



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 PRESIDENTS**

Dear Fellow Retirees/Surviving Spouses:

On behalf of all the KASRA Directors, we

extend our best wishes to each and every one of you as we enter 2022. The beginning of a year usually brings with it the hope and a promise that this year will be better than the last, so it is hard to believe at the beginning of 2022, we are entering the third year of fighting the deadly Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic that has infected over 260 million individuals resulting in over 5 million deaths worldwide. The U.S. alone has recorded over 50 million cases and over 800,000 fatalities. In addition, the psychological and economic costs are incalculable. None of us have been spared from the direct or indirect effects of this deadly virus and our lives and way of living altered in ways none of us imagined two short years ago.

And yet, despite these grim statistics, the world has been spared far worse outcomes because of the vaccines developed and distributed in an astonishingly short time frame following the discovery of the virus in late 2019. These vaccines have been proven to be highly effective at preventing infection in a high percentage of vaccinated individuals and limiting the severity of the disease in the small number of vaccinated individuals contracting the disease. Combining the original vaccine shots with booster shots several months later has proven to be the best line of defense against this stubborn, global

health hazard.

In addition to personal protection, the widespread distribution of the vaccines resulted in the resumption of more normal activities in most parts of the country. Restaurants, movie theaters, gyms and other sports and leisure venues are just some of activities we can once again enjoy, albeit with varying degrees of restrictions depending on where you live.

While on health-related issues, there are currently over 2400 Kaiser retiree family units receiving VEBA Plan benefits. The benefit for 2021, which will help offset health care related insurance expenses, is a maximum of \$5,000 per family unit, the most ever in the 18 years VEBA has been providing benefits to eligible Kaiser retirees. We encourage all eligible retirees to take advantage of this tremendous benefit and file for reimbursement in a timely manner.

As always, we express our thanks to the VEBA Trustees for their excellent management and oversight of this critical program on behalf of our retiree community. For questions or concerns regarding VEBA, please contact the VEBA administrator, Delta Fund, at 888-344-8322 (toll free) or through their website [VEBA@Deltafund.com](mailto:VEBA@Deltafund.com).

As we have noted in previous newsletters, KASRA Directors are in the process of winding down operations of the organization due to ever declining enrollment and revenue needed to continue funding the organization's activi-

## WHAT'S GOING ON

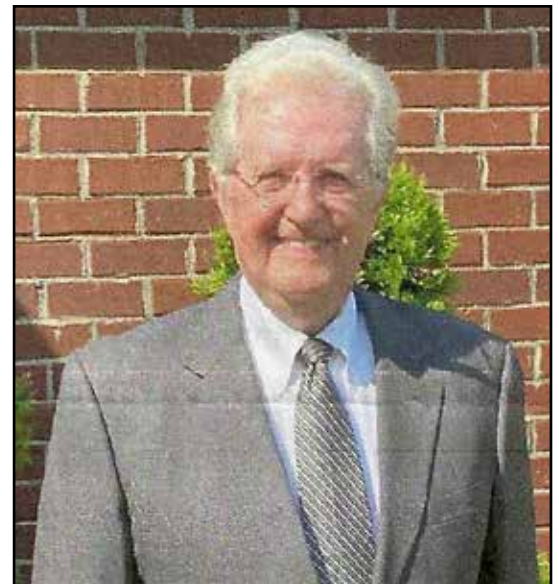
### Accomplishments . . .

**William “Bill” Prior** (Delaware, OH) and his family love to tell the story about his grandfather, John Early Wilson, who in 1939 at the age of 80, donned a red bathing suit and swam the length of the municipal pool on his birthday. Bill decided to do the same on his 80th birthday (Jan. 3, 2021). First, he grew a short beard to look more like his grandfather and then he did his swim in the Gulf of Mexico. “The temperature was in the low 60s, both water and air, so it was perfect for an energetic swim.” Aside from his birthday swim, Bill has been doing home modernization projects since retirement in 1989 and is now on his sixth home he has remodeled. “Kaiser and its awesome people were a huge highlight of my working career. I joined Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation’s Newark Works on May 10, 1965, initially working for **Walter Bloss** as the Area Engineer for Wire Drawing.”

By the end of 1979, Bill was invited into the Corporate Environmental Affairs group and, in 1985, he became head of Environmental Affairs for the Chemicals Group, moving to the new headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio. When the chemicals business was divested, he moved to Baton Rouge to help coordinate Environmental Affairs for Continuing Operations before retiring in 1989 and returned to Ohio to be close to grandchildren. Bill and his wife Linda split their time between Largo, FL, and Delaware, OH.

### Birthday and Anniversaries . . .

Best wishes to Robert “Bob” Putz on the loss of his wife Dorthy. Our condolences also go to the families of **Myrl Elwyn Thiesies**, surviving spouse of **Virginia Thiesies**, and **June Kuljis**, spouse of retiree **Joseph Kuljis**. Married 76 years, Jo-



**William “Bill” Prior celebrated his 80th birthday by going for a swim in the Gulf of Mexico**

seph passed away three days after his beloved June. Surviving Spouse **Maryrose Croce** (Spokane Valley, WA) turns 100 on Feb. 11, 2022.

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

Well, we didn’t make the Olympic team again,” said **Dennis Seymour** (Escondido, CA). “But Midge and I keep trying with daily swims and water aerobics.” Dennis is also the gate guard at his retirement community of Meadow Brook and, with COVID-19, also takes the temperatures of all visitors.

**Kathleen Putnam** (Spokane, WA) sends a big thank you to all the KASRA officers who have produced the newsletter all these years. The former Mead Works employee said she “thoroughly enjoyed it and hates to see it go.”

Also getting out a bit is **Ginny Allison Zanardelli** (Roseville, CA). Formerly in human resources and purchasing for Kaiser, Ginny went to Lake Tahoe, CA, Southern California, and Oregon. She en-

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

joys attending holiday gatherings and seeing all the children and grandchildren.

### Traveling Here and There . . .

**Jim Caldwell** (San Antonio, TX) spends his travel time visiting family in California, North Carolina, Texas, West Virginia, and Florida. The former Union City Can Plant worker in Union City, CA enjoys spending time with grandchildren and great grandchildren in Ione, CA, Wake Forest, NC, and San Antonio, TX.

St. Augustine, FL, was **DeDe Cook Pauley's** (Ashville, OH) destination in July. She celebrated her son Rob's 48th birthday and the christening of his two young children. Back in Ashville, DeDe and her husband Dave keep busy with the Village Chapel Church, where she prepares and teaches Bible lessons. The former worker in Newark's Traffic Department also continues to swim, walk and spend time with her three children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren! The close family celebrated with DeDe's mother, Gloria Thompson, on the occasion of her 100



**Camp Matens and Richard Damberg at Baton Rouge retirees lunch on Nov. 10, 2021 at Drusilla Seafood.**

birthday on Dec. 3, 2021. "I want to thank everyone at KASRA for all they've done for us KACC retirees," she said.

### Best Wishes . . .

Best wishes to Robert "Bob" Putz on the loss of his wife Dorothy. Our condolences also go to the families of **Myrl Elwyn Thiesies**, surviving spouse of **Virginia Thiesies**, and **June Kuljis**, spouse of retiree **Joseph Kuljis**. Married 76 years, Joseph passed away three days after his beloved June.

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

ties, as well as fewer and fewer members willing and able to serve on the board. We currently expect to formally dissolve KASRA sometime later this year. (The VEBA Plan is a separate entity and is not impacted by the decision to dissolve KASRA).

Since that announcement, many retirees have taken the opportunity to provide input regarding their favorite memories or events they experienced during their Kaiser tenure. These shared memories have been extremely well received by our fellow members, and we encourage everyone to send us their favorite(s) via the enclosed card, email or letter.

In closing, we wish all of you the best of health in the coming year and, as we always do, encourage everyone to stay safe and stay connected.

All the best!

*Erach*

*Michael Venie*

*Steve Ping*

Erach Tarapore, Mike Venie and Steve Ping

Co-Presidents, KASRA

*(What's Going On, continued Page 8)*



## MEMBER PROFILE: RICHARD “DICK” EVANS

Raised on a cattle ranch in Oregon, where he attended a one-room elementary school, **Dick Evans** never dreamed his career path would take him around the world as a top-level executive with Kaiser Aluminum and, eventually, as President and CEO of Alcan. “All I knew was, after working in the rain and mud on the ranch with my siblings, I didn’t want to be a rancher. So, I focused on taking advantage of my math skills to enter an engineering university,” Dick said.

He went on to earn an industrial engineering degree at Oregon State University through a combination of track and academic scholarships, and summer jobs including working as a short-order cook at his fraternity – Sigma NU.

### How did you get involved with Kaiser?

One of the scholarships I received was from Alcoa – where I obtained a summer job in Vancouver, WA, and an introduction to the aluminum industry. I then worked a summer job for Kaiser at Trentwood Works in Spokane, WA. I got married to my college sweetheart, Gretchen Heesacker, graduated from Oregon State and started working for Kaiser Aluminum full time all in the first week of June 1969.

### Tell us about your career with Kaiser.

I was an Industrial Engineer at Trentwood until 1972, and then at Mead Reduction Plant until 1975, when I was transferred to the head office in Oakland, CA, as a Corporate Planning Associate. It was a great experience as I saw an overview of the business, and I met so many interesting people.

In 1977, Kaiser generously gave me a paid leave to earn an MS in Management through the Stanford Graduate School of



**In the early 1990s, Dick caught the official World Record Dolly Varden Trout near Kotzebue, Alaska. Lee Hunt joined him on this trip.**

Business Sloan Program.

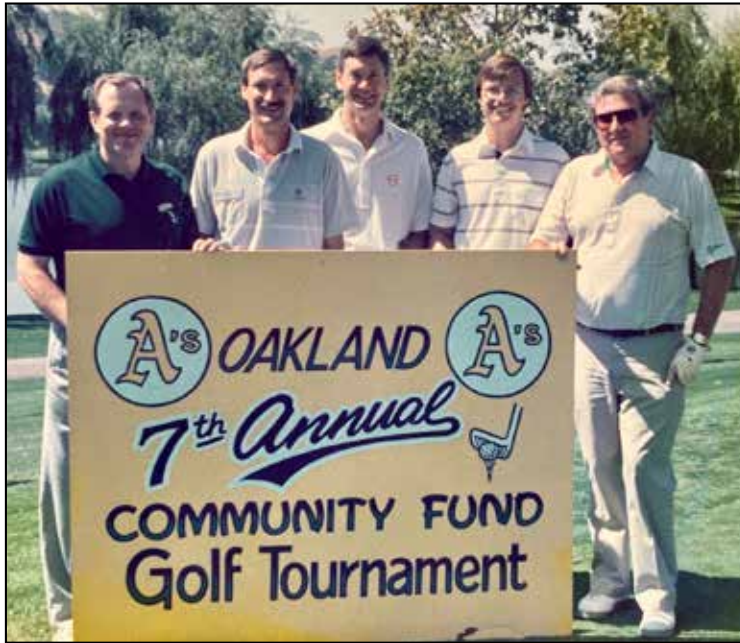
When I came back, I was sent to Valco in Ghana, West Africa, as Production Manager/Works Manager. My assignment at Valco from 1978-1982 was probably the most challenging – and most rewarding – although many others including Ravenswood Works Manager in West Virginia and Kaiser Rolled Products in Pleasanton were also very challenging. In fact, I was very fortunate to have had a series of quite different jobs – each of which was an exceptional learning experience and added to my eventual breadth of experience. That includes everything from working 24-

*(Members Profile, from Page 4)*

hour time studies on the floor at Trentwood, to interfacing with Kaiser's largest (and toughest) customers to being part of the negotiating teams with **Alan Clore**, and later **Charles Hurwitz**, and to negotiating "survival" master contracts with the U.S. Steel Workers union.

**Tell us why Valco was also the most rewarding assignment?**

It was rewarding because we overcame civil unrest (two Coups), Ghana's economic collapse, arrest of some of our expatriate employees and many, many other serious crises. Perhaps most rewarding was winning the Kaiser Cup safety award, operating the plant at full capacity (1981) for the only time in its history, and successfully training dozens of Ghanaians to take over most of the plant operations when we departed. We still have wonderful friends (expatriates



**Dick represented Kaiser at the 1990 Oakland A's Charity Golf Tournament.**

and Ghanaians) that we made while there – although the ranks are dwindling with time. I was privileged to be named an honorary Chief of the Ga tribe (twice) due to contributions to the community – once in 1992 and once in 2006. My biggest regret is I never beat **James Provencal** in the annual Valco Tennis Tournament. He was the head of our



**Family photo taken at Gretchen's Sausalito art studio at Christmas 2018 with (L-R) Dick, daughter Christin, Gretchen, son-in-law Paul Sytsma, daughter Carrie and Christin's husband Praveen. Grandsons Ben and Noah in front.**

*(Member Profile, continued Page 6)*



*(Members Profile, from Page 5)*

Plant Safety – and an excellent tennis player.

**Tell us about your family.**

My wife of 52 years, Gretchen, was an integral part of all our Kaiser adventures – including multiple moves across countries – and oceans – and in many cases entertaining customers, helping newcomers, and broadly supporting the “Kaiser Family.” Our older daughter, Christin, was born in Spokane, WA, during our Mead assignment in 1973, and our younger daughter, Carrie, was born in Walnut Creek in 1976 during our first Oakland Head Office assignment. Both girls started elementary school at the Valco School in Tema, Ghana, West Africa. We are still friends with **Dave** and **Jody Randall**, who were their first teachers.

Christin and her husband own several iconic bookstores in the Bay Area and Carrie is a professor and clinical nurse at UCSF. Carrie and her husband have two boys, 8 and 12, who we are fortunate to have nearby.

Gretchen went on to receive an art degree at Eastern Washington University while we were in Spokane, WA, and completed master’s graduate courses in African Studies at Legon University while we were at Valco. She worked several decades in Interior Design, but the last 10 years has focused on her own painting and printmaking at her studio in Sausalito, CA.

**When did you retire from Kaiser?**

I took early retirement at the end of 1996 after 27 years with Kaiser. I was concerned about the company’s high leverage and strategic direction. It was a difficult decision. I was 49 years old at the time and my career clock was ticking in my subconscious. The most difficult element was parting with many wonderful co-workers, friends, and the whole Kaiser family. My Kaiser colleagues helped us in too many ways to mention over our years with Kaiser. Fortunately, I ended up working with several of them in other settings later, and then over the last 12 years, have re-connected with many more.



**Dick and his wife Gretchen (far right) at a mid-1990 charity event for the California Symphony with fellow Kaiser employees Jim McKnight, Jed Daniel, Bill Edgley and their spouses.**

*(Members Profile, from Page 6)*

### What did you do after retiring at such a young age?

I spent the first year (1997) doing freelance consulting with several Japanese trading companies, a major global engineering and construction firm, and an oil sands startup in Canada. Alcan then recruited me to join their corporate office in Montreal and soon I was asked to become President of Alcan America in Cleveland, OH, followed by CEO and Group President of Alcan Fabricated Products Worldwide.

When Alcan acquired Alusuisse in 1999, Gretchen and I moved to Zurich, Switzerland to lead the integration and



**Dick with grandsons Noah and Benjamin in 2019 while hiking at Bryce Canyon, Utah.**

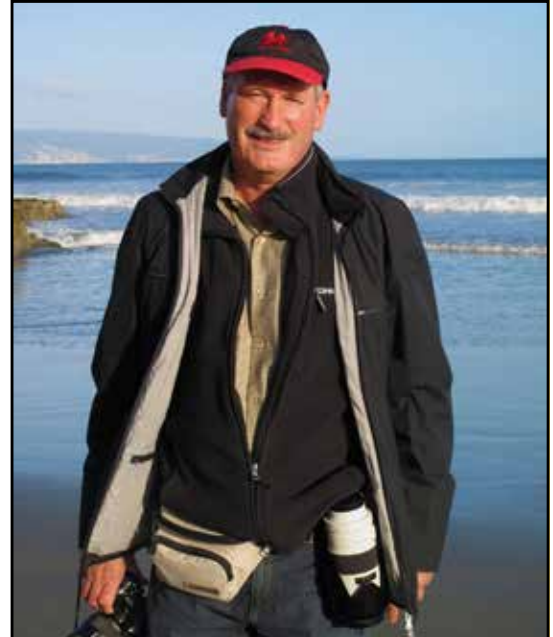
to oversee Alcan's European operations. Two years later, we moved back to Montreal where I joined the three-person "Office of the President" for Alcan – essentially a role as Co-COO with former Kaiser colleague **Brian Sturgell**. In 2006, I became President and CEO of Alcan – at the time we had approximately 85,000 employees and operated in 63

counties. I led the negotiation of Alcan's merger with Rio Tinto in 2008 and agreed to stay on for two years as an executive director of Rio Tinto and CEO of the combined world-leading aluminum business. I retired from Rio Tinto at the end of 2009, and we moved back to San Francisco to be closer to our daughters at that time.

Over the past 11 years I have served as a non-executive director of five additional NYSE (New York Stock Exchange) companies – including CGI (Canada's leading IT company) and Constellium (Alcan's former Engineered Products Group). I retired from the CGI board in 2021 but remain non-executive Chairman of Paris-based Constellium. One bit of irony – Constellium now owns Ravenswood – where I was works manager in the mid 1980's. I am happy to report that Ravenswood is profitable today and doing well!

### Now that you're really retired, what are your interests?

Since moving back to the Bay Area, Gretchen and I have re-connected with several former Kaiser colleagues and spouses. Among other involvements, we have become supporters of the Northern Light School (NLS) in Oakland (the late **Cornell Maier's** passion) and have sponsored two students for each of the last 10 years. Gretchen has also enjoyed volunteer teaching of art at NLS.



**Dick Evans in 2010 taking photos at Point Reyes, CA. Dick has published three well-received documentary photography books since retiring.**

### 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.

## 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.*

I was in the LA sales office from 1957 to 1968 and then transferred to Atlanta as Southeast Regional Manager until my retirement in April 1995. Thirty-Eight years of great memories and terrific Kaiser friends, so many no longer no longer with us. May they Rest in Peace.

There is one favorite memory that stand out, however, and it happened my first year with Kaiser. I had just completed my U.S. Air Force active duty and was selected as one of 37 Kaiser Sales Trainees in the summer of 1957. As part of the training, we visited all of Kaiser's plants to learn about "The Bright Star of Metals." We spent two weeks in Ohio learning about Rod, Bar and Wire at the Newark plant. A fellow trainee was planning a dinner with his old Ohio State University girlfriend and asked if any of us would like a blind date with his girlfriend's Pi Beta Phi sorority sisters who were in Columbus for a visit. I said sure and was paired with Peggy Poorman. Eight of us had dinner at Stouffers in Columbus. Peggy and I had immediate chemistry, even a first date goodnight kiss! We continued a cross country courtship. After training, I was assigned to the Los Angeles sales office where Cornell Maier was the District Manager. Peggy accepted a Middle

School teaching position in Whittier and moved to L.A. Our romance blossomed and we were married on December 27, 1958.

Over 64 years since we first met, thanks to Kaiser, four terrific children, 12 delightful grandchildren and one adorable great granddaughter. Life is good, best Kaiser memory ever -- meeting the love of my life in 1957!

--Bill Jordan

I was hired in September 1981 at Mead Works, WA. Unfortunately, due to low metal prices, the plant began laying off people and shutting down potlines. It was a terrible time but one that offered many opportunities.

My memory involves the hot metal analyses that were sent from the chem lab to Trentwood, WA, by teletype so that Trentwood knew what grade the metal was and could optimize the alloy production with the hot metal when the trucks got there. The teletype equipment was old and AT&T, who leased it to Kaiser, wouldn't support it anymore. If we wanted to keep sending metal analyses to Trentwood, they offered a very expensive upgrade and, of course, since we were shutting down potlines and laying off people, there was no money to do this.

But with the cold potlines, we had a lot of surplus equipment like monitors, printers, and modems and time to try to do something ourselves. Steve Price and Chuck Myers from the Potroom Automated Systems and myself from the lab set up a test line and began working out the details to send the lab information to the potroom computer. I learned an awful lot about how computers decode electronic signals and how to wire up interfaces from the existing lab equipment in the process. We



*(Memories of Kaiser, from Page 8)*

were able to get the potroom computers to accept the lab data and store it in the potrooms computer. We were then able to calculate the grade of the metal in the trucks and send the information back to the lab. Finally, we gave Trentwood one of the surplus modems and a printer so they could also print the results. We ended up with a system that cost almost nothing except our time and led to many subsequent upgrades to the Metal Products shipping process and paperwork. I am still impressed with the abilities and intelligence of the many fine folks I worked with over the years at Kaiser and how much I enjoyed working with them.

--Mike Sawatzky

*(Members Profile, from Page 7)*

We have renewed our connection to our undergraduate school, Oregon State University – where we endowed a Humanitarian Engineering department and three - four graduate fellowships each year and support the OSU Women’s Track team – including being the anchor donor for a new Track Grandstands. We have also been the anchor donor for the OSU Engineering “Catalyst” program to support Pell-eligible, first generation and other talented but economically challenged students.

On the personal side I have become an avid photographer and have published 3 documentary photography books on historic SF neighborhoods: Haight-Ashbury (2014), the Mission (2017) and Chinatown (2020). Gretchen and I were delighted to have our respective art and photography featured in a joint exhibition at the Little Gallery at OSU this past November – December.

## *In Memoriam*



*Carl L. Foltz  
San Antonio, TX*

*Clifford A. Halstead  
Greenacres, WA*

*Joseph L. Kuljis  
Graham, WA*

*Donald Dwayne McConnell  
Sumner, WA*

*John J. States  
Oakland, 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.*



**Cliff Halstead passed away in September at the age of 97.**

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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 in-person gatherings for small lunch or breakfast gatherings. Contact information for the groups is listed below, and, hopefully, more and more groups will begin meeting in person in the spring.

### Baton Rouge

Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Drusilla Seafood, 3482 Drusilla Ln D, in Baton Rouge. Email Bob Presson 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

No Holiday luncheon but organizers may do something in May or June. Contact Sharon Fraetis at (925) 330-8533 or email [lafnatv@gmail.com](mailto:lafnatv@gmail.com).

### Belpre

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

Breakfast meeting first Saturday of the month. Shirley's, 1924 Old French Rd, 8:30 a.m. Contact Tim Healy at (814) 402-1062 or email [thealy1931@gmail.com](mailto:thealy1931@gmail.com).

Jan. 15, Feb. 19

### April 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 Westenhaver at (304) 266-4109 or email [Pete26164@gmail.com](mailto:Pete26164@gmail.com) or call Lee Corder at (304) 273-9457.

### Tacoma

The group is planning a June luncheon meeting. 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).



LA Retirees enjoyed a September 2021 get together: (L-R) Bob O'Leary, Joe Lafond, Sumio (Tommy) Murakami, Arun (Al) Bhatt, Jack Yraceburn and Ken Blansett.