



MID YEAR 2026 NEWSLETTER

Letter from SAAGH President



Happy July greetings! I hope you are having a great summer. As I write this note today, I am reflecting on what a great weekend we just had in Houston, with the FIFA World Cup, the 4th of July fireworks show, and our typical Houston heat. On the personal side, my second grandbaby was born this weekend; both mom and baby are doing great.

Our Board of Directors continues to work together to deliver great social activities and events, our membership levels have increased to slightly above 1,000 (plus their spouses and partners), and we are looking forward to our upcoming summer volunteer activities. You can read more about this later in the newsletter. During the second half of this year, we will be welcoming four new Directors to the Board, with most of us staying on for continuity, and a few rolling off at the end of the year. More on that in a future newsletter. Meanwhile, I hope to see you at one of our many events during the remainder of 2026.

I hope you enjoy reading! Feel free to provide feedback at: membership@saagh.com

See you soon,

Luis Cosme, SAAGH President

Membership Update – Randy Petty

SAAGH tries to provide its members with a variety of fun and educational activities each year. One gauge of our success is membership. After the pandemic, we were able to grow our membership to 1,090 in 2023 – a record high! Despite our great events team putting together close to 40 events per year, membership began to dip to a low of 934 in 2025. We wanted to understand the reasons behind the drop in membership and how to reverse it.

Many members will remember the annual solicitation mailing (via USPS “snail mail”) from Shell. That mailing went to over 6,000 Houston area retirees. As part of Shell’s recent Human Resources and retiree relations changes, these mailings, sponsored and paid for by Shell, were discontinued and SAAGH took responsibility for this communication.

Beginning in 2024 we also no longer had access to Shell's and Fidelity's retiree information used for the past solicitation letters. This year, SAAGH sent a solicitation to the approximately 2,400 e-mail addresses in our database. SAAGH worked to update the e-mail database in order to reach as many retirees as possible, and to delete those who were no longer interested or able to renew their membership.

We also undertook two other initiatives; a renewed effort at Shell retirement seminars, including soliciting email addresses of future retirees, and a change in our bylaws to allow certain current Shell employees the opportunity to join SAAGH (see <https://saagh.com/membership>). We also piloted an initiative to reach out to prior SAAGH members (2024 and 2025) who had not renewed their membership via a postcard mailing to encourage them to renew.

I am happy to report that our membership has now reached 1,046! How can you help this upward trend to continue? There are three ways:

- *Renew your membership in January when you receive our annual solicitation request. If you don't think you are receiving SAAGH emails, contact us via email – membership@saagh.com.

- *Give us feedback. Are the events interesting, affordable and accessible? Suggest new events.

- *Spread the word to other retirees or eligible members who are not currently SAAGH members.

The SAAGH Board wants to thank you for your support over the years and hope we can continue to provide a vehicle for fun and fellowship for the Shell retiree community. It is YOUR organization and we want it to work for you! You can go [here](#) to renew.

I hope this gives you a flavor of how the SAAGH board is working to sustain and increase our membership. We welcome feedback from members (current, former and future) on any ways SAAGH can be a more attractive organization to join. Send feedback you might have for the board on membership or any other areas to: membership@saagh.com. We look forward to 2026 and providing another great year of events to retain your membership.

SAAGH Volunteers Making a Difference in 2026 – Mike Alvarez

The Shell Alumni of Greater Houston (SAAGH) Volunteer Committee and its members have enjoyed an outstanding start in 2026 by continuing our commitment to serving the Greater Houston community through meaningful volunteer opportunities.

The year began with SAAGH members supporting Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service in January, the culminating event of Shell's Season of Caring. Held on January 19, 2026, the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, the annual day of service brought together Shell employees, retirees, family members and friends to partner with the Houston Food Bank. Volunteers packaged food for the Backpack Buddy and School Lockers Program, helping provide nutritious meals to families and children throughout our community. More than 200 volunteers

participated, demonstrating Shell's long-standing commitment to community service and making a meaningful impact on the lives of local families.

Looking ahead, SAAGH members are preparing to support one of Houston's largest community outreach initiatives – the 16th Annual Mayor's Back to School Fest sponsored by Shell on August 1, 2026, at the George R. Brown Convention Center. Prior to the event, volunteers will assist at the Houston Food Bank July 28-30 to prepare and pack educational and community resource materials into 20,000 Shell branded backpacks!! These backpacks will provide elementary school students with essential school supplies and valuable community resources to help them begin the new school year and prepare for academic success. More than 300 employees, retirees, family members and friends are expected to volunteer for these events!

The SAAGH Volunteer Committee looks forward to the following volunteer opportunities in 2026:

- *UNCF Houston Walk for Education – September
- *Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure – October
- *Shell Season of Caring – November – December
- *Operation Stocking Stuffer – December

Communications will be sent prior to each event with actual dates and registration instructions.

The SAAGH Volunteer Community continues to collaborate closely with Shell's Community Focal Points, Karen Labat and Vicky Moreno, along with Shell community partners to identify meaningful volunteer opportunities that enable SAAGH members to remain engaged, strengthen our communities and continue the proud tradition of Shell volunteerism

Together SAAGH members are demonstrating that retirement is not the end of service – it is another opportunity to make a lasting difference in the communities we call home.

Maximizing Working Advantage – Luis Cosme

I recently saw a post on the "Our Shell Family" Facebook page asking whether retirees could take advantage of the car discounts offered to Shell employees. Somebody provided a link to the employee discount program but failed to realize that you need a shell.com email address to access it. I would like to remind you that, as SAAGH members, you too can access the same discounts by scanning the code below and creating an account using company code SAAGHPERKS. Click [here](#) to see the latest offers. You can also download the iPhone app [here](#).



Events – Brenda Schroeder

SAAGH sponsored 42 interesting and diverse events in 2025. Year to date in 2026, we have held 27 events, with 15 more scheduled. The Buffalo Bayou Bat Tours and Amazon tours were especially popular, so we scheduled three of each to meet demand. We also plan to offer another Amazon tour this fall. Our events include cooking classes, sporting events, webinars, volunteer opportunities, and other activities supported by SAAGH communications.

I thoroughly enjoy my role as the Vice President of Events for our alumni association. I especially enjoy finding activities that are little-known gems in the greater Houston area.

While I oversee the events and make sure we have a diverse and engaging calendar of events, I do not plan them all by myself! We have an amazing Board that help manage events.

Our 2026 goals are:

- Continue to find unique and different experiences for our members (who knew that was in Houston?)
- Provide a mix of in-person and virtual events.
- Provide activities that are entertaining, educational and fun sporting events.
- Find interesting speakers for our Spring Luncheon.
- Partner with my colleague, Mike Alvarez, regarding volunteer events and scheduling.
- Survey the SAAGH membership to learn more about what our members want to see on our 2026 calendar.

We are always looking for interesting speakers for in-person and virtual events. If you have any suggestions for speakers, please email me at Brenda.schroeder06@sbcglobal.net.

Members have expressed an interest in providing the precinct 4 bus for events such as Astros games. If anyone lives in this precinct and would volunteer to assist us in scheduling the bus, please contact Brenda Schroeder at Brenda.schroeder06@sbcglobal.net.

Special tip: Be sure and add membership@saagh.com in your contacts to ensure you receive all emails. A member recently missed an event because this email address was not in their contacts.

Event Refund Policy – Luis Cosme and the SAAGH Board

Did you know that SAAGH recently updated its refund policy? A couple of unfortunate misunderstandings prompted this update. In one incident, a member bought two tickets to a performance through SAAGH, then forgot and bought two more via Ticketmaster. They then protested the SAAGH purchase to their credit card provider. This prompted PayPal, who

manages our transactions, to forfeit our funds. This left SAAGH in a deficit situation for this event.

In cases when members are unable to attend an event due to unforeseen circumstances, we do our absolute best to facilitate a sale to someone on a waitlist or advertise them to general membership. I'm aware of only one or two cases where we have been unsuccessful in doing this, usually because the turnaround time was too short to find an available buyer. Every event is a little different in amount and timing of SAAGH outlay, effort required to facilitate a ticket move and refund, and flexibility to respond to our members' needs. With that said, as a non-profit, SAAGH cannot afford to absorb ticket costs for cancellations after we have bought the tickets and distributed them. You can review the updated policy [here](#). I do have a suggestion that can help all of us. When you purchase tickets, you should receive an email confirmation stating that your purchase is "processing". Please keep the registration email to remind you of your purchase details.

Member Highlights

Congratulations to prior SAAGH Board Member, John Casey, for getting a hole in one at Sterling Country Club (Houston National member course). John hit the perfect ball on hole number 8; the hole was playing 115 yards. Congratulations, John! Assume there was a proper celebration at hole 19!

In Sympathy

We are saddened at the passing of Shell colleagues during the first half of 2026. Click [here](#) to access the obituaries.

If you want to inform the Shell Alumni about the passing of a loved one or colleague, either post on the Shell Alumni of Greater Houston Facebook page or mail membership@saagh.com. To access the SAAGH Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/239750502884880>

**Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Schroeder**