



November 2025

News For and About Retirees and Former Employees of CITGO.

Route 66 Historical Village and Tour Presentation

By Kent Powers

To honor Route 66 and to prepare ourselves for the Historic Route 66 Centennial Celebration in 2026, a group of 37 of us gathered in the Red Fork Depot at the Route 66 Historical Village, on the morning of October 6, to learn more about the history of Route 66. Before the presentation, we had the benefit of reviewing a display of wonderful photo prints of Route 66, provided by Vivian Kouplen. Kim Smallwood also provided a Route 66 Guide along with a Route 66 map. I want to extend a special "THANK YOU" to both Vivian and Kim for their contribution to our event. Ken Busby, Executive

Ken Busby, Executive Director and CEO of the Route 66 Alliance presenting slide show.



Director and CEO of the Route 66 Alliance, officially kicked off our gathering with a very informative PowerPoint presentation that covered the past, present, and exciting future of Route 66.

The Proud History of Energy One Credit Union

Energy One Credit Union has enjoyed a rich relationship with CITGO over the years. It was founded in 1935 and celebrates its 90th birthday this year! Please enjoy the historical slide show posted on the CITGO Alumni website homepage, located below the Route 66 slideshow and video.

<https://citgoalumni.org/>

Although there were a lot of details to share, my main takeaway on the history of Route 66 involves Cyrus Avery, a Tulsan known as the Father of Route 66 for his role in the road's creation, and Tulsa's 11th street bridge. The original 11th Street Bridge was built in 1916 as a critical crossing of the Arkansas River to connect downtown Tulsa to the oil drilling boom west of the river. Unlike most bridges of the day, this one was constructed with steel reinforced concrete and was the only concrete bridge west of the Mississippi River, at that time. In 1926, the 11th Street Bridge proved to be instrumental in Cyrus Avery's successful attempt to align a highway from Chicago to Los Angeles through Tulsa, Oklahoma, that later became known as Route 66. Fast forward to 2012 and the city of Tulsa unveiled a statue of Cyrus Stevens Avery entitled, "East Meets West" and dedicated the Avery Plaza.

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In terms of looking ahead to the Centennial Celebration in 2026, the most noteworthy event planned in Tulsa is the Route 66 Classic Car Centennial Parade on May 30, with the goal of breaking a world record for the most classic cars passing through an intersection. The world record attempt will be to have 3,000 classic cars, the largest classic car parade ever. Make sure you **SAVE THE DATE.**



Following the presentation, we met Mike Massey, a railroad guy, who proceeded to give us a

tour of the train artifact exhibits outside of the Red Fork Depot. His knowledge and backstories made the tour quite enjoyable.

One of the fun facts involved the Frisco #4500 steam locomotive engine exhibit that was built in 1942 and was assigned to pull the passenger train "METEOR" from St. Louis, Mo. thru Tulsa to Okla. City and back on a daily basis. It had a top speed of 90 mph and weighed 811,000 lbs.



After the tour, our group went to Ollies Station Restaurant to take in its railroad motif, enjoy a good meal and reflect on our memorable presentation and tour. To show our appreciation for the Route 66 presentation and tour, we donated \$100 to the Red Fork Depot.



For those of you who were unable to join us, you can go to the Travel Oklahoma website to order a Guide and/or the Passport at <https://www.travelok.com/> brochures. These two items and the postage are free and will arrive within 10 to 14 days. The Guide provides a lot of Facts and FAQs about Route 66 and various sites along the way. If you plan on traveling Route 66 and stopping at the Passport locations shown in the book, you can get the staff member to stamp the page, just like you would on your travel passport. Kim Smallwood recommends waiting until January 1st to get the Passport, so that you get the new Centennial version. Should you have any questions, Kim can be reached at ksmallw@comcast.net.

You can review the Route 66 presentation slides and a Route 66 Rewind video on the CITGO Alumni website. Just click below!

<https://citgoalumni.org/>

CAG Fall Happy Hour

By Kent Powers

After a successful CAG Spring Happy Hour at the Soma Rooftop Bar at the Brut Hotel, we decided it was time to come together for a CAG Fall Happy Hour. Given our history of working at One Warren Place and meeting for lunch at the Duck Club, our group of 23 gathered there on Thursday, November 6, from 5-6 p.m. to connect with CAG members and to go down memory lane. Our version of Happy Hour began with drinks of our choice while reminiscing



about our time at the Duck Club.

As the Margherita and Buffalo Chicken Flatbread hors d'oeuvres were made available, we proceeded to help ourselves, grab a seat at the long dining table, and

continue our sharing of CITGO memories. To commemorate the occasion, I made a toast to the CITGO Alumni Group and the fond CITGO memories we shared at the Duck Club. As we wrapped up the evening, it felt like a reunion that lived up to our expectations.



Pictured among this Happy Group are: Kent Powers, Susan Hollen, Dick and Linda Bryce, Tom Weatherholt, Bill and Toni Streubing, Linda and Bob Fuller, Roger and Ginger Rowe, Ellen Boothe, Jamey Gill, Dick Cobb, Jim McCarthy, Barbara Plummer, Lyle Dusenberg, Marsha Banks, Rick Votaw, Glen Roach, Wayne Herron, Beth and Alan Ezarik.



MDA SUMMER CAMP FUNDRAISING SUPPORT BY THE CITGO ALUMNI GROUP

By Kent Powers

To put the CITGO Alumni Group's overall support of the MDA Summer Camp program in perspective, you have to turn the clock back to our 2018 Christmas Party, when we initiated our fundraising efforts for this worthy cause. The CITGO family has always been willing to help others, especially when it comes to the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The MDA Summer Camp program raised our level of interest, because it provides these kids with a week of fun and games tailored just for them, 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.

With this in mind, we used our 2018 Christmas party as an opportunity to promote sending an MDA kid to a 2019 summer camp at a cost of \$2,000. It was so well received, we raised \$4,235 through the generosity of our CAG members. After such a great start, we kept the ball rolling by holding a bowling event on March 9, 2019, at Andy B's Bowling Center (8711 S. Lewis Ave.) in Tulsa. This fundraiser combined with our 2018 Christmas Party contribution, resulted in us raising \$12,253 and sponsoring 6 kids at MDA Summer Camp.

On March 7, 2020, we continued our Rollin' for MDA Summer Camp theme at Andy B's by raising \$3,095. It is worth noting that this was a difficult period of

time for fundraisers, with everyone dealing with the impact of COVID 19. On April 26, 2021, we shifted gears to holding our first golf fundraiser at the Forest Ridge Golf Course, raising \$4,350. Changing from bowling to golf was a move in the right direction and revealed a more favorable opportunity to increase fundraising in the future.

On June 6, 2022, we held our golf fundraiser at Meadowbrook Country Club on their highly regarded course and took advantage of the clubhouse amenities it had to offer. The outcome was an enjoyable day of golf and a fundraiser that set a new high water mark at \$14,000. This outcome set the stage for higher expectations to come.

On June 5, 2023, we returned to Meadowbrook Country Club for our golf fundraiser, resulting in us raising \$18,095. Continuing this trend at Meadowbrook, on June 3, 2024, our golf fundraiser raised \$26,000 and, on June 2, 2025, we raised \$30,000. This most recent amount will allow us to sponsor 10 MDA kids at Summer Camp.

These recordsetting fundraising amounts over the last 4 years could not have happened without the increased participation of golfers, sponsorships, individual donations, and a silent auction. As a result, the cumulative amount of our fundraising efforts, since 2018, allowed us to surpass the \$100,000 milestone in 2025 by reaching \$107,793. This is such a gratifying achievement we can all be proud of, knowing the life-changing experience MDA Summer Camp has provided these kids.

In Memoriam

Gary Barentine

Tom Clarke

Don England

Ray Funk

Eric Hardesty

Carol Martin

Jim Reid

Lynn (Lucier) Roberson



Save the Date for this Evening Event!

CITGO Alumni Group 2025 Christmas Party

Monday • December 1, 2025
(Doors open at 6:00 pm for Cocktails)



Montereau Retirement Community
 6800 South Granite Ave. • Tulsa, OK (Valet Provided)

Check in at 6 • Dinner at 6:30

RSVP by November 17 to: cagtulsaevents@gmail.com

\$35 per person

Send checks to Brad Bruere at
 11063-D S. Memorial Dr. • Tulsa, OK 74133
 or Zelle at CAG.Tulsa.Membership@gmail.com

WELCOME BACK

Due to the effort spearheaded by Susan Hollen to send out "We Miss You" notices to former members, we are happy to welcome back these members:

Marsha Banks
 Jeff Bednar
 Tom Boyd
 Larry Brittain
 Jerri Cannon
 Peggy Christoffers
 Patrick (Charles) Codd

Alan Flagg
 Robert (Bob) Funk
 Irma Galloway
 Karen Gorman
 Judith (Judy) Hicks
 Peggy (Hill) Jackson
 Bill Rankin

Robin Shilt
 Julius Stevak
 Cade Timbers
 Mark Trask
 Jerry Wiley

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.

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 11032025... tomorrow it will be 11032025, etc.). *If you have any questions or corrections, please let us know.*

Please send newsletter article contributions for the CITGO Alumni**CONNECTIONS** by E-mail to:
 Ellen Boothe at boothe919@yahoo.com