

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS



February 2017

NEWS FOR AND ABOUT RETIREES AND FORMER EMPLOYEES OF CITGO.



See more photos on page 2.

Another Great CITGO Alumni Group Christmas Dinner For The Record Books

Perhaps the best way to start a recap of the CITGO Alumni Group's 2016 Christmas dinner is to convey the closing thought from CAG President, Kent Powers. Kent told the overflowing crowd that he felt that if the evening's alumni camaraderie, the bountiful buffet feast, and talented musical entertainment was not able to get the attendees into the Christmas spirit that he was not sure what would. The event drew of over 100 CITGO Alumni and spouses, kicking off with a loud and festive social hour. Herb Whitney then lead a heartfelt prayer reminding us about "the reason for the season." Serving lines were opened for a delicious buffet of wonderful food and the evening was topped off in a terrific fashion with entertainment from a young and spirited group of singers. It is hard to fathom that this would not be a perfect formula for getting the attendees into the Christmas spirit.

The whole affair was orchestrated by Ramona Falzone with the help of both Charlotte Loomiller and Carolyn Stewart. These ladies did a great job with organizing the event and with the attracting a large turnout all of whom enjoyed seeing old friends. The ambience, the food, and the entertainment were outstanding.

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PERSONAL PROFILE



Susie and Albet Gallegos

Albert Gallegos – Anything But A Quiet Retiree!

Albert Gallegos is known to some in the CITGO Alumni group as a past Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) manager related to downstream marketing, such as pipeline, terminal, and trucking operations. He continued his career with positions in a similar capacity at John Zink, AKA Energy and then at Zenergy Inc. Albert retired from Zenergy a year ago and still shares his knowledge with the Tulsa community.

He and his wife Susie, a native Tulsan, have chosen Tulsa over other offers during his career. As Albert shares, "I am originally from New Mexico – Belen, a small town south of Albuquerque. Upon graduation from New Mexico State University (BS Chemical Engineering - 1974), I went to work for Conoco. I was

working for Conoco in Houston when I received an offer to work with a company in Tulsa. After working in Houston for about a year, it did not take much to entice me to move to Tulsa.

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2016 Alumni Christmas Dinner ... *Continued from cover.*

Meadowbrook Country Club did a spectacular job with the setup and they prepared a great buffet which included a prime rib carving station. Jeanne Sturges stayed busy taking professional photos of the attendees you see in this article.

After the crowd finished their desserts, Wayne Perram's daughter, Becca Baker, ushered in her 13 student singers whose group name is the "68th Street Singers" to perform for the CAG folks. Becca is a voice teacher for these students who ranged in age from 6 to 14. These talented students entertained with solo and duo performances of Christmas songs.

Witnessing these voice students perform with poise and talent was a joy to all. After each student performed the applause was loud and the smiles were large.

Just before Kent closed the evening activities, the attendees were treated to a door prize drawing. The lucky winners were given a variety of very nice gifts assembled from the CITGO folks in Houston, Quiktrip, TiAmos, Meadowbrook Country Club, Starbucks, and Red Rock Canyon Grill. It was truly a great evening, which, no doubt, all those attending considered the a roaring success.



2016 Alumni Christmas Dinner - More Happy Attendees ... Continued from page 2.



2016 Alumni Christmas Dinner - Even More Happy Attendees ... *Continued from page 3.*



CITGO Alumni Group Board Initiative

"The CITGO Alumni Group (CAG) was formed around 2000 to provide a means of continuing friendships with fellow CITGO and/or Cities Service employees, to provide a means of contact with our former employer, and to encourage active involvement in our communities. Because the group was initiated by former CITGO employees, the emphasis to date has been with former CITGO employees." So begins an e-mail sent on January 26, 2017, by Kent Powers, CAG Board President, to former Cities Service employees who attended a recent Cities - Oxy retiree luncheon. The e-mail invited approximately 200 people to join the CITGO Alumni Group.

This initiative follows a CAG Board discussion in which members noticed our ranks have only a few Cities - Oxy retirees even though CAG was established to include both former CITGO and Cities Service employees. The Board also learned the only retiree activity available for our Cities - Oxy friends is an annual luncheon. Thus, with the cooperation of the Charles Stall, organizer of the Cities - Oxy luncheon, CAG Board members prepared and e-mailed an invitation to join the CITGO Alumni Group. As of this writing, it is too early to determine how many people will accept the invitation.

Albert Gallegos ... *Continued from cover.*

"I have had several opportunities to move out of Tulsa but have chosen to make this my home. We have two grown, sons. Both are recently married. One resides here in Tulsa, and the other in Colorado. No grandchildren ... at this time."

Albert uniquely enjoyed working with Zenergy, a company with offices at 6100 S. Yale. It was involved with all phases of the upstream and midstream oil and gas business. "Zenergy was one of the first companies in the Bakken region of North Dakota to become established and preeminent in the development of horizontal drilling, midstream transportation of crude oil, natural gas and water and subsequently substantially increasing production from tight shales. This last adventure was quite exciting and challenging as it provided many opportunities such as working in remote areas with extreme winter cold temperatures, training completely inexperienced personnel, developing policies and procedures to address these issues and interfacing with Native American groups inexperienced at interfacing with oil and gas entities."

Since retirement, Albert and Susie enjoy travel, volunteer activities, and spending time outdoors. "We have a second home on Grand Lake and spend time there throughout the summer and fall. She is involved with a couple of charities in Tulsa also. Both of us are involved with activities at Resurrection Catholic Church, where she is the head of the women's group and I am on the Finance Council."

Albert's expertise in EHS has allowed him to provide valuable services to some of the larger Tulsa non-profit organizations. "Since retirement, I have connected with Northeast Oklahoma Food Bank, Xavier Medical Clinic and Camp Loughridge. I stay active in the EHS arena by volunteering to provide help to them as the need is created."

Albert and Susie initially became involved with the Food Bank as donors. "As we become more familiar with the Food Bank, we became more impressed with their ability to provide food for those in need for a fraction of the cost of other organizations. During a discussion with the Food

Bank Director at one of their functions, I mentioned that I was recently retired. She asked about my background and stopped me when I was describing my Safety experience. Fast forward, I soon volunteered my time to help them with their Safety and Training Program and monthly safety inspections. Their insurance rates had been climbing and I agreed to review what they had and work with them to reduce this cost and provide a program for continuous improvement."

Xavier Medical Clinic is a St Francis Hospital System supported facility that provides indigent medical care and prescription medication to those in need. Many of the Tulsa area residents using this free clinic, located on 11th street just east of Highway 169, speak limited English. Albert provides Spanish translation for the personal and medical information needed by both patient and staff. He also provides the necessary backup to support Xavier's request for medication from various pharmaceutical companies.

"A friend of mine—also retired—is currently the director of operations at Camp Loughridge, a non-denominational facility that has summer day camp facilities in West Tulsa. It consists of 150 acres of ponds, playgrounds, meeting rooms, dorms and learning facilities. My friend asked that I review their facility from an EHS viewpoint."

Albert sees some familiar CITGO faces around town, including at the Health Zone, at Grand Lake, and at church. He also stays in touch with Scott Eaton, former Southeast Regional Manager now retired and living in Myrtle Beach.

Albert shares that he has many fond memories of his work days at CITGO. He traversed the entire continental U.S. in his capacity as EHS manager and met many diverse individuals in many beautiful (and not so beautiful) locations. One of those unique personalities was Larry Britain, Sr. VP of Marketing. It was quite an unforgettable experience to enjoy (?) the Georgia moonshine he brought to each year's Christmas celebrations.

IN MEMORIAM

Wes Hogan

Biff Johnson

Roberto Mandini

Bill Redd

Why Are You Where You Are?

By Jerry Harrison

An analysis of addresses of members of the CITGO Alumni Group showed about two-thirds of our people live in Oklahoma, and one third are scattered about the United States. Thus, the question, "Why are you where you are?"

The short answer is, "I am living where I want to." But, interviews for this article revealed much more than this short answer. All of the interviewees found their choice location well before retirement. Three moved after retirement, and one stayed put.

Bill Schafer and his wife Bonnie lived in Maryland throughout his forty-year career in the Marketing Group of CITGO. Such a stint "in one place" is almost unheard of for any oil company marketer. A son, daughter and five grand children live near Bill and Bonnie in Nottingham. Friends from a lifetime are also nearby. Bill recommends his CITGO friends visit Maryland for the seashore, western mountains and fertile rolling hills in between, but he does not recommend retirees move to Maryland because of high taxes, cost of real estate, and the "insane, liberal and terribly unpleasant political climate".

Tom Haycraft and his wife, Darlene, discovered College Station, Texas, while their son attended college at Texas A&M. When Tom retired while living at Corpus Christi, the Haycrafts chose to move out of the South Texas hurricane zone. College Station is about one-and-a half hours inland from Houston where their son now lives. The Haycrafts take advantage of lectures, concerts, and other college events at Texas A&M, and enjoy the smaller town atmosphere of College Station. Tom suggests College Station as a good place to visit and to retire. The George H. W. Bush Library is in College Station, and Texas A&M offers many attractions. Tom and Darlene have met many people who have retired to College Station.

Diane Arocha and her husband, Phil, enjoyed summer vacations at a peach orchard owned by Diane's grandparents near Palisade, a small town 9 miles east of Grand Junction, Colorado. They also liked the hiking, camping, mountain biking and other outdoor activities available to people living on a high desert at the foot of the west side of the Rocky Mountains. A few years after Diane's retirement in Tulsa, the Arocha's moved to Grand Junction. Diane knows her CITGO friends would enjoy mountain activities and other outdoor activities in the area. She reports many retirees now live in Grand Junction, and the number is growing.

Bruce Adams discovered Florida's western panhandle, including the small town of Crestview, while working with CITGO terminals in the area. Crestview is inland about 20 miles from Destin's beaches and sits at an elevation of 250', nearly the highest point in Florida. This location meets Bruce's desire for safety from Oklahoma's frozen precipitation storms, while also meeting wife Patti's desire to be near the beach she loves. A downside discovery since moving is that Crestview receives 65" of rain per year. Thus there are more rainy days than expected, but it's also nice and warm at Crestview.

Bruce thinks CITGO alums would enjoy visiting the beaches along the nearby coast, and notes that Crestview is already a growing retirement community with many military retirees and active military in the area. There are six military bases in the area.

Bruce reminds CITGO retirees to stay active, both physically and mentally because it is a big adjustment to go from hectic CITGO days to quiet retirement days.

DRILLERS BASEBALL GAME • 4:00 PM • APRIL 26, 2017

All CITGO Alumni, family members and guests are invited to our Tulsa Drillers game outing on Wednesday, April 26th at ONEOK Field, against Arkansas.

Very good seating will be in the shade on the first base side of the field. Discounted tickets with a special concession stand coupon for hot dog, chips and drink are \$16 per person. Discount tickets without the food coupon are \$10 each. Jim Holland will have your tickets near the Will Call window the day of the game.



Sign up for this outing and pay for tickets at the Annual Luncheon, April 17th, or notify Jim Holland at jahl@cox.net of your head count (with or without food coupon) and send a check made out to "CITGO Alumni Group" to Carolyn Stewart (see page 7 for her mailing address). Please note on the check it is for baseball tickets.

Payment and head count must be received by April 18th to ensure seating with the CITGO block.

We want the **CITGO Alumni Connections** to offer information from and about ALL retirees and former employees of CITGO. If you participate in activities with other CITGO Alumni in your area, we want to hear from you so we can share what you're doing with the rest of our membership.

Please send announcements or updates you would like to see in the Newsletter to cornelia.schlecht@cox.net.

The CITGO Alumni Group's membership year runs from January 1 through December 31 and dues are paid once during that period. If you haven't paid your \$10.00 membership dues for calendar year 2017, now is the time to do it. By paying your dues, you will receive copies of the **CITGO Alumni Connections** newsletters to keep you up to date on news and events of the CITGO Alumni Group. Send your \$10 membership fee (Made payable to the CITGO Alumni Group) to:

Carolyn Stewart
7509 E. 91st Pl. • Tulsa, OK 74133
bstewart47@cox.net

Please include your E-mail address and/or any mailing address updates with your payment. THANK YOU.

If you pay your membership dues in cash, please attach your name to the cash so Carolyn will know who she received the payment from.

Please send newsletter article contributions for the **CITGO Alumni Connections** by e-mail to:

Ray Yarroll at rpyarr@cox.net

or by U.S. Mail to:

Ray Yarroll
7421 E. 74th St. • Tulsa, OK 74133

Save the Date **ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON**

Monday • April 17, 11:00 a.m.

TiAmo Ristorante • 6024 S. Sheridan

The Spring Luncheon will again be graciously sponsored by Energy One Credit Union. Check-in begins at 11:00 a.m., with a delicious buffet luncheon at noon.

Please remember this luncheon is for Alumni Group members only.

AT THIS MEETING

Guest Speaker will be Curtis Rowe,
CITGO Assistant Vice-President of Finance

You may pay your 2017 dues if you have not yet done so.
Dues are still only \$10, and your check should be payable to 'CITGO Alumni Group.'

*We will elect Board Members for 2017-2018.
If a member wants to nominate someone,
they need to get the nominee's
permission in advance.*

**Please R.S.V.P. by sending an email to
rsvpcitgoretiree@gmail.com by April 11th.**

**Visit the CITGO Alumni Group website
for the most up-to-date list of new retirees.**

Reminder ...



Our CITGO Alumni Group e-mail directory is available on our website
<http://www.citgoalumni.org/>

Simply click the "directory" tab.

The password is the current day's date (for example 02232017 ... tomorrow it will be 02242017, etc.)

If you have any questions or corrections, please let us know.