

Kaiser Aluminum Salaried Retirees Association

President's Reflections-- "Passing the Baton" November 2008

Dear Fellow Retiree/Surviving Spouse:

Before I "pass the baton" onto your next KASRA President, I'd like to take this opportunity to share and reflect on a few things.

When I stepped into the Presidency two years ago, I wanted our Board to work towards two things—upgrade the appeal and quality of our Newsletter, and launch a web site.

I think you'd agree that we've made progress on both fronts—with the support of many of you donating your time, creativity and enthusiasm. I hope you agree!

Secondly, please join me in welcoming three new members to the Board-- Ross Hambly, Blanca Ostrovsky and Will Schnieder—each elected to three-year terms. Not to be overlooked, we all owe a vote of thanks to Alan Longmuir and Ron Radakovich for their contributions as board members the past six years. KASRA has a rule that board members may serve two, three-year terms, after which they are term-limited off the Board.

Each volunteer board member has specific assignments (listed towards the back of this KASRA News) which contribute to the overall success of KASRA. In addition, there are several non-board members who assist us very significantly. They are: Evo Alexandre - Communications Advisor; Bill Alsup - Database Maintainer; Sharon Fraetis - Database Updater; and Joanne Gutierrez - Office Administrator. Our thanks to each of them!

I am pleased to announce that Carlos Xavier has accepted the position of KASRA President, succeeding me, as I also have been termed out. Carlos has been Treasurer for the past three years and has been heavily involved in all aspects of KASRA. You are in good hands moving forward!

As is the case with most volunteer activities, you end up spending considerably more time than originally planned. However, the satisfaction gained from assisting our Kaiser retirees and their families, as well as the gratitude shown for this assistance, are rewards far beyond what I expected.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your President for the past two years and to have worked with the Board in serving your interests, addressing your concerns and recognizing your successes outside Kaiser. My very sincere thanks to all of you for your support! I look forward to Carlos and the Board carrying forward and building on the good work that has been the trademark of KASRA since its inception.

Dick Kauffman



Dick Kauffman with Carlos Xavier

Visit KASRA's
website at
www.e-kasra.com

WHAT'S GOING ON

UPDATE!



Vince Poettgen (Vallejo, CA) leads a 7-piece band that entertains seniors in nursing and retirement homes. **Larry Hoppe** has retired from running a B&B in Friday Harbor, WA, and moved to Walsenburg, CO. **Eugene A. McLanson** of Liberty Lake, WA, took a trip East to visit New England and his Connecticut hometown. **Virgil L. Bryant** sends greetings from Hodgenville, KY. Gladys and **Joe Fereday** of Baton Rouge, LA, had a wonderful trip to Greece and Turkey. **Harlan Gilmore** (Ann Arbor, MI) will spend four months in Argentina this winter. **Ralph E. Crossan** of Somerset, OH, is the Grand Chaplain, Grand Lodge Free, Masons of Ohio. When Mead retiree **John L. Struchen** (Vancouver, WA) goes on fishing trips with his sons to Lake Billy Chinook in central Oregon, it brings back wonderful memories of when he and his late wife would visit there. **Rebecca A. Keever-Taylor** (Evans, WV) is now in Cape Haze, FL, where she will spend six months gardening, reading and helping to mow a 4.5 acre property.

Bruce N. Wilson (Moraga, CA) hiked on Anacapa and Santa Cruz Islands and in the Channel Island National walk off. **Art Haglund** (Spokane, WA) visited Olympia, WA, and Kalispell, MT. **H.J. Wittrock** of Santa Rosa, CA, visits shut-ins and supports his church with homeless ministry. **Earl Baker** (Newark, OH) is under hospice care at a skilled nursing facility.

Congratulations to retiree **William B. Quick's** surviving spouse, Fran, (Glendale, CA) who received a President's Volunteer Service Award. After recovery from by-pass surgery, Fran has resumed volunteer work at the school and the library. Ravenswood, WV, retiree and resident **William "Bill" Bartlett** rides a road bike for 15 miles at least three times a week. The 84-year old cancer survivor has had 7 operations since retirement. **Yvonne Nauss** had extensive knee surgery and traded in dancing for scooter racing and walker pushing. Call Yvonne at (925) 695-4313 to visit her at Diamond Terrace, an independent living facility in Clayton, CA.

Fixer upper...**Paul Flores** of Hayward, CA,

was doing some electrical wiring on an old building in South Dakota that his wife had purchased. He put a hole in the wall and thousands of bees came out swarming. Luckily, he was not stung. His wife, meanwhile, made almost all her investment back on the purchase of three buildings by selling the antiques within, some dating back to 1849. **Ellie Comfort** (Newman Lake, WA) sold most of her 55-year antique collection, save the quilt fabric, and moved to a triple wide modular home.

Thoughts and prayers...**George Speicher** (Spokane, WA) writes that his wife, Doris, has been at a care center for the past year since suffering a stroke. Condolences to **Bob Irelan** of Rancho Murieta, CA, whose wife, Barbara, passed away unexpectedly while playing golf.

Hobbies galore...**Robert J. Shader** of Walnut Creek, CA, golfing, woodworking and reading; surviving spouse, of **Raymond Bucholz**, Ann (West Garden Grove, CA) pinochle and mah jongg; **Joe Darling** (Bristol, RI) power boating and ham radio (K1LGH); **Harold E. Smith** of Thompson, MO, playing golf; **Alan Morasch** (Spokane Valley, WA) fishing, hunting, snowmobile camping and RV traveling; surviving spouse Phyllis Glubka of Lincoln, CA, square dancing with the Sun City Squares and playing cards; **Roy Couvillion** (Plaquemine, LA) fishing for crappie; **John Miller** (Spokane, WA) flying, raising chickens and brewing beer; **Jerry Sealy** of McKinney, TX, golf, gardening and playing with grandkids; **Melvin Stone** (Almira, WA) remote control airplanes and surfacing shuffleboard courts in Yuma, AZ; **Oscar Wallace** of Ripley, WV, managing a 315-acre cattle farm; **Joanne Clevenger** (Letart, WV) scrapbooking with Creative Memories; **Charles F. Williams** (Newark, OH) playing shuffleboard, doing yardwork and bicycling; **Raymond Sansbury** (Salisbury, NC) playing golf, watching grandson play high school baseball and golf; **Stu Spalding** of Moraga, CA, keeping fit, reading, going onto the computer; **Claudette E. Kranson** (San Leandro, CA) soul line dancing, yoga and weight lifting. **Vern (Vandy) Van De Vanter** (Newport, WA) keeps busy with www.kustomautomotive.net.



Greetings from **Bob O'Leary** of Garden Grove, CA. **TJ and Sue Summerson** (Spokane, WA) traveled to Stevensville, MT, to see **Tex Pritchett's** grandson graduate from high school with honors and college bound on a Navy ROTC scholarship.

Birthday Parties! **Loeta B. Ablett** of Gallipolis, OH, 90; **Bus Johnson**, 95 (Moss Landing retiree and father of **Diana Kemmerle** (Auburn, CA); **Elizabeth L.Lynch** (Otis Orchards, WA) 75.

Happy Anniversary.... Ida and **Paul L. Smith** of Fayetteville, WV, celebrated their 50th anniversary; Amy and **Joe Moore** (Sun City, AZ) took a month long trip through China and Tibet to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary; Lorraine and **Wayne A. Lounder** (Yakima, WA) spent their 60th anniversary with family and friends.

Cruisin...Baton Rouge retiree and resident **Janice Powers** enjoyed a Caribbean cruise with her 4 daughters and her sister; Ag Chem retiree **Daniel H. Martin** (Nashville, TN) cruised the Hawaiian Islands; **Waymon Sloan** (Kaufman, TX) went on a cruise to South America and Antarctica; **Lew and Shirley Huffstutler Albright**, who relocated from Roseville, CA to San Diego, CA, sailed on one leg of the maiden world cruise of Cunard's Queen Victoria; Dorothy and **Brent Harrah** (Sylvania, OH) took a river and land cruise from Prague to the Black Sea; Trentwood retiree **Don Dewar** (Spokane Valley, WA) planned to take a cruise from Moscow to St. Petersburg; **Joanne Gutierrez** of Pleasant Hill, CA, enjoyed a Baltic cruise to 7 countries.

Where are they now? **Don Tebon** (Wales, WI) is a sales consultant for Howard Precision Metals in Milwaukee; **Leroy F. Avers** (The Villages, FL) is a starter, trainer and ambassador on one of 9 championship golf courses at The Villages; **Sharon Fraetis** (Lafayette, CA) is business manager for a skilled nursing facility; **Aprina Leavy** (Oakland, CA) is a travel consultant; **Jerry Bills** (Downers Grove, IL) is a consultant for Conex Cable, LLC in De Kalb; **Susan Ashe** (Spokane, WA) is Director of Legislative & Public Affairs for the City of Spokane;

Donald E. Gilliland of Rockford, WA, is an engineering consultant who recently finished three building projects in San Diego, CA; **Diane Nelson** (Edgewood, WA) is a real estate agent for John L. Scott; **Isaac R. Spaur** (Jacksonville, FL) drives a shuttle for a car dealership.

Reunions... **Rod McMillan** (Mt. Vernon, OH) attended his 26th annual Army reunion; Mary and **Tom Delehaunty** (Pinehurst, NC) joined 28 family members for their 32nd annual Week at the Beach on Emerald Isle; **Lee Thach** (Clarkston, WA) attended the North Central High School Centennial Celebration in Spokane, representing the Class of 1938 and singing a musical tribute with the only other classmate who attended. **Donald S. Angell** of Sandpoint, ID, gathered the family for a summer reunion - his son, daughter, spouses, three grandchildren and two great granddaughters; **Ellie Keefer** of Leon, WV, spent a week at Cass with 28 family members for their 7th reunion; Ginny and **Norman Zanardelli** had a family reunion in Roseville, CA, with their 7 kids and 9 of the 11 grandkids. **Phil Mischkot** (Sherman, TX) attended the U.S.S. Richmond reunion in Branson, MO; **Gary Blair** of Surprise, AZ, was amazed to see and catch up with many former classmates at his 50th high school reunion at Gonzaga Prep; **Joseph C. Magdich** (Oregasco, OH) attended his Army reunion. While travel to reunions is limited these days for Chalmette retiree **Anthony S. Gerace** of Madisonville, LA, we thank him and fellow retirees for service to our country. He was in the First Air Commando Group, Fifth Fighter Squadron in WW II.

Kaiser Reunions... **Kenney E. Duelle** (Columbiana, OH) says that 42 retirees and wives attended the KASRA Columbiana retiree picnic. **Chuck Schimmel** (Slidell, LA) reports that 40 retirees got together at Jasmine's Restaurant for a gathering of Chalmatians. **Lee Corder** of Ravenswood, WV sent photos of the annual KERA summer picnic during which 51 Ravenswood retirees and spouses gathered for grilled hot dogs and hamburgers, pot luck and a whole lotta dessert. Go to www.e-kassra.com for new retiree photos, including two from the Ravenswood annual KERA get together.

Send KASRA Your News & Pictures

Write us your news, travel stories... humorous tales welcome. Send note to Mark Murray, Editor, 2471 San Miguel Dr. Walnut Creek, CA 94596 or email: mamwmipr@aol.com



Steve Abernathy

RETIREE PROFILE: STEVE ABERNATHY

After obtaining a mechanical engineering degree from Oregon State University, Steve Abernathy began work at Kaiser Engineers based in Oakland. In 1978, after seven years at KE, Steve transferred to Kaiser Aluminum's Corporate Power and Utilities Department to work on a variety of energy-related projects throughout the Corporation. Ten years later, Steve relocated to Spokane to work on technical and strategic projects in the Reduction Division Technology Center. He also spent several years in the Technology Sales Group, which involved extensive international travel to pursue both green site and retrofit smelter projects. Steve ultimately joined the Northwest Energy Group where he provided analytical support in securing energy supply for our Northwest operations as we transitioned to the newly deregulated power market. Following his retirement in 2002, Steve and his wife, Linda, moved back to the Bay Area. They reside in Piedmont, just a few miles from the Kaiser Center where he began his career. Steve joined the KASRA Board in 2005, serving as a liaison to several field locations. He has also served on the KASRA planning committee and, most recently, has taken on a more visible project – creation of the newly redesigned KASRA website.

KASRA members who have never visited our web site at www.e-kasra.com may be interested to learn about Steve's effort in creating this valuable enhancement to KASRA member communications and how his efforts underscore the Kaiser motto, **One Person Makes a Difference**. This month marks the first year anniversary of the web

site's debut.

Q. What is the purpose of the KASRA website?

A. The KASRA website www.e-kasra.com provides an online communications platform for members to access and share information on salaried retiree issues and regional activities in a user-friendly format.

Q. Why was the web site created?

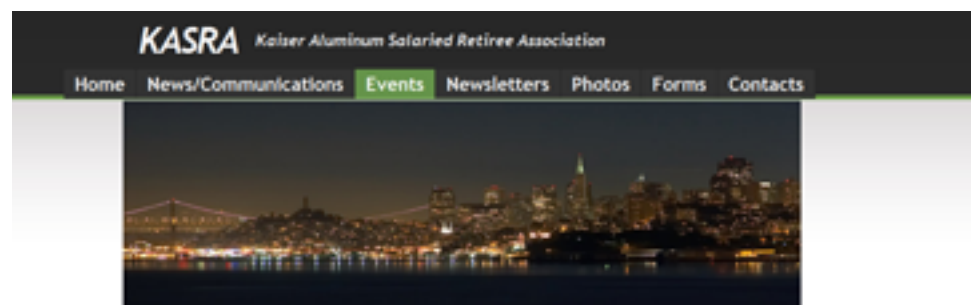
A. Recognizing that more than half of our KASRA membership have access to computer resources, the KASRA Board decided that there was an opportunity to significantly enhance KASRA communications capabilities with a tool that allows more timely exchange of information while also providing easy access to past communications and resources.

Q. Are members without internet access missing out on vital information they should have?

A. Those who receive KASRA News and information via email or regular mail will continue to receive all the important information that KASRA distributes to its current members. The web site is simply an additional resource for sharing this same information, enhanced with more photos, timely regional announcements, and industry related news. The site serves to collect these communications, forms, and contact information along with other KASRA information in one easy-to-find location.

KASRA's WEBSITE
www.e-kasra.com
CELEBRATES ITS
FIRST ANNIVERSARY
THIS MONTH

NOVEMBER 2008



San Francisco, CA

Home Page from the KASRA website www.e-kasra.com

Q. You developed and created www.e-kasra.com. Were you experienced in designing web sites?

A. Web development and design was an area entirely new to me. Once I had the approval of the KASRA Board, I began researching the subject and began the layout and design effort. Although I initially anticipated having outside resources to advance the effort, I ultimately elected to complete the design by myself, as well as provide ongoing support and upgrades to the site, to keep costs to a minimum. The total effort ended up taking me several months to implement.

Q. Describe the content on www.e-kasra.com

A. When you first enter the site, you see the Home page, which contains general information about the KASRA organization and provides a feedback form for suggestions or comments. I encourage KASRA members to send in their feedback. The remaining six pages cover News & Communications, Events, Newsletter archives, Photos, Forms, and Contact information. Some of these pages have sub pages. For example the News & Communications page includes sub pages for VEBA, KASRA, and Aluminum industry News as well as a link to the Kaiser Aluminum web site.

Q. You maintain and regularly refresh the web site content. How can members assist you in making the website even better?

A. The photos section is one of the most frequently viewed areas on the site. It currently displays pictures from past luncheon gatherings from the Bay Area,

Chalmette, Mead and Tacoma. I thank our current contributors and encourage greater participation from our other locations as well. In addition, I would appreciate receiving timely communications about luncheon dates and details to help keep the information current and accurate.

Q. How many of our members or viewers visit www.e-kasra.com?

A. Over the past year, the site has experienced significant viewership. The photo section receives by far the greatest 'hits', although other pages are frequently viewed as well.

Q. What do you do when you aren't working on the web site?

A. Linda and I like to travel and, over the years, have enjoyed such places as Greece, Turkey, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Australia and New Zealand. In the past year, we took a six week driving trip through Alaska with our grandson and we also celebrated our anniversary in the Hawaiian Islands. We also visit Spokane and Mesa, AZ to see our two daughters and their families which include five grandchildren and one great-grandson.



(Steve and Linda pictured above))



QUESTIONS ANSWERED ON VEBA & KASRA FUNDS

The KASRA Board recently received a question from one of the field locations which may be of interest to many of you. So, I thought I should share the question and responses with all of you. *(The question has been slightly reworded).*

Question

We are a group of nine KASRA members, six of whom are 80+ years of age. We receive information that reports VEBA totals of \$73 million and KASRA resources of \$400,000. Repeated requests have been made to be advised how this money will be distributed in keeping with the increasing age of the members. While the interest on the money continues to increase, the obituary lists are lengthening as well. What do the actuarial tables indicate for our membership population?

The distributions made to date are appreciated, but we suffered some very severe losses when the company went bankrupt and we lost our life insurance and medical coverage. A little knowledge can be a dangerous thing, so please get us up to speed on what the immediate future holds. Thanks.

VEBA Response

As you know, the VEBA is managed by an independent Board of Trustees and not by KASRA. I referred the VEBA portion of your question to Dave Perry, one of the VEBA Trustees. He indicates that, in setting up the VEBA, it was (and still is) the intention to provide lifetime medical benefits to all eligible salaried retirees of Kaiser and their eligible spouses and dependents. The VEBA Trustees commission an actuarial study each year based upon the expected lives of all eligible participants in order to set the maximum reimbursement benefit level for that year. The study is complex

and takes a number of factors into consideration, including the assets in the VEBA Trust, estimated future contributions by Kaiser under the Profit Sharing Plan, estimated future income on the assets of the Trust, estimated future inflation rates, mortality tables, VEBA operating expenses, actual (and estimated future) number of eligible individuals enrolled and participating in the VEBA Plan, and the extent to which enrolled individuals claim the full amount of the benefits available to them. The most recent actuarial study projects benefit payments only out to 2057, but it is expected that some eligible individuals will live longer than that. **The current objective is to pay sustainable annual benefits out of principal and income in such a manner that no funds remain for the payment of benefits and operating expenses after the last individual eligible for benefits is no longer living.**

KASRA Response

With respect to the resources which have been accumulated by KASRA, the KASRA board has voted to continue to carry out the primary purpose of KASRA's Articles of Association and By-Laws, which is to maintain and promote the interests of the salaried retirees of the company.

Now that we have settled with the company on the benefit issues through formation of the VEBA, KASRA's primary focus is membership communications through its newsletters published six times a year, e-mail notices, and maintaining both a telephone hotline and the KASRA website. In addition, we maintain both a roster of members to enable us to carry out these functions.

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Outgoing President Dick Kauffman addresses KASRA Annual Meeting

KASRA's current activities cost approximately \$50,000 a year. Unpaid, volunteer board members provide a number of services to KASRA, but with the passage of time we anticipate it will necessary to employ outside help for at least some of these services. In addition, there may be unforeseen legal expenses. It is the current intention of the Board to fund these expenses through the existing cash reserves and membership dues. As you know, we have reduced the annual dues for members. While the VEBA is projecting its program to go through the year 2057, nearly 50 years from now, it is highly unlikely KASRA will exist that long.

In summary, KASRA currently plans to continue to provide the above-mentioned services without increasing dues to members. The Articles of Association and the By-laws do provide for a distribution process if KASRA is dissolved. The Board currently has no plans to make any interim distribution of cash to its members.

Dick Kauffman
Outgoing KASRA President

IN MEMORIAM

Robert J. Allen, Jr - Danville, CA
 Gordon Barna - Danville, CA
 Noah H. Brown - Centre, AL
 Marian W. Clair - Newberg, OR
 Gerald W. Clark - St. Michaels, MD
 Cecil B. Crowe - Dade City, FL
 Edward F. Gilbert - Cortland, OH
 James R. Kearns - LeSage, WV
 John M. Marchi - Spokane, WA
 Patricia A. "Pat" Peaslee - Sonora, CA
 Bryce R. Peterson - Bloomington, IN
 William J. "Chubb" Price - Savannah, GA
 Olga Sheehan - Oakland, CA
 Thomas K. (Tom) Singer - Appleton, NY
 Floy W. Smith - Prattville, AL
 Richard M. (Dick) Thompson
 Rancho Murieta, CA
 John R. Thornberry* - Danville, CA
 Ralph E. Weatherford
 Mission Viejo, CA
 Wayne F. Welcome - Walnut Creek, CA
 Edwin J. Willis - Slidell, LA
 Walter E. Wisniewski* - Norristown, PA
 Rosamond F. Wolfe* - Ripley, WV

*Died more than 12 months ago

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

**KAISER
ALUMINUM
SALARIED
RETIREES
ASSOCIATION**

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news@e-kasra.com

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NOVEMBER 2008

LUNCHBUNCH

Nov. 3 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. L.A.
meeting held the 1st Monday of each
month.

Nov 4 Baton Rouge
Lunch at noon at Mansur's, 5720
Corporate Blvd. Call Bob Eisenbach
(225) 926-1334 or email
bobeisenbach@cox.net. Baton Rouge
meets 1st Thursday of each month.

Nov 13 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. Mead meets the
2nd Thursday of every month.

Nov 14 KAOS (Baton Rouge)
Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Drusilla Place.
Call Beef Lewis for reservations (225)
275-0342.

Nov 20 Trentwood
Lunch at 11:00 a.m. at Valley Eagles,
16810 E. Sprague Av. Speaker will be
retiree Mike Stemm, Dominion Trading
Company. Call Del McKinley (509) 924-
3077 or email delmckinl@aol.com, or
Jan Gorman (509) 926-5476 or email
jandon4@hotmail.com.

Dec 1 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. L.A.
meeting held the 1st Monday of each
month.

Dec 3 Tacoma
Noon Lunch at Tacoma Elks Lodge,

1965 South Union. Contact Bob Mohr at
(253) 820-6569 or
bobjanetmohr@comcast.net.

Dec 4 Baton Rouge
Lunch at noon at Mansur's, 5720
Corporate Blvd. Contact Paul Petit or
Len Sedlin. Baton Rouge meets 1st
Thursday of each month.

Dec 5 Ravenswood
Christmas Dinner at 6 p.m. at Greenhill's
Country Club. For reservations call Dave
Whitman (304) 273-5548 or email
dwhitman@wirefire.com.

Dec 8 KARLA
No host bar at 11 a.m., Noon lunch at
Walnut Creek Elk's Club. Dave Perry
will be the guest speaker. Call Sharon
Fraetis (925) 934-43334 or email
lafnatv@silcon.com.

Dec 9 Newark
Lunch at 11:00 a.m. at Stacy's Hometown
Buffet in Heath, Ohio. Costs are paid for
by the Newark plant. Contact Bob Abel
(740) 323-2268 or email
rpabel@alltel.net.

Dec 11 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.

Dec 17 Erie
Lunch at 1 p.m. at the Colony Restaurant.
Call Tim Healy at (814) 474-3536, fax
(814) 474-2700 or email
thealy@verizon.com.