



June 2019

News For and About Retirees and Former Employees of CITGO.



CAG 2019 Luncheon Welcomes Members From Near and Far

Our CAG 2019 Annual Employee Meeting/Luncheon was held at TiAmo's on April 1. (And that's no April Fools joke.) We were happy to see about 115 members attend, including some of our Cities friends.

After an hour of visiting with friends from near and far (as far away as South Carolina for this meeting), President Roger Rowe asked Herb Whitney to offer the prayer. Herb also reminded us of our members who have passed away since last year's meeting.

Roger then announced the buffet was OPEN! As always, it was full of scrumptious choices, including various desserts.

Following lunch, Roger introduced Steve McNabb, CEO of Energy One who gave a brief update on the status of "our money" and the good things coming for their company.

Next, Roger introduced our speaker, Curtis Rowe, VP of Finance at CITGO in Houston. He gave us the latest info regarding the situation with Venezuela and how it is affecting CITGO. In the past year, there have been many changes—a totally new board, some visits to Washington, D.C. clarifying our position in the world of oil, and sharing of information. It was a reassuring talk. CITGO has positioned itself in advance, to protect the company in cases as this. He ended by saying we should not take news articles as gospel because those are always full of supposition and only sprinkled with actual facts.

Roger introduced Kent Powers who recapped our Bowling for MDA event. Between the contributions made at the Christmas party in December,

PERSONAL PROFILE

Donna Nichols – Giving with Hands, Head, & Heart

Donna Nichols was born and raised on a 660-acre farm near Lindsborg, Kansas. She loved helping her father with farming. She assisted him often, whether with sick or injured animals—or even dehorning. She enjoyed riding her horse three and a half miles to attend Star Rural Grade School, a one-room school. After receiving her high school diploma, she completed education in accounting from a business college in Salina, Kansas.

It was as an accountant for an architectural firm in Salina that she met James Nichols, one of the architects on staff. Donna and James married, with each having accomplished a number of career goals. They moved to Tulsa, where Donna completed X-ray technician training. She then accepted a scholarship to Rush Medical Center in Chicago to study radiation therapy and medical physics. After graduation from Rush, she worked as the supervisor of the radiology at St. John's Hospital in Tulsa.

A few years later, Donna and James accepted positions at the University of Virginia. She was the director of the radiation

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and the Bowl-a-Thon in March, we raised enough money to send six MDA kids to a week at summer camp this year. It was a great endeavor by all. Our compliments to all who contributed, worked and bowled (*see Bowling for MDA Summer Camp Fundraiser article on page 9*) Kent also mentioned that we had dedicated this year's contributions in the name of Bob Hannay, one of our past CAG presidents. He opened the opportunity to continue to donate to the MDA fund to send more kids to camp.

Roger took the floor again to recap our year's activities, our finances, and our roster count of 311 at end of 2018. Roger also took a survey for the cost of the Christmas dinner as the cost has increased over the last 4 years. The results were to charge \$35-\$40 for the Christmas

dinner. More details will follow on this year's CAG Christmas Party.

Roger then introduced Lyle Dusenberg who recognized and thanked those board members who are leaving with 2+ years of service. Those are one half of a two-Secretary Team, Ellen Boothe; Ron Chance; and Chair of the Nomination Committee, Tom White. Lyle wished them all well and congratulated each on their "2nd" retirement! They'll be MISSED!

Lyle introduced the balance of the board for this year:

- Julie Brockmeier (President)
- Brad Bruere (Vice-President)
- Sharon Elich (Secretary)
- Ramona Falzone (Events)
- Yvonne Hale (Secretary)
- Ray Yarroll (Communications)
- Dave Hynes (Webmaster)
- Charlotte Loomiller (Events)

- Kent Powers (At-Large)
- Barbara Plummer (Membership)
- Roger Rowe (At-Large)
- Carolyn Stewart (Treasurer)
- Connie Schlecht (Newsletter Publication)
- and himself - Lyle Dusenberg (At-Large)

He then introduced two new members to this year's board:

- Terry Berg (At-Large)
- Larry Krieg (At-Large).

Lyle finally thanked all board members for serving the group.

Roger opened nominations from the floor, for additional board members. There being none, the membership approved the board as presented.

The meeting was adjourned with visiting and conversation continuing between members.



Brad Bruere, Julie Brockmeier, Roger Rowe



Steve McNabb, Energy One



Curtis Rowe



Terry Post, Karen Goodman



Bob Funk, Rick Miller



Bill Paluso, Jerry Ezell

[More photos on page 3.](#)



Kay Maganey, Mike Haddigan



Lyle Dussenburg, Barbara Plumber



Johnnie Oestrich



Sue Wilson, Larry Birch, Dewayne Oestrich



Len DeLiberto, Bob Sanborn



Charles Faigle, Wayne Perram



JJ Stevak, George Margalski



Steve McNabb, Regina Rash - Energy One



Donna Deffenbaugh



Jan Kennedy



Glenn Roach



Rick King



Barbara Williams



Cynthia Patterson, Pam Canton



Dick Cob, Jim Peebles



Heidi Hartman



Phyllis Ogilvie, Irma Galloway, Suzy Faulkner



Sylvia Mullins, Pam Worthington



Vicki Forbrick, Peggy Cale



Linda Gilliam, Claudia Lyster



Ron Coleman, Tom White, Dick Cobb



Jerry Harrison, Bruce Beck



Yvonne Hale, Claudia Lyster, Kent Powers



Sarah Bussman, Jerry Evanson



Bill Hucke



Ramona Falzone, Charlotte Loomiller,
Carolyn Stewart



Jamey Gill



JoAnn Fry, Herb Whitney



Cynthia Ball, Richard Ball, Brad Bruere



Bob Ellis, Dick Cobb



Larry Krieg, Curtis Rowe, Larry Birch



JJ Stevak, Joyce Rongey



Ray Yarroll, Jim Holland



Phyllis Ogilvie, Donna Nichols



Connie Schlecht, Paula Tiefentholar,
Harold Hatcher, Michelle Young



Bill Hucke, Kent Powers

[More photos on page 6.](#)



Larry Walters, Bob Sanborn



Mary Haddican



Jim McCarthy

In Honor of Bob Hannay

Bob Hannay, one of our beloved Citgo Alumni Board Members, passed away on February 23, 2019. When Bob joined the CAG Board, he brought his normal energy to the group and was instrumental in expanding activities of the Board, as well as encouraging Ron Hall to be the speaker for one of our September Luncheons. Bob was on the Board for several years, including being President for two of those years. As always, Bob's energy was positive and welcoming, he had plenty of energy for several of us. At Bob's funeral, two people gave a testament of what Bob meant to their groups CITGO/CAG and his neighborhood. We have included both of those testaments so that those who could not attend the funeral could share in the stories. The CAG Board is very thankful for all that Bob did for the organization, to bring it new life and keep it moving forward.



Comments about Bob from Herb Whitney (CAG) ...

Citgo was a big part of Bob's life. People who worked with Bob knew him as an outstanding contributor who loved Citgo and working for the company. Bob worked at Citgo during a time when it was a successful company and an enjoyable place to work. He not only helped to make it a success but helped to make it a great place to work.

Bob served as emcee for various Citgo events—MDA celebrations, talent shows and Christmas parties. He was definitely not shy, had a great gift of gab and sense of humor and was a fantastic emcee. Bob was never at a loss for words; however, sometimes we'd shake our heads especially when he would poke fun at Ron Hall and other Citgo executives.

We will always remember Bob as "the last man standing" at the Citgo Warren Place offices. He actually turned out the lights and shut and locked the door as Citgo ended its long and successful life in Tulsa.

Bob could always tell a great story and had a wonderful positive attitude.

I remember when Bob first came on the CAG Board. Boy did he liven things up! He always had ideas and pushed the Board to consider new and exciting programs. He was like a breath of fresh air! Bob was a tireless worker for the CAG assuming several different roles and doing an excellent job with each. So it was only natural that he assumed the job as President of CAG, a job he fulfilled in his usual fantastic style. The articles he wrote for the alumni newsletter were always entertaining. He was instrumental in getting more people to do profiles for the newsletter and made sure the CAG was successful in being both a place where Citgo alums could reconnect and fellowship but also serve and give back to the community.

Bob loved Citgo and had positive impact on the lives of countless Citgo employees. Bob's family, we grieve with you in the loss of Bob. We will always remember the impact he had on our lives. I know that God is a great listener, but now that Bob is there, He will have to take it to another level!

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therapy technology school and he was a university architect. Four years later, they returned to Tulsa. Donna earned both a BS degree in accounting and an MBA at The University of Tulsa. She used her degrees during her 20-year career at CITGO as a financial analyst.

After retiring in 2001, James and Donna made time to vacation in Europe. They especially enjoyed cruises on the major rivers in Europe.

Retirement has provided Donna with an abundance of volunteer opportunities. One of her many talents is wood carving. Five beautiful pieces she has carved have been gifted to Trinity Episcopal Church and are used in its sanctuary.

Donna enjoys water aerobics, growing flowers, and is active at both the Tulsa Garden Center and at her church.

Sadly, James (Jim) passed away four years ago at Zarrow Pointe. After his death, Miller Hospice



asked Donna to volunteer as the internal auditor. She continues this 20+ hour commitment each week.

A life-changing experience has been as a court appointed special advocate for juveniles. The Tulsa based non-profit organization, New Hope Oklahoma, asked Donna to serve as a mentor to a young girl, Breanne, whose father was incarcerated and the family was homeless. Donna has been a

pivotal role model for Breanne over the past fifteen years. There have been many opportunities to bless Breanne, but most important is the relationship that has developed. Breanne has become like family. They continue to meet weekly as friends. The blessings have returned to Donna while helping this remarkable young woman in all she does. An especially proud moment will be when Breanne transfers to The University of Tulsa this fall to complete her degree in clinical psychology.

In Memoriam

Rolland Been

Pam Clapp

Jim Curtis

Bob Hannay

Elmer Johnson

Don Ladd

Hubert Smith



2019 Food For Kids Backpack Program

We've again scheduled an opportunity to participate in the "Food For Kids Backpack Program," sponsored by the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. This activity takes place at the Food Bank (1304 N Kenosha Ave, Tulsa, OK), from August thru May (school year). The date we've scheduled is Saturday, October 5th, from 9-12 a.m. We've reserved a spot for up to 30 participants.

Please reply to Ray Yarroll (rpyarr@cox.net) with: (1) name of attendees; (2) email address; (3) phone number. We look forward to seeing lots of you!



Comments about Bob from his neighbor Lynn Price (who spoke at his funeral) ...

We are here to celebrate the life of Bob Hannay. As for me, the idea of a funeral as a celebration has always been an oxymoron. But today, I finally get it. Today will be the exception, because Bob Hannay was, himself, a celebration. Even when he was in a dark mood, he had a joke for the occasion—often at his own expense. Bob was an encourager. There was never a tragedy he couldn't turn into a comedy or a foible that wasn't fodder for jest. Bob's humor could be edgy and humor was a double-edged sword that he often turned against himself to purge his own dark angst.

Take the case of that poor guinea pig his neighbors had entrusted the Hannays to take care of while they were on vacation. His kids were actually charged with its care, but Bob, being the wonderful father he was, had decided to supervise one day.

We all know that every guinea pig's days are numbered, which is why many choose them as pets. While Bob could not have saved the doomed guinea pig which now lay before him, he did save the day—only moments before the neighbors would return from vacation. Quick as lightning, Bob scooped the guinea pig into a makeshift coffin (a paper bag) and tidied the cage the best he could. Of course the first mistake was telling his kids what had to be done with that paper bag. Bob's boys were horrified, but his daughter, Suzanne, was hysterical. "We've got to give it a funeral, Daddy!" she wailed.

For a man like Bob, necessity is the mother of invention and Bob was a very creative, extemporaneous kind of



genius. Both sides of his highly evolved brain were sparking: Lightning about to be released from a bottle.

God knows Bob's distraught kids were in need of a ceremony, not to mention that hapless guinea pig. And the indignity of that paper bag being tossed in a trash bin would not suffice.

So Bob carefully removed the rigid contents of the paper bag, found the nicest t-towel in the house, and enshrouded the tiny corpse. Then, heads lowered, the family solemnly headed for the nearest vacant lot with nice tall grass that any guinea pig would call heaven on earth. He then removed the guinea pig and placed his fingers around one conveniently distended, stiff paw. Raising it above his head and circling his hand in the air, he muttered some Latin-sounding words and let it fly, shocked by the force of its trajectory. But of course, Bob, being Bob, could not resist a punchline—a farewell that would forever echo in the tortured minds of his children, the guinea pig, and those who would hear about it later: "A-E-R-I-A-L... B-U-R-I-A-L" !

It is in this spirit that we remember our dear friend, devoted father, husband, jokester, and beloved storyteller, Robert Hannay, a man who taught us all to celebrate life, and dare I say, afterlife.

I know he would invite you to grab one of those smiley face balloons and release it skyward in eternal tribute to a life well lived.

Please Plan to Join Us!

2019 CITGO Alumni Group Annual Christmas Dinner

Monday • December 2, 2019 • Doubletree Hotel

Watch for more details to follow!

Bowling for MDA Summer Camp Fundraiser Exceeds Expectations

By Kent Powers

Continuing the momentum from our Christmas party raffle fundraiser for MDA summer camp, in which \$4,235 was raised, the CITGO Alumni Group (CAG) hosted its first bowling fundraising event on March 9th at Andy B's in Tulsa. Our goal was to provide summer camp scholarships for as many Oklahoma MDA kids as possible. With this in mind, a total of 38 bowlers across seven teams brought their enthusiasm and bowling skills to the challenging lanes (bowling skills, in my case, could best be described as jumping at the opportunity to use bumper guards). The diverse group consisted of three CITGO Alumni teams, the Talon MDA family team, two University of Tulsa (TU) fraternity teams and one TU sorority team. For two hours, we enjoyed the camaraderie, friendly competition and satisfaction of knowing we were going to help MDA kids, like Talon, fulfill their summer camp dreams.



Talon's Family



CITGO Alumni Group teams during fundraiser.

The Tulsa MDA office added their personal touch by raffling off MDA caps and discount coupons to several Tulsa restaurants. In addition to having a fun filled event, we raised an additional \$4,874, including \$600 from CITGO Corporate, which increased our MDA summer camp fundraising campaign to \$9,109.



CAG team members (back): Jeff and Gary, Cheryl Powers, Kent Powers; (front) Julie Brockmeier and granddaughter, Evie.

Towards the end of this campaign, Bob Hannay unexpectedly passed away. Bob was a long time CITGO employee and a valued and treasured member of the CAG Board, where his term as President left a lasting impression. To honor Bob, the CAG Board agreed to



CAG team members Ron Chance, his wife, Linda, and grandsons.

donate this year's MDA camp scholarship amount in his memory. Once this message was shared at the CAG spring luncheon and to our general membership, more donations came rolling in. In true CAG fashion, an additional \$3,094 was raised, bringing our fundraising grand total to \$12,253.

Not only did this amount exceed all expectations, but at a cost of \$2,000/kid, we will be able to send six MDA kids to camp this year and make their dreams come true. A big thank you goes out to all of you who supported this fundraising effort.



CAG team members Ellen Boothe, Sharon Elich, Brad Bruere, Charlotte's daughter Andrea and Charlotte Loomiller



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bill Beckmeier
Sarah Bussman
Shirley Campbell
Juanita Davis
Monica Daniels
Joann Fry
Scott Grindle
Heidi Hartman
Forrest Landis

Dan Horowitz
Rick King
David Kunkel
Herb Mitchell
Tom Mitchell
Marilyn Paugh
Brad Roach
Wayne Oestreich
Tom Richardson

Lee Ridenour
Lynn Roberson
James Smith
JJ Stevak
Tom Weatherholt
Jim Wheelless
John Wycoff

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 newsletter article contributions for the CITGO Alumni**CONNECTIONS** by E-mail to: Brad Bruere at neutrino17@comcast.net

or by U.S. Mail to:
Brad Bruere
11063-D S. Memorial Dr. #240
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.**