

KASRA

Nov. 2006

Email: news@e-kasra.com



Retiree News

Dear Fellow Retiree:

As the new President of the Board of Directors of KASRA, it is my opportunity to make a few comments to the retiree group.

Many retirees have asked me, "why do we need KASRA now that the Kaiser benefit issues are largely resolved?" There are three main reasons for the continuation of KASRA:

1. Provide assistance to the VEBA Trustees, primarily in the area of communications to the retirees.
2. Monitor and suggest adjustments as necessary to the COBRA rates as administered by Kaiser.
3. Communications, communications and more communications to the Kaiser retiree family. It has been expressed to me many times that the "spirit of Kaiser" still remains with many retirees and KASRA is one of the better means of keeping that spirit alive.

So this will be the main thrust for KASRA in the near future. If you have comments, suggestions or ideas which you think will help the KASRA effort, please let us know.

As you know, the VEBA was formed to hold settlement proceeds received from Kaiser in partial compensation for the termination of retiree medical and life insurance benefits during its recently concluded bankruptcy proceedings. Those proceeds include cash, newly-issued Kaiser stock, and possible future contributions under a profit sharing plan. As of the end of September, the VEBA had assets at market value of approximately \$78 million. Good news indeed, for all retirees! As part of an effort to provide liquidity and investment diversification, the VEBA

has been selling its Kaiser stock and reinvesting the proceeds. The last of the Kaiser stock was sold in October.

The VEBA continues to pay out benefits to those enrolled in the VEBA Plan, amounting to approximately \$1.7 million this year through the end of September. Every retiree who lost retiree medical and life insurance benefits from Kaiser is entitled to their fair share of the benefits that the VEBA is able to provide. The disappointing fact is that only about 72% of those entitled to such benefits have enrolled in the VEBA Plan in spite of every effort KASRA, the VEBA Trustees and the Retirees' Committee has made to inform and encourage eligible individuals to enroll. Enrollment is required for two simple reasons - to ensure that only eligible individuals receive benefit payments and to ensure, through the enrollment information provided, that benefit materials and benefit payments are being sent to the correct locations. It costs nothing to enroll in the VEBA Plan, and once you are enrolled, you need not enroll again. In order to be entitled to the \$1,500 family unit benefit for this year, you must be enrolled by December 31, 2006 and you must claim your benefit by submitting the required reimbursement request form at any time prior to the end of next year. It is that simple. If you have not enrolled, I strongly urge you to do so. If you know of others who have not yet enrolled, please urge them to do so as well. If you have benefit questions or need additional enrollment or benefit reimbursement forms, please contact the VEBA Plan Administrator as follows:

Professional Insurance Consultants, Inc.
P.O. Box 4026
Concord, CA 94524
Telephone: (800) 339-3479 (*In California only*)
Telephone: (925) 798-2550 (*Outside of California*)
E-Mail: vebaplan@proadministrators.com

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New KASRA Board

At the KASRA Annual Board Meeting, Jed Daniels welcomed the new Board Members: Steve Booth, Lytton DeSilva, Don Kusko, Chris Laszcz-Davis, Lee Pesavento, Cliff Rider and Ed Westerman.

Carlos Xavier was re-nominated for Treasurer, David Geary re-nominated for Secretary and Dick Kauffman was nominated for President. All were unanimously elected.

What's Going On

Editor's Note: Like clockwork, during the summer our mailbox was stuffed with mail from KASRA members who sent in their news notes with their dues payments. There's never enough space to run them all at once. So, if you don't read your news in this issue, please pardon the delay while we catch up with your musings.

Former Kaiser Aluminum executive **Dick Evans**, now President and Chief Executive Officer of Alcan Metals, has received some serious national ink including a profile in Time Magazine and a quote in the Wall St. Journal.



Moe Eskins (Murraysville, WV) enjoys visiting Civil War battle sites, such as Antietam and Harper's Ferry. **John Thornberry** resides in a private home for the handicapped in Danville, CA. He enjoys playing bridge. **Bettye Trumbower** of Santa Rosa, CA, loves the retirement community of Oakmont there. She likes bicycle riding and swimming laps. **Larry Brim** (Pryor, OK) says his hobbies are fishing and hunting. We like those hobbies - they put food on the table.

'Cruisin'... **Ray Ferrell** and his wife Betty (Varico, FL) treated their entire family of 14 to a Disney cruise last spring. Katrina survivor **Evelyn Schwab** (Slidell, LA) enjoyed a cruise to Australia. **Paul Frank Milakz** of Severn, MD, took a cruise through the Panama Canal. **Marian Mortensen** (Oakland, CA) went on a cruise to the Caribbean. **Bill Herrold** and his wife Jo (Pebble Beach, CA) took an inside passage cruise of Alaska as part of a one month visit that also included train and coach trips.

Don Angell of Sand Point, ID, likes woodworking and contributes his skills and time to Head Start, Kinderhaven and Kiwanis. **John Lullo** of Clío, CA, has turned his woodworking hobby into a small business, making rustic furniture.

Dick Lemyre (Walnut Creek, CA) likes woodworking so much he's set up a shop in his garage, making furniture and decorative pieces. He and Barbara love to travel and will visit



Israel in March where Barbara's daughter lives.

Condolences to **Verne Wheatcroft** (Trentwood, WA) whose wife Jean passed away in September.

Larry Muenzler (Baton Rouge, LA) is a Rotarian with the Sunrise Club. Condolences to Larry whose wife Martha passed away last April. **Jack McKeogh** reports that the fawns love to come into his yard to munch on the jasmine.

Elizabeth Atkinson of Castro Valley, CA, is the editor of her retirement community's monthly publication, the Courier. She sings in the choruses of the Hayward Little Theater and First Presbyterian Church. Surviving spouse **Gretta Byrne** of Haines City, FL, visited friends in Europe including former VALCO retiree **David McCann** and his wife Helen who reside in Wales and Jennifer Kasberger, daughter of VALCO & Ravenswood retiree **Bob Kasberger**, who lives in Austria.

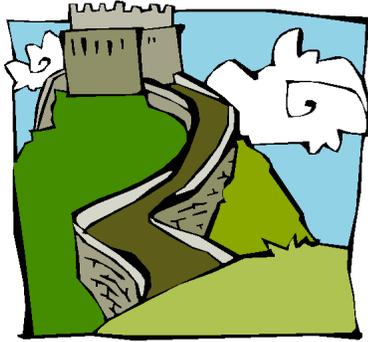
Glenda Sharp of RR-1, Box 138, Marlinton, WV 24954, would love to hear from the families of **Winnie Dent & Chuck Aldridge**.

During a visit to China, **Rod Chaney** and his wife Helen (Walnut

Creek, CA) saw the Great Wall. They also toured Thailand. **Betty Lynch** of Otis

Orchards, WA, loves to play the fiddle while jamming with her grandkids and daughter. She calls her grandkids

“God's reward for being a parent.”



Happy Anniversary! **Virginia Thiesies** and her husband Myrl (Spokane, WA) celebrated their 50th Anniversary with a family campout in Nelson, BC that included 4 children and 7 grandchildren. The following month, the Thiesies took their first cruise to Alaska.

Jim Pantaleo and his wife Shirley celebrated their 50th Anniversary with friends who came from near and far. Rowena and **Bill Fleming** of Ravenswood, WV, celebrated their 57th Anniversary. **Jacquie Clements** and husband Lou celebrated their 50th anniversary at their new home in Arrow Creek Country Club, Reno, NV. This celebration took place after Jacquie suffered a near fatal fall that broke her ribs and ruptured her spleen. Congratulations to **Jim Sanderson** who remarried last June. Claire and **John Gesser, Jr.** of Napoleonville, LA celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary. Last July, Marie Louise & **Bud Caro**

(Portland, OR) celebrated their 55th anniversary. Mr. & Mrs. **Bud Rother** (Lake Wylie, SC) celebrated 53 years of marriage in January.

Yvonne & Nolan Bourgeois (Lutcher, LA) marked their 50th anniversary with a party at Mike Anderson's Holiday Inn in Gonzales, LA. Congratulations to all you love birds.



The golf course is the new work place - or so says the corporate industrial relations team of KASRA retirees **Steve Booth, Jim McKnight, Jim Presley & Ron Radakovich** who got together recently for a round at Roundhill CC in Alamo, CA. **Dennis Przybycien** of Sonoma, CA, visited old haunts at Trentwood recently, catching up with **Mike Dreher** and his wife Linda. Dennis also ran into **Gary Schmauch & Davey Williams**.

More Golf... **Marion Ploussard** of Irmo, SC, has enjoyed not one but three holes-in-one! **William Hurdlow** (Livermore, CA) likes RV travel, reading and enjoying the grandkids. **Wilbur Smith** and his wife Darla (Sumter, SC) spend a lot of time playing golf. **Willemina J. Bosch** visited the Netherlands for three weeks.

On the move...

Bob Lister has moved to an apartment in a retirement complex in Baton Rouge and says he's got an extra bedroom for guests. Call Bob at 225-766-0873.

From Tulsa, OK after 41 years, to Chattanooga, TN. **Cynthia T. Laplante** and her husband moved to be closer to their daughter and family.

Keith Sprouse moved from North Carolina to Palm Springs, CA, and is now exploring the beautiful Golden State. From Lafayette, CA, where they lived for 47 years in the same house, **Jim Schultz** and his wife are moving to El Dorado Hills, CA, to be closer to their daughters and families.

Melvin Flannum has moved into a Del Webb Community in Apple Valley, CA. From Arizona to Merrillville, IN, **Elsie Hansen** moved back to be nearer to family.

Russ Radach and his wife Leona are well into their 3-month plus RV trip back East for fall colors and visits with friends. **Art Haglund** and his wife Barbie (Spokane, WA) don't have to go far to play golf - the course is across the street from their home. They also have a winter home in Coachella Valley, CA.

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Whats Going On - cont.

Happy Belated 90th Birthday to **Al Trommershausen** of Walnut Creek, CA. Al lives in Ross-moor and had about 200 friends celebrating the big day. Celebrating her 90th birthday this November 27th is **Bernice Benson**. Do send a card if you're so inclined to the Alameda Care Center, 430 Willow St., Alameda, CA 94501.

Ron Schutz (Colorado Springs, CO) visited Australia, Tasmania & New Zealand last month. **Robert McKechnie** (Highland, IN) spends 6 months in Indiana, then travels to the South and to Ohio to visit family.

Norm Van Patten and his wife Betsy (Oakland, CA) must really love Italy - they completed their fourth trip there, visiting Rome, Florence and Venice. Oakland retiree **Bill Fautch, Sr.** (Newman Lake, WA) plays the accordion in a country band that just recorded its first CD. **Norman Schwem-berger** (Lafayette, CA) tries as he might, but just can't retire - he's working for Genentech. Norm reports that he saw a fox bor-



rough under his deck and the kits come out to play like puppies. Beekeeper **Al Mouton** (New Orleans, LA) sells honey from his bees at the Farmers Market each Saturday. Al has taken a dozen cruises, from Alaska to the Panama Canal.

Halethorpe retiree **Howard M. Dicus, Sr.** (Glenburnie, MD) is working on his 6th book, for private publication and distribution. Condolences to **Kenneth Fletcher** of Aurora, IL, who says he has lost his house, contents, legal papers and his car, but doesn't explain what led to this unfortunate set of circumstances. **Harry Dwelle** (Millen, CA) likes golfing, hunting & fishing. **Louis Hermann** of Severna Park, MD, enjoys boating and traveling to visit family in CA.

Dick Mace and his wife Judy spent the summer in Hope, ID, and the winter in Mesa, AZ, where they lead a weekly hiking group. **Bruce Wilson** (Moraga, CA) plays tennis 3 times a week, does his cardiac workouts and is planning a hiking trip to both Copper Canyon and the Sierre Madre in Mexico in December. **Chet Ferdun** of Orinda, CA, enjoyed travels to Costa Rica and Tanzania this year. **Correction: Bob Nichols** of Concord, CA, is **Larry Miller's** golf buddy and neighbor.

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Dear Retiree cont. from page 1

We all owe a big debt of gratitude to the relatively small, but thoroughly dedicated group of people, who worked tirelessly on our behalf over the years since the formation of KASRA to secure some of the benefits that were about to be lost. What they achieved is truly remarkable. The VEBA Trustees, the Retirees' Committee, past and present board members and the numerous individual retirees who took part in this effort all deserve our hearty thanks. Particularly outgoing president Jed Daniel who led, pushed and carried this effort for the last six years. Thank you, Jed! Thank you, all! We are beholden.

The new Board of Directors and I look forward to serving you for the next several years.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Dick Kauffman".

Dick Kauffman

In Memoriam

Lois M. Fraser - Middleport, Ohio
Esther M. Froeba - Metairie, LA
Harry A. Herzel - Spokane, WA
William J. Hines - Gig Harbor, WA
Arthur E. Kerns - San Leandro, CA
Joseph D. Lewis - Grass Valley, CA
Thomas C. (Tom) McClellan - Baton Rouge, LA
Joseph Meyer - Chalmette, LA
Roland E. (Gene) Miller - Yorkville, IL
Alfred E. Newton - Tallahassee, FL
Guy A. Nunnally, Jr. - Denton, TX
Esther Sack - Boca Raton, FL
Winifred Smith - Bristol, RI
Victor G. Shaver - Nampa, ID
Eula B. Spillman - Denton, TX
John D. Walters - Kiln, MS
Samuel A. Wilcox, Jr. - Benecia, CA
David N. Wood - Little Deer Isle, ME

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

Send KASRA Your News

Write us your news, travels, stories, KASRA obituaries. Send a note to Mark Murray, Editor, KASRA News, 2471 San Miguel Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 or email mamwmipr@aol.com. Telephone: 925-932-6050

Whats Going On - continued

Fred Lawson of Carmel, CA, was selected to join a World Affairs Council delegation to Taiwan. Still picking up after Katrina, **Arnold Schlotmann** (Carriere, MS) took a break to visit his son in Florida.

Carolyn L. Bruner (Edison, GA) has toured 48 states in the U.S. except for Alaska and Michigan. She enjoys 6 great grandchildren. **Jimmy LeBlanc** (Paulina, LA) likes fishing, hunting rabbits and deer, and running beagles who are good rabbit-hunting dogs. **Frank "Beef" Lewis** of Baton Rouge, LA, attended the USS Monrovia APA-31 Navy ship reunion in Austin, TX. **Robert Hansen** (Baton Rouge, LA) visited family in California last summer and enjoyed the coastal redwoods.

Burch Roark (Spokane, WA) likes to restore antique cars and build working model engines. **Ed Grund** (Parrish, FL) went boating in the Virgin Islands and visited Zurich, Switzerland. **Don Tebon** of Wales, WI, enjoyed a three week trip to Ireland that included multiple tastes of Guinness Stout, no doubt. He consults for Howard Precision Metals. **Jeanett Fulcher** (Oakland, CA) and her husband took the train to visit family and friends in Atlanta, Washington D.C., Flint, MI and Denver, CO. **Diane Jung** of Oakland, CA, visited the Mayan ruins in Belize and saw coral reefs in Cozumel, 120 feet below sea level in a submarine.

Strike! League and tournament bowler **Jim Johnson** of Metairie, LA, attended tournaments in 7 cities this year.

Janet Pendergast of Cheney, WA, has downsized to a small home now that she's a widow. She plans to spend a month in Arizona this winter. **Wilma Tipton** (Fairbanks, AK) attended the high school graduation of her granddaughter, who was named MVP in softball in Fresno last June. **Tom Singer** and his wife Jacquie of Appleton, NY, were pleased to be visited by **Glenn Wright** and his wife Karen. Tom is still very involved with The Nature Conservancy. **Al Vogel** went on a Pilgrimage with his brother to Bosnia-Herzegovina, the former country of Yugoslavia.



On the mend: **Don Kusko** of Livermore, CA, had shoulder surgery mid-September and should be back swinging a golf club by now. **William Snow** (North Lima, OH) has had heart bypass surgery (5) and says he's doing okay. **Jeannette Guillaume** (Gonzales, LA) has had four back surgeries. **Harold Fussell** of Baton Rouge, LA, had cancer surgery last summer. **Bob Walls** of Gulf Shores, AL, had back surgery last July and hopefully is back to his bicycle.

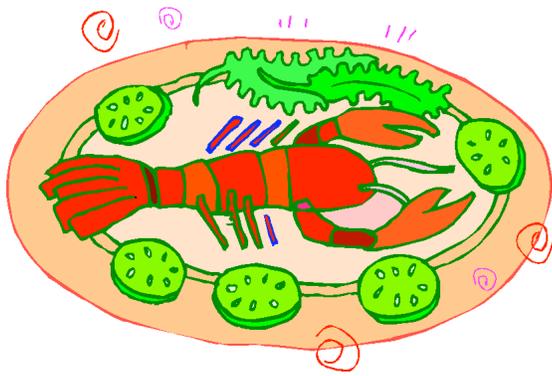


Ernie Cappel would love to hear from his friends displaced by Katrina who lived in Chalmette. Reach him at 1128 E. Highway 30, Gonzales, LA 70737, ph.225-644-2137. **Althea Mayer** (Baton Rouge, LA), who was also displaced by Katrina, says she plans to return to Lakeview in New Orleans some day. After being displaced for months by Katrina, **Muriel Offan** couldn't be happier being back home in New Orleans, LA.

Jerry Lambert (Covington, LA) plays golf and heads up local hospital volunteers. He reports that his wife Lerene is still teaching at Loyola and has her own studio. **William "Carey" Salassi** (Ponchatoula, LA) enjoys vacationing through Elderhostels. He says that his garden produces so many giveaway vegetables his neighbors and relatives don't want to see him any more. Trentwood retiree **Les Buchholz** (McMinnville, OR) relocated to Oregon's wine country area last year and visited his son in the Netherlands.

Sherry Hellyer (Ravenswood, WV) loves the blues... Bluegrass Shows that is. Sherry is still styling hair at the Hair Shack and worked at the town's Octoberfest. Gramercy retiree **Joseph Vicknair** of Litcher, LA, volunteers as an Extraordinary Minister of Homebound. **Genevieve O. Wolff** of Buchanan Dam, TX, got into an auto accident with an 18-wheeler earlier this year and still finds that it affects circulation in to her left foot.

Alan De Ross (Wasco, IL) is President of DeRoss Engineering Co., which fabricates products for video inspection systems. He also started a custom furniture business and volunteers at an 1840 farm museum, running the cider press. **Happy Holidays!**



The Lunch Bunch

Nov. 15 Erie

Lunch at 1:00 p.m., Lake Shore Country Club. Call Tim Healy at (814) 474-3536 fax (814) 474-2700 thealy@velocity.net. (Erie meets 3rd Wednesday of each month)

Nov. 16 Trentwood

11:00 a.m. at Valley Eagles, 16810 E. Sprague, Verdale. Del McKinley (509) 924-3077 or at delmckinl@aol.com or Jan Gorman (509) 926-5476 or at jandon10@aol.com (Trentwood meets 3rd Thursday of each month)

Dec. 1 Ravenswood

Dinner/Dance at the Green Hills Countryclub. RSVP. Call Dave Whitman (304) 273-5548 or email dwhitman@wirefire.com

Dec. 4 Bay Area K.A.R.L.A.

11 a.m. Elks Club, 1475 Creekside Dr., Walnut Creek. Call Al Matthews at (925) 930-8243.

Dec. 4 Los Angeles (So. CA)

Noon at The Elephant Bar, 14303 E. Firestone Blvd., La Mirada. Norm Manger (310) 377-2135 email normanger@cox.net. (Meetings held the 1st Monday of each month)

Dec. 6 Tacoma

Noon, Tacoma Elks Lodge, 1965 South Union. Contact Bob Mohr at (253) 820-6569 or bobjanetmohr@comcast.net.

Dec. 7 Baton Rouge

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

Dec. 7 Chalmette

11:30 a.m. Doors open for Luncheon at Bealer's, Slidell, 348 Robert Blvd. (Restaurant 985-649-1805). All KASRA retirees and spouses invited.. Call Sherman Faught at (985) 690-4942. Or email Chuck Schimmel at schimcol@aol.com. chuck's phone (985) 643-0437

Dec. 14 Mead

11:30 a.m. Lunch at Cathay Inn on North Division St. Contact Phil Marksbury at pjmarksb@comcast.net. (Mead meets 2nd Thursday of each month)

Dec.19 Newark

11 a.m. at Stacy's Hometown Buffet in Heath, Ohio. Contact Bob Abel (740) 323-2268 or email rabel@alltel.net. (Newark meets 3rd Tuesday of every other month)

Dec. 12 Bristol

11:45 a.m., The Wharf Restaurant. Call Carol Cook (401) 253-4251 or John Carre at (401) 247-2199

TBA Bay Minette, AL

All former Bay Minette employees, salaried and hourly are invited to attend regular meetings. For information, contact Carl Holland at 251-937-9737; Freddie Hosey 251-456-1267; or Betty Wilson 251-610-5611.

