



MID YEAR 2025 NEWSLETTER

Letter from SAAGH President



Hello again on behalf of the Shell Alumni Association of Greater Houston (SAAGH) Board of Directors. I hope you are having a great start to the summer and am pleased to present the following President's message.

First off, I would like to let our members know Bill Chalmers has elected to step down from the Board after over twenty years of service! Bill provided the Board with the institutional memory of this organization and his insights into where we have been, and input into where we're going have been invaluable. Many thanks to Bill for his service! One of Bill's favorite events was Spec's Bordeaux Wine Tasting, and we have scheduled a wine event focusing on Vive le France at Total Wine later this summer. See the timing for this and all our [Events](#) here. Pro tip: bookmark this site since we keep the events list evergreen.

My priorities remain the same as I have outlined in the past – continue to offer interesting and enriching **Events**, both in person and online, increase our participation in Shell sponsored or endorsed **Volunteer** activities, and maintain healthy **Membership** levels of around 1,000 (plus spouses or partners).

Following up on one of our 2025 priorities, we have now partnered with United Way and the Houston Food Bank for SAAGH-sponsored events. These are in addition to the many Shell USA sponsored events that we participate in. Mike Alavarez will tell you more about this in his article below.

Another priority from last year's survey was to increase the number of virtual events. We are concerned that we have many "no shows" with "free" events. For example, only about 55% (45 out of 81) of the members who signed up for the financial seminar we just held actually dialed in. I know that plans can change, but our credibility with the people who take time to arrange and hold these educational events is at risk. Please let us know if you register for an event and must cancel due to an unforeseen circumstance.

Lastly, I wanted to share a podcast I received through the Shell Alumni Network (SAN). It's titled ["Is There a Future Without Oil & Gas?"](#) and features Ben van Beurden, former Shell CEO, and Michael Liebreich, former advisor to Shell New Energies, discussing the energy transition. I found it to be both informative and insightful, offering an overview of the complex challenges society faces in addressing climate change. If this topic interests you, I also encourage you to register for SAN [ENERGY2025 Conference](#), taking place on line on October 7-8, 2025. Last year's session featured a perspective on Energy in the USA, provided by Shell retirees Marvin Odum and Greg Hill.

I hope you find this newsletter to be interesting and informative. Your feedback is always welcome at membership@saagh.com.

Thanks for reading and hope to see you soon.

Luis Cosme, SAAGH President

Director Spotlight – Forrest Bjerkaas



Forrest grew up on a farm in west central Minnesota and earned his degree in physics and math from the University of North Dakota. He began his Shell career in Houston, directly out of the university, with subsequent assignments in the Netherlands and New Orleans, before finishing his Shell career back in Houston while working a global role.

Forrest retired from Shell after 37 years of service, having served in roles in the Upstream, Downstream, Corporate, IT, and HR organizations. His final assignment was working on Mergers, Acquisitions and Divestitures, being involved in a number of large and mid-sized deals.

Since retiring, Forrest has filled his time with family, friends, travel, and volunteering. Besides serving on the SAAGH board, he has served locally in various roles within Scouting America, both locally with the Sam Houston Area Council, and nationally as well; with his church both on the board and in other roles; as well as other volunteer opportunities outside these organizations.

It is an honor and great fun to serve on the SAAGH board and to support and attend events with Shell friends, both new and old.

Volunteer Events – Mike Alvarez

The Volunteer Committee coordinated two SAAGH-specific volunteer events during May and June which were very well supported by our members. Below are the details:

United Way Dental Youth Dental Hygiene Kits Assembly Project

The SAAGH Volunteer Committee was excited to partner with The United Way to support an important volunteer event — the Youth Dental Hygiene Kits Assembly Project — which took place on Friday, May 30, 2025, at the United Way Office. The event brought 39 SAAGH volunteers together to assemble 200 Youth Dental Hygiene Kits, which promotes and encourages good oral hygiene among children and youth in our community — an important but often overlooked issue. Each kit included a toothbrush, toothpaste, flossers,

a sand timer, a tooth-themed sticker, and a bag. The kits were distributed to United Way partner organizations, including BakerRipley, AVANCE, Fort Bend County Women's Center, Catholic Charities, Galena Park ISD, and others.

The SAAGH members were also treated to a presentation by United Way Leadership and a tour of the 211 Texas United Way HELPLINE Center. This was the first SAAGH member-specific volunteer event with the United Way organization, and we received positive feedback from the SAAGH attendees. We plan to partner with United Way for another volunteer event in November 2025. We hope you can join us!



Houston Food Bank Repacking Volunteer Project

The SAAGH Volunteer Committee partnered with The Houston Food Bank (HFB) on June 23, 2025, at the HFB warehouse to support an event that provides food and other personal products for families in the community. This SAAGH-specific volunteer event brought 28 SAAGH volunteers together who successfully assembled 17 pallets, 13,580 pounds of food and items that equated to 11,316 meals for families that are food-deprived. The items were boxed and sealed for distribution to communities and organizations that support families with children experiencing food insecurity on a daily basis. These families would otherwise not have adequate nutritional food and other products that support a healthy lifestyle.



Shell Day of Service honoring Dr. Martin Luther King

Shell employees and SAAGH members participated in the Shell Season of Caring with a Day of Service in recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday on January 20, 2025. This annual day of service is scheduled at the Houston Food Bank, packaging food for Backpack Buddy and School Lockers programs. There were over 100 Shell volunteers in attendance including Trish Moore, HR VP, who was very pleased to see SAAGH

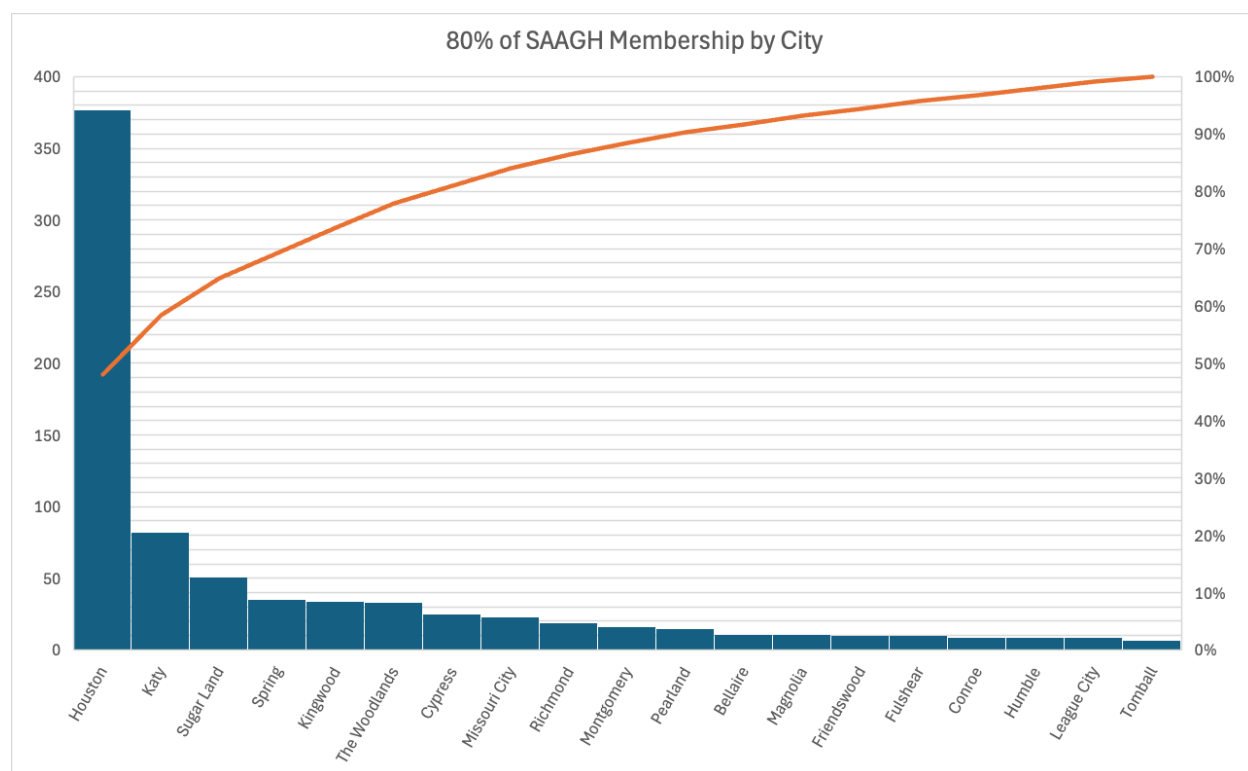
members collaborating with Shell employees at this volunteer event. We packed dry foods and completed 43 pallets, 1,290 boxes, 6,450 bags which equated to 38,700 meals that will be distributed by HFB partners to Houston communities.

Membership

Membership at mid-year stands at 899, versus 981 at YE 2024. This is concerning, as members are our lifeblood and replacing natural attrition is a substantial challenge. This is especially the case after our annual post office reminders about joining SAAGH were stopped due to privacy and cost concerns. As a trial run, we plan to send postcards to recent members who didn't renew in 2025 to see if we can increase levels without undue expense. Please help us get the word out by sharing this link: [SAAGH Membership](#).

For a bit of perspective on our membership, below is a graph of where our members live. While Houston has the lion's share, if we break this down further, you will see large concentrations in West (~100), and Central Houston (91). Looking outside the city, here is a rough breakdown:

- Northern Suburbs (The Woodlands, Kingwood, Cypress, Spring, Montgomery) – 177
- Southern Suburbs (Sugar Land, Missouri City, Friendswood, Pearland) – 108
- Western Suburbs (Katy, Richmond, Fulshear) – 104



Our challenge continues to be better serving those areas outside of West and Central Houston. We welcome your thoughts! Feel free to send your input to membership@saagh.com or contact your favorite Board Member [here](#).

Artificial Intelligence

SAAGH is hosting a webinar on August 20, 2025. Holly Giannakopoulos, a retired Shell employee, will lead the session. Holly spent over two decades leading IT strategy, talent development, and knowledge transformation at Shell and is now embracing a bold new chapter: helping others understand and integrate emerging technologies—especially AI and automation—with confidence and clarity.

To assist in preparing for this upcoming webinar, SAAGH surveyed its membership to gauge the knowledge base and interest in this topic. We thought our membership would be interested in [the results](#). We hope you can plan attend this upcoming AI webinar!

Events – Brenda Schroeder

I thoroughly enjoy my role as the Vice President of Events for our alumni association. While I oversee the events and make sure we have a diverse and engaging calendar of events, I definitely don't plan them all by myself! We have an amazing Board and each member steps up to lead an event. A huge thank you to all of them for their contributions!

The 2025 SAAGH Calendar of events has 39 events (many are virtual, and a few are not sponsored by SAAGH but we include them as info for our members). Twenty events have been held as of this newsletter publish date.

We recently had a historical tour of Freedmen's Town and I wanted to share a touching observation from a friend and member. Her story really resonated with me, and I think you will enjoy it too. Feedback from our members on these events makes my role even more fulfilling.

I attended the Historical Tour of Freedmen's Town which was sponsored by the Shell Alumni Association of Greater Houston (SAAGH). The tour was absolutely amazing and very educational. I especially enjoyed the story of survival and success of Africans after emancipation. The intricate work and design that went into these homes was so detailed and very beautiful.

This tour reminded me of my paternal grandfather and his sister. He actually lived in the area in his later years. Although, I visited him a few times as a young girl, I never gave it much thought again until today. I researched his death certificate (1971) and found his address. It was 1711 Cushing. It gave me chills knowing that I had passed the condominiums where he had once lived many, many times over the years. The tour opened up a prism of great memories as well as questions about my heritage.

Many thanks to SAAGH for sponsoring this tour and evoking these loving memories of my grandfather and great Aunt.

Annie Davis Fears, SAAGH Member

If you have suggestions for an event, contact Brenda Schroeder at Brenda.schroeder06@sbcglobal.net. Upcoming SAAGH events are posted on the SAAGH [website](#).



ARE YOU READY FOR SOME TENNIS???



SAAGH has been informed that the Houston Tennis Association is offering its HTA Red Ball Adult Tennis Program! If you are interested in getting involved in tennis once again or for the first time, this is the perfect opportunity! Great exercise!

The HTA Adult Red Ball Tennis Program is held at the Tennis Express Center, 10771 Westpark Drive Houston TX 77042.

This is a fun adult experience designed to get players to enjoy the game quickly. The sessions are on Wednesdays at various times and dates and at very reasonable rates.

The next session is July 16th to 30th and the deadline for registration is July 15th. The registration link is: [Houston Tennis Association - Programming / Course](#)

John Bowser - SAAGH Director

Member Milestones

Lois Phillips Davis celebrated her 100th birthday on February 21, 2025. She is the widow of Clovis Eugene Davis who retired from Shell Chemical in 1985.



In Sympathy

- Lyle Asplin – 08/28/37 – 02/16/25
- Stephen Anderson Atnip – 11/12/54 – 12/25/24
- Hill Baker – 09/12/41 – 03/20/25

- Benny Junior Box – 03/02/32 – 02/08/25
- Jonathan Evan Cabrera – 10/02/79 – 01/03/25
- Richard Eugene Cervi – 06/26/48 – 02/26/25
- Geoffrey Thomas Curtin – 12/06/40 – 03/22/25
- Joe Edgar Cunningham, Jr. – 06/28/57 – 12/26/24
- Rhys Davies – 11/17/29 – 01/16/25
- Karen Sue (Burnett) Demos – 02/17/44 – 03/25/25
- Carol Laverne Dolgner – 10/01/53-05/05/25
- Roy Gerard - 09/14/1931 - 12/28/2024
- Hazel Earline Harrell – 03/12/43-04/2/25
- John David Hellings – 05/08/44 – 08/30/24
- Lawrence Edward Judge - 01/14/44 – 05/06/25
- John Edward Lacy – 10/08/30 – 05/13/25
- Walter Vane Landon – 01/24/45 – 03/09/25
- Lloyd Linsey Logan Jr. – 06/07/41-04/11/25
- Klaus L. Mai - 03/07/1930 - 02/01/2025
- Rhonda May – 02/28/62 – 07/01/25
- Stacy Perper Methvin – 01/25/57 – 03/20/25
- Lynne Marie Wayne – 08/01/49 – 02/14/25
- Samuel "Sammy" G. West – 09/27/46 – 03/18/25

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