



First Quarter 2022 Shell Alumni Association Of Greater Houston Newsletter

Letter from the SAAGH President



On behalf of your Shell Alumni Association of Greater Houston (SAAGH) Board, we sincerely hope you maneuvered safely through the challenges of 2021. And despite the turmoil that continues many fronts, we wish all Shell Alumni a much happier and healthier 2022. When I wrote this message last year, RDS-A shares were trading at just over \$37. Earlier this month, Shell's big plans to rename and relocate headquarters kicked in. So today, Shell plc is a British publicly traded multinational oil and gas company headquartered at Shell Centre in London, United Kingdom. Shell plc stock started trading on the NYSE under its new ticker, SHEL. The stock price has improved recently amid rising demand for energy products and Shell's recent divestiture of business units as it shifts toward more renewable energy sources. As I write it's trading at \$53 and some change. Also, last year at this time we were filling our tanks for about \$1.75 per gallon. My recent experience has the price of a gallon of Regular here in Houston right at \$3.00 with the national average a bit above \$3.50! And in California!! Never mind. The root cause of today's higher gas prices is reported to be financial pressure on oil companies from a decade of cash-flow losses that have made them change financial tactics. Investment in new wells has dropped more than 60%, causing U.S. crude oil production to plummet by more than 3 million barrels a day, or nearly 25%.

2021 saw a continuation of the crazy ride worldwide in 2020 and the Greater Houston Area has certainly seen its share of challenges. In addition to hurricanes, flooding, heat, humidity and mosquitoes, (oh, and add in the pipe bursting freeze in February) the coronavirus pandemic has been unlike anything we have ever seen. It continues to affect virtually every aspect of our lives and has changed, maybe permanently, the way we live, work, travel, shop and interact (how many surgical masks have you gone through this past year?). The in-office versus work remotely dynamic is still evolving and fascinating to watch.

And 2022 also appears to continue the uncertainty, not only around questions of how quickly our economy and community can recover from the effects of COVID, but also questions about how Houston's important oil and gas industry will fare. And there are still questions about whether all aspects of our retail businesses will ever be the same (the "curbside pickup" signs are still there)! Businesses still struggle with scattered workforces, as they deal with new COVID variants and the questions of if, when and how many employees to bring back to the workplace. As we noted last year, this will also affect commercial real estate as businesses rethink the need for office space; and traffic and fuel consumption as workers' need to commute is diminished (although Houston roadways suggest fuel consumption is not an issue, even at \$3.00); and the housing market as people will no longer need or desire to live close to their job.

As I reflect on SAAGH's COVID driven challenges in 2021, which included the cancellation and modification of some of our favorite events all over the Greater Houston area, I can report that your hard working SAAGH Board was able to deliver outings with safety protocols and alternatives to some social gatherings via ZOOM and similar technologies, providing you with webcasts on matters of interest to retirees.

Let me assure you that your Board and its Events Committee continue the search for relevant and safe activities for 2022. We are moving forward with our always popular events such as the Spring Luncheon meeting, annual BBQ, Cooking Classes, Field Trips, Theater, Baseball Games and volunteer opportunities. We will continue looking for new and exciting ways to bring Shell Retirees together, whether virtually or safely outdoors, for fun and camaraderie. Also, your Board remains committed to ensuring that you continue to enjoy fellowship and a Shell connection in 2022 and beyond, despite the challenges that COVID has wrought.

I am pleased to be serving in the positions of President and Chairman of the Board of SAAGH for another year and I am proud to report that SAAGH continues to be a well-run, healthy, financially stable organization with a dedicated Board of Directors executing its ongoing mission of providing a vibrant, attractive and relevant organization for Shell Retirees to enjoy. We will strive to provide events, activities, services and volunteer opportunities designed to appeal to a wide range of interests throughout the Greater Houston community, and keep people connected to one another.

For 2021, one of our goals was to increase membership by offering attractive, fun events, reasonably priced and convenient to more communities in the vast expanse of Greater Houston despite the challenges COVID presented. The challenge was real, but our membership level held up well and is currently about 1,035 strong. We thank you for your continued support and feedback and encourage you to enlist other Shell retirees for membership.

You should have received the mail-out of our annual membership newsletter which includes information on SAAGH events and membership. It serves as the kick-off for our 2022 membership drive, and we encourage you to join or continue your membership again this year. For you former members, we continue to feel that \$10 per year is money well spent to enjoy the social and volunteer opportunities with Shell colleagues. Membership and Event information can be found on the SAAGH website (www.saagh.com). Soon we will be giving that website a new, more modern look. In addition to the website, we utilize Facebook posts (SAAGH Group) to provide info on recent events and newsworthy items. Event sign-up is simple and facilitated with a secure on-line payment system via PayPal.

In closing, I want to again remind you that SAAGH is operated by a diverse Board of Directors composed of Shell Retirees committed to delivering a quality experience for our members. Your Directors work tirelessly to make SAAGH function smoothly and to bring you all the activities described above. To the extent possible this year we will schedule social and virtual events to accommodate members in all locations of Greater Houston. We also intend to continue and strengthen our volunteer efforts in conjunction with Shell's company sponsored programs in the community. For 2022 we want to welcome you as part of our alumni family and we look forward to participating with you at this year's events. Let's get vaccinated, boosted and get back together!

The struggle continues in 2022 but here are some groaners to amuse you as we close the door on another one of the more challenging years of our lifetime:

1. Why did the chicken cross the road? Because the chicken behind it didn't know how to socially distance properly.
2. My wife purchased a world map and then took a dart and said, "I will throw this and wherever it lands—that's where we're going when this pandemic ends." Turns out, we're spending two weeks behind the fridge.
3. Ran out of toilet paper and started using lettuce leaves. Today was just the tip of the iceberg, tomorrow romaines to be seen.
4. If I keep stress-eating at this level, the buttons on my shirt will start socially distancing from each other.
5. Yesterday I ran out of soap and body wash and all I could find was dish detergent. Then it Dawned on me.
6. How the health experts lie!! They said a mask and gloves was enough to go to the grocery store. When I got there, everyone else had clothes on.
7. How do you socially distance while around family? A high-fiber diet works.
8. What's the best way to avoid touching your face? A glass of wine in each hand.
9. Finland just closed its borders. You know what that means. No one will be crossing the finish line.
10. If there's a baby boom nine months from now, what will happen in 2033? There will be a whole bunch of quaranteens.
11. What did the barista call her face mask? A coughy filter.
12. What did the virologist say to the public? Probably the opposite of what he'll tell them next week.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year,

Steve

Steve Paul, SAAGH President

Shell Alumni Director Spotlight

Robert R. Awe

Bob was born in Litchfield, Illinois, attended school in Wood River, Illinois and later graduated from the University of Illinois in 1961 with a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering. He immediately accepted an offer of employment as a Research Engineer at Shell's Wood River Research Laboratory.

After 11 years in the R&D organization Bob transferred to the Head Office Fuels Department in Houston in 1972 as a Staff Engineer. In 1978 he moved over to the chemical business as Operations Manager for the chemical intermediates business. Then in 1980 he transferred to the Deer Park Manufacturing Complex as Superintendent LPA (Lube-Phenol Acetone). In 1982 he moved to the Lubricants Department overseeing lubricants manufacturing and distribution facilities. In 1996 he worked on the Shell/Texaco downstream merger, with a focus on the lubricants business and upon completion of that project retired in 1998 after 37 rewarding years.

After retirement Bob kept involved in various retiree activities first as an officer in the Shell Northwest Alumni Club and later as a director of SAAGH. Activity areas have included planning for events including Astros baseball games as well as the Houston Open professional golf tournament. Bob's hobbies include sports and travel.

Bob and his wife, Sara, recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary and have two sons, both of whom graduated from Texas A&M University: and four grandchildren, with two of them now enrolled at Texas A&M as well.



Discounts, Discount, Discounts!!!

We all know that Shell employees and seniors love discounts. The SAAGH Board suggested that the newsletter periodically feature the various discounts provided to current and former Shell employees. If you know of others discounts not listed below, please send the information to: membership@saagh.com.

Houston Museum of Natural Science

Shell has a corporate discount with the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Shell employees and retirees can get a discount on the various membership levels (individual family, etc). Details can be found in this [flyer](#).

Shell's Relocation Service

eCartus is the company Shell uses in the US and Canada. Cartus has recently revamped the offering and materials and this [link](#) provides a short video (under two minutes) that gives a program overview. Unlike other employee discount offerings (e.g. car purchase), this

offering does extend to non-active employees and there is no 'verification' process back to Shell of someone's current or former employment so remains "honor based".

Employee Vehicle Purchase Program – Ford

How to participate in the Ford Motor Company Vehicle Purchase Program:

1. Use the Shell Identification Number: XB991.
2. Visit www.fordpartner.com to receive a pin number.
3. Visit your participating Ford, Jaguar, Land Rover, Lincoln Mercury, Mazda or Volvo dealership; select the vehicle of your choice (excluding the Super Duty, F Series over 8,500 lbs. and vehicle options which may be negotiated with the dealer); give the dealership your PIN number and proof employment (recent pay stub).
4. You can confirm the cost by asking to see the vehicle invoice. A Plan Price is shown on invoice. Your purchase price will be based on the A Plan Price, plus 4% and any applicable taxes, registration and license fees.
5. Complete your purchase or lease agreement and take delivery of the vehicle. *Note: There is a question as to if the discount applies to leases.*

SAAGH Volunteer Affairs

Welcome to a new year of giving and supporting our community by participating in Shell-sponsored volunteer projects! We are looking forward to an exciting 2022 of volunteer opportunities.

SAAGH will continue its commitment to facilitate and coordinate membership participation in these projects and related activities. A Volunteer Affairs focus group has been formed to further that commitment, but as always feedback from our volunteers is welcomed and appreciated.

Past Volunteer Projects

Volunteer projects for 2022 are off to another successful start with the MLK Day of Service at the Houston Food Bank on **January 17th!** SAAGH members, Shell retirees, current Shell employees, plus family and friends participated in the food drive making donations on-site at the Food Bank Shell drive-thru and on-line virtually through the Shell/HEB website.

Many thanks from Shell to all those contributing, ***“Shell collective efforts of the virtual and onsite food donation drive-thru, along with volunteers who sorted food on-site helped facilitate 25,332 meals for families in Houston”.*** Excellent job! Congratulations!

Upcoming Volunteer Projects

As Shell-sponsored volunteer projects are evaluated and scheduled, SAAGH will announce those projects and facilitate registration appropriately.

Added volunteer opportunities for SAAGH volunteers are the SAAGH Spring and Fall golf tournaments. Volunteers are needed to assist with player check-in and awards presentations. If interested, please reply to the **SAAGH Golf Committee** via john-bowser@hotmail.com.

Volunteer Recognition



This quarter Veronica Devonish and the many MLK Day of Service volunteers are being recognized. Veronica facilitated a food drive on the behalf of the National Women of Achievement – Sugar Land Chapter for donation to Shell's MLK Day of Service food drive. Great job, Veronica and all the many volunteers making this project a success!

Shell HERO Program

The HERO Program has been moved to a new online platform (www.cybergrants.com/shelloilfoundation/hero) and while some technical glitches occurred initially, our understanding is that these have been resolved.

The new site requires a new Userid and Password. If you have questions, you can contact SAAGH; however, the online support from the Shell HERO Program has proven to be very helpful. The support desk can be reached at 800-544-7861 or shellsupport@cybergrants.com.

Events and Milestones

The newsletter will now include “special events” such a major milestone wedding anniversary and things like a golf “hole in one”. If you have a special event that you would like included in the newsletter, email membership@saagh.com.

Nothing submitted for this period.

Upcoming SAAGH Events

The SAAGH Board recently developed a preliminary schedule for 2022 events. To view upcoming events, go to the SAAGH [website](#).

In Sympathy

We are saddened at the passing of the following Shell colleagues:

Hank deCuir, EP/Upstream, [Obituary](#).
Walter Elmo Hale, EP/Upstream, [Obituary](#).
Nancy Jean Keith, EP/Upstream, [Obituary](#).
Bill Knowles, Shell Oil, [Obituary](#).
Larry Pittman, EP/Upstream, [Obituary](#).
Charlie Stevens, EP/Upstream, [Obituary](#).

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 email membership@saagh.com