



YEAR END 2023 NEWSLETTER



Letter from the SAAGH President

On behalf of your Shell Alumni Association of Greater Houston (SAAGH) Board I hope you enjoyed a happy and safe 2023. This will be my last President's Message after five years at the helm. It was a good run and an enjoyable one (most of the time!). During this period, your SAAGH Board successfully maneuvered through the challenges the pandemic dealt us. We modified event procedures, learned how to Zoom, added more educational webinars and still managed to increase membership and the number of events offered. It now appears the issues we faced have eased on many fronts (even though I tested positive again a couple weeks ago!). Your SAAGH Board joins me in wishing all Shell Alumni members a happy and healthy 2024. Luis Cosme will be assuming the office of President and will serve as Chairman of the Board going forward. I will continue as a Director and Corporate Secretary. You may rest assured that SAAGH leadership is in good hands!

I am pleased to report that your hard-working SAAGH Board was able to deliver some 40 outings and events (a new record) including ball games, theater shows, museum visits, cooking classes, area tours, luncheon and dinner events and provide you with webcasts on matters of interest to retirees. And let me assure you that your Board and its Events Committee continue the search for relevant and safe activities for 2024. You can again expect the above-mentioned events plus our always popular Spring Luncheon meeting, annual BBQ, Field Trips, Fall Annual Meeting and Lunch, Holiday Lunch and, of course, volunteer opportunities in association with Shell. And we continue to look for new and exciting ways to bring Shell Retirees together for fun and camaraderie.

Also, your Board remains committed to ensuring that you continue to enjoy fellowship and a Shell USA, Inc. connection in 2024 and beyond. 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. So, we will strive to provide popular and novel 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 2023, 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. Our membership level continues to be strong with SAAGH presently close to record levels at 1,090 members. We thank you for your continued support and feedback and encourage you to enlist other Shell retirees for membership...there is no better deal around for \$10! You should soon receive information on our annual membership drive which includes SAAGH events and membership requirements. We encourage

you to join or continue your membership this year. And again, for former members, we feel that \$10 per year is money well spent to enjoy the social and volunteer opportunities with Shell colleagues.

Membership information and an Events schedule can be found on the [SAAGH website](#). It also includes Volunteer Opportunities, a SAAGH Leadership page and a number of very helpful External Links ...please visit if you haven't done so. In addition to the website, we utilize Facebook posts (SAAGH Group) to provide information 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 a 501(c)(4) non-profit corporation operated by a diverse Board of Directors (18 in number) composed of Shell Retirees committed to delivering quality experiences for our members. Several Committees of the Board work tirelessly to make SAAGH function smoothly and to bring you all the activities described above. As stated, we have planned an exciting array of social and virtual events for the coming year to accommodate members in all areas 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 2024 we want to welcome you as part of our alumni family, and we look forward to participating with you at this year's events.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2024 and let's get together soon.

All the best, Steve.

Steve Paul, SAAGH President

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, SAAGH 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!)*

Shell Oil COLI Consent Benefit Plan

In 1996, Shell took out an insurance policy select divisions of the company. The following Shell companies were enrolled in the program:

Argus Realty Services, Inc.
Pecten Chemicals Inc.
Pecten Producing Company (f.k.a. Pecten International Company)
Pecten Middle East Services Company
Shell Agricultural Chemical Company
Shell Mining Services Inc.
Shell Western E&P Inc.
In order to receive this be
Cal Resources LLC

Pecten Geophysical Company
Pecten Middle East Services Company
Pecten Overseas Services Company
Pecten Services Company
Shell Anacortes Refining Company
Shell Chemical Company
Shell Deepwater Development Inc.
Shell Deepwater Production Inc.
Shell Exploration & Production Company
Shell Frontier Services Inc.
Shell Martinez Refining Company
Shell Norco Refining Company
Shell Odessa Refining Company
Shell Oil Products Company
Shell Polypropylene Company
Shell Services Company
Shell Technology Ventures Inc.
Shell Wood River Refining Company
Shell EP International Ventures Inc.

Employees had to complete the necessary paperwork and submit it to their Human Resources organization.

All participants in the COLI Consent Incentive Benefit Plan are eligible for a \$10,000.00 single sum death benefit payable on their behalf by Shell Oil Company. The death benefit will be paid to the participant's surviving legal spouse or to the participant's estate. If there is no spouse or estate to be probated, AON can pay the claim to a beneficiary like a surviving child(ren) or sibling but will require an additional court document called a Small Estate Affidavit. Each state has specific requirements when filing a Small Estate Affidavit. Please consult an attorney or your local county court for further guidance. Please note, monies cannot be paid to a will or trust.

These monies would be considered taxable income to the spouse, the estate or beneficiary who claims it and a Form 1099 related to this amount will be sent for tax purposes the following year from when it was claimed.

In order to pay the death benefit, a proper claim must be filed. If there is a surviving legal spouse, the surviving legal spouse should file this claim. If there is no surviving legal spouse, the executor of the participant's estate or the court appointed administrator should file the [COLI Consent Incentive Benefit claim form](#).

To file a proper claim, the following must be submitted to AON:

1. A completed claim form.
2. The certificate of plan participation (not required to process the claim).

3. The participant's original certificate of death or a certified copy of an original certificate of death must be submitted.

4. If an executor or administrator is filing this claim please enclose court-approved letters testamentary or a letter of appointment, and the federal estate tax identification number.

The above information should be mailed to the address on the claim form.

We encourage all employees to contact the insurance provider, AON, to ensure their name and address is in the system. The contact person at AON is Stacey Wahlberg, 833 862 0825 or email Stacey.wahlberg@aon.com.

Note: For future reference, the Shell Oil COLI Consent Incentive Benefit claim form can be found on the External Links page of the SAAGH website (www.saagh.com).

Shell Cycling Houston

The 2024 MS 150 will be on April 27 and 28, 2024. Shell's Team is composed of both active and retired employees. The cost to join the Shell Team is \$100 and you can register at this [link](#). New rider orientation will start in January 2024.

Do not forget to use the HERO program to apply for matching funds for your donations. The 2024 fund raising goal is \$150,000.

In 2022 SAAGH started supporting the Shell Cycling Team by managing the team's funds and administration.

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.

Upcoming SAAGH Events

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

In Sympathy

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

Ida Faye Barrett, wife of Stephen Barrett, [Obituary](#).

Lawrence (Larry) Beron, [Obituary](#).

Cliff Brown, Deer Park, [Obituary](#).

Janice Bryant, [Obituary](#).

John Dove, [Obituary](#).

Laura Facciponte, wife of Chuck Facciponte, [Obituary](#).

John Fontenot, [Obituary](#).

Richard Haydock, Deer Park, [Obituary](#).

Berta Hokanson, Deer Park, no online obituary.

Teddy Kirkpatrick, 99 years young, [Obituary](#).

Vitold Raimond Kruka, [Obituary](#).

Jeffrey Kyne, Deer Park, [Obituary](#).

Russell "Eddie" Lollar, Deer Park, [Obituary](#).

Robert (Bobbie) Montie, [Obituary](#).

Paul O'Donnell, Jr, [Obituary](#).

Frank Richardson, [Obituary](#).

Terry Stinson, Deer Park, [Obituary](#).

Benny Stine Washington, Deer Park, [Obituary](#).

Bob Windstein, [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 mail membership@saagh.com. To access the SAAGH Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/239750502884880>