandchildren, golf, travel, and politics. Each year we go to Maui and Palm Springs, as well as spending a fair part of the summer at a cabin we've owned in the Sierra for more than 30 years. After retiring, I taught a writing for public relations course at University of the Pacific for two years and an essentials of

public relations course at the University of California, Davis Extension for five years. I thoroughly enjoyed teaching, but this year I decided it was getting tougher and tougher to sound relatively smart, so I "really retired."

**What's Going On** – cont. from page 3

**Harry Neiheisel** of Columbiana, OH, gets together with fellow retirees for breakfast twice a month, enjoying coffee and chewing the fat. **Michael Garven** (Graham, FL) enjoys the mental challenge of crossword puzzles. He also finds there's always an odd job or two to do around the house to keep him busy. **Robert Gordon** (Centralia, MO) enjoys entertaining the great great grandchildren. **Fred Muller** (Chico, CA) got together with former Jamaica operations colleague **Bill Lallman** who now lives in Redmond, OR.

Cruises were popular for many retirees last year, among them: **Lillian Weese** (Racine, OH), **Raymond Woodard** (Springboro, OH), **Harvey Marcum** (Leon, WV), **Norma Macdonald** (Benicia, CA), **Ralph Hatlen** of Stanwood, WA,

**Norman Grabstein** moved to a condo in San Francisco, CA, with breathtaking views of the Bay. Two of his children and grandkids are nearby, while another lives in Seattle.

Ladies who lunch... **Priscilla Kozak** (Martinez, CA) organizes a luncheon every month for 12-16 women. Her home suffered fire damage last year and is now rebuilt. **M.L "Van" Dreser** of Pleasanton, CA, is active in the local Rotary Club as a community and international volunteer.

**Where Are They Now?**

**Mike Sawatzkey** (Spokane, WA) is the environmental health and safety manager for Biopol, Laboratory, Inc., which produces raw materials for allergy treatments. Ravenwood retiree **Jim Hunter** (Ripley, WV) operates the Flying Dollar Cattle Ranch. **Russell S. Loar** (Parkersburg, WV) is a sales rep at Sam's Club. **Herman Woessner** (Diamondhead, MS) is the safety and industrial hygiene manager for Jacob's Technology in Stennis. **Judith Ames** (Youngstown, OH) works part time as a zoning inspector for Poland Village. **Robert Newsom** of Baton Rouge, LA, works for Spectrum Engineering Inc. as an instrument engineer.

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This issue of KASRA News was mailed to all Kaiser Aluminum Retirees.

Look for the information on the election of new KASRA Board members.

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Mail in the Ballot as soon as possible.

**JULY 2008**

**KAISER  
ALUMINUM  
SALARIED  
RETIREEES  
ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 1171, Lafayette,  
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E-Mail:  
[news@e-kasra.com](mailto:news@e-kasra.com)

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Bob Eisenbach  
Bob Mohr  
Dave Whitman

We're on the Web!

See us at:

**[www.e-kasra.com](http://www.e-kasra.com)**

# LUNCH BUNCH

**Aug 4 Los Angeles**  
Lunch at noon at The Elephant Bar,  
14303 E. Firestone Blvd., La Mirada.  
Contact Norm Manger (310) 377-2135  
or email [normmanger@cox.net](mailto:normmanger@cox.net). L.A.  
meeting held the 1st Monday of each  
month.

**Aug 7 Baton Rouge**  
Lunch at noon at Mansur's, 5720  
Corporate Blvd. Call Bob Eisenbach  
(225) 926-1334 or email  
[bobeisenbach@cox.net](mailto:bobeisenbach@cox.net). Baton Rouge  
meets 1st Thursday of each month.

**Aug 12 Newark**  
Lunch at 11:00 a.m. at Stacy's  
Hometown Buffet in Heath, Ohio.  
Contact Bob Abel (740) 323-2268 or  
email [rpabel@alltel.net](mailto:rpabel@alltel.net). Cost: \$3.00  
matched by Newark plant.

**Aug 14 Mead**  
Lunch at 11:30 a.m., at Cathay Inn, on  
North Division. Contact Phil  
Marksbury at (509) 325-1798 or email  
[pjmarksb@comcast.net](mailto:pjmarksb@comcast.net). Mead meets the  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month.

**Sep 4 Ravenswood**  
Noon at Cedar Lakes, Ripley, WV. For  
reservations call Dave Whitman (304)  
273-5548 or email  
[dwhitman@wirefire.com](mailto:dwhitman@wirefire.com).

**Sep 6 Belpre**  
Annual picnic at noon, Howe's Grove Park  
in Belpre. Bring a covered dish or two.  
Table service provided. Call Betty Lou Blair  
(304) 489-1337 or email  
[bettylou13@suddenlink.net](mailto:bettylou13@suddenlink.net).

**Sep 10 Chalmette**  
Lunch 11:30 a.m. at Jasmine French  
Restaurant (across from the Slidell Train

Station, on the corner of Teddy Avenue in  
Olde Town Slidell), 1768 Front Street (US  
Hwy. 11, Blue Star Hwy. RSVP Sherman  
Faught (985) 690-4942 or Chuck Schimmel  
at (985) 643-0437 or email  
[schimcol@aol.com](mailto:schimcol@aol.com) by August 27, 2008.

**Oct 31 Belpre**  
9:00 a.m., breakfast at Shoney's,  
Garfield Ave., Parkersburg, WV.  
Contact Betty Lou Blair (304) 489-1337  
or email [bettylou13@suddenlink.net](mailto:bettylou13@suddenlink.net)

## PLEASE MAIL IN YOUR BALLOTS TODAY!

### ***IN MEMORIAM...***

John M. Dwyer - San Jose, CA

Julius D. Fandal - Slidell, LA

Jack Van Gelder - Orinda, CA

Donald E. Getz - Castroville, CA

Jacques B. Houston Sr. - Baton Rouge, LA

Caroline K. Krajcar - Castro Valley, CA

Leslie J. Merriam - Post Falls, ID

Shirlee A. Polson - Spokane, WA

Richard C. Silvey - Spokane Valley, WA.

John W. (Jack) Watson - Lafayette, CA

Wilbert F. Wegener - Columbia, MO

Andrew G. "A.G." Wright Jr. -  
St. Gabriel, LA

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