



Doug Mann  
KASRA President

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

*Kaiser Aluminum Salaried Retirees Association*

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE KASRA PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Retirees/Surviving Spouses:

It seems many of you have made it through another grueling winter with snow, rain, more snow, high winds, tornadoes, you name it and you've had it! It's time for May and planting time with a little rain to start the growth. Things are looking better all the time as the old song title goes.

And speaking of May, it's time for KASRA News to go to press. It's also time for the VEBA Trustees to mail out the reimbursement request forms to VEBA participants. This mailing will also include the 2016 benefit declaration. So look for its arrival and collect copies of the necessary documents to accompany your reimbursement request. If you have questions, please contact the Delta Fund Administrator, P.O. Box 2308, Stockton, CA 95201-2308 or telephone (888) 344-8322 or email: [VEBA@deltafund.com](mailto:VEBA@deltafund.com).

As of latest count, nearly 93.5% of retiree Family Units eligible to participate in the VEBA plan have enrolled. That tells me there are nearly 200 of our friends who are eligible but not enrolled. Question? What can we do to find those who are eligible but for some reason have not signed up leaving their money behind? Please ask your eligible friends if they are signed

up!

KASRA membership --- Each year in July we send out a hard copy of our newsletter to all salaried retirees and surviving spouses regardless of membership status, along with a dues enrollment form. If dues are owed, the hope is to encourage all members and non-members to fill out the dues enrollment form, include a check in the amount of \$10 made payable to KASRA and send it off to KASRA at the address shown on the last page of this issue of KASRA News. You will be glad you did as you receive the latest issue of our popular Newsletter and learn what your former colleagues have been doing.

In closing, let me say that KASRA doesn't exist without the participation of our members, so keep in touch, tell us what's going on with you and be sure to include pictures!

That's it for now folks! So until our next issue, keep healthy and stay young!!!

All the best!

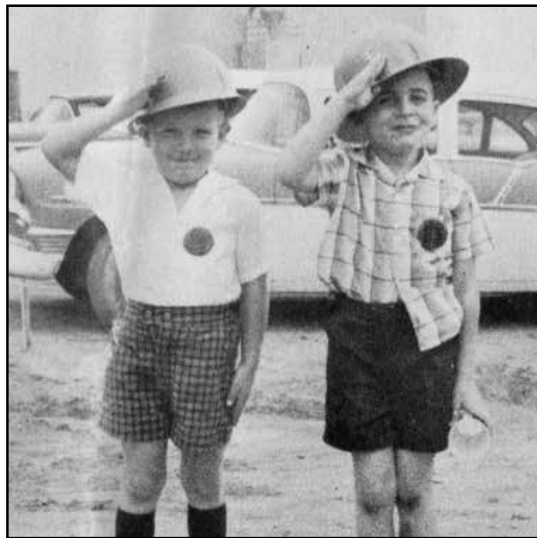
Doug Mann  
President, KASRA

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### Accomplishments . . .

Congratulations to **Ed Coyne** (Leesburg, FL). Formerly with Kaiser's Newark, OH, Plant, Ed recently found out that the May 2007 cover article of Harvard Business Review entitled "Surviving Your New CEO," co-authored by Ed and his son Kevin, will be included in the Spring 2016 Harvard Business Review OnPoint. The article was chosen because the editors found it still relevant and a fresh addition to the organizational culture conversations in today's workplaces. This is the second time the publication has reprinted the article.

**Benita Schontag** (Benicia, CA) recently won an Honorable Mention in the Soul-Making Keats Literary Competition. She was asked to read her Flash Fiction story "Play it Again, Samantha" at the Awards Ceremony held at the Koret Auditorium in San Francisco on April 3, 2016. The competition is a community arts outreach program of the National League of American Pen Women. "It was an exciting event in which several winners from other states also read their stories," explains Benita.



Two youngsters salute others attending the 1958 open house at Ravenswood Works.



Benita Schontag recently read her Flash Fiction story "Play It Again, Samantha" at a San Francisco, CA, awards ceremony.

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

**Anthony Gerace** (Madisonville, LA), who last worked for Kaiser in Materials Control at Chalmette, LA, enjoys fishing, hunting and vegetable gardening. He and his wife Rosalie no longer travel much due to illnesses. "I certainly miss all the personnel at Chalmette, especially all the crew members that worked in my groups," says Anthony. "There were so many of them, and they all did such a great job."

Formerly at Kaiser's Halethorpe, MD, plant, **Dorothy Feeley** (Timonium, MD) recently moved to a retirement home. Meanwhile, **Nora Rice** (Middleport, OH), the surviving spouse of **Denver Rice**, took a bad fall and is spending time in a nursing home. "I'm very happy here. They take good care of us old people and I'm 90," she says. "I so enjoy reading the KASRA Newsletters, especially when

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there is a name I remember from our days with Kaiser.” **Aprina Leavy** (Oakland, CA) reports that she still enjoys going to the movies, live theater and singing and dancing.

**Marie Fallen** (Oak Forest, IL), the surviving spouse of **Jack Fallen**, still enjoys living in the home that she and Jack built in 1980. She turned 96 last December. Jack had worked at the Ravenswood, WV, Fabrication Plant. Although she doesn't travel much anymore, **Lucille Jones** (Baton Rouge, LA) fondly remembers all the traveling she did when she had her own antiques business.

### Traveling Near and Far . . .

Myrtle Beach and Hawaii, FL, were recent destinations for **Robert Workman** (Cross Lanes, WV). The former Ravenswood worker also enjoys golf and boating when not traveling. **Betty Lou Koska** (Winnemucka, NV) is planning a trip to Arizona and Montana with her daughter. The two plan on visiting lots of family and friends. “I don't have any time for hobbies,” says Betty. “We live 20 miles



Former KASRA President **Chris Laszcz-Davis** spent her birthday in Sydney, Australia, visiting her children, who surprised her with tickets to Puccini's opera "Turandot." (L-R) Chris' son Grant, her daughter Lauren, Chris and son-in-law James.

out of town on 10 acres. With the acreage and the big house, the day is just not long enough for a hobby.”

### Best Wishes . . .

Good hygiene can sometimes be more trouble than it's worth! No one could blame **Tim Parker** (Laguna Hills, CA) if he agreed with that statement since he suffered a compression fracture in his back when he fell in the shower. His five grandsons kept his mind off his injury over Easter when his entire family came for a visit. “The grandsons are growing like weeds,” he says. “The oldest Aidan is now 6'2” at 15 and played both JV basketball and baseball as a high school freshman.”

**Condolences to Eleanor Comfort** (Newman Lake, WA) whose spouse **Carroll** passed away, as well as to **C. Earl Phillips** (Baton Rouge, LA) who lost his spouse **June Wester**, to **Roberta Wong** (Kailua Kona, HI) whose spouse **Mark Alan** passed



**Jennielee Allain, Linda Duhe, Carol Mullett and Jerry Mullett** at **Chalmette's March luncheon**.

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## MEMBER PROFILE: Hazel Casto Parsons

Many Kaiser retirees will remember **Hazel Parsons**, who handled purchasing for Ravenswood, WV, for many years and had the reputation as someone you could always count on. She worked for Kaiser for 44 years and still lives close to the plant she called home for such a long time. Although Hazel's husband Wayne passed away in 2007, she has her children, Cindi (Harpers Ferry, WV) and Alex (Ripley, WV), as well as grandson Nicholas (Buckhannon, WV) and her two great granddaughters Gracie and Hannah, close by. Hazel graduated from Ravenswood High School and attended Marshall University.

### You have a very special relationship with the Ravenswood plant. Tell us about it.

I was born and raised on a small farm on the banks of the Ohio River near Ravenswood. My dad, Raymond Casto, inherited the farm from his father. We had sweet corn, watermelons and dairy



A recent photo of Hazel Parsons



Hazel at her desk at Ravenswood in the early 1970's

cattle. It was a family operation, and we all worked pretty hard to keep it going. I plowed a lot of fields and milked a lot of cows. I was active in school and played in the band, but the farm came first. It didn't matter if I was afraid of the rooster when I went to collect the eggs. It was just something I had to overcome.

In 1954, representatives from Kaiser Aluminum made an offer to my parents, Raymond and Grace, to purchase our 135-acre property for \$600 an acre. Our property and several other farms became Kaiser's Ravenswood plant.

My parents moved the family home and the dairy to a farm they purchased a few miles away. They lived in that house for a total of 64 years. When I went to work for Kaiser in Ravenswood, I was basically going back home to work. Kaiser literally

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transformed the Ravenswood area for those of us who grew up there. Before Kaiser came, there wasn't really much opportunity for work in the county. Kaiser really turned our world upside down in a good way.

### **Tell us about your career with Kaiser?**

I married in June of 1955 and heard that Kaiser was beginning to hire, so I applied. I began work in January, 1956, as a stenographer in the Purchasing Department for John Naddy and Al Giroir. The administration building at Ravenswood wasn't built yet, so we worked out of a temporary office over the post office. The following summer we moved into a garage building that we shared with Maintenance, Engineering, Storeroom, etc. In the late Fall, we moved into the partially completed Administration Building.

In 1967, I received a promotion to a



**Wayne and Hazel with the RV they traveled in following her retirement.**



**1958 Kaiser picnic – Hazel with her daughter Cindi**

grade III Secretary (non exempt) in the Works Manager's Office working for Joe Williams. When Mr. Williams left, I worked for Warren Cooper, as well as other managers in the Administration Wing such as Morrie Fishback, Jim McKnight, Kenny Kuhns and Tom Miller.

I loved working with the people at Kaiser. Every morning I looked forward to going to the office. I'm very proud to be a part of Kaiser's history and don't know where I

### **Send KASRA Your News & Pictures**

Write us your news, travels, stories... humorous tales welcome. Send a note to Sally Hogarty, P.O. Box 84, Canyon, CA 94516 or [sallyhogarty@gmail.com](mailto:sallyhogarty@gmail.com).

\* Photos encouraged.

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would be today without it.

**You received a special promotion in 1973 that was a first for Kaiser. Can you explain more about it?**

I was offered an exempt position. Prior to this time, women were never considered for the exempt or salaried positions. It opened up a whole new world for me. Based on my background and experience in Purchasing, I went to work for Purchasing Manager William J. Schindler as a Buyer. Over the next several years, I moved up to Purchasing Agent and, later, Senior Purchasing Agent. I found myself purchasing everything from pencils to repair parts to major equipment and raw materials for such departments as Casting, Cold Rolling, Hot Line and the Reduction Plant. I also handled major contracts. It was quite an experience – very challenging at times because meeting deadlines was critical.

**When did you retire from Kaiser?**

I retired in 2000 following a bout with cancer. I loved working there and hated to leave, but I had no choice. Thankfully, I am now cancer-free and enjoying my retirement. My husband Wayne and I took advantage of the time to travel in a motorhome. He passed away in 2007.

**What are you involved in now?**

I continue to live just 13 miles from where I was born and where I spent my entire working life. Being a life-long resident of this area has given me many advantages. Despite being a very rural area, I keep in touch with many friends that I worked with all those years. At present, I work as co-president with Dave Whitman with our Kaiser Retirees group. I'm also very involved in my church, Epworth United Methodist in Ripley, WV, which I've attended for 61 years.



**Son Alex, Hazel, great granddaughter Gracie Boyles, daughter Cindi Dunn, grandson Nicholas Boyles and great granddaughter Hannah Boyles.**



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**Al Miller and Chuck Schimmel catch up with each other at Chalmette's March luncheon.**

away on February 10, 2016, and to **Harry Darnell** (Homosassa, FL) who lost his spouse **Dorothy Darnell** January 30, 2016.

Our condolences also go to the families of surviving spouses **Noel Dew** (retiree **Michael Dew**), **Evelyn Vogt** (retiree **Paul Vogt**), **Marguerite Wittrock** (retiree **Henry Wittrock**), **Marie Wilson** (retiree **James Wilson**) and **Dorothy Reeson**.



**A look into the past. Here families enjoy the second annual open house at Kaiser Aluminum Ravenswood Works in 1958.**

## *In Memoriam*



- Roy Batchelor  
Farmville, NC*
- Lovell E. Bennett  
Pinole, CA*
- Kermit E. Brannon  
Kenna, WV*
- Clinton Dean Compton  
Coeur D'alene, ID*
- John R. Fiehler  
Tinley Park, IL*
- Richard Joseph Harrison  
Walnut Creek, CA*
- William Matthew Mihalic  
Spokane, WA*
- Bernard Palmer  
Newark, OH*
- Joseph Charles Pizzolato  
Chalmette, LA*
- George A. Riley  
Roseville, CA*
- Richard (Dick) R. Rosenbaum  
Groveland, CA*
- Bernadine B. Ryals  
Whiting, IN*
- George Sissea  
Granville, OH*
- John M. Spainhour  
Ripley, WV*
- Norman L. Van Patten  
Oakland, CA*
- John E. White  
Parkersburg, WV*
- John M. Winkler  
Danville, 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](mailto:kcharlie34@comcast.net).

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

P.O. Box 1171  
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We're on the Web!  
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### Belpre

Aug 27

Saturday Lunch, 12 noon, Western Sizzlin, Parkersburg. Confirm to Betty Blair (304) 489-1337, or to bettylou13@suddenlink.net

### Chalmette

Jun 1, Sept 7

Lunch, 11:00 a.m., at NOLA Lagniappe, 1375 Gause Blvd., Slidell. Cost \$ 20 Confirm to Chuck Schimmel (985) 643-0437 or to schimcol@aol.com

### Erie

May 21, Jun 18, Jul 16

Breakfast, 8:30 a.m., at Peggy's 3512 Liberty Street., Erie Confirm to Tim Healy (814) 402-1062

### Los Angeles

May 9, Jun 6, Jul 11

Lunch, 12:00 noon, at Marie Callendar's, 540 N. Euclid, West Anaheim Confirm to Bob O'Leary (714) 898-7463 or robemmet39@gmail.com

### Mead

May 12, Jun 9

Lunch, 11:30 a.m., at Cathay Inn, North Division St. - Confirm to Danny Petruss (509) 483-2171 or dpjr70@comcast.net

### Newark

Jun 14, Aug 9

Lunch, 11:00 a.m., Stacey's Hometown

Buffet, Heath. Lunch paid for by the Newark plant. Contact Bill Snider (740) 403-8328 or colbill44@roadrunner.com

### Ravenswood

Jun 25

Picnic, 1:00 p.m., Ravenswood River Front Park. Confirm to Pete Westenhaver (304) 266-4109 or Pete26164@gmail.com or to Lee Corder (304) 273-9457

### Trentwood

Oct 18, Nov 15

Meet 11 a.m. Hot Meal served 11:30 a.m. Valley Eagles 16801 E. Sprague Ave. Confirm to Steve Harvey (509) 924-1132, or slharv3y@comcast.net or TJ Summerson (509) 448-1228 at tsummerson@aol.com.

### Photos Requested

We would love to have your photos to share with your former colleagues in the newsletter. Please send us photos of you with your family or doing a favorite hobby or volunteer activity. Mail to Sally Hogarty, P.O. Box 84, Canyon, CA 94516 or email to sallyhogarty@gmail.com. Thank you!



(Clockwise from left) Sid Jones, Cathy Franklin, Tom Franklin, Pat Harrington, Mary Harrington and Rita Mae Jones enjoyed some New Orleans home cooking at Chalmette's March 2 luncheon.