



MID YEAR 2023 NEWSLETTER

Letter from the SAAGH President



On behalf of your Shell Alumni Association of Greater Houston (SAAGH) Board, we hope this finds all Shell Alumni doing well and coping with this rather intense Houston heat! And good luck if you have plans to travel to escape the heat. The reports on air traffic delays and cancellations are staggering. And if you intend to drive, the price of gas is still well over \$3.00 per gallon. Other than that.....

On a happier note, I am pleased to report that your SAAGH Board continues working hard to bring you our typical array of social activities, meaningful virtual events and volunteer opportunities. In fact, we are looking at an expanded array with as many as 40 events this year. Many of our popular live events such as golf tourneys, dinner gatherings, theater, Astros games and “non-bus” local tours and getaways continue to be offered. We will also present opportunities for virtual learnings with an informative Medicare presentation and another offering in a series of retirement living seminars. And we continue to assist our community by joining Shell in helping with volunteer activities.

The list goes on! Our Annual Meeting luncheon is scheduled for October 24 where we will be joined by Richard (Rich) Howe, Shell’s Executive Vice President for Deep Water, who will give us an update on happenings at Shell. And there are happenings at Shell with Wael Sawan assuming the helm and redirecting the Company’s energy strategy focus. Then we will close out the year with the ever-popular Holiday Event at the Junior League on December 11 joined again by Don Irwin, world renowned pianist, for some holiday musical cheer. And remember...we encourage you to submit ideas you may have to bring Shell Retirees together for fun outings.

We are now past the difficulties that COVID brought, and SAAGH weathered that challenge well. Our membership continues at a healthy level approaching 1,000. We thank you for your continued participation and support and encourage you to convince other Shell retirees of the benefits of membership.

Again, updated event information can be found on the SAAGH [website](#). Also, we use Facebook posts (the SAAGH Facebook Group has over 900 participants) to provide information on recent events and other items of interest to members. Event sign-up is simple and facilitated with a secure on-line payment system via PayPal, which we encourage you to use.

In closing, I want to remind you that SAAGH’s success is due to a lot of hard work by a dedicated [Board](#) of Directors, 18 members strong. This diverse group of Shell Retirees is committed to delivering quality experiences for our members including all the activities described above and volunteer opportunities in conjunction with Shell’s company-sponsored programs in the Community.

Please visit our new and improved modernized website to learn more about SAAGH and to monitor the Events page for upcoming activities. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Steve Paul, SAAGH President

Director Spotlight – Gretchen Buchmeyer



Gretchen grew up in the Chicago area, eventually moving to Iowa to attend Cornell College with a degree in politics and economics & business. After a few years of working in Des Moines, Iowa in newspaper advertising, she and her husband Andrew left their jobs to become full-time students and earned their M.B.A.s from the University of Iowa.

Gretchen began her career in human resources with Shell in Houston, with subsequent assignments taking their family to Anacortes Washington, London, Calgary, New Orleans, and The Hague. Their two young adult children, Abby and Jackson, were born in Houston, where Gretchen and Andrew reside today.

Gretchen retired from Shell in 2021 as a VP in Human Resources and is now involved in her “next chapter” with Andrew, including volunteering and work in support of social justice causes. Gretchen said she and her husband have really enjoyed participating with other Shell alumni in social and community service activities, and she looks forward to contributing to SAAGH as a board member.

Check Fraud

Check fraud is running rampant. The US Postal Service has stated that complaints of stolen mail or mailed checks being altered have doubled. For this reason, the Shell Alumni Club is discouraging the use of checks for the annual membership dues, luncheons and events. Not only are our members at risk of their checks to be stolen – it requires that a Board member periodically go to the post office to pick up these checks and then deposit them. For more information, read this [article](#). *(Note from the Editor: I have experienced four stolen checks in the past 24 months. Dealing with this was extremely frustrating and time consuming. I have changed service providers to avoid writing a check!)*

Events and Milestones

The newsletter now includes “special events” such as 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.

- Hole In One
 - Kevin Owens - July 6, 2023 - Pearland Golf Club, Hole #3, 140 Yards, Nine Iron

Upcoming SAAGH Events

Upcoming SAAGH events are posted on the SAAGH website on the [Events](#) tab.

Upcoming Volunteer Projects

Registration and additional details will be shared via email and Facebook, as they are made available by Shell.

- Back to School Fest Backpack Prep (HOU) July 27-28, 2023
- Mayor's Back to School Fest (HOU) August 5, 2023
- UNCF Walk for Education September 9, 2023
- Operation Stocking Stuffer Set Up December 15, 2023
- Operation Stocking Stuffer Distribution December 16, 2023

In Sympathy

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

- [Charles Ratliff – 06/12/52 - 05/28/23](#)
- [Carol Jerram \(Wife of Bill Jerram\) – 09/14/39 - 05/02/23](#)
- [Joe Clegg – 10/18/27 - 05/08/23](#)
- [Ken Hartwein – 01/23/30 - 03/07/23](#)
- [Frank McGrath – 04/23/40 - 03/19/23](#)
- [Sean Maguire – 04/01/38 - 03/20/23](#)
- [Robert Dunphy – 08/12/29 - 03/30/23](#)
- [Tom Ryan – 03/01/42 - 04/01/23](#)
- [Andy Vecsey – 03/24/58 - 04/06/23](#)
- [Dr. Marvin Baker – 11/30/29 - 04/06/23](#)
- [Tony Rexrode – 06/01/34 - 04/10/23](#)
- [Bob Weigle – 09/27/32 - 04/14/23](#)
- [Peter Arnold – 06/14/42 - 04/26/23](#)
- [Dr. John Rowe – 12/03/46 - 04/30/23](#)
- [William Cletus Sullivan – 08/28/30 - 10/25/22](#)
- [H. Leighton Steward – 12/01/34 - 12/16/22](#)
- [Frederick Culver – 02/14/32 - 12/20/22](#)
- [Frank Turner Lee Jr. – 01/23/35 - 12/24/22](#)
- [David Jerome Boldra – 1945 - 01/14/23](#)
- [Laurence "Larry" Robert Jones – 04/07/35 - 12/31/22](#)

- [William Paul Maund – 07/25/40 - 12/26/22](#)
- [Barbara Paule Nickell – 02/23/50 - 12/17/22](#)
- [José Luis Bravo – 06/28/54 - 11/22/2022](#)
- [Donald Langford Wood – 08/31/34 - 11/19/22](#)
- [Michael Paul Maier – 11/06/43 - 11/17/22](#)
- [Dennis Ray Schneider – 1958 - 2022](#)
- [Natalie Carolyn Waggoner – 04/22/32 - 11/08/22](#)
- [Harold Jacobson – 12/09/34 – 10/09/22](#)
- [Anthony "Tony" Lanson Sr. – 08/20/32 – 10/13/22](#)
- [Lanny Outlaw - 1936 – 09/22/22](#)
- [William "Bill" G. Noak – 02/22/32 – 08/23/22](#)
- [Jason Newlin – 05/28/71 – 05/31/23](#)
- [Andy Vecsey – 03/24/58 – 04/06/23](#)
- [Norris Saxton – 07/16/47 – 07/10/23](#)
- [Marvin Boyd – no published obituary](#)
- [Kerr Godfrey – 1921 – 2023 – no published obituary](#)
- [David A. Knoll – 11/05/20 – 01/20/23 – no published obituary](#)
- [Cleon Dunham – passed 02/06/23 – no published 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 e-mail membership@saagh.com. To access the SAAGH Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/239750502884880>