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Co-Presidents

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:

What a joy it is now that

spring is here! By the time you read this letter, the flowers and trees will be blooming, and grasses will have turned very green! Writing this letter on Easter is especially appropriate for the feelings of “rebirth” this day symbolizes. We hope for an eventual renewing of face-to-face gatherings we lost during the long pandemic shutdown. We also hope you have come through the pandemic staying well. For those who did suffer from it, our hearts go out to you, and we wish better days are ahead. By now, we hope that all of you and many of your family members have been vaccinated and the second half of 2021 will allow for safe gatherings of friends and family.

The KASRA organizers, who started discussing the formation of our association in the late 1980s and who sanctioned it in 1993, had tremendous forethought in their planning and goals for our national group of retirees. Once set up and functioning, and once it was funded by retiree donations, the association helped to fund a legal defense to continue support of medical benefits from Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corp. The association also worked to inform/educate all retirees about what could be lost if KACC ever filed for bankruptcy, which did happen in late 2001. While retiree medical benefits remained in effect following the bankruptcy filing, they were eliminated as of

May 31, 2004, which triggered the creation of VEBA.

During the four years of bankruptcy, the KASRA leaders and their legal team put forth a convincing argument to the bankruptcy court which eventually set up a way to fund some level of medical expenses for retirees. From those decade-long, selfless efforts, including many thousands of volunteered hours by retirees, a VEBA system was set up to support retirees by reimbursing a given amount of their annual qualified health care related insurance expenses.

When the VEBA was finally activated and no further KASRA funds were required for major legal support, KASRA’s board of directors decided to use the “leftover” funds to subsidize a substantial portion of the cost to produce a mailed-out newsletter every two months. The newsletters discussed what was happening within the association and also helped to educate all members on how to sign-up for the yearly VEBA benefits. This communication effort was remarkably effective as more than 90% of eligible retirees and/or their spouses have received VEBA benefits. But the Board of Directors knew for more than a decade that the funds to create and distribute newsletters would eventually run out. We are letting you know in this newsletter that the end date for KASRA newsletters will come sometime in the second half of 2022. The Board of Directors is now developing an Association Dissolution plan, which surprisingly is rather complex because KASRA is a sanctioned nonprofit organization in the State of California, and there

## WHAT'S GOING ON

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

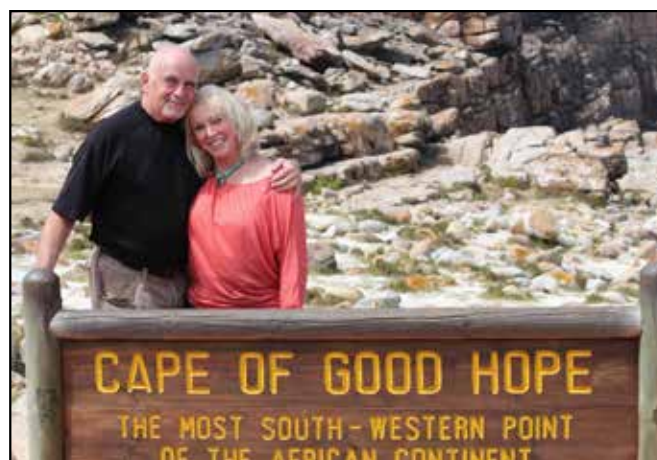
**Danny Petruss, Jr.** (Spokane, WA) loves receiving calls from former Kaiser Mead friends. Danny, who worked as a clerk at Mead, isn't traveling any more but manages to keep busy around his home.

**Gloria Vaughan** (Zachary, LA), surviving spouse of **Conrad Vaughan**, takes great pride in keeping her yard nice and enjoys cutting her grass. "I really do keep up my yard plus do a little sewing," she says. "Because of my age, I also spend a lot of time in church!" Former Baton Rouge plant worker **Sidney J. Breaux, Jr.** (Plaquemine, LA) fondly remembers a recent telephone conversation with former colleague **Jack Carmena**. "We had lots of fun going over old times."

### Traveling Near and Far . . .

**Bob Schoen** (Baton Rouge, LA) says he and his wife went to Ireland and saw the Northern Lights every night. When home in Baton Rouge, he enjoys bee keeping, gardening, fishing and hunting. He also finds time to volunteer at his church.

Since travel hasn't been possible, **Tony Procanik** (Merida, Mexico) and his wife Kathy have been remembering past trips. Once such trip was to Africa, which they took in 2011. "It was such a wonderful trip," says Tony. Until they can travel



**Tony and Kathy Procanik on a 2011 trip to Africa**

again, the couple enjoys their home in Mexico and, according to Tony, are "trying to age gracefully"!

### Birthdays and Anniversaries . . .

Several Kaiser retirees celebrated birthdays recently including **James W. Miller** (Rocky Point, NC) who turned 86 Jan. 9. Jim said he misses his camping trips. "Just can't do it any more due to health reasons." **Marjorie Snyder** (Severna Park, MD), the surviving spouse of **Bob Snyder** who passed away in 1995, turned 97 in May. She still lives at the family home. Meanwhile, **Alda J. Almeida** (Bristol, RI) looks forward to her 95th birthday in December

### Best Wishes . . .

Our condolences to **Ray Hintze**, who lost his wife **Becky** in April and to **Carl A. Holland** who lost his wife **Elizabeth** in January.

### An All-Consuming Hobby

Continuing his 67-year interest in antique tractors and other machinery, **Charles R. Lyons** (Deer Park, WA) has now collected over 185 gas/diesel/propane tractors as well as seven steam tractors, the oldest from 1890. The former Mead worker keeps his prize machines in a 2,200 sq. ft. machine and welding shop.

When not working on the actual machines, Charles publishes his local tractor club's quarterly Inland Empire Steam and Gas Buffs' newsletter "Old Iron."

"I'm now in my third year as editor and it doesn't appear they are about to fire me," says Charles, who is also on the club's Board of Directors as well as the board of the North Spo-

*(What's Going On, from Page 2)*

kane Farm Museum.

When not editing “Old Iron,” he writes technical articles for the national magazine “Antique Power and Farm Collector” as well as three other club newsletters. “One recently published article dealt with the Riblet square wheels invented by Spokane’s Royal Riblet family, who also built ski lifts all over the world,” says Charles.

When not writing for magazines, Charles continues to write both short stories and novel-length fiction and has published five novels available on Amazon.

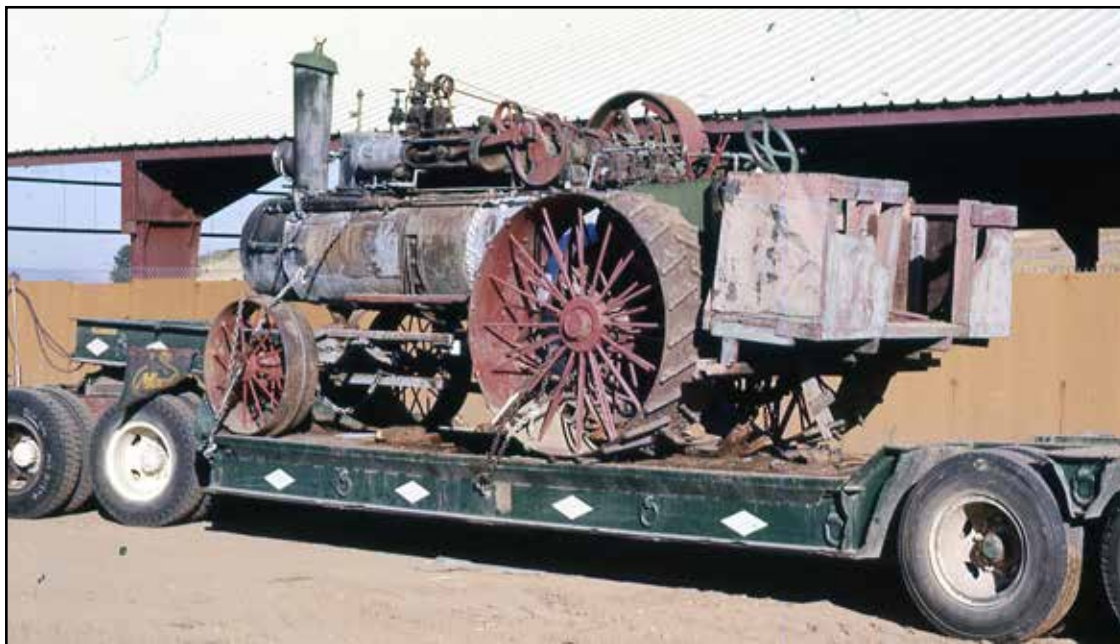
“My wife Barbara and I live on an 80-acre farm so there’s always something needing maintenance. It’s amazing how age slows your ability to get repairs accomplished,” he says. “I’ve always enjoyed photography and over the past year, I have digitalized many of the 10,000 slides I took while on Kaiser trips as well as my travels working in Saudi Arabia and various vacations.”

Organizing his photos also kept Charles



**Following his retirement from Kaiser, Charles Lyons received his third degree. This time in Spokane Community College’s Diesel/Heavy Equipment Program.**

busy while healing from right ankle surgery that still isn’t quite right. “Looks like I must have the fusion surgery redone, so there goes another year,” he adds. “But Barbara takes good care of me, although our participation level in everything we enjoy has certainly slowed down as we’ve gotten older.”



**Charles Lyons’ 20 hp, SCCC double cylinder, Rumley Steam tractor.**



## MEMBER PROFILE: PETE WESTENHAVER

**Pete Westenhaver** began his Kaiser career as a part-time worker at the age of 16. Following college, he went on to a 36-year career with Kaiser. He and his wife Gail have two children and seven grandchildren and live in the family home in Ravenswood, WV, built by his dad in the 1950s.

### **Kaiser is practically a family business, isn't it?**

My father, **Ed Westenhaver**, started working for Kaiser at the Mead Reduction Plant in Washington in 1956. He was 55 years old and had previously worked for the Port of Tacoma. He might have been a bit older than most starting their Kaiser careers, but the company was getting ready to populate Ravenswood, WV, and they needed people who had experience with a reduction plant. After a year at Mead, he was transferred to Ravenswood.

I basically grew up in Ravenswood. They had an employee recreation area and needed someone to cut the grass, get the softball fields ready for games and provide umpires for the plant and youth league games. That became my first job with Kaiser at 16 years of age. My boss was **Roy Ellington**, with **Jim Newton** as his straw boss. When I went away to West Virginia University, I worked for Kaiser as a laborer in the reduction plant during summer vacations. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Engineering (IE), Kaiser hired me as an IE at Ravenswood's Fabrication Plant.

I met my future wife, Gail, at Ravenswood as well. Her father, **Tom Tregoning**, had been transferred to the West Virginia plant, so both sides of the family have Kaiser roots. Our son,

Mark, also worked at the Ravenswood Reduction Plant in production jobs. When the plant shut down, he passed the tests to get a job as a millwright in the Fabrication Plant and is still there.

### **Tell us a little more about your Kaiser career.**

My first full time job with Kaiser was in June 1966 as an IE at the Fabrication Plant in Ravenswood. I worked with people such as **Bill Gill, Dean Lauer, Max Snyder, Brent Harrah, Moe Eskins, Betty Purdum, Bill Vaglianti, Jim Mckeithan, Bob Roberts, Neil Haymaker and Bill McGhee**.

After a couple years in IE, Oscar Wallace offered me a position in the Management Systems Department. Some of the folks I worked with at different times were **Tom Baun, Dallas Spradling, Richard Garrett, Jim Comer, Frank Romeo, Pete Jordan, Ken Goode and Lee Thomas**. The accounting folks included: **Bob Fast, Bob Alford, Sam Rice, Bill Davis and Dick Rosenbaum**.

### **How did you become the computer guy?**

My first involvement with computers was in a Fortran computer language class at West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV. As part of the class, we punched our



**Pete and Gail Westenhaver**

*(Members Profile, from Page 4)*

own programs into IBM type cards and ran them on a small mainframe computer. The school had an opening for a part-time computer operator that paid real money, so I took it and gained more knowledge. But I picked up most of my computer skills during my IE and Systems jobs at Kaiser.

When Mt. St. Helens blew on March 27, 1980, I was flying to Oakland for a meeting on the Corporate Maintenance System with Trentwood and Oakland project team members. I ended up going back and forth between Spokane, WA, and Oakland, CA, for the next year.

Working with the Trentwood and Oakland team, we developed a new system using a mainframe computer at the Oakland office that would be used at all the plants. In fact, the Ravenswood Fabrication plant would use it until 2010. The Ravenswood group dealt with work orders, equipment tracking and other project activities while the Oakland group, controlled data base implementation and employee records.

Eventually, we moved the processing



**Son-in-law John Casey with Pete and Gail's youngest grandchildren.**



**Pete shows off the old fire helmet his dad Ed received from Kaiser employees in Tasmania, State of Australia. Ed was the first in the family to work for Kaiser.**

from Oakland to a regional data center in Columbus, OH, before making a final move to Ravenswood, WV.

I really enjoyed working at Trentwood and at the Oakland office dealing with plant maintenance systems. My projects in maintenance including working with such memorable folks as **Mike Smith, Earl Watts, Gary Burns, Al Tippons, Hugh Bradley, Rod Felty, Cliff Price, Denny Adkins and Chief Hudson.**

I did go back to Industrial Engineering for a couple of years, but most of my time with Kaiser was in maintenance at Ravenswood. As Oscar Wallace said, "something has to be on the bottom of the ocean and it's maintenance!"

#### **When did you retire from Kaiser?**

I retired in 2002 when the ownership changed. They hired me back, however, as a contractor. I stayed in that capacity until 2009 – same desk, same office.

#### **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.

*(Members Profile, from Page 5)*

### **What was your biggest challenge at Ravenswood?**

It was always challenging for Trentwood, Ravenswood Fabrication and Ravenswood Reduction to make a profit and stay in business. Ravenswood had more of a challenge than most because it was such a union hot bed. We had the big strike, lasting a year and a half. I remember dodging rocks when driving to and from work. Potentially, it was very dangerous. After someone hit my car with a ball bearing, I started carrying my son's 16-gauge shotgun in the car.

Kaiser had received concessions from the government right after the war and built the town of Ravenswood. They started out building schools and housing. My dad built his own house – the one Gail and I live in today. But when Kaiser got into intense negotiations with the ex-coal miners, it turned from a happy environment to an adversarial one overnight.

### **Tell us about your family.**

We have two children, both of whom reside in Ravenswood, and seven grandchildren. Our son, Mark, works as a millwright in the Fabrication Plant and our second child, Jennifer, graduated from West Virginia University in Civil Engineering. She worked for the state highway group in Charleston, WV, but now is a registered professional engineer. She has her own company along with her general contractor husband.

Our four oldest grandchildren are in college and two of them are on their college golf teams. One grandchild is in high school and the two youngest are in grade school. It can be a challenge when Gail and I babysit the youngest because they are always so active.

*(President's Message, from Page 1)*

are specific legal rules to follow when dissolving such an association.

Please be assured that **the dissolution of KASRA will in no way impact your VEBA benefits** because KASRA and VEBA are two completely different entities. We want this to be crystal clear to each KASRA member: **when KASRA is no longer functioning**, the operation of the VEBA plan will not be impacted by the dissolution of KASRA. VEBA administrators will continue to communicate directly with eligible members regarding benefits and other relevant VEBA news. That process will not change after KASRA has been dissolved.

Any of you who have paid yearly membership dues past the 12-month period of July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022 will be reimbursed your overpayment. In the upcoming July membership drive mailing, we will be asking for each member who has not "paid ahead" to only pay \$10 for one year's membership. We still want the next six or seven remaining newsletters to be informative and full of "What's Happening with You?" news so please keep sending in your news and pictures. We also hope that the local area KASRA groups will continue to socially meet and support each other for many years after



**An informal gathering of former Kaiser employees pre-COVID (clockwise from lower left) Richard Garrett, Gary Burns, George Gill, Dallas Spradling and Harold Osborne.**

*(President's Message, continued Page 7)*



*(President's Message, from Page 6)*

our association has been dissolved. That deep bond of friendship we developed at Kaiser will never “dissolve”!

You all may have recently received your letter from VEBA that announced the maximum benefit for calendar year 2021. (As we go to publication for this newsletter, VEBA administrators had not yet announced the maximum benefit for 2021.) VEBA enrollment and/or reimbursement request forms are available by contacting the VEBA plan administrator, Delta Fund, at 888-344-8322 (toll free), or through their website at VEBA@delatfund.com. The reimbursement request forms are also on the KASRA website in the “Forms” page.

Stay well and enjoy the rest of spring and early summer!

All the best!

*Erach*

*Michael Venie*

*Steve Ping*

Erach Tarapore, Mike Venie and  
Steve Ping  
Co-Presidents, KASRA



**Ray Lightell passed away April 6, 2021.**

## *In Memoriam*



*Olga Bethune  
Pleasanton, CA*

*William E. Boyd  
Santa Barbara, CA*

*Florencio Camacho  
Buena Park, CA*

*Lloyd W. Frickle  
Nine Mile Falls, WA*

*Jack L. Fowler  
Point Pleasant, WV*

*Anthony Ray Lightell  
Kingwood, Tx*

*Terrace L. Mittleider  
Spokane, WA*

*Gordan Aleen Powell  
Hot Springs, AR*

*Cebert R. Riddle  
Point Pleasant, WV*

*Ronald 'Ron' C. Schutz Colorado  
Springs, CO*

*Edward L. Wood  
Henderson, NV*

*Alfred Zucker  
Levittown, NY*

*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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We're on the Web!  
See us at:  
[www.e-kasra.com](http://www.e-kasra.com)

*Lunch Bunch organizers are hopeful lunches can resume by summer or fall as more and more retirees are vaccinated. Contact information for the groups is listed below, and, hopefully, in the July issue of the KASRA Newsletter, we will have a full listing of meetings!*

### **Baton Rouge**

The Baton Rouge group is currently being surveyed to see how many would like to resume the luncheons with a potential function in November. Email Bob Pres-son at [leilap3@cox.net](mailto:leilap3@cox.net), or Bob Schoen at [bobschoen@cox.net](mailto:bobschoen@cox.net), or call Bob Schoen at (225) 937-2984.

### **Bay Area, KARLA**

"Hopefully, members will be vaccinated and ready to attend our holiday lunch in December," says Sharon. "If not, then maybe next spring." Contact Sharon Fraetis at (925) 330-8533 or email [lafnatv@gmail.com](mailto:lafnatv@gmail.com).

### **Belpre**

Organizers are looking to the fall as the first possible luncheon. Contact Betty Blair at (304) 489-1337 or email [bettylou13@suddenlink.net](mailto:bettylou13@suddenlink.net).

### **Chalmette**

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

### **Erie**

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

### **Los Angeles**

Contact Bob O'Leary at (714) 898-7463 or email [robemmet39@gmail.com](mailto:robemmet39@gmail.com)

### **Mead**

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

### **Newark**

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

### **Ravenswood**

Contact Pete Westenhaber at (304) 266-4109 or email [Pete26164@gmail.com](mailto:Pete26164@gmail.com) or call Lee Corder at (304) 273-9457.

### **Tacoma**

Contact Bob Mohr at 253 820 6569 or [bobmohr1942@gmail.com](mailto:bobmohr1942@gmail.com).

### **Trentwood**

Contact Steve Harvey at (509) 939-7132 or email [s1harv3y@comcast.net](mailto:s1harv3y@comcast.net).



Bay Area retirees enjoyed the 2019 holiday luncheon. Hopefully, there will be a December 2021 luncheon!