



January 2020

News For and About Retirees and Former Employees of CITGO.

CITGO Alumni Group Making A Difference LIFE SENIOR SERVICES

*The following message is from
Channing Rutherford, LIFE Senior
Services Program Supervisor,
Tulsa, Oklahoma*

The phenomenal success of LIFE Senior Services Medicare Assistance Program and Tax Assistance Program is a reflection of the ever increasing dedication and enthusiasm that our CITGO volunteers display on a regular basis. Both of these wonderful programs service the aging population through several different roles, whether it be answering phone calls to make appointments/answering questions, checking a beneficiary in/getting them ready for their appointment, or sitting down with them and reviewing their Medicare options during open enrollment and preparing their taxes during tax season. Our CITGO volunteers handle each volunteer role with flexibility, patience, and grace.

The time the volunteers donate to our programs is a huge impact on the aging community. This year alone, we saw 1,822 people through the Medicare



And Another Awesome CITGO Alumni Group Christmas Party Is In The Books!

By Barbara Plummer

We're sorry for those of you who missed it. They get better EVERY YEAR, it seems.

On December 2nd, 100 members and guests gathered in one of the familiar ballrooms at the Warren Place Doubletree and were greeted by 12 round tables for 8, with white table cloths, mirrored rounds in the center of each table, a glass chimney filled with colorful Christmas ornaments, place setting also in white, wine and water crystal glassware and silver settings. In the very center of the mirror was a bottle of wine (table prize). Red cloth napkins were folded into the shape of Santa Claus with sleigh and the green ones folded into evergreen trees and a room decorated for Christmas. So clever and so FESTIVE!

After Happy Hour, President Julie Brockmeier finally got our visiting quieted down, to welcome us and say a few words about next year's 20th Anniversary CELEBRATION of the founding of the CITGO Alumni Group! Julie then introduced Herb Whitney who said grace, and also named those members who have passed in the last year.

Then it was on to the buffet tables consisting of Chicken and Beef choices, rolls, roasted potatoes, mixed veggies, two salads, candied

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walnut with many delicious dressings. The dessert table had 4 choices of pies and cookies. The beverage table included coffee, tea, iced tea and water besides the cash bar. It was a wonderful dinner.

Following dinner, Julie announced the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of the CITGO Alumni Group will be during next December's party. Plans are underway to make it THE BEST!! It will be in our "Ole Stompin' Grounds" at THE DOUBLE TREE where we spent many a gathering/meeting/celebration. Expect to see photos, video of the old Tulsa days (and by the way, if you have some great pictures or video of special events over the years in Tulsa, please share them with us). Watch your CITGO Email

for information on how to get your pictures/videos to us, etc...

A list of major events coming up this year was at each person's place mentioned briefly by Kent Powers. Planning begins in January for CAG 2020 celebration; March 7, MDA Bowlathon; April Charity Scramble at Patriot Golf Course; and our Annual Members Meeting/Luncheon. The last two dates to be determined early in new year and announced.

Julie introduced the current board, read a message from Ron Hall, wishing he could have been there but next year would be better don't you think?) She then asked a person at each table to lay the table bottle of wine on its side and spin it. The person it pointed to when it stopped was

the winner of the wine for their table. She, Ramona Falzone and Larry Krieg of the board, drew guest's numbers (which had been added to our Guest sign-up sheet) from a hat for the door prizes. Afterwards, there was a wonderful play list of music for dancing, provided thanks to Charlotte and Brad efforts. Thanks also to Charlotte and her friend for their beautiful dancing! It takes a village to present the members with these great events.

We are looking forward to seeing your pictures or videos you have buried somewhere!

A GREAT night of seeing old friends and former colleagues, great surroundings and delicious food, made this one of our best Christmas Parties ever!



George and Connie Margalski



Lyle Dusenberg and Barbara Plummer



Roger and Charlotte Rowe



Juliw Brockmeier



Kent Powers and Larry Walters



Janet and John Main

[More photos on page 3.](#)



Tom White, Larry Krieg



Barbara and Giles Gere



Lee and Harold Hatcher



Terry Berg



J.J. and Ed Stevak



Susie and Carl Van Marel



Charlotte and Roger Rowe, Jim and Patricia Faigle, Tricia LaCount



Tricia LaCount, Gene Kiesling



John and Mary Lou Dillingham



Mary Sue Whitney, Janet Main



Bruce Beck, Danny Murray, Adalean Beck



Cindy and Jim Peebles, Barbara Gere

[More photos on page 4.](#)



Dick Patrick, Jim Holland



Robbie Thames, Jack Kelsey



Dick and Kathy Cobb



Sandie White, Barbara Walters, Becky Krieg,
Yvonne Hale



Ed Shilman, Len DiLiberto



Jim and Linda Holland, Bill and Eleanor Rohlman



Teri Beach, Kathy Moore



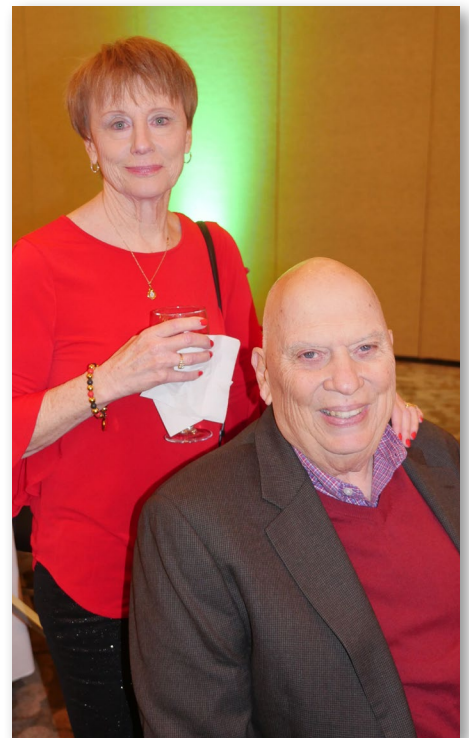
Mary and Bill Paluso



Vicki Trask



Kent and Jeannette Young



Linda and Ron Chance

[More photos on page 5.](#)



Jerry Hogan, Lee Hatcher, Gail Berry



Herb Whitney, George Walker



Ben and Suzie Faulkner



Reda Shary, Angelica Hannay



Carolyn and Charles Volturo



Carolyn and Bruce Stewart



Beth Ezarik, Jeanne Sturges (photo bomber-George Margalski)



Charlotte Loomiller, Loren Lewis



Ramona Falzone



Marty and Therese Sellacek



Ellen Boothe, Kathy Moore, Eleanor Rohlman



Beth and Alan Ezarik



Cindy and Brad Bruere



Ed and Marci Shilman



Christmas themed place settings.



Julie Brockmeier, Larry Krieg, Andy Hale and Yvonne Hale



Jamey and Carolyn Gill



Kay and Dave Barber

Mark Your Calendars for MDA 2020 Fundraising Campaign Events

By Kent Powers

After a successful 2019 MDA fundraising campaign that sent 6 kids to MDA summer camp, we have two events scheduled for 2020 to continue our support.

On Saturday, March 7, we will return to Andy B's in Tulsa for a fun-filled bowling event from 11 am to 1 pm.



For you golfers, we are adding a charity scramble golf event at the world class Patriot Golf Club in Owasso, in April – date to be determined.

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW.

TULSA UNDERGROUND TUNNEL TOUR

By Kent Powers

TULSA TIDBITS

On Monday, October 28, the CITGO Alumni Group got to go back in time to the oil boom days of the early 20th century, when art deco buildings and underground tunnels were part of Tulsa's downtown building surge. As the story goes, in 1927, construction costs in downtown Tulsa alone were averaging \$1,000,000 per month. Within 3 years, the city had more buildings of 10 stories or more than any other city of its size in the world.

With a group of 22 CAG participants anxious to learn more, we divided into two tour groups and, over a period of one hour, toured the lobbies of 6 buildings, walked their underground tunnels, and marveled over the art deco design and stories behind this period of downtown development.

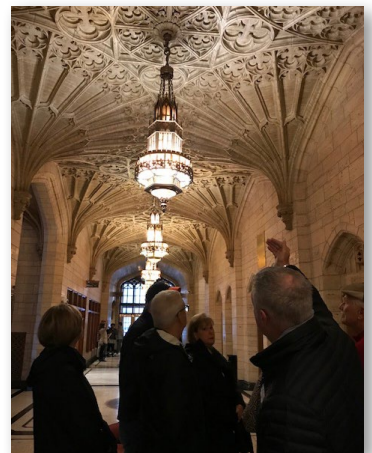
We heard stories of Waite Phillips and his efforts to build the Philcade Building for his Penthouse Suite and the Philtower for his office building.

We toured the private tunnel built under the street



between his two buildings for his personal safety. In the Atlas Life Building, we saw the signature wall display of Atlas holding up the

world on his shoulders and the Press Club location, which is one of only 6 active Press Clubs in the United States. We heard the fascinating story behind the Midcontinent Building expansion. The original building was 14 stories, built in 1918. When Reading and Bates bought it in 1978, they added a twin building to the lower east side, then built an additional 22 floors, supported by cantilevers. This cantilever design was necessary, because the original 14 story building could not be altered due to the historical society label. The tour concluded with a visit to the Kennedy and 320 (formerly National Bank of Tulsa) buildings. The 320 building has an interesting fun fact: its lobby has the first escalator built in Tulsa (1947) and is still operating today.



Knowing what the oil industry has meant to Tulsa and still does today, the added insight provided by the tour guides made our tunnel tour extra special.

After the tunnel tour, the group went to the Elgin Park Brewery for an appetizing lunch and a tour of their micro-brewery.



In Memoriam

Betty Bohnefeld

Jess Evan

Lenny Goines

Don Brandenburg

Giles Gere



Assistance Program in Tulsa, and helped them save over \$1.9 million dollars! For the Tax Assistance Program we saw over 1,200 people and filed over 940 taxes for free!! WHAT AN IMPACT! Beneficiaries reach out in awe and gratitude for the volunteer's time and assistance because they would not be able to get these services without the volunteers. One Beneficiary writes, "I could not have understood Medicare or completed this process for my prescriptions without Carolyn. She was so patient!" Another writes, "Bill was knowledgeable and explained everything to me

so that I could choose the right drug plan- you guys are the best kept secret in Tulsa!" Those comments are just the tip of the iceberg. I am in awe every day at the level of patience, work ethic, and length of advocacy our group will go to ensure that the population that we serve gets what they need, and they always have a wonderful attitude on top of that!

LIFE Senior Services could not have asked for a better group to lead these volunteer programs. As we look to the future and planning for the growth of these

two programs, our hope is that more CITGO Alumni would look to LIFE Senior Services as their volunteering home. We would welcome them with open arms!

To all of the CITGO Alumni that make the Medicare Assistance Program and Tax Assistance Program possible – THANK YOU. Thank you for your time, your dedication, your leadership, and most of all thank you for your big hearts. You are what makes our foundation, and we could not provide the services that we do without you.

The Show Must Go On

By Julie Brockmeier

At our October Board Meeting, we were met with closed doors at the Library where we were scheduled to meet. The Library was closed for a staff development day. So, our Carolyn Stewart got creative and suggested meeting at Hunter Park. It was only about one quarter of a mile away from the Library. The Board Meeting came to order at the park and the Board completed the agenda and action items while enjoying a beautiful Oklahoma fall day.



Above: a majority of your dedicated and innovative CITGO Alumni Group Board.

Save
the Date

ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON

Monday | April 6 | 11:00 am

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 • Curtis Rowe, CITGO Assistant Vice President of Finance

Please R.S.V.P. by March 25th to rsvpcitgoretiree@gmail.com.

You may pay your 2019 dues if you have not yet done so.

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.

CITCO Alumni Group Helping Others

FOOD FOR KIDS BACKPACK PROGRAM

By Ray Yarroll



When we arrived, however, we were told we were going to be bagging carrots, and there were plenty to be bagged. After a 3 hour period, our group, along with some other volunteers, bagged 10,600 pounds of carrots. This equates to 8,883 meals.

On October 5th, approximately 30 members of the CITGO Alumni Group and guests participated in a volunteer opportunity at the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. The guests included several grandchildren of members. The activity addressed was the Food For Kids Backpack Program, which provides nutritious snack items every Friday during the school year for kids—kindergarten and up.



A good, worthwhile time was had by all and we're hoping we'll be able to schedule another activity such as this in the future. After our shift, several of us enjoyed lunch and some liquid refreshment at McNellies. We're sure naps were taken that afternoon by several of those who attended.

The backpacks are for children, identified by their teachers, principals, etc., as 'at risk' of going hungry on the weekends. Sometimes, this is the only nutrition these kids get on a weekend.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Les Collins
Tim Crowe
Dave Daube
Carolyn Holm

Leroy Spencer
Donald Villamar
Bob Williams

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 AlumniCONNECTIONS 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 AlumniCONNECTIONS 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.*