



Steve Ping  
Erach Tarapore  
Mike Venie

KASRA  
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:

We hope you and your families have been

able to stay away from contracting Covid-19 during this pandemic that continues to limit gatherings of friends and family and travel around the world. Keep those phones busy contacting your distant Kaiser friends while we continue to work at beating down the spread of this deadly virus.

The KASRA Board of Directors recently had a board meeting and learned very few of the area KASRA groups have met this summer/fall for luncheons or breakfasts. Hopefully, by the end of this year, or early next year, get-togethers can start up again so the joy of visiting in person returns.

During the board meeting, the directors discussed the funds needed to legally close KASRA, a California State non-profit organization. Considering the known expenditures of publishing our newsletters, we determined there are funds enough to publish newsletters through May 2022. After that, we will start the process of shutting down. The volunteer group of retirees that have led KASRA over the past three decades will have published nearly 100 newsletters with the main goal of keeping everyone "connected" and informed.

Even though KASRA will be closing down, our VEBA reimbursements for health care related insurance expenses will continue! So please keep your membership to VEBA active and file for your yearly benefits. Many retirees

have educated their son/daughter or close friend on the process of filing for VEBA benefits. This is a very good idea for all of us to consider should we need future help filing for VEBA benefits.

All of you should have received a letter in October from the VEBA Plan Administrators and Board of Trustees that showed there is a one-year extension to file for 2019 and 2020 VEBA benefits, because of the COVID-19 pandemic. You have until the end of this year (2021) to file for 2019 expenses and the end of 2022 to file for 2020 expenses. You have until the end of 2022 to file for 2021 expenses. If you have any questions concerning how to file or what expenses are qualified for reimbursement, please contact the VEBA plan administrator, Delta Fund, at 888-344-8322 (toll free), or through their website at [VEBA@deltafund.com](mailto:VEBA@deltafund.com). The reimbursement request forms are also on the KASRA website in the "Forms" page.

For our remaining newsletters, we would love to have you send in your favorite memory(ies) of your years with Kaiser. This can be done via email or a mailed letter.

Finally, for Veterans' Day, we send a big thank-you to the veterans from all branches of our military.

Stay well, keep active and contact your Kaiser friends often!

*Erach Tarapore* *Mike Venie* *Steve Ping*

Erach Tarapore, Mike Venie and Steve Ping

Co-Presidents, KASRA

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### Accomplishments . . .

A special congratulations to **Chris Laszcz-Davis** (Orinda, CA) on receiving the ABIH Lynn C. O'Donnell Lifetime Achievement Award. This is the highest honor awarded by the Board for Global EHS Credentialing for exemplary contributions to the practice of occupational and environmental hygiene over a lifetime of work. Chris, who was a vice president for Kaiser Aluminum, has more than 35 years in environmental affairs, occupational health and safety, operational integrity, risk management and product stewardship globally. Her many current activities include serving as co-chair of the International Occupational Hygiene Training Association Board and as a board member of the California Occupational Health and Safety Standards Board.



**Chris Laszcz-Davis received the highest honor awarded in the field of occupational and environmental hygiene.**

### Birthday and Anniversaries . . .

**G.R. Sealy** (McKinney, TX) and his wife recently celebrated 64 years of married life.

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

Still running a repair shop every day, **Alan Morasch** (Spokane Valley, WA) loves working on small engines. When not fixing things, Alan enjoys spending time with his grandchildren and great grands!

Living beside the Hawks Prairie Golf course works well for **Alan Longmuir** (Lacey, WA) who loves to play. He admits, however, that living so close to the beautiful courses hasn't particularly helped his game! The former Center for Technology (CFT) worker fondly remembers his last river cruise before the pandemic. He went to Vietnam and Cambodia via the Mekong River. Alan also finds time to help manage the many beautiful

trees in Lacey and to be an AARP tax volunteer.

**Kenneth E. Duelley** (Sevierville, TN) feels like he's on vacation all the time since moving to Sevierville, TN. "Dollywood is here, and we have so many people visiting from everywhere," he said. The former Shipping Foreman in Columbiana, OH, recalls joining Kaiser when he was just 25 years old and right out of the service. "I'm 88 now. Where did the years go?"

Golf and Aggie (Texas A&M) sporting events keep **Arnold Hayes** (College Station, TX) busy. Prior to COVID, he managed to visit all 50 states as well as Canada, Mexico, Europe, Africa, Russia and Japan! Arnold says he's disappointed

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

KASRA is coming to an end and wishes there was somehow the organization and the newsletter could stick around.

**William Hughes** (Diamondhead, MS) will also miss KASRA. He writes that he still enjoys hunting and fishing and recently enjoyed reconnecting with an old Army friend. "I hadn't seen him in 60 years. Our first encounter was in basic training in a fight! Then we spent the next three years together and became great friends."

Sponsoring children through Children International and gardening are two of **Anne Marie Stewart's** (Walnut Creek, CA) passions. Anne had moved to Maryland in 2019 to live with her son and his family but missed California and moved back in 2020.

**Millie Lum** (Alameda, CA) keeps busy as a Board Member of the Alameda Mastick Senior Center. **Tom Singer's** former secretary with Kaiser International, Millie thanks all the KASRA volunteers who have helped keep things running all these years.

Also thankful to the KASRA volunteers is **Bruce Wilson** (Pleasanton, CA).

"Without their foresight and hard work, there would not be a VEBA. Think of them when you cash those checks," he said. Formerly with Distributor Sales in Oakland, Bruce and **Mary Louise** gave up tennis over a year ago when they turned 91. "We still go on walks and see such wildlife as eagles, hawks, ducks, deer and even foxes."

**Harry Wenberg** (San Jose, CA) still loves to play bridge and dominos. He also takes local rides and enjoys exercising, especially walking.



**Jeane Randolph, who turned 100-years-young on Sept. 8, was featured on a Smucker's Jelly jar. Jeane worked for Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Sales in Newark, OH, before retiring in 1983. She has a daughter and granddaughter and still enjoys cheering for the Ohio State Buckeyes!**

#### **Traveling Here and There . . .**

Braving COVID restrictions, **Joe O'Connell** (Mission Viejo, CA) and his family went to Key West, FL. "All 16 of us went. Travel was a challenge." Joe also enjoys sailing, skiing, and driving his Austin Healey sports car. "My new paint job was double what the car cost but it sure is beautiful!"

**Raymond Woodard** (Springboro, OH) is still enjoying his retirement. Since retiring in January 1982, he and his wife have traveled to Alaska, Hawaii, Mexico, across central Europe, toured China and taken eight ocean voyages!

#### **Best Wishes . . .**

Condolences to retiree **Nadine Rydman** on the death of her husband **Ronald** in April. Our best wishes also go to the families of surviving spouses **Edwina Boucher, Joyce Glann, and Lois Chambers Hammond.**

## MEMORIES OF KAISER

*Please share your favorite memory(ies) of your many years with Kaiser Aluminum! We would like to include these memories as a feature in our last few Newsletters. And remember, we welcome either your print photos or your digital-format pictures in the News!*

*Send to KASRA News, c/o Sally Hogarty, P.O. Box 84, Canyon, CA, 94516, or e-mail your information to sallyhogarty@gmail.com. Here are a few memories recently submitted.*

“For me, the best memories were the years I worked for **Edgar Kaiser** and **Cornell Maier**. As executive assistant to Edgar (1970-79), I got to travel much of the world and absorb the integrity and personal warmth he projected. A few years later, as Kaiser Aluminum fought off hostile takeover bids, I was inspired by Cornell Maier’s character, decisiveness, and dedication. Bosses, yes, but also treasured friends.”

--Bob Irelan

“I remember a Kaiser meeting where **Edgar Kaiser** spoke to the group. He told how his father **Henry J.** told him ‘You’re moving to Detroit. We’re going into the

auto business and you’re going to run it.’ Edgar answered, ‘I don’t know how!’ Henry countered, ‘You’ll learn!’

“I also remember the connection with my dad who was a navigator for the U.S. Maritime Service in WWII on

one of Kaiser’s Liberty Ships. Earlier, my dad was one of the men who built the four tunnels to divert the Colorado River around the gorge so Henry Kaiser could build the Hoover Dam.”

--Bob O’Leary

“I was very fortunate to have been offered a job in 1976 at Kaiser’s Center for Technology (CFT). The 13 R&D departments were headed by icons in the Al Industry. Many of the CFT staff scientists and engineers had also started their careers when the industry was very young (late 1940’s through the mid-1960’s). The CFT staff had exceptional knowledge of Al alloy metallurgy, all of the production processes and even the commercial difficulties with customers and competitors. I grew up in a town of 400 people and knew everyone. So, when I joined the 400-employee CFT, I eagerly looked forward to meeting all of them. CFT was a very large family where people helped each other, and many of the plants had much of the same ‘family’ atmosphere.

“My premonition that CFT would be a great place to deeply learn the science and business of aluminum became a reality. CFT was like the center of a large wheel where 40 spokes went out to the factories Kaiser had throughout the U.S. and the world. I had the great fortune to work with every technical department in every plant and formed long lasting friendships with many of the folks in the production and commercial world. I found the love of my life, a very gifted ceramic engineer working in the CFT Refractories Division, **Wendy Stewart**, who has been my wife for 43 years.

“What I will remember most about my career with Kaiser Aluminum is the many people who touched my life and helped develop my skills. To these people and all the other Kaiser employees I worked (and played) with: you made my life full in ways I will never forget.”

--Steve Ping



**Cornell Maier at a Kaiser picnic celebrating L.A. Extrusions winning the B.O.T. (Best Operating Team) award in the mid-1970s. “The elephant was added because our Production Superintendent was Norval Prakash, a native of India,” said Bob O’Leary.**

## MEMBER PROFILE: ROBERT O' LEARY

He may have been born in New York City and raised in Buffalo, NY, but **Robert (Bob) O'Leary** is all Californian these days. He and his wife Connie live in Orange County, not far from their daughter Anna and her husband Chris. Bob, who has "an affection for the company," currently serves on the KASRA Board of Directors.

### How did you end up on the West Coast?

In 1961, I stopped by California on my way back from serving in the Army in Korea. I was there long after the shooting had stopped! I met a GM who told me to come back after I was discharged, and he'd have a job for me. Since there wasn't any work in Buffalo, I took him up on his offer. My first job was in the aerospace industry. Later, I worked for an aerospace division of Alcoa. I was let go when the Supreme Court made Alcoa divest some of their businesses and closed the facility. I had an engineering background and was asked to take some tests for another Alcoa plant. Before I knew it, I was designing dies at Alcoa's L.A. Extrusion plant. We used to call it "Alcoa Tech" because many of us would get trained by them, learn the business and then we'd leave. Two Alcoa guys left



**Bob and Connie at the rapids below Niagara Falls.**

to work for Kaiser and told me to join them, which I did. It was 1969 and I was newly married.

### Tell us about your Kaiser experience.

There was a big difference between Alcoa and Kaiser's L.A. Extrusion Plant, which was started by **Steve Hutchcraft** and **Dennis Seymour**, with **Tom Mooneyham** as Production Superintendent and **Andy Smith** as Maintenance Superintendent. Hutchcraft believed in teamwork, a shared purpose, taking care of customers and employees, taking responsibility, and smiling.



**Bob O'Leary with his daughter Anna (R) and his niece Gaby.**

I learned a bit about the "taking responsibility" part when I went to my first big meeting in 1970 in Ojai. I was sharing a room with **Norval Prakash**, another new member of the L.A. team, and we had been enjoying ourselves maybe a little too much the night before. We overslept and were awakened by a phone call from one of the Vice Presidents asking if we'd like to join the meeting. Not a great first impression!

*(Member Profile, continued Page 6)*

### 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 the highlight of your career?**

It was the mid-1970s and we won the Corporate Best Operating Team (B.O.T) award. Led by **Don Woodward** (Woody), our focus was on efficiency, quality, and service to customers. We had good communication all around and a union that gave a voice to employees and understood customer service made jobs. When Woody heard we had won, he went out into the factory to be with the workers. The Shop Steward **Al Kemp** said Woody's feet didn't touch the ground because he was so happy.

### **Tell us about your experience in New York.**

Kaiser had purchased an extrusion plant on Long Island, and they needed a field engineer. So, in 1976, Connie and I moved to the East Coast, and I became the Field Engineer supporting sales for **Sam Schaale** in New York and **Jack Greenland** in Philadelphia. Poor Connie. She was raised in Jalisco, Mexico and had never seen snow fall from the sky. Sam assured me that it almost never snowed in New York. Then the blizzards of 1976 and 1977 shut NYC down.

Connie got to see our willow tree covered by an ice storm with sunlight shining



**Sales outing in Newport, CA, with (L-R) Mike Hall, Larry Britton and Joe Lafond.**

through. It was beautiful. Driving was not so beautiful!

Working for sales was quite an education as I had to learn about many different products. I traveled up and down the East Coast addressing customer questions and issues. One of the highlights was going with **Ralph Herniman** (we called him Nanook of the North!) and making a presentation on Dolton's stadium seating to the City Council at Cooperstown, NY. The Baseball Hall of Fame field had wood seats with lots of splinters. They liked the idea of our aluminum seats, but they said they'd only buy them if I stayed and helped their grounds crew install them. It was an adventure as their crew had never done anything like that before.

### **What happened after New York?**

I went back to L.A. Extrusions as Production Superintendent and experienced more great teamwork. I think it was **Cornell Maier** who thought up the slogan "One Person Can Make a Difference," and it really perked everyone up and became another source of pride and teamwork.

In 1981, I had various assignments with Planning, Product Development and Sales. Then from 1985 to 1992 I left Kaiser and went wandering in the wilderness as I tried different things. By 1992, I was back with Kaiser in L.A. developing the passenger side airbag business with **Larry Poellnitz**. This was a new world for Kaiser with volume and profit potential but also very

*(Member Profile, continued Page 7)*

*(Members Profile, from Page 6)*

high risks and liability exposure.

Looking back over my career with Kaiser, I have to acknowledge the leaders who talked with us and listened too, such as **John Barneson, Ray Parkinson, Jack Hockema, Chris Laszcz-Davis, Dave Whitman, Ira Davison, Edgar Kaiser, Cornell Maier**. They were all exceptional and Chris helped our safety mind-set a lot.

#### **Any other stories about Kaiser?**

Once at the L.A. plant during a major factory construction, an aluminum thief in a small pickup drove on the site during shift change to steal some smaller billets. He was chased around and got his truck hung up on one of the piles of dirt. The Graveyard Foreman **Don Walsh** had been chasing him with a fork truck with a rotating head. When the thief got stuck in the dirt pile, Don used the fork to pick up the truck and shake it until the thief tumbled out!

#### **What are you doing now?**

Connie and I volunteered as teachers of ESL (English as a Second Language).

She did it for 30 years and I taught for 16. Connie was the Center Director at our Costa Mesa site, but the pandemic put a stop to in-person classes. So, at 80-plus years, we retired from that and dearly miss the students. My last group of students included a girl from Brazil, another from Guatemala, and a man from the Czech Republic. It was a lot of fun and very rewarding. I'm still volunteering with a senior's group for Spanish Conversation, keeping it going with Zoom for the local Senior Center. It's a fun group.

We also travel the 80 miles to our daughter's home in Hesperia, CA. Anna had been retired as a patrol officer from the Chino Police Department about a year ago when she had a stroke at the age of 52. She had two less forceful ones after that but none since. Her vision was affected so she can't drive, but she manages to take care of their three horses, a cow, four dogs and a bunch of chickens. Her husband Chris is also retired police. He's such a terrific guy and we are blessed to have him.



**Los Angeles retirees around 2005 (L-R) Bob Beran, Nadine Blansett, Bob O'Leary, Bill Sydow, Ralph Weatherford, Joe Lafond and Dave Teichmiller.**

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

With the Coronavirus surge, only a few Lunch Bunch groups have managed small lunch gatherings. Contact information for the groups is listed below, and, hopefully, in the near future groups will begin meeting in person.

#### Baton Rouge Nov 10

Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Drusilla Seafood, 3482 Drusilla Ln D, in 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

No holiday luncheon but organizers may do something in the spring. Contact Sharon Fraetis at (925) 330-8533 or email lafnatv@gmail.com.

#### Belpre

Organizers are looking to the fall or early winter as the first possible luncheon. 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.

## In Memoriam

*Walter O. Brown  
Charleston, WV*

*Milton Edward "Pat" Davey  
Spokane, WA*

*William (Bill) D. De Witt  
Concord, CA*

*Burton Lee Ernst  
Deer Park, WA*

*Herbert R. Gant  
Hebron, OH*

*Harold Edward Hale  
Bristol, RI*

*Zach Hatcher  
Denham Springs, LA*

*Frances M. Hayden  
Chewelah, WA*

*Gorden Platts Mann  
Spokane, WA*

*Harold E. Pauley  
Concord, NC*

*Porita F. Ripoll  
Madisonville, LA*

*James A. Vais  
San Rafael, 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.*