



October 2019

News For and About Retirees and Former Employees of CITGO.

PERSONAL PROFILE

Taking Time To Serve

By Terry Berg

Why is it your retirement plans not only get derailed quickly after that long-anticipated milestone, but they also seem to take an entirely different direction? Sometimes all it takes is a simple phone call.

After retiring from CITGO in 2009, after nearly 25 years, I packed-up my apartment in Houston to resume living at our home in Broken Arrow. Like many new retirees, my wife and I had planned to do quite a bit of travel. I also wanted to become active with the Tulsa Habitat For Humanity (HFH), especially with the Tuesday Morning Miracle Workers (TMMW). (In reality, we now work Tuesday and Thursdays. And we do a few specialty projects the special-needs students who attend



Installing trusses on new Habitat home, Oct 2019



Tony Moore, Executive Director for Gathering Place



Brad Bruere, CAG VP

CAG Fall Meeting and Luncheon

Another Great Member Event In The Books!

By Barbara Plummer

The CITGO Alumni Group held its end-of-summer luncheon and meeting on September 16th at the LaFortune Golf Course Clubhouse. We had a full house with an attendance of about 87 members. We couldn't have squeezed many more into the cheerful, bright room.

In Julie's absence, VP Brad Bruere opened by welcoming and thanking everyone for coming. He gave special thanks to Charlotte and Ramona for doing a great job of planning the day's event. He introduced our speaker Tony Moore, Executive Director for Gathering Place and his assistant Bailie Brown. Tony comes to Tulsa from Florida, with 30-years of leadership experience in various theme-water-public parks, zoos, and aquariums, including SeaWorld and Universal Studios!

Brad took care of some pertinent business, one of which was reminding us all to be sure to sign one of the three Get Well cards circulating the tables, for Bettie Bohnefeld, who has a serious illness. Brad then asked Jerry Harrison to the podium to say Grace. Jerry also reminded us of members we've lost (Bob Faith and Mike Bright) since our annual employee meeting in April. THEN it was on to the buffet!

The buffet began with a table of fruit, cheese and crackers as well as beverages and extra ice (especially welcome in the unseasonable heat this far into September). Next was the baked chicken breasts, au-gratin

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potatoes, a huge mixed salad and dressing choices. The dessert was "Bundtinis" in several flavors, all purchased separately by the organization, from "Nothing Bundt Cakes." Round tables, giving us additional conversation time, were decorated festively for Fall with colorful leaves, small pumpkins, and a pretty pumpkin place mat under each one— thanks to Ramona. Access to parking and the walk to the building was adequate, which we always keep in mind when planning these group events.

After lunch, Brad turned the microphone over to Mr. Moore who gave a WONDERFUL presentation, complete with beautiful videos and history of the building, opening, facts

about the Gathering Place park, recent events, and potential additions in future phases. We were give attendance numbers (nearly 3 million in the first year with visitors from every state and many countries) and the numerous major National awards received to date. He also discussed plans for the building of Phase II of the park—a 50,000 square foot, \$45 million Children's Museum & Discovery Lab south of the park at 33rd & Riverside. Opening planned for late 2020. A lively Q&A followed with many further questions answered. [There was rousing applause!

Brad thanked Mr. Moore and Bailie for their thorough and exciting presentation and closed with UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Filling Back-Packs at the Food Bank on 10-5-19. Reserve a spot via Ray Yarroll.
- CITGO Alumni Group Annual Christmas Party & Dinner on 12/02/19: "Back to our Old Stomping Grounds" theme at the DoubleTree Hotel, Warren Place. *(More on Page 6.)*
- A social event: Tours of Tulsa— Underground Tulsa / Lunch & Brewery Tour on 10/28/19. *(More on Page 7.)*

Please read newsletters and watch your email for more information and updates on these and future events.

Thanks again to everyone attending and for making it another great meeting!



Kay McGahey



Larry Krieg



Patti Anderson and Barbara Plummer



Kent Powers and J.J. Stevak



Nancy Williamson and Joyce Rongey



Julius Stevak

More photos on page 3.



Lyle Dusenberg and Donna Madden



Ray Yarroll



Kathy and Dick Cobb



Jerry Harrison



Gene Kiesling and Tom White



Larry Krieg and Larry Walters



Kathleen Dickey and Carolyn Johnson



Barbara Williams and Ramona Falzone



Terry Diacon



Jim Miller



Jerry Evanston



George Margalski, Ron Chance, and Charles Faigle

[More photos on page 4.](#)



Charles and Patricia Faigle



Jeanne Sturgess and Carolyn Stewart



Charles and Carolyn Volturo



Mike Haddican



Pam and Steve Fine, Kathleen Dickey



George Margalski and Therese Sedlacek



Marty Sedlacek and Mary Haddican



Donita and Ray Funk



George Walker



Danny Murray and Miley Margis



Jerry Ezell and Bob Funk



Janine Been and Jeanie Murphy

[More photos on page 5.](#)



Kathy Cobb and Patricia Faigle



Brad Bruere and Rick Miller



Mary Haddican and Janet Rudd



Kathy and Dick Patrick



Barbara Plummer, Jeanette and Kent Young



Yvonne Holmes



??? and Bob Funk



Christy Kelly



Cindy and Jim Peebles



Carolyn and Bruce Stewart



Gathering



Lunch



2019 CITGO Alumni Group Annual Christmas Party & Dinner

"Back To Our Old Stomping Grounds"

Monday • December 2, 2019

5:30 pm - Social Hour Begins • 6:30 pm - Dinner Buffet

Doubletree Hotel

6100 S. Yale Ave. • Tulsa, OK
Hotel Ballroom • Lower Level
(Parking • Free in Doubletree Garage)

Please send \$35 per person,
payable to CITGO ALUMNI GROUP, to:
Carolyn Stewart
7509 E. 91st Place • Tulsa, OK 74133

RSVP FOR YOU AND YOUR GUEST TO: rsvpcitgoretiree@gmail.com

TULSA TIDBITS

Gathering Place – Our Story

Used by permission from Katie Bullock, VP of Marketing, Gathering Place

"Our story began with the George Kaiser Family Foundation and an extraordinary dream to transform nearly 100 acres of Tulsa's iconic waterfront along the scenic Arkansas River into a dynamic, interactive environment. Tulsans needed a welcoming, natural space where members of our diverse communities could come together to explore, learn and play.

After years of planning, generous donations and input from the community, Tulsa's dream became reality. In 2014, Gathering Place broke ground on Tulsa's world-class park. The dream of a space to celebrate and gather along the river was becoming reality.

The next chapter is filled with excitement as we welcomed our first guests on September 8, 2018. The children, families and friends of Tulsa will write the narrative from there, an ongoing adventure sure to inspire wonderful moments for generations to come. We look forward to witnessing memories made and celebrating the collective growth experienced through Gathering Place, where your adventures will only be limited by your own imagination.

We are Gathering Place. We are Tulsa. We are diverse, passionate and true to our beliefs. We remain consistent in our mission, as a project led by George Kaiser Family Foundation, that we all become united in our love for our community. Relatives, close friends, neighbors, we are all family. We are united from every zip code, from the city to the suburbs, from the river to the hills, from the north to the south, from the west to the east. Gathering Place is the ultimate expression of Tulsa's spirit of unity. A place for everyone."

Many CAG members and their families have experienced Gathering Place. It is truly a extraordinary and beautiful place. If you want to be in the know for upcoming events and updates, please join the Gathering Place mailing list. In addition, Gathering Place has countless volunteer opportunities to show your pride for the park and the Tulsa community. Please visit the Gathering Place website at www.gatheringplace.org to join the mailing list and be an active part of the Gathering Place experience.

MDA Camp Recap

By Georgia Canady, MDA – Executive Director of Oklahoma

"Thank you for helping provide a life-changing experience to Oklahoma kids at MDA Summer Camp in Hinton, Oklahoma. Over 60 children attend the Oklahoma MDA Summer Camp each summer for an entire week. We provide fishing, swimming, archery, power soccer and softball and movie nights. Thank you CITGO Alumni Group for helping send 6 kids to camp this year with your Bowling event and generous donations."



As we look forward to 2020, CAG would like to continue to support MDA and help send even more kids to camp. The plan is to have another bowling event in March and adding an April golf event at the Patriot Golf Club in Owasso, OK. Kent Powers is currently working on the details. Please watch for additional information in future emails and newsletters.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Larry Broussard
Debbie Jewell
Danny Murray

TULSA UNDERGROUND TUNNEL TOUR

Save
The Date

Come join us on Monday, October 28, for a walk over and under the streets of downtown Tulsa via the Tulsa tunnels. See ornate buildings of art deco and gothic design built during the oil boom days of the early 20th century. Hear the stories of Waite Phillips and visit the Philcade Building built for his Penthouse Suite and the Philtower for his office building. See the private tunnel built under the street between his two buildings for his personal safety. See the Atlas Life Building and the Mid-Continent Tower along with the public tunnel that adjoins these buildings and others.

The private tour will begin at the SE corner of 5th & Boston (511 S. Boston just outside the Philcade Building) starting at 10 a.m. and will last one hour. Wherever there are stairs, there are also elevators or, in one case, an escalator. Parking downtown will be on your own and will probably involve metered parking, so allow extra time. Tour guide cost = \$80/hr. for each group size up to 15. Cost will be prorated between attendees and paid at end of tour.

After the tunnel tour, we will meet at Elgin Park Brewery, located at 325 E. Mathew B. Brady St., for lunch (buy your own lunch). After lunch, we will be given a free tour of the brewery.

To RSVP, please reply to Kent Powers at kent.powers09@gmail.com or call (918) 729-0086.

The Little Light House in Tulsa.) For me, it didn't take long to establish a weekly routine of meeting the guys at the cabinet shop or current project house. I even resumed a hobby that I was known for while working at CITGO: baking cakes. Every workday I bring a different flavor of bundt cake for the guys to enjoy during our 9:30 coffee break. My plans for filling my retirement with regular volunteer activity had become a reality. Or so I thought.

In early 2011, we were driving to Wilmington, NC to visit our daughter and her husband. My cellphone rang. It was a call from an electrical engineer I had worked with during my first few years at CITGO doing terminal automation. "Wanna do some work?", he asked. I said, "I guess so. What do you have in mind?" He said, "It's terminal automation work. It's on an island in the Caribbean. I'll pay you \$1,100 per day, plus expenses, plus travel expenses and travel time." I replied, "Well, you certainly have my attention! When do we start?"

St. Eustatius (or Statia, for short) is an island located between the islands of St. Maarten, St. Bart's, and St. Kitts and Nevis. The tiny, 4-mile by 2-mile, island was once home to twin dormant volcanoes. One of the volcanoes has been leveled and a huge petroleum tank farm built on the site. The 56 tanks hold some 14,000,000 barrels of storage. Our project was programming the five new 5,000-hp diesel pumps used to



Construction team at a Tanzanian school (Aug 2019)

move product from the off-shore ships to the tanks.

The island has just 1,600 human inhabitants, but innumerable goats, sheep, cows, chickens, donkeys, pigs and iguanas wandering freely in the yards and streets. There were three of us splitting the programming duties, each working a 10-day shift each month. During my off-island time, I joined my Tuesday Morning Miracle Worker buddies.

The island project lasted nearly a year. Then my volunteering activities and relaxation travel returned to center stage. Briefly.

A few months later, I received a call from another local electrical engineer, who had gotten my name from the island project engineer. He wanted to know if I wanted to do more automation programming on a new pipeline "...for a few months." It would be in Owasso, Oklahoma and could be arranged around my TMMW workdays. I agreed.

It was a new crude oil gathering system running from the northwest corner of New Mexico to the southeast corner of the state near the Texas border.

I worked Tuesdays and Thursdays on Habitat projects, and the other days on the crude oil system. Things were running smoothly for a few months until it was time to take the system to the field for installation, checkout, and DOT certification.

The next thing I knew I was flying to Midland-Odessa, driving three or four hours into the most desolate parts of New Mexico, and working sixteen-hour days 24-25 days a month. That "few months" contract stretched into an eighteen-month engagement! My volunteer efforts were again put on hold.

One particularly frustrating day, it was nearly midnight, and we were still working. I decided enough is enough; this project had lost its charm. Life is too short to spend this way no matter the pay.

I went back to the Tuesday Morning Miracle Workers, back to volunteering at church, and back to some sort of retirement. My wife and I found time to enjoy various trips including Sedona; the Grand Canyon; Banff; the Giant redwoods of California; Crater Lake; the National Parks of Utah; and Kauai.

Ring, ring. Another phone call. The engineer of the island project wanted my help with the automation of two new crude oil pipelines coming into Cushing. I could do my work on the project from home and keep my volunteering schedule. Perfect.

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I still went to the field many times but was home weekends. We completed our work on that project in about 15 months.

The next session of work with my TMMW buddies was short-lived.

Another phone call. This time I would be working to upgrade the systems at the former CITGO Asphalt terminals in Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia. Much of the work was done on-site. However, fate intervened. The project was cut short after six months due to a change in terminal ownership and funding issues.

I am not alone in my volunteering though. My wife, Jann, is the coordinator of the Eastern Oklahoma chapter of Ryan's Cases For Smiles. Each month, she, and a small handful of women in north-east Oklahoma, provide 250-350 brightly colored, kid-themed pillowcases for kids undergoing cancer or trauma treatment at the Children's Hospital at St. Francis in Tulsa. It is pretty much a full-time labor of love for her. It is such a worthy volunteer opportunity. (Note: If you can sew, you should join her efforts. You can work from home, at your own pace, as much or as little as you want.)

In 2018, I ran across a friend from our former church in Broken Arrow. He mentioned he confines most of his volunteer work to Fridays. He and his wife serve meals to the homeless at a church near downtown Tulsa. They have been doing it for eight years. He invited me to come visit when they feed the homeless. I did.

For over a year now, I spend about two hours Fridays serving meals to the homeless at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. The experience has been eye-opening. Two hours well-spent.

As an offshoot from feeding the homeless, I visited the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma to see their operation. The director gave me a two-hour tour. Little did I know what the tour would lead to. I learned the Food Bank regularly receives donations of pet foods from various sources. However, due to health laws, they cannot process and distribute the pet food through the normal channels as food for human consumption. Sometimes, large quantities of dog and cat food get put into the dumpster due to lack of storage space.

Upon hearing this, I had an idea. I asked the director if I might take the problem off his hands. After a few phone calls, and a couple of emails, we now have a new ministry at Asbury United Methodist Church. Once a month, on Second Saturday, a group of volunteers meet to re-bag the pet food into ziplock bags.



Leading group of volunteers re-bagging pet food for Tulsa area food pantries.

We then distribute it to various food pantries, animal rescue sites, and other worthwhile agencies in the Tulsa area. The food goes to the homeless, needy or home-bound elderly who often own pets for companionship, for safety, or for emotional well-being. As ministry coordinator, I would invite you to join us for Second Saturday.

Many years ago, when we first joined Asbury, I started the Home Improvement Ministry. Several times a year, a group of men from church spend a Saturday doing minor repairs and maintenance projects at the homes of widows and single mothers. I turned-over the reins of the ministry when I moved to Houston with CITGO, but now still participate as one of the 60+ team members. Every church should have such a group.

In 2018, I participated in three trips to the Houston area with men from Asbury, to hang drywall in homes ravaged by Hurricane Harvey. I was able to use the trips to visit with several Houston CITGO employees. In March of 2019, a contingent of us drove two vans to Appalachia Bay, Florida to repair homes destroyed by Hurricane Michael.

I have not received any more phone calls lately. But I did get a late-night email in July, 2019. Three weeks and a half-dozen immunizations later, I was on a flight with five other men from Asbury to Morogoro, Tanzania. Our 13-day mission trip was spent on construction of a new

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CITGO Alumni Group Volunteer Opportunities ...

LIFE SENIOR SERVICES

LIFE provides an array of services to thousands of seniors and caregivers each year. All of LIFE's programs and projects are designed with its purpose in mind: To promote and preserve independence for seniors—today, tomorrow, *always*.

LIFE relies heavily on volunteers to augment the professional staff, saving the organization more than \$600,000 annually in overhead expenses. Last year, volunteers gave almost 34,000 hours of time in service. Volunteers not only enhance LIFE's programs and the lives of those it serves, many of LIFE's services simply would not exist without the commitment and support of its amazing volunteers.

Discover all of the volunteer opportunities LIFE has to offer at www.lifeseniorservices.org

- ✓ One-on-one and small group assistance in LIFE's Adult Day Health Centers
- ✓ Sharing your talents, like singing, painting, dancing, knitting, with our Adult Day Health participants
- ✓ Fitness or art instructors at LIFE's Senior Centers
- ✓ Small home repairs and handyman projects
- ✓ Yard work
- ✓ Holiday projects, including adopt-a-senior and delivery of meals and gifts

- ✓ Office/clerical support
- ✓ **Medicare Part D counseling**
- ✓ **Income tax preparation**
- ✓ Hospitality for educational seminars
- ✓ Special events
- ✓ Serving on an advisory council
- ✓ Fundraising

Many CITGO Alumni Group members currently participate and volunteer in programs at LIFE Senior Services. The **Medicare Part D Clinic** is a valuable service that saves participants money. Last year, the total savings for clients that came to the clinic was \$1.6 million. It is imperative that seniors review their Medicare Part D plan every year! Jeanne Sturges, Bill Paluso, Paula Tiefertal, Jim Peebles, and Carolyn Stewart are some of the CITGO Alumni who are volunteering at the clinic and helping clients save money.

The Medicare fall open enrollment period is **October 15 through December 7**. LIFE Senior Services is recruiting now for more volunteers to work at the clinic that is held at their office at **5950 East 31st Street**. Volunteers are vital to this program. You can provide basic office support or become a trained counselor that helps clients choose their Medicare program. You can provide basic office support or become a trained counselor

that helps clients choose their Medicare Part D plan. Your time will also help educate you on the ins and outs of the Part D plans. The hours are flexible. The **Tax Assistance Program** will begin after the first of the year. Please watch for more details in future newsletters and emails. We hope you will consider joining other CITGO Alumni on one of these or other LIFE volunteer teams.

If you have questions or are ready to become a volunteer for any of the LIFE volunteer opportunities, please contact Channing at LIFE: 918-664-9000 ext. 1168 or email her at crutherford@LIFEseniorservices.org. CITGO Alumni volunteers Jeanne Sturges (918-605-2957 – djs5417@aol.com) or Carolyn Stewart (918-671-6926 – bstewart47@cox.net) are also happy to answer any additional questions you may have about the Medicare or Tax Assistance programs and LIFE volunteering.

In Memoriam

Mike Bright

Bob Faith



Lutheran church and parsonages in villages in the region. It was an awesome experience! (I can also provide you with recipes for goat entrees.)

Despite all the volunteering, Jann and I still find time to attend the many sporting events and activities of our grandchildren, Mason and Sydney, who live near us in Broken Arrow. We also make several trips each year to the east coast of North Carolina to see our daughter, her husband and their daughters, Emerson and Finley.

Last October we flew to Iceland where we toured for four days, before a week long cruise from the tip of Norway along the coast to Bergen, followed by several days traveling Norway in-land.

Do I ever find time to relax? Do something fun? Absolutely. Landscape painting was always something I aspired to learn. I had never had an art lesson in my life. Any painting I had done was confined to walls and siding of our home or HFH homes. During one of the Houston mission trips, I learned the 84-yr-young man on our team was quite the landscape painter.

Thanks to him, I now drive to Skiatook to take lessons twice a month in the studio of Jerry Yarnell, world-renown artist. In a relatively short time, I found I have certain talent for painting. I find it quite enjoyable and not nearly as frustrating as golf. And, unlike golf, I haven't lost a paintbrush.

In retirement, you can either wear-out or rust-out. It's up to you. There are so many opportunities to give back to the community. A few hours here and there. You can always work it around your schedule. It gives you purpose. It keeps you connected socially. It keeps you young. Answer the call.

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.***