



YEAR END 2025 NEWSLETTER

Letter from SAAGH President



Happy New Year to all our new and returning members! For those of you that haven't joined yet in 2026, please take a minute and click [here](#) to join. Your \$10 annual dues will cover you and your spouse/significant other. You can read more about membership in Randy's update below.

I am pleased to serve as your SAAGH President another year. I consider it a privilege and want you to know that I am always interested in hearing your concerns and ideas. Feel free to email me at luis.cosme@mac.com. I am also pleased to be serving on a board with very engaged directors that are passionate to support our members' experience.

There were several changes to the SAAGH Board last year. In 2025, Forrest Bjerkaas and Jim Castles stepped down, and we welcomed a new Board member, Nancy Hochschild. Nancy joined in November and has assumed the role of Treasurer; you can read more about her later in this newsletter.

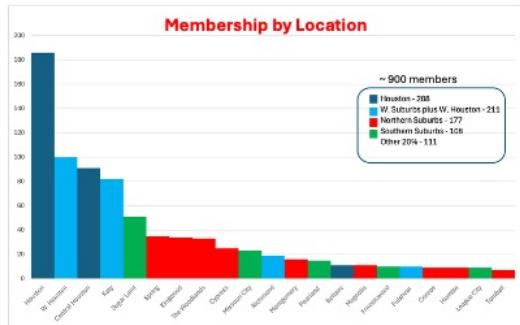
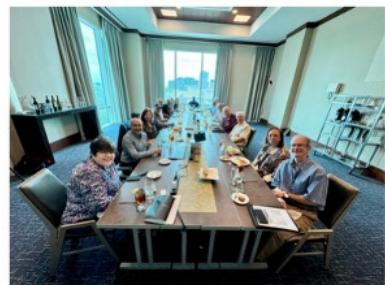
We currently have fourteen Board members, two fewer than at this time last year. As always, please let us know if you are interested in joining the Board. While we are particularly looking to strengthen our WordPress and WooCommerce expertise, we also welcome alumni with energy and enthusiasm to help keep SAAGH vibrant and relevant in 2026 and beyond.

Further down in this newsletter, you will see updates on our [Events](#), [Volunteer](#) efforts, and [Membership](#) status. These are our three core pillars, and I hope you will take a few minutes to peruse them and the other interesting content. You can also find past Newsletters and other useful links [here](#).

The IT/Communications team strives to keep our website useful and up to date, so please check out the [Home Page](#) or any of the above links to see what we are all about. Finally, if you missed it at the luncheon, below is a copy of the "About Us" handout we provided to attendees:



SAAGH Board of Directors



Social & Volunteer Activities



Relationship with Shell USA

- Luncheon Keynote Speakers
- MS-150 cycling team
- Jazz Fest tickets
- Shell Employees Club
- Retirement Seminars
- Shell Brand Management

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

Hope to see you soon,

Luis Cosme, SAAGH President

Happy Anniversary Shell Alumni Association of Greater Houston (SAAGH)

Shell Alumni was formed in 1991, so 2026 marks its 35th year anniversary – and we're still going strong! If any of our members have information regarding its formation or background to share, please contact Brenda.schroeder06@sbcglobal.net so and it can be included in the next newsletter.



Director Spotlight – Nancy Hochschild

Nancy Hochschild grew up in Long Island, NY, the youngest of 8 children. Her father and grandfather were former Texaco employees, which led her family to relocate to Houston as a child. She earned a degree in accounting from the University of Texas in Austin and started her career with Star Enterprise (Texaco and Saudi Aramco), which later merged with Shell to become Motiva. She spent 16 years in Downstream Finance working for Equilon, Motiva Corporate Center and Shell Oil Products US. She moved into Upstream Accounting to support SIEP Inc., Shell Global Solutions and later SEPCO. Her experience with Accounts Payable and Global Credit Card led to a role in Contracting and Procurement (Supply Chain) in Operational Excellence and later Materials Management where she spent the remainder of her 34-year career. In Operational Excellence she supported the early stages of Stones, Appomattox, Vito, Pennsylvania Chemicals, LNG Canada and Whale. Her final assignment was Materials Lead for Deepwater Production and Wells Operations.

She maintained her CPA since her early start in accounting roles and will continue to uphold it in retirement. In her first year of retirement, she traveled extensively with family and is pursuing her Professional Coaching Certification. In her spare time, she volunteers at Abandoned Animal Rescue and took up pickleball. Nancy is married to Mike and has two daughters, Lauren and Lane. Both daughters work in the medical field as a registered nurse (RN) and registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN), respectively. Nancy joined the board as Treasurer to contribute her love for accounting and to stay connected with our Shell retirement community! She looks forward to serving as Treasurer on the SAAGH board.

Membership Update – Randy Petty

SAAGH had another wonderful year in providing our members with great value in events and activities.

Over the last few years, Shell employment and retirement have evolved, and SAAGH has adapted its membership criteria in support of the changing Shell community (both current and former). It is not the norm anymore for anyone to be employed at Shell (or any other company) and expect to work for 30+ years and then retire with a pension and health benefits.

Recognizing this, the SAAGH Board modified our membership criteria to accommodate the wider diversity of former and current Shell employees. The SAAGH by-laws have been modified to accept not only the traditional Shell retirees, but former Shell employees who may have left without reaching the historical retirement milestones as well as current Shell employees who meet the 50+ age threshold. Obviously, all the previous members who left Shell under the historical retirement criteria as well as their spouses and any surviving spouses of Shell retirees, remain the core of our current membership. The updated SAAGH Membership criteria can be found on our [website](#).

For 2025, our updated membership criteria have been reflected in our membership numbers both in who and how many have joined. For many years, our membership goal has been 1,000 members, and we consistently met that goal until the pandemic. Since then, we have been trying to rebuild membership to meet that goal. For 2025, we reached 933! And while still a bit short, we continue to strive to meet that goal.

In 2025, we had 113 new members and 30 of those new members are still working. Many of those 30 new working members heard about the updated membership criteria after attending a Shell Retirement Seminar. This is a new pipeline of members who will hopefully see the value and enjoyment of participating in SAAGH events and assure the future of SAAGH. We are also working on reaching out to those former members to learn the best way to re-attract and retain them.

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.

Volunteer Events – Mike Alvarez

The SAAGH Volunteer Committee and membership closed out 2025 by supporting 3 events in the 4th quarter. The SAAGH Volunteer Committee partnered with the Shell WAVE (Women Adding Value Everywhere) Network Group on Saturday, October 4, 2025, to support the Susan G. Komen Race at Sam Houston Park. Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure is a fundraising and awareness event aimed at supporting breast cancer research, education, and community health programs. It also honors survivors, remembers those lost, and unites participants in the fight against breast cancer. The Shell WAVE Network Group had a large number of employees and retirees supporting this cause. Shell had a booth for fellowship and refreshments for participants.

SAAGH members volunteered and participated on November 20 at the Houston Food Bank to help assemble and box meals for families in our community. This was a SAAGH specific volunteer opportunity with 12 members partnering with the Food Bank and other company volunteers to complete 25 pallets, 26,288 pounds of goods and 21,906 nutritious meals that were distributed to families experiencing food insecurity. These meals had a

positive impact on families during the Thanksgiving holiday. This great volunteer event provided an opportunity for SAAGH to give back, connect with fellow SAAGH members, and support one of Shell's community partners.

In December, SAAGH members and Shell employees partnered with the Houston Fire Department by participating in the Season of Caring holiday Amazon toy purchase for families in the Houston Community.

Volunteers also supported Operation Stocking Stuffer (OSS) where volunteers participated in person with four distribution sites across Houston to distribute toys to families. The holiday season brings joy and togetherness, but for many under-resourced families it can also mean stress and unmet needs. SAAGH members volunteering and/or donating toys, helped parents focus on essentials like food, rent, and healthcare — while bringing holiday cheer to children across Houston. SAAGH had approximately 30 members support the toy give away and Operation Stocking Stuffer Together, Shell employees and retirees made a lasting impact, and the generosity strengthens bonds in our community and shows how we are Stronger Together.

SAAGH members had a major impact in 2025, supporting 9 volunteer events with a total of 172 SAAGH members volunteering and contributing to the Houston Community. The 2025 events consisted of MLK Day of Service - Houston Food Bank (January), Repacking Food for Families - Houston Food Bank (June), Dental Kits for Children - United Way (May), Back to School Fest Backpack Prep (July), Mayors Back to School Fest (August), UNCF Walk for Education (September), Susan G. Koman Race for Cure (October), Food for Families - Houston Food Bank (November), & Operation Stocking Stuffer- Toy Distribution Houston Fire Department (December). Thanks to all for participating!

The SAAGH Committee is collaborating with Shell Community Focal Points, Karen Labat and Vicky Moreno, and Shell Partners to identify volunteer opportunities for SAAGH members in 2026. An updated list of 2026 volunteer events, including dates, will be provided by the end of January.

If you have any questions, please contact me via email at mike.alvarez012@gmail.com.

Shell Hero Program

As Shell employees and retirees, we are fortunate to have the Shell Hero Program to match our charitable donations and volunteer hours. In midyear, the Shell Foundation announced any requests for company matches must be done via the Shell Hero [Portal](#). Paper forms sent via the postal service will no longer be acceptable.

Events – Brenda Schroeder

SAAGH sponsored over 40 interesting and diverse events in 2025. These ranged from cooking schools and sporting events to webinars and volunteer opportunities. We also provided communication support to Shell events such as Jazz Fest, the MS-150, and the Shell Alumni Network in Europe.

I thoroughly enjoy my role as the Vice President of Events for our alumni association, especially discovering and sharing little-known gems throughout the greater Houston area.

While I oversee the events and ensure we maintain a diverse and engaging calendar, I certainly don't plan them alone. We are fortunate to have an amazing Board that helps manage and support these events—my sincere thanks to all of them for their contributions. I would also like to recognize Maureen Fitzgerald, Sharon Staffel, and Carolyn Yapp, who serve alongside me on the Events Committee.

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.

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.

Call for Volunteers: Luncheon Panel on Second Careers

Are you passionate about sharing your journey and inspiring others? We're excited to announce an upcoming Luncheon Panel on Second Careers, and we're looking for volunteers to participate!

Why Join the Panel?

-  Share Your Story: Inspire others by discussing your transition into a second career.

-  Connect with Peers: Network with fellow professionals who have navigated similar paths.
-  Offer Guidance: Provide valuable insights to those considering new directions in their professional lives.

Event Details

- Date: April Timeframe
- Time: TBD
- Location: Junior League of Houston

The luncheon will feature a panel discussion where participants can speak about their experiences, challenges, and successes in pursuing a second career. Whether you've shifted industries, started your own business, or found a new calling later in life, your perspective is invaluable.

How to Participate

If you'd like to be part of the panel, please contact Brenda Schroeder (Brenda.schroeder06@sbcglobal.net) by February 15, 2026.

 Your story could be the spark that helps someone else take the leap toward their next chapter.

Member Milestones

Congratulations to fellow SAAGH Board Member, Rick Swain, for being elected to the Rice Engineering Alumni Board in August of 2025. Rick previously served on the Board from 2014 to 2020 and served as President 2018-2019. Congratulations, Rick!

In Sympathy

We are saddened at the passing of Shell colleagues during 2025. Please 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, click here: [SAAGH Facebook](#)

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Schroeder