



January 2019

News For and About Retirees and Former Employees of CITGO.



Another Wonderful CITGO 2018 Christmas Party Is In The Books!

WHAT A GREAT PARTY!!!! The festive decorations and surroundings, the happy friends and co-workers, food and fun conversations made the evening at the beautiful River Spirit Casino in Tulsa, on December 4, 2018, was one to remember! Not to mention the convenience of FREE Valet Parking!!

We began at 5:30 PM with a social "hour" (5:30-6:30, but who's watching a clock!). As the crowd increased, so did the volume as we greeted and reconnected long-time friendships with laughter, hellos', hugs (and selection of seats.) It took a couple of tries for Board President Roger Rowe to get our attention and quiet us down enough to let us know the food was getting cold and we should find the seats we'd selected. He then invited Herb Whitney to the microphone. Herb blessed our dinner and the evening. He also remembered the remarkable life of George H. W. Bush, which most of us had seen celebrated in Washington during that day via television coverage. Herb ended his prayer by reading the names of all our dear friends who left us this past year.

The line formed quickly and we were treated to a wonderful, varied buffet dinner. Over 100 CITGO and Cities Alumni and guests ate, chatted, went back for seconds, and needless to say none went away hungry!

PERSONAL PROFILE

She's Game for Travel

Jeanne Sturges never thought she'd be riding in a tundra buggy for a couple of weeks, living in a Mongolian yurt for days at the Golden Eagle Festival or picking up and moving camp across Africa to follow wild animal migration. Yet, after a long career of accounting with CITGO, Sturges has done all of that and more. "I've always wanted to explore the world," she said. "So, when I retired, we knew what we wanted to do."

Sturges, the former general manager of Taxes and Human Resources for CITGO, has touched more than 80 countries on all seven continents in the last 12 years. She did the seven continents with her husband. Then, when he cut back on travel, she started joining small photography tours and has continued to visit some of the most exotic places on Earth.

When she's at home in Tulsa, she works as a volunteer and board member for LIFE Senior Services. "I stay very busy" she said. "I love working with the folks at LIFE Senior Services. They do great things for people."

Continued on page 2.

Continued on page 6.

After dinner, Roger once again welcomed us all to the annual gala and introduced immediate Past President Kent Powers. He reminded us of Kent Young's recent article in the Fall 2018 CITGO Alumni Newsletter about CITGO's 30-year history with the Jerry Lewis MDA telethon and CITGO's contributions over the years. This sparked an idea for Kent that he brought to the board—to go back to supporting the MDA. They have a program called "Send a child to camp," which costs \$2,000 per child. To help raise funds, a date has been set for a Bowl-a-Thon at Andy's B's Bowling, on March 9th, from 9 to 11 AM, to send as many children to camp as we can this summer. To help kick things off, alumni Donna Nichols donated one of her beautiful, perfectly proportioned, wooden sculptures of a moose. Through our members' tremendous generosity, the sculpture raffle produced \$900 at the party!

Following the announcement of \$900, an anonymous member then quietly donated the balance needed to send one child to camp. As if that wasn't enough, another member anonymously donated an additional \$2,000. Roger invited all members to participate if interested by sending a check made payable to MDA to Carolyn Stewart. By the way, the sculpture raffle was won by Kay (David) Barber. LUCKY FOLKS! A huge thank you to Donna Nichols for helping to get things started for MDA. More information on the MDA Bowl-A-Thon will be forthcoming in the New Year.

Following that, Ramona and her "elves" (who delivered the gifts right to your table!) drew names for over 50 door prizes contributed by Quik Trip, Ti Amo Restaurant, Tulsa Historical Society Memberships (2), Cinemark Theater, Rib Crib, Red Rock Canyon Restaurant,

and various gifts from CITGO corporate. Additionally, one member donated two Rustic Cuff Bracelets, another member donated 6 bottles of wine, one donated a Trader Joe's gift card plus 9 bottles of wine and one gave a vintage CITGO Tough Guys denim jacket. Special thanks to all who donated or secured donations to make the night so special and especially Ramona, Charlotte and Carolyn for tracking reservations! What a good job by all board members!

As always, it was great to see and "catch-up" with friends and co-workers, including several from out of state! If you couldn't make it this year, please know you were missed.

"And a GOOD time was had by all."

See you NEXT YEAR!



Connie and George Margalski, ???, Linda Chance, Gary Rose



Mike and Mary Haddican, Herb Whitney, Pam Worthington, Bill Bailey

More photos on page 3.



Harold and Lee Hatcher



Kent Powers and Roger Rowe



George Walker, Christy Kelly, Sam Parks



John & Janet Main, Marci Shilman



Jim and Linda Holland



Dave and Kay Barber, Gene Kiesling



Dick and Kathy Cobb



Kent Young, Jeanne Johnson, Jeanette Young



Ray and Sharleen Yarroll, Barbara Walters



Steve and Pam Fine, Kathleen Dickey Roy and Julie Brockneier



Jim Wheelless, Michelle Dugan, Connie Schlecht, Maxine Wheelless

[More photos on page 4.](#)



Joyce Rongey, ???



Michelle Dugan, Dick Conway, Charlotte Loomiller



Robbie Thames, Herb Whitney



Cindy and Brad Bruere



Kathy and Dick Patrick



Christy Kelly, Ramona Falzone



John and Janet Stehenson, Kathy Cobb



Harold Hatcher, Gail Berry, Toni Struebing, ?? Jim Wheelless, Brad Bruere



Carolyn and Ralph Gurganus



Giles Gere, Terry Berg



Jann Berg, Becky Kriegg, Sandy White

[More photos on page 5.](#)



Reda Shary, Barbara Gere



Marty and Therese Sedlacek, Gene Kiesling



Cindy Bruere and Scott Grindle



Mary Sue Whitney, Charlotte Rowe



Jim Peebles, Jim Curtis, George Walker,
Martha Curtis,



Herb Whitney, Klara Conway, Sam Parks



??, Jim Wheelless, Suzt Faulkner



Robbie Thames, Toni Strebing, Jack Kelley



Larry Krieg, Sue Wilson



Beth and Alan Ezarik



Charles Volturro, Carolyn Brown



Charlotte and Roger Rowe

[More photos on page 6.](#)



Linda Fuller, Klara and Dick Conway



Steve Fine, Dick Conway



Annette and John Johnson



Sandie and Tom White



Pat and Charles Faigle



Kay Barber, Donna Nichols

CITGO Alumni Group Volunteers to Help Feed Oklahoma Children!

On Saturday, October 20th, about 20 of our members, along with another group of about 20, met at the Eastern Oklahoma Community Food Bank to work on the Food For Kids backpack program. During the 9 AM to 12 noon period, this group filled approximately 4200 "backpacks", which will be distributed to school children on Friday



afternoons. This program assures these kids some nourishing food items to enjoy over the weekend. We worked continuously during the 3 hour period at quite a rapid assembly



line pace. This is the second year in a row our group participated in this rewarding experience and hopefully it will become an annual event.

After our "shift", several of our group went to McNellie's Pub for a well-deserved relaxing time where we enjoyed rehashing our morning experience, a great lunch and some "liquid refreshment."

Then there are the three or four trips a year she plans for herself. She travels to all corners of the earth. "I enjoy the experience every bit as much as the travel," said Sturges. Usually her experiences are with guided small groups for specific expeditions to photograph exotic animals and landscapes.

She joined a group organized by Frontier North Adventures for a polar bear expedition. It started in Churchill, Canada, a small town on Hudson Bay known for the large population of polar bears in the area. The group uses a tundra buggy, which is a large vehicle on huge tires that can handle the snow, ice and extreme temperatures for backcountry trips. They often can get as close as 20 to 40 feet to the bears. "It is almost like a train car on these huge tires," said Sturges. "But it is a fantastic way to get close to the bears and other wildlife while moving through snow and temperatures that can drop to -50°. We can get very close to the bears. It is pretty thrilling."



That's pretty exotic, but no more so than Jeanne's trip to Bayan-Olgii aimag in Mongolia for the Golden Eagle Festival. It is an annual festival where Mongolians compete to catch animals like foxes and hares with specially trained golden eagles. She lived in a yurt while photographing the festival. "These cowboys ride down from the mountains on horseback in traditional clothing and with their golden eagles on their shoulder. It is fascinating and different. The competitions, along with photos of the people at the festival, are so interesting."

Sturges has been on two Africans safaris. Both were with companies that use mobile campsites to follow animals across the continent. "These are very luxurious campsites," Sturges said. "Every day you go out on game drives to see the animals. Then they'll pack up the camp and we'll move to a new location to follow the migration of the animals."

"I've seen a lot of wildlife in the last 10 or 12 years. However, I'm not sure anything compares to the first time you hear a lion roar in the wild. It'll give you chills."

Yes, she's been to Machu Picchu and the Galapagos Islands in South America. She's been to the Taj Mahal in India and the Great Wall of China.

"What is really fascinating about traveling around China is that you get a real sense of the history and culture of 2000 years," said Sturges. "In some countries, you see history that is four, five, even eight hundred years old, which is interesting. But in China, you see history that is several thousand years old."



Like many Americans, Sturges took advantage of relaxed regulations for traveling to Cuba in the past few years. "Cuba is a very colorful country," said Sturges. "I really enjoyed photographing the buildings that are painted with so many vibrant colors. And the people there are always smiling."

Continued on page 7.

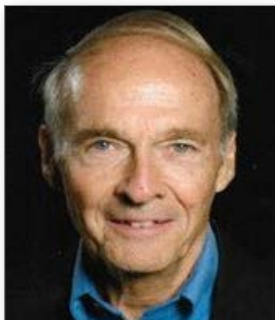
CAG Helping Others Through Habitat for Humanity

By Bob Sanborn

Habitat for Humanity is a worldwide organization dedicated to eliminating poverty housing by building decent, affordable housing for those in need.

I am co-founder of a volunteer group of retirees, called "The Tuesday Morning Miracle Workers." After starting with 3 members, we now have over 40 active members. We just finished our 26th year of service to Habitat. I served as co-coordinator for 20 years and Kent Powers has served for the last 6 years. We have built over 60 houses and worked on over 250 of the 450 houses Habitat has built in Tulsa. The majority of the 60 plus houses built have been sponsored (paid for) by members of the Tuesday Morning Miracle Workers. A major contributor was CITGO retiree Bill Meyberg and his wife Sara who sponsored 18 houses over a 15-year period.

Our pay day is dedication day, when the keys are given to the home owner to establish a home



for the family. It gives them hope for the future.

Several years ago we had a single parent with three children, none of which were doing well in school. A few years later, the mother came to work with us on a house and told us that two of her children were attending Oklahoma State University, and the third one was an honor roll student. She said getting a Habitat house made all the difference.

For several years, CITGO-sponsored houses were built by CITGO employees. Continuing this involvement, several CITGO retirees have been members of the Tuesday Morning Miracle Workers over the years.

By volunteering your time and talents in support of Habitat for

CURRENT MEMBERS

Terry Berg
Brad Bruere
Terry Diacon
Kent Powers
Bob Sanborn
David Siebert

FORMER MEMBERS

Gary Anderson
Bill Beckert
Tom Black
Mike Bright
Ted Ernst
Walt Howard
Bill Meyberg
Carl Post
Bob Terrill
Tom White, Jr.

Humanity, you'll be rewarded with the gratification of knowing you helped families achieve the American dream. To learn more, contact:

Kent Powers - Ph: (918) 729-0086,
e-mail: kent.powers09@gmail.com

Bob Sanborn - Ph: (918) 645-5514
email: rsanborn4@cox.net



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Shirley Campbell

Jim Wheelless

Scott Grindle



ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON

Monday • April 1 • 11:00 a.m.

TiAmo's Ristorante • 6021 S. Sheridan, Tulsa, OK



The Spring Luncheon will again be sponsored by our friends at Energy One. 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.

Guest Speaker • Curt Rowe, CITGO Assistant Vice President of Finance.

You may pay your 2019 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 2019-2020. 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 March 25th.

Rollin' for MDA Summer Camp

By Kent Powers

As you know, the CITGO family has always been involved in helping others, especially when it comes to the Muscular Dystrophy Association. With this in mind, we want to help send Oklahoma kids with muscular dystrophy to MDA Summer Camp in 2019. The camp will be held at Canyon Camp in Hinton, OK, from July 7th to July 12th. MDA Summer Camp is an amazing place where anything is possible – including swimming, archery, fishing, arts and crafts, dancing, performing in a talent show and gaining valuable life skills. The camps are staffed with dedicated professionals and trained volunteers to meet every child's medical and physical needs. The camp is offered at no-cost to families, thanks to generous donors and fundraising events.

To kick off our fundraising efforts, we used our recent CITGO Alumni Group Christmas Party as an opportunity to promote sending an MDA kid to summer camp at a cost of \$2,000. It was so well received, we raised \$4,235 through the generosity of our members. After such a great start, we want to keep the ball rolling by holding a bowling event on March 9, 2019, from 9–11 am at Andy B's Bowling Center (8711 S. Lewis Ave.) in Tulsa. All it takes is to put together a team of 5 bowlers, choose someone to act as team captain and call Becky at MDA (918-749-7997) to sign up or for more information. The goal is for each bowler to raise/donate \$50, with incentive levels provided for those who raise above that amount. Each bowler will receive 2 games of bowling and shoe rental during the event. You will also have an opportunity to meet a few local families served by MDA.

So, come join us for a fun filled event by rollin' for MDA Summer Camp. Let's see how many MDA kids we can send to summer camp and make their dreams come true.



The CITGO Sign is Closer to Becoming an Official City Landmark

By Tim Logan, Chicago Globe Staff (Reprinted from November 14, 2018)

In a unanimous vote, the Boston Landmark Commission Tuesday evening approved landmark status for the iconic sign, which would give it extra protections should a developer want to move or change it. Now it's up to Mayor Martin J. Walsh and the City Council to render a decision on the sign's status.

The Landmark Commission vote was the culmination of a two-year campaign by local preservationists, and Citgo, to ensure the sign retains its place on Boston's skyline amid plans by builder Related Beal to redevelop the buildings beneath it in Kenmore Square.

After Boston University put the buildings that house the Citgo advertisement up for sale, thousands of people signed online petitions urging the city to declare the sign — which was installed in 1965 — an official city landmark.

Last month, after lengthy review, the commission issued a report recommending a landmark designation for the famous sign, saying it has "become a cultural symbol to the people of Boston that goes far beyond gasoline." The designation would not prohibit alterations to the sign, but would require review by the Landmarks Commission — a board appointed by the mayor — before any changes could be made.

If the Mayor of Boston signs off on the designation of the CITGO Sign as a landmark, that will be a huge development. Jim McCarthy and I attended the "relighting" ceremony of the sign in 1983. The sign had been turned off during the "energy crisis" as a way to "conserve energy." Actually, it did not cost that much to operate it, but it was primarily a symbolic gesture since it was so visible and used precious, expensive "electricity." When it was relite, there was a thousand or more people in Kenmore Square below, "counting down for the flip of the switch." It was quite a deal.

~ Kate Robbins ~



Related, and some business groups in Kenmore Square, objected saying that a formal landmark designation would restrict development in the neighborhood and needlessly complicate the business relationship between Related and Citgo, which leases the Commonwealth Avenue rooftop space. The oil company and the developer — which spent \$144 million to buy the building and several neighboring addresses from BU in 2016 — have agreed in principle to a long-term lease, but are still negotiating details.

Last week, the Boston Civic Design Commission approved designs for new and renovated buildings on the site that include keeping the sign essentially in its current state.

"We remain focused on bringing our vision for the redevelopment to life," said managing director Patrick Sweeney, in a statement. "We have always planned for the sign to stay and have incorporated it into our development."

The Boston Planning & Development Agency board has a vote on the project scheduled for Thursday.

Meanwhile, Walsh will consider whether to formally grant landmark status for the sign, a spokeswoman said. He has 15 days to either deny the designation, or send it on to the City Council for final approval. The council would then have 30 days to act, at which point the saga of the Citgo sign might, finally, end.

"One day I stood at a corner on a main road for about an hour. Finally, at a stoplight, four old blue cars were lined up next to each other. I snapped the photo. It is one of my favorites."

She said other destinations she's loved include Myanmar in southeast Asia and Slovenia and Romania in Europe. "Not many people would think about traveling to Myanmar in Asia or to visit Slovenia and Romania when you are in Europe," she said, "Maybe the fact that you don't have many tourists and

you can really experience the culture in those type of countries are why I enjoyed them so much."



She estimates that she takes between 5,000 and 15,000 images per trip. From that number, she estimates upwards of 300 are "keepers." Sturges loaded

hundreds onto a mobile device to show people who are interested. "I really enjoy the experience of traveling to these places and shooting the photos," she said. "A lot of photographers also enjoy the editing process. I really don't." I've got thousands of photographs. I loved shooting all of them. I loved the adventure of travel. But I'm just not good at sitting down and editing photos."

She's not slowing down. She has upcoming travel to Patagonia in southern Chili, winter in Yellowstone National Park, Marfa, Texas, the Dolomites in northern Italy and Norway, where she hopes to see the northern lights.

We want the CITGO AlumniConnections 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 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

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 2019, 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 the payment is from.

F.Y.I.

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

Simply click the "directory" tab. The password is the current day's date (for example 10122019 ... tomorrow it will be 10132019, etc.). ***If you have any questions or corrections, please let us know.***