



Fall 2024

News For and About Retirees and Former Employees of CITGO.

Oktoberfest Comes To CAG's Fall Meeting

The CAG fall luncheon took place on September 26 at Montereau in Tulsa. Approximately 33 people were treated to a fun-filled event featuring an Oktoberfest theme. The group was entertained by David Weldy's accordion music as they enjoyed authentic German Oktoberfest food. The ever popular Chicken Dance drew enthusiastic participation by the crowd. Speaker Scott Mitchell (brother of CAG member Sharon Elich) provided a rich history of Oktoberfest. Much planning and activity takes place all year long to make this event so appealing. It draws not only thousands of locals but also a multitude of performers and attendees from all over the world. Did you know that Tulsa's Oktoberfest was voted #1 in America by USA Today? This year marks its 45th anniversary.



In front: Meeting Speaker, Scott Mitchell;
in back: David Weldy, accordion player.

PERSONAL PROFILE

Kim Smallwood CAG Vice President

In 1995 I was working for Cato Oil and Grease Company, a division of Kerr-McGee, when CITGO Petroleum Corporation purchased the company and in May, I officially became an employee of CITGO. At that time, I was the Director of Engineering (1990-1995) moving into a new role as the Mystik Branded Line Manager (1995-1996).



A short year later Tulsa called and wanted me to take the position of Product Engineer for Greases and Fluids (1996-2007). As things changed and retirements of others happened, I took over the role of Contract Packaging Plant Manager (2006-2009) just after we moved to Houston. I continued a combined role for a year before settling into the Contract Packaging Plant Manager role. Next, I took on a new role of Grease Product Line Manager (2009-2016). I then received a call from Bob Pine, who was the Manager of Operations, to come back and take on the role of Contract Plant and Warehouse Manager (2016-2020) for the US. COVID hit in 2020 as we all know and after 30 years, June 30, 2020, I retired.

For the last 16 years while working at CITGO, I started riding a bicycle and participated in the

[See More Photos from Meeting on page 2.](#)

[Continued on page 5.](#)



Brad Bruere, Larry Krieg, Tom White,
Jamey Gill, Terry Berg



Scott Mitchell, Tonja Carrigg (Oktoberfest
Executive Director), JJ Stevak, Sharon Elich,
Bob Sanborn, Larry Walters, Barbara Walters



George Walker, Ron Coleman,
Leonard Diliberto, Jim Peebles,
Cindy Peebles, Ron Chance



Ray Yarroll, Beth Ezarik, Alan Ezarik,
Joyce Rongey, Marci Shilman, Ed Shilman



Don Owen, Jane Owen, Suzy Faulkner,
Kent Powers, Mark Trask



Susan Hollen, Donna Madden, Julius Stevak,
Linda Gilliam, Ellen Boothe



JJ Stevak, our German hostess
with the mostess



Bob Sanborn, in always
fashionable Chicken hat

Save the Date
for this Evening Event!

CITGO Alumni Group 2024 Christmas Party

December 2, 2024
(Doors open at 6:00 pm for Cocktails)

Monterea Retirement Community
(6800 South Granite Ave. ✨ Tulsa, OK)

Join us to welcome the Holiday Season
with our CITGO family and friends.

Watch your email for more information.

Cain's Ballroom Tour

By Kent Powers

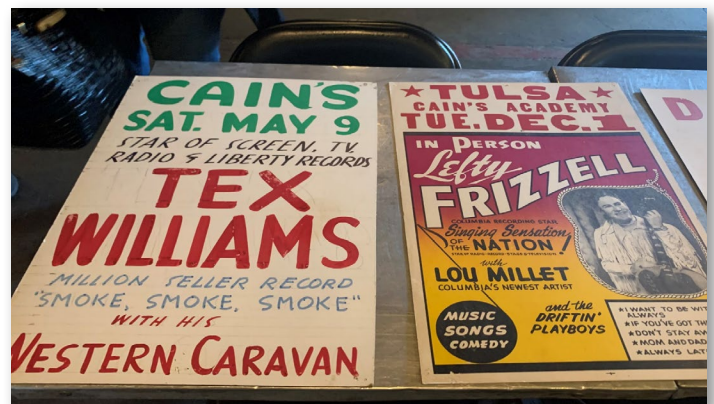


On the morning of September 18, a group of 27 of us arrived at Cain's Ballroom to take a guided tour and learn more about this historical place that is celebrating its centennial year. Before the tour began, we gathered in the restaurant area to meet our two guides whose connection with Cain's is worth noting. Tamara Hawkinson, whose father was a Cain's historian and longtime friend with the King of Western Swing, Bob Wills, his brother, and most of the Texas Playboys, brought a personal touch to the backstories. Tate Wittenburg, who grew up



in Claremore was intrigued by Cain's Ballroom, is working in the film industry and began a decades-long passion of creating a documentary on Cain's ballroom entitled *Raisin' Cain*, which he plans to release by the end of this year. Since Tamara and Tate have been collaborating on the documentary, their knowledge gave our group a one-of-a-kind experience. Tamara did a great job of coordinating the tour activity who, by the way, is an Edison High School classmate of mine.

To kick off our visit, Tamara had several rare signs from her father's collection on display that took us back in time. This provided a good segway into the history lesson and tour that followed. Built in 1924 as a garage for Tate Brady, the downtown building was transformed into a ballroom in 1930 and dubbed Cain's Dance Academy. On New Year's night 1935, Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys made their debut at Cain's and the venue soon became known as the "Home of Bob Wills." This was the group's home from 1935 to 1942 and popularized a new sound of western music called western swing



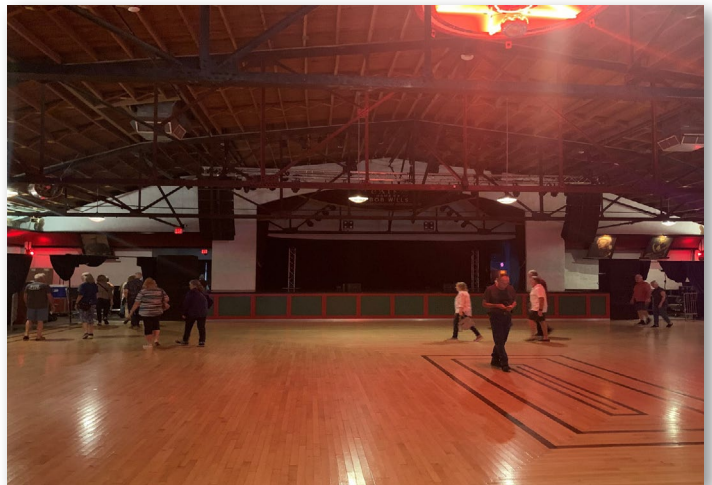
that was broadcast on KVOO. It was the "go to" place in Tulsa for ballroom dancing. After a dormant era in the 1960's and 1970's, Cain's reopened in 1977 as Cain's Ballroom and became a popular concert venue for Tulsa that continues to this day. In 2002, the Rodgers family purchased Cain's and did a major renovation. They reopened in 2003, after installing

Continued on page 4.

a new stage, removing the 8 ft drop ceiling in the ballroom to expose the barrel-shaped dome roof, installing air conditioning and heating, and overhauling the bathrooms. The historic Cain's Ballroom is now consistently in our nation's top 10 performance venues of its size (1,800 capacity of standing-room only).

It is standing-room only, unless the show specifically advertises reserved seating.

As the history lesson unfolded, we walked through a long hallway covered with posters of musicians who had performed there, dating back to the late 70's.



a four-foot neon star and a silver disco ball. To further add to Cain's history, the ballroom had an old phone booth on display that, back in the prohibition days, was used by its customers to call bootleggers for a clandestine delivery to Cain's. We wrapped up the tour by gathering back in the restaurant area to take a CAG group photo and a photo of our tour guides.

When it was all said and done, we better understood the historical significance of Cain's Ballroom and why it remains hallowed ground to the musicians that have performed there. If you are a fan of music, this is a must see and is in our own backyard.

After the tour, we walked a few blocks to The Chowhouse to enjoy a good lunch together and reflect on our historical tour of Cain's.



As we entered the ballroom, we went through a significant transformation in time, seeing the oversized portraits of various musicians who played Cain's in the earlier days. Another ballroom highlight is the historic maple dance floor designed in a concentric square pattern. Lighting the dance floor is

CITGO Cycling Group riding several MS150's to raise funds to support MS.

We sold our home in the Houston area and moved back to the Oklahoma City area. We now reside in Yukon.

My wife (Vida) and I met in November, 1988, and married in January, 1989, combining our two families into one. We have a son Erik (47), a daughter Tana (44), a son Ty (41) and a daughter Kimberly (39). Erik, Tana and Kimberly are parents of our six grandkids who we are proud of not only in their education but their abilities to participate in sporting activities. They range from 5 to 15 years old. They do

keep us running around even though we must drive a ways to see and watch them participate in their sports.



Kim and Vida Smallwood

I now find time to not only be a father/grandfather, but to continue to ride my bike and enjoy my hobby of woodworking. We have joined a local church

nearby in Mustang. We are getting adjusted in our new home and the local area.

I became a member of the CITGO Alumni Group and attended a couple of early meetings, renewing old acquaintances. I've been able to participate in several enjoyable events with the group. When a call went out for people to step up and volunteer for a role on the board. I put my name in the hat and was accepted.

Thank you all, the Retirees and Alumni of CITGO Petroleum Corporation who have helped to make this organization what it is today. I look forward to many years with you all.

MDA Golf Tournament Fundraiser Exceeds Goal!

By Kent Powers

In spite of the weather interruption, we had a great turnout and a very successful MDA Golf Tournament Fundraiser on Monday, June 3, to support MDA Summer Camp. Through the participation of 20 teams along with sponsorships, individual donations, and a silent auction, we exceeded our goal of \$20,000 by raising \$26,000. This was our highest participation level, on all fronts, which helped us achieve a record-setting amount. As a result, our donation to the MDA Summer Camp program will send 8 MDA kids to a summer camp, tailored just for them, at no cost to their parents.

Although the morning weather created uncertainty for our golf tournament, a window of opportunity presented itself and we were able to squeeze in 9 holes of golf before the rain came. This abbreviated round of golf still allowed us to enjoy the beauty of the Meadowbrook Country Club Golf Course and

its clubhouse amenities for an awards ceremony and lunch afterwards.

Before we started the awards ceremony, we got to meet Madyson and her mother Cristal. Madyson is 12 years old and was excited about attending MDA Summer Camp for the first time. Having the pleasure of an MDA family joining us for the first time at our event, added a special touch and reinforced our desire to support the MDA Summer Camp Program. Now for the golf results:

1st Place Team with a score of 10 under par –
Roger Price, JP Roller, Jan Price, Jenni Roller

2nd Place Team with a score of 7 under par –
Cal Davis, Tobi Winters, Randy Chase, Eric Sinning

3rd Place Team with a score of 7 under par -
Mike Hulse, Matt Hulse, Tom Rorschach, David Poarch

Continued on page 6.

4th Place Team with a score of 6 under par – Bob Fitzgerald, Stan Rogers, Glenn Roach, Collier McLaughlin. Since Glenn Roach, our CAG President, was the team captain, I thought it would be appropriate to include his team's winning photo along with Madyson.



In addition to the golfer participation, we owe a big thank you to our sponsors, individual donors, and silent auction supporters who enabled us to achieve a record setting amount (see attached sponsor board signs). The week leading up to the tournament and on the day of the tournament, we had the benefit of individual donations that did not make it to the sponsor boards, but made a difference in us setting a record. These donors included Joyce Rongey, Jim Beller, Bob Parks, Brian Steele, Antonio Tepedino, Barbara Williams, and Brad Bruere.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my planning committee teammates (Brad Bruere,

Sharon Elich, and JJ Stevak) for a job well done in making this a successful event. In closing, I want to extend a special thanks to everyone who supported this fundraising event and the life changing experience it will provide these kids. The CITGO Alumni Group looks forward to hosting a return performance next year at Meadowbrook Country Club on Monday, June 2, and hope you can join us.

JUNE 3, 2024 MDA GOLF TOURNAMENT AT MEADOWBROOK COUNTRY CLUB
HOSTED BY THE CITGO ALUMNI GROUP
THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS

MAJOR SPONSORS

   RON E. & ELEANOR
JEAN HALL FOUNDATION
MARTY & MARCY
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 TULSA WEALTH ADVISORS
RAYMOND JAMES  918-245-6282 

JUNE 3, 2024 MDA GOLF TOURNAMENT
AT MEADOWBROOK COUNTRY CLUB
HOSTED BY THE CITGO ALUMNI GROUP
THANK YOU To All Of Our Sponsors/Donors

SILENT AUCTION SPONSORS

     JJ Stevak
OSU/Arkansas
Football Game

Goodie Bag Sponsors

Individual Donors

Kenny Andrews	Sarah & Craig Johnston	Tom Rees	JJ Stevak
Dick Cobb	Larry Krieg	Eleanor Rohlman	Peter Strassell
Tulsa Drillers	Joe Moore	Roger Rowe	Ray Yarroll
Dr. Richard Harshman	Dick Morrissey	Therese & Marty Sedlacek	Rick Young

CAG BOARD MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES. The CAG Board is always looking for new members. We meet 8 - 10 times per year to plan events and outings and manage CAG's finances. We also manage to have fun and a few laughs. It's an opportunity to again work with people you have admired and respected — or at least tolerated — without the day-to-day stress of the workplace ... no performance measures and no personnel reviews. If you have an interest in serving on the board, please contact Roger Rowe or any board member for more details. Roger can be reached at rw.rowe@cox.net or (918) 629-6243.

WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

who have recently joined
the CITGO Alumni Group:

Sarah Bussman
Sharon Kaiser
Christine Masters
Stacey Schmidt

Bill Struebing
Rick Votaw
Roberta Ward

DUES ARE DUE!! CONTACT BRAD BRUERE. SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS!

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: **Ellen Boothe** at boothe919@yahoo.com

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 \$15.00 membership dues for the calendar year, now is the time to do so. Membership includes CITGO and employee news/announcements, periodic trips, luncheons and meetings, and this quarterly newsletter, The CITGO Alumni Connections. You can now pay your \$15 membership fee using one of the following options:

- Check made payable to CITGO Alumni Group and mailed to our Treasurer (Brad Bruere, info below)
- Zelle Pay using Zelle contact: CAGTulsa.Membership@gmail.com
- Cash at a CITGO Alumni Group luncheon or dinner

Brad Bruere

11063-D S. Memorial Drive, #240 • Tulsa, OK 74133

Phone: 918-284-0004 • Email: cagtulsa.membership@gmail.com

Please include your E-mail address and/or any mailing address updates with your payment. Membership dues are due by May 1, 2025. THANK YOU.

If you pay your membership dues in cash, please attach your name to the cash so the Treasurer 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 10122024 ... tomorrow it will be 10132024, etc.). *If you have any questions or corrections, please let us know.*

In Memoriam

Marc Watson

Jerry Daily

Ray Funk

Jim Miller

Tandy Banks
(daughter of
Marsha Banks)

