Chevron to CRA

METROPOLITAN HOUSTON MESSENGER

Chevron Retirees Association

President's Podium

First off, thank you for the opportunity to continue serving the Metro Houston Chapter as your President! It is truly an honor and privilege. I look forward to working with our new Board of Directors to continue building and improving our chapter.

Our 2023 Holiday Event at the Junior League of Houston was wonderful and described in the next article. The results of the survey were overwhelmingly in favor of holding the event at the Junior League next year! Speaking of the survey, we collected your input from the Holiday Event and the results are summarized in this Newsletter. I encourage you to read them.

I would like to recognize and thank the new and continuing members of our 2024 Board of Directors: VP - Kathy Mabe, Secretary - Mridul Kumar, Treasurer - Ronald Leschak, Membership - Fernando Detrinidad, Communications - Dennis Parker, Scholarship - Jim Wisner, Data Coordinator - Rebecca Rabon, Ex-Officio Members - Bill Dodge and Charlie Rhoads.

It is that time of year when we ask you to please check your dues status and catch up if you are Due or Past-Due. It is shown on the email note which accompanied this newsletter, or if you received your newsletter by postal mail, it is shown on the last page.

Those who are in the Past-Due category have last paid dues for the 2022 year. Those members still in this category on April 1 will be dropped from the membership role on April 1 and not listed in the new directory. Be sure your payment is submitted so we receive it in time to post it before the deadline.

Those who are in the Due category have last paid dues for the 2023 year. Members still in this category on April 1 will enter a final *grace* year. Your dues are critical to the successful functioning of your Chapter. Please do catch up. We always ask for your suggestions for how we can improve. After all, this is YOUR CHAPTER. Just email us at Membership@crametrohouston.org. You can even call me at 281-382-6523. I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming Neighborhood Luncheons!

Brian

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CRA-MHC 2023 Holiday Event Photos, Donations & Survey Results

Our Holiday Luncheon at the Junior League of Houston on December 5, 2023, was a successful event, with lots of fun socializing and mingling with friends. Thanks to all of you who attended, including our special guests from Chevron (Janell Long and Janet Flynt), President of CECOH (LaTanya Surratt) and our keynote speaker Brian Greene (CEO of the Houston Food Bank).





Check out the event photos taken by Genesis Photographers. The digital photo booth pictures are quite interesting with attendees in funny hats. You can view and download photos for free at the following link: Chevron - genesisphotographers (smugmug.com).

You can download any photo by right-clicking on it and "save image as" to your computer or phone. There is also an option on the website to buy prints if you prefer.

Brian Greene gave an excellent presentation about the Houston Food Bank and he fielded numerous questions from attendees. Kathy Mabe presented Brian with a wooden self-portrait handcrafted by MHC Ex-Officio BOD member George Treibel (see photo above right). We would also like to thank our members who donated generously to the following causes:

- \$970 for the Houston Food Bank and an additional \$650 collected by Chevron matching funds for a current total of \$1,620
- \$240 for the CRA-MHC scholarship fund

Donations by check or credit card to the Houston Food Bank can be submitted for a Chevron Humankind match on their website: www.chevronhumankind.com. You can set up your Chevron Humankind login by using the following instructions:

- Eligible participants logging in outside the Chevron network must use their 8-digit Chevron Humankind User ID (CHK ID) including the hyphen (ex. 0000-0000). This ID is unique to all eligible participants and is required to protect your account.
- If you are a retiree and have traditionally used your personal email, you will need to use your CHK ID that was shared with you upon retirement. If you have misplaced your CHK ID or do not have it, please email chevron-support@yourcause.com and verify your identity to receive your CHK ID.

Glenn Ewan and Bill Dodge received CRA-MHC President's Awards from Brian Batiste. Kathy Mabe received a \$25 gift card for her efforts coordinating this Holiday Event. Door prizes donated by Chevron Corporate Affairs were won by Kathy Wilson and Benigna Leiss (Chevron \$50 Gift Cards) and Sonya Sullenberger and Abe Moreno (Houston Symphony tickets).

We collected 55 surveys from members attending the Holiday Event. These surveys indicated that 98% would attend an event like this one next year. A summary of the survey results and photos from the event will be posted at our website, www.cra-metrohouston.org.

We also asked attendees to indicate their interest in new events for 2024. The following future events received the highest number of votes: Astros Game, Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, Alley Theater, Day trip to Hill Country, Happy Hour, Museum Event, Cruise from Galveston, Nature or Scenic Outing, Buffalo Bayou Tour, Space Cowboys Game, The Chevron Championship (LPGA professional golf), and Cooking Class.

The Event Committee is incorporating member feedback to plan future events. You are welcome to send additional feedback and suggestions for future events to Kathy Mabe (Event Committee Chair) at katie65432@gmail.com. A big thank-you to our Event Committee members: Brian Batiste, Bill Dodge, Charlie Rhoads, Becky Rabon, Sonya Sullenberger, Rish Tidwell and George Treibel. A special tribute goes out to Glenn Ewan for helping the Event Committee prepare event packets and registration materials. Mark your calendars for this year's Holiday luncheon which has been booked at the Junior League of Houston for Tuesday, December 3, 2024. More details will be forthcoming in future newsletters.

MHC President's Awards

At the 2023 Holiday Event, two deserving Chapter members received the second annual MHC President's Awards to recognize outstanding contributions to the success of the Metropolitan Houston Chapter of the Chevron Retirees Association. The recipients and their contributions are highlighted below.



Bill Dodge – Bill (shown left) served as Chair of CRA Benefits Committee for 3 years and continues to serve as an Ex-Officio Board Member for our Chapter. Bill was Past President of the Metropolitan Houston Chapter and served on our Holiday Event and Scholarship Committees.

Glenn Ewan – Glenn (shown below) has served 17 years on our BOD, 7 of those as President. He was the Immediate Past President in 2023 and mentored and advised the new President. Glenn continued to serve on our

Communications Committee. In that role, he kept our website up to date and wrote and revised code to support our expanded social events. He also served on

our software committee and supported the Holiday Event Committee. He continues to serve on CRA's Central Meeting Administration Committee and is Vice President of the Global Affiliates Chapter.

Each of the President's Award recipients were presented with a framed Certificate and a \$50 Chevron gas card. I thank these members once again for their valued service and contributions. We look forward to recognizing more deserving Chapter members in the future!



Q1 Neighborhood Luncheons Recap

Our Q1 Guest Speakers were members of the Chevron Fellows. Shown below, L to R, are Sandra Hernandez, Kenneth Ehman, Dengen Zhou and Sid Mebarkia. Their responsibilities include supporting competency development and mentoring of the technical workforce. The Fellows' Mentoring Excellence in Technology (MET) program is the primary mentoring vehicle and is the topic that was discussed at our Q1 luncheons. The program is also intended to inspire future technical leaders to create and implement innovative value-adding technology solutions and contribute to Chevron's profitability. Additionally, the program provides opportunities for developing personal interaction skills and networking. The slides from this program will be posted to our website for our members who were not able to attend in person after the final Q1 luncheon. Just go to our home page at www.cra-metrohouston.org and click on the link provided.









Upcoming Events!





MHC is hosting a repeat Zoom session on March 6, 12 PM Central, with Lucinda Jackson (shown at right). She will talk about how we can all have a remarkable retirement. She'll share her Project Management approach (using CPDEP!), including a core value analysis, metrics, and a scorecard to plan life after Chevron. She relates personal examples and lessons learned that have led her to a "next act" that continues to serve her well. To register for this session, use this link: Lucinda Jackson Zoom Link

Q2 Neighborhood Luncheons

Speaker - Bill Graff - Founder and Director, The Senior Estate Concierge

Overview - The most difficult challenge facing us as we age is the ability to find the best care for our loved ones. Trying to navigate through the thousands of businesses available to find the best care and services can be overwhelming. The Senior Estate Concierge is here to help. They are a team of trusted advisors and experts that can guide you through any situation, whether it's as simple as companion care, or as complex as hospice care, or Medicare/Medicaid benefits. Dates and locations for our Q2 Neighborhood Luncheons are shown below. Once the Q2 links are activated in March, you can register by going to our website, www.cra-metrohouston.org and clicking on the Meetings tab, then the "Neighborhood Luncheons" option in the drop-down menu. Or you can e-mail activities@cra-metrohouston.org.

Date	Location	Address	
April 9	Harris County Smokehouse	222 W. Grand Parkway S, Katy	
April 23	Cilantros Mexican Grill	314 Sawdust Road, Spring	
May 7	Spring Creek BBQ	4895 State Hwy. 6, Missouri City	
May 21	Qin Dynasty	5115 Buffalo Speedway, Houston	

The Chevron Championship

The Chevron Championship is back for another year in The Woodlands for 2024! Mark your calendar for April 17 - 21! If you would like to volunteer for or attend this upcoming event, please click on these links:

<u>Volunteer Registration is NOW open</u> and <u>2024 Chevron Championship</u>

Peanut Butter Factory

Listed below are all the 2024 dates to make peanut butter at The Peanut Butter Factory, located at 16333 Hafer Road, Houston, TX 77090. The link to sign up is: www.chevronhumankind.com. Once you get to the Volunteer page, enter "Peanut" in the search box to be shown the list of events. Some are early Morning 7:15 am until noon and some start at 11:15 am and go until 4:00 pm.

- Friday April 12th 11:15 am 4 pm
- Friday May 10th 7:15 am 12:00 noon
- Friday August 30th 7:15 am 12:00 noon
- Friday September 13th 7:15 am 12:00 noon
- Friday October 25th 11:15 am 4:00 pm
- Friday November 8th 11:15 am 4:00 pm

Summary of Financial Review Results

Per our constitution, the President shall appoint an Auditing Committee (whose members are not Directors) of not less than two persons who shall audit the books and records of the Chapter for each calendar year. In 2023, Sadhna Kumar (retired CPA), Charlie Hancock (former Membership Data Coordinator) and Doug Beatty (member of our Scholarship Committee) participated in this effort to review our 2022 financial records. Since the accounting term "audit" connotes a level of detail and effort that would not be appropriate for our chapter, the team instead performed a "financial review". If you would like a detailed copy of the review, please contact Brian Batiste at batb2725@gmail.com. The findings of the review may be summarized as follows:

- Revenue is in agreement with bank records
- Expenditures are reasonable and adequately documented
- There were no material deficiencies
- Recommendations were made to improve chapter financial accounting or reporting

MHC has a new Mailing Address!

As a reminder, the Metropolitan Houston Chapter has a new Post Office Box address as of July 28, 2023. **The new address to be used for correspondence and checks is:**

MHC Membership Data Coordinator P.O. Box 194 Houston, TX 77001-0194

If you have a Membership Directory, please update the address on Page 4.

Treasurer's Report

Our fourth quarter was uneventful, with no major unplanned expenditures. Although minor, the interest income increased 300% (<\$100) due to moving some accounts from basic savings to money market accounts with Chevron Federal Credit Union.

Member contributions to the scholarship fund also increased almost \$2,000 compared to the previous quarter.

Scholarship Fund				
Beginning balance 09/30/23	\$2,791			
Donations	\$2,102			
Interest	\$34			
Awards				
Ending balance 12/31/23	\$4,927			

	2023	YTD
	Budget	Actual
Revenue (Dues & Int.)	\$8,038	\$9,099
Expenses		
CRA Payments	\$2,400	\$2,427
Website	\$1,830	\$934
Email	\$1,220	\$317
Postage, office		
supplies	\$1,350	\$1,072
PayPal Fees	\$1,100	\$339
Miscellaneous	\$2,800	\$3,924
Total Expenses	\$10,700	\$9,013
Net income/(loss)	(\$2,662)	\$86

Scholarship Committee

It's time for applications to be submitted for our 2024 MHC scholarship award of \$2000. The nomination period is open now and available to natural born, adopted or stepchildren, grandchildren or great grandchildren of our members-ingood-standing. Go to our MHC website, click on the Scholarship tab across the top of the page and open the dropdown link to Nomination Form. Members should complete the nomination form and return it to Jim Wisner (jewisner@gmail.com) electronically or via US mail at the address on the nomination form.

Submitting the applicant's nomination form initiates the process. Once successfully screened, the Scholarship Committee will send documents to the applicant to complete and submit by **No-Later-Than May 1, 2024.** The Scholarship Committee will evaluate all the applicants' submissions, the selection will happen in June and the award will be presented at one of the Q3 Neighborhood Luncheons.

For 2024 there will be four selection criteria:

- 1. Official High School GPA (4.0 scale)
- 2. Essay about themselves, career goals and other information the applicant considers important (500 words max)
- 3. Three completed confidential references (forms will be in the application packet)
- 4. Extra-curricular activities (e.g. volunteer work, employment)

We will need a letter of acceptance from the college/university that the selected applicant plans to attend because the scholarship will be paid directly to the selected institution. Please contact Jim Wisner (Scholarship Committee Chair) at jewisner@gmail.com with any questions.

The Scholarship program is supported by your voluntary donations. Please consider sending in a donation today or when paying dues online or by credit card. Look for "Donate" in the drop-down menu for Scholarship on the website www.cra-metrohouston.org. Or send a check indicating it's "for Scholarship".

Membership Committee

A Membership sub-committee has been evaluating options for a new Membership Management System (MMS) to:

- Evaluate performance of MMS software based on criteria identified by the team
- Test MMS software with Use Cases developed by various team members
- Gather impressions (objective and subjective) and questions from team members on:
 - Ease of Use by Admins and Members
 - Documentation, On-line Help, Tutorials, Support from vendor
 - Flexibility, Pros/Cons or Strengths/Weaknesses
 - o Suitability to manage our chapter's treasurer, membership and events needs

The team is working on a recommendation to the BOD for the most viable system that meets our criteria. Our goal is to roll out this new software later this year. More to come soon!!

A reminder if you haven't done so: MHC dues are due! PLEASE use your credit card for payment of dues, reserving luncheon entrees, or making Scholarship Fund donations via https://www.cra-metrohouston.org/membership.html. Remember you do not need to have a PayPal account to use this credit card payment option. You may continue to use USPS to mail in a check to us, but we will really appreciate it if you use our website to cover your dues.

Speaking about our website, <u>www.cra-metrohouston.org</u>, you may just want to check it out yourself to see all the good information that is out there for you. We are interested in any ideas or suggestions that you may have to make our chapter more to your liking. Please email <u>membership@cra-metrohouston.org</u> with your ideas or suggestions.

2024 Membership Directory and Photo Contest

At our 2023 City-Wide Holiday Event, we held a photo contest to select the cover photo for our 2024 MHC Membership Directory. The winning photo (below) was submitted by Mike & Evelyn Kassey, and they were provided with a Chevron gasoline card at the event to thank them for their submission. Thanks to the other members who submitted photos — Bill Dodge, Ed Wick, Vincent D'Souza and Patrick Gauthier.

It turned out that the winning entry was a lithograph painting titled "Relics of the Empire" by Texas artist Russell Cushman.



Russell was kind enough to grant us permission to publish his print and even provided the following background:

"In this composition, I tried to bring the roots of Texas together into one striking, yet simple portrait of my native state. While the longhorn steer symbolizes the Spanish explorers who brought them and the cowboys who drove them, the cabin and water well bring to mind the early Texas settlers - a special breed of people who faced all the odds in a hostile environment. The antique gasoline sign, obsolete and rusting, looks natural as a makeshift well cover, but also brings to mind the early Texas oil industry and the adventurous wildcatters who brought wealth and growth at the turn of the century."

"Once left out to pasture, I have taken these relics and tried to capture the essence of the Texas culture; vast, tranquil, and rich in legend. Maybe it helps explain what Texans have been bragging about for 150 years."

If you would like to obtain either a numbered 15" x 23" lithograph or 12" x 16" canvas giclee of this painting, please contact Russell at rcush403@aol.com. He has offered special pricing (\$40 plus shipping) to our members, so mention that you are a Chevron retiree. Russell also has a website where you can look at his other works: Russell Cushman: Texas Painter & Sculptor (russellcushmanart.blogspot.com)

As a reminder, those members in the PAST DUE category have last paid dues for the 2022 year. Those members still in this category on April 1 will be dropped from our membership and not listed in the 2024 directory. To avoid the last-minute rush to our PO Box, we ask that if you pay your dues by check, please mail them early so that we receive them no later than March 15. Please see the dues invoice attached to this Newsletter for your dues status and how to pay. Or you can click on this link: directory.cra-metrohouston.org/Luncheon/Luncheon0.php and enter your e-mail address to see your dues status.

Chevron Public Service Awards

Every year, Chevron provides financial awards to encourage, promote and recognize public service efforts, volunteerism and community engagement by individual Chevron retirees and projects undertaken by Chapters of the Chevron Retirees Association. The awards are made to the non-profits of choice of the recipients.

Nominations, submitted by the chapter president to the Association's Public Affairs Committee, are due no later than March 15, 2024. The award criteria can be found in the "CRA-220 Public Service Award" application, at www.chevronretirees.org. Look in "CRA Forms" under the "Resources" tab. You can read about recent Public Service Award recipients in CRA's latest Encore newsletter, which is also at the above web site under "Publications".

We know many of our retirees continue to do good work in the community. Let us know about what you're up to in your volunteer work so that we can consider a nomination. There might be some Chevron funds available for your non-profit. If you'd like to learn more, please contact Brian Batiste at batb2725@gmail.com.

Help Wanted!

Program Committee Chair – Leads the effort to brainstorm, identify and select interesting topics and speakers for our quarterly Neighborhood Luncheons that would be appropriate for our members. Manages schedules, reserves venues and helps publicize programs in the Newsletter and other communications. If you are interested, please contact Brian Batiste at batb2725@gmail.com or 281-382-6523.

Newsletter Editor - Creates the quarterly MHC Newsletter by collecting and assembling articles submitted by BOD members relating to their areas of responsibility. This position requires knowledge of Word, Excel and saving documents as PDFs. For more information, feel free to reach out Jean Silarski at jms73ms@gmail.com.

Neighborhood Luncheon Host Coordinator - Prepares Attendee List for use at Neighborhood Luncheons. Communicates with other Luncheon Hosts prior to the luncheon in their respective areas to confirm their availability to attend and serve as hosts. If they are not available, identifies other attendees and contacts them to serve as Host. To learn more, contact Brian Batiste (batb2725@gmail.com)

Local Host (Southwest Area) – Our Neighborhood Luncheons held in Missouri City need a Local Host. Primary job duties include greeting our attendees as they arrive, taking attendance, handing out and collecting name badges, signing up any new members and providing tickets for the door prize drawing. To learn more, contact Brian Batiste (batb2725@gmail.com)

Committee Members - In addition to the above positions, there are many opportunities to serve as a volunteer on one of our committees. These roles provide valuable experience into how our chapter works and are a natural entry point to board positions. A high-level description of our committees is provided below. Your chapter works because of the dedication of the members who have volunteered their time and efforts on these teams. If you'd like to lend a hand, please contact Brian Batiste at batb2725@gmail.com or 281-382-6523.

- **Program** Identifies topics and speakers for our quarterly Neighborhood Luncheon programs.
- Scholarship Solicits nominations and selects the winning candidate for our annual Scholarship Award.
- Membership Develops strategies and implements plans to increase our chapter's membership.
- Event Plans and executes ideas for social events to increase fellowship among our members.
- Nominating Identifies candidates to serve on the Board of Directors. Develops succession plans.
- Communications Manages e-mail messages and our website. Creates annual Membership Directory.
- Financial Review Conducts the annual review of our financial records.

Information about and Enrolling in the CRA Dental Plan

A MHC member recently inquired about the CRA Dental Plan and how to enroll. Since these same questions have been raised before, your Chapter's leadership felt it would be helpful to provide all MHC members with the following guidance:

- 1. The Chevron Retirees Association (CRA) website has a weblink to the CRA Dental Plan under the Benefits / CRA Benefits menu (www.cradental.com). Information is provided on that weblink about eligibility requirements to join the plan, coverage features and how to get cost information. Eligibility to join the plan requires the retiree to be a dues-paying member of a CRA Chapter. MHC members who are interested in joining the CRA Dental Plan should send an email to: contact@cra-metrohouston.org with their following contact information for further handling:
 - Member Retiree's Name
 - Full Mailing Address
 - Phone number
 - Email address (if available)
- 2. Upon receipt and verification of member status, the requesting Chapter member's contact information will be sent to Jim Bonwell, Chair, CRA Benefits Committee, who will arrange for a CRA Dental Plan enrollment kit to be mailed to the requesting Chapter member. The enrollment kit will include a <u>unique ID #</u> which should be provided when contacting MetLife, the Plan's administrator, at its Customer Service number (866-832-5756) for assistance. Chapter members who already have other dental plan coverage can join the CRA Dental Plan once their existing coverage ends.

MHC members with questions about the above process should contact Bill Dodge, MHC Board member, at crabenefits9@gmail.com.

Retirement Humor

- What do you call someone who enjoys Mondays? Retired.
- You know it's time to retire when your co-workers are wearing clothing from your youth and calling it retro.
- The truth is, retirement kills more people than hard work ever did.
- Retirement is wonderful. It's doing nothing without worrying about getting caught.
- When is the best time to start thinking about your retirement? Before the boss does.
- My company recently gave me an aptitude test, and I found out the work I was best suited for was retirement.
- What's the key to a structured retirement? A rigid nap schedule.
- Retirement is what happens between doctors' appointments.
- Money isn't everything, but it sure keeps you in touch with your children.
- Sometimes the best part of your career is retirement.
- Why was the retiree's wife tired? She got twice as much husband for half the pay.
- What's worse than middle age? Knowing you'll grow out of it.
- How many retirees does it take to change a light bulb? One, but it'll take all day.
- Retirement is like one big sick day without sick pay.

IN MEMORIAM

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of these individuals. R= Retiree; S= Surviving Spouse

Name	Legacy Company	R/S	Name	Legacy Company	R/S
KATHY A AMMONS	CHEVRON	R	BETTY W LUTTRING	GULF	R
ROBERT L ANSLEY	GULF	R	YSIDORO C MEZA	TEXACO	R
SHIRLEY R BARNETTE	CHEVRON	S	MARY ELLEN MILESKI	CALTEX	S
ALAN C BELL	CHEVRON	R	MINERVA B MONTELONGO	TEXACO	R
MICHAEL H BRAWNER	TEXACO	R	LAMAR N POLLOCK	TEXACO	R
CHARLENE H BRENAN	CHEVRON	S	ROBERT S POLZER	CHEVRON	R
PETER A BRENNAN	CHEVRON	R	ROBERT M RIDDLE	CHEVRON	R
CHARLES M BRUCE	TEXACO	R	LELA MAE ROBINSON	TEXACO	R
MARY ANN CHAMBERS	CHEVRON	R	DON W SEBRIGHT	CHEVRON	R
CLYDE L COX	TEXACO	R	TERESA L SHARP	CHEVRON	R
CATHRYN A DUARTE	CHEVRON	R	WARREN R SIMMONS	TEXACO	R
STELLA J EVELO	TEXACO	R	JIMMY D SKILES	UNOCAL	R
DONALD L FITZGERALD	TEXACO	R	EMMA W STEWART	CHEVRON	S
JAMES L HODGES	TEXACO	R	FAN-SHENG TAO	TEXACO	R
JENNIE HOFF	TEXACO	S	BRIAN D TAYLOR	CHEVRON	R
LARRY D HOPKINS	CHEVRON	R	ELIZABETH A VERNAU	CHEVRON	R
TIMOTHY S HOUSTON	CHEVRON	R	LEWIS W WATTS	TEXACO	R
JOHN W KOCUREK	TEXACO	R	WINNIE WELDON	TEXACO	S
EVANGELINE H LAWSON	CHEVRON	S	MARTIN P ZANOTTI	GULF	R
HIENG LIM	CHEVRON	R			