

Chevron Retirees Association

HESS Club is Out of Business

THE JUNE 9 LUNCHEON HAS BEEN CANCELLED

I received the following note from Jennifer Bernal, General Manager of the HESS Club about the permanent closing of the HESS Club. Your Board of Directors will be examining our options for future Chapter Meetings. Input from you is needed for us to make a good decision. At the end of this newsletter is a tear off opinion survey. **PLEASE** fill it out and send your input to us by May 15!

Good afternoon.

I am contacting you today on behalf of the H.E.S.S. Club Executive Board members.

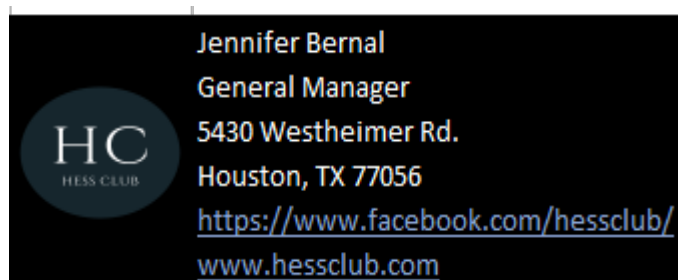
I sincerely hope that this email finds you and your family all healthy during this pandemic that is currently affecting the globe.

It is with a heavy heart we are sending out the ***attached letter*** to all of our members and organizations. The Houston Engineering & and Scientific Society has decided, after much deliberation, to dissolve the organization and permanently close the facility.

Please respond to the attached letter at your earliest convenience. If you have a membership you are part of, please forward this to them as well.

We appreciate all the support and loyalty shown by you and your families over the years.

Kindest regards,



The referenced attached letter is on the following page. Our Email response and reply from HESS follows.

Dear HESS Club Members and Patrons,

After 102 years of existence the Board of Directors of the HESS Club has come to the unfortunate conclusion that the Club cannot survive. The shutdown forced by the COVID-19 pandemic imposed a financial burden that cannot be overcome. As you know, to help slow the spread of the virus restaurants and event venues were mandated to close in late March. Cancellation of events began in mid-March prior to the mandated closure, all April events were cancelled and most events in May have been cancelled.

Even in the best of times the HESS Club has struggled to earn a profit. The engineering community has been a huge supporter of the club. Over the years many of the engineering organizations and associations have held their monthly meetings and special events at HESS. Many of the companies have held their corporate events at the club. These events alone do not support the club. To survive financially special events such as weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs, quinceañeras, and others, are necessary. The special events marketplace is very competitive and has proven to be difficult for the HESS club. Quite frankly, a board of directors that consists of engineers and contractors is not well suited to navigating the special events marketplace.

The time when the HESS Club was a club that existed strictly for the benefit of the engineering community passed long ago. For many years the club has been a convenient place to hold meetings. The difference between the HESS Club and other meeting venues has been the management and staff. The reason the club has lasted as long as it has is because of the management and staff including Jennifer Bernal, the club's General Manager, Chef Chica, Michael Whitehead, an employee for 34 years and the club's Ambassador as well as all the friendly servers that we may not know by name but are none-the-less familiar to us all. We can find a place to have our meetings but leaving these dedicated people without jobs is what makes closing the club the most difficult.

The process by which the board has decided to close the club is an orderly process legally referred to as "wind-up". The goal of the board is to close the club in dignified manner leaving a lasting positive impression with the community it served.

Additional funds are needed to accomplish the wind-up, pay Jennifer during the wind-up process, cover deposits received for future events and other obligations. The board has established a goal of \$75,000 to help with these efforts. We ask that you consider a donation of \$250, \$500, or \$1,000 to achieve closure of the club in a manner that reflects the class of the engineering and construction community.

To support closure of the club the undersigned individuals contributed the legal expenses needed to accomplish the wind-up. Attached is form that includes information on how the checks should be made out and where they are to be sent.

We request your thoughtful consideration and action at your earliest convenience, preferably by April 30th. Should you have any questions please contact any of us.



Jack Miller President



Jeff Collins Vice President



**Lee Lennard
Board Member & Past President**



**Jim Russ
Board Member & Past President**

MHC Email response and the reply from HESS.

From: howard odonnell <hjod@att.net>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 1:02 PM
To: Jennifer Bernal <jenniferb@hessclub.com>
Subject: RE: HESS Club - Letter to Members and Engineering Community

Hi Jennifer,

We, at the Chevron Retiree Association (MHC), are very sad to hear about the decision to close the HESS Club. We have had a very long and great relationship with the HESS Club and our members always had great feedback on the lunches. I personally worked very close with you, Jennifer, and your staff on each meal and must say you folks were very professional in dealing with your customers.

The HESS club always worked with us on every lunch and met all of our needs. Our group always looked forward to the lunches and the great service that HESS provided. It will be difficult for us to find a venue that comes close to the expectations that we have come to know from HESS.

That being said, we do understand the reasons for the decision to close and I'm happy to report that the Retiree Board unanimously voted to donate \$250 to help in your "wind-up" expenses.

We wish you and the entire personnel of the HESS club all the best. Please stay safe and healthy during this virus pandemic.

Best wishes to all,

Howard O'Donnell
Chevron Retiree Assoc. (Metropolitan Houston Chapter)

From: [Jennifer Bernal](#)
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 1:46 PM
To: [howard odonnell](#)
Subject: RE: HESS Club - Letter to Members and Engineering Community

Thank you Mr. O'Donnell,

We will miss you all very much.
We thank you deeply for your contribution!

Take care and stay safe.

Directory Updates

The online directory is up to date.

President's Podium

I feel that the closing of the HESS Club is the most important subject this quarter, and it has been adequately addressed in the previous pages. Please do complete and return the survey at the end of this newsletter by May 15.

Our attendance at the first quarter Neighborhood Luncheons was well ahead of last year, but then COVID-19 came calling and we cancelled all of the second quarter Neighborhood Luncheons. They were scheduled for April, May, and June 2. We hope to be able to resume these informal luncheons in July with no health risk to our members. We have a program composed of fracking video segments. It occurred to me that we hear a lot about fracking, but if you are like me, you don't really have a good understanding of how it works. Come join us at the one in your neighborhood, I know you will enjoy it. Of course, the resumption of Neighborhood Luncheons is contingent upon the local environment improving such that restaurants are open for groups. Rest assured; we will not schedule any social event at a time when it will endanger the health of our members.

Thanks to the support of CRA and Chevron, we were able to recruit almost 200 new members last year. As of the cutoff date for printing the 2020 MHC Membership Directory, we had 180 new members and only lost 59 for non-payment of 2019 dues. Our current membership in the 2020 Membership Directory stands at 891. Included in that count are more than 130 who haven't paid their 2020 dues. Please don't be one of those who are dropped from the chapter when the 2021 directory is created. Just pay your 2020 dues of \$10.00 to ensure your continued membership.

While we are discussing the Membership Directory, we decided to publish it in the 8.5x11 book format instead of the 5.5x8.5 little book we have been using. This change reduced our cost by just over 30%. We are very grateful to Chevron for printing and distributing the directory for us, and it is incumbent upon us to reduce costs where we can. Without their support we would not be able to have a directory. We trust you have received your copy and hope you find the new format acceptable. If not, please let us know.

I look forward to a time when we no longer need to hide from an invisible virus, and we can enjoy the fine fellowship of our friends without fear of a hug or a handshake. I hope this occurs by July so we can resume our Neighborhood Luncheons and have our Chapter Meeting in September!

Glenn Ewan

President

CRA Benefits Connection



As a reminder, Bill Dodge is the CRA Benefits Committee Chair. If you have any questions about Chevron supported health insurance, VIA/Benefits (OneExchange) or issues on other various Chevron/CRA benefits, Bill is the person in MHC to contact. He will either answer your question or find the person who will. His contact information is: Phone - 832-934-0680
Email - wndodge@sbcglobal.net

Scholarship Committee

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Metropolitan Houston Chapter College Scholarship has been awarded annually since 2001. This year eight students have been nominated by your fellow members, and they are in the process of submitting all required documents so that they are eligible to compete for the \$2,000 scholarship award. Normally, the deadline to submit all required items (including their high school transcript and confidential reference forms) is May 1, 2020. That allows your Scholarship Committee time to decide who the recipient will be, contact that person, and make arrangements for their recognition at our June Chapter Luncheon.

But this year is not normal. As you may know by now, the June Chapter Luncheon has been cancelled out of an abundance of caution for the health of our members and guests.

Also, in recognition of school closures caused by the corona virus COVID-19 this year, the following adjustments have been made to the schedule for the 2020 MHC College Scholarship:

- All required documentation as specified in the Application Package must be **SUBMITTED** to the Scholarship Committee Chairperson by **AUGUST 1, 2020**, the sooner the better.
- The Scholarship Committee will determine this year's recipient and contact that person on or about August 10, 2020.
- The award check will be mailed to the scholarship recipient at their home address during August.
- The recipient will be introduced at our September 8, 2020 Chapter Luncheon with the presentation of a symbolic check.

Stay healthy and see you in September!

Doug Beatty
Scholarship Committee Chairperson

	2020 Budget	2020 Actual
REVENUE	\$	\$
Income (dues)	\$6,000	\$5,710
TOTAL REVENUE	\$	\$
EXPENSES		
CRA Dues	\$1,800	\$1,713
Luncheon Meal Cost - Net	\$1,150	\$586
Web Site	\$400	\$172
Misc. Expenses	\$600	\$96
PayPal Fees	\$200	\$0
Mail Box	\$540	\$540
Luncheon Door Prizes	\$600	\$205
Luncheon Entertainment	\$400	\$0
Food Bank Donation	\$400	\$0
Scholarship Fund Transfer	\$0	\$0
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$6,090	\$3,312
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$90)	\$
SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$	\$
Beginning Balance	\$0	\$151
Scholarship Donations	\$2,000	\$1,979
General Fund Transfers	\$0	\$0
Scholarship Award	\$2,000	\$2,000
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$0	\$130

NOTES:

- Membership renewals are slightly behind; 29 members are needed to reach budget.
- \$2,130 received in donations to 2020 Scholarship; \$130 will be carried over for 2021 award.
- 2nd Qtr lunch cancelled due to Virus Pandemic; will result in less expenditures.



Howard J O'Donnell
Treasurer
Metropolitan Houston Chapter

Chevron Retirees Association
11152 Westheimer, #729
Houston, TX 77042
Tele: 281/ 693-5461
Email: glenn@gewan.us

Houston Food Bank
535 Portwall St.
Houston, TX 77029

April 19, 2020

Houston Food Bank:

Attached please find a check for \$400 to help in providing meals to needy families.

The Metropolitan Houston Chapter (MHC) of the Chevron Retiree Association has chosen to donate money throughout the year to the Houston Food Bank. At each of our quarterly lunches we receive cash and food donations for the Food Bank. We also donate once a year a lump sum payment to the Food Bank.

We are sending in our donation early this year due to the Virus Pandemic and to help meet the needs of the Food Bank in this tremendous time of need. I'm sure you realize that we are a group of retired folks living on fixed incomes, but true to our core value of supporting the community, we will continue to donate generously to help meet the needs of the Food Bank.

We know that the Food Bank has a tremendous impact on needy families in the Houston area and as a result, the MHC is enormously proud to be a continuing supporter of the Food Bank.

Sincerely,

Howard J. O'Donnell
MHC Treasurer

Membership

- A big **THANK YOU** to the 582 members that have paid their 2020 dues on time or ahead of time.
- Just a reminder to the 130 members that have not paid their 2020 dues: membership renewal is from October 1st of the prior year through March 31st of the dues year (e.g. October 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020 for dues year 2020). You will be reminded that your 2020 dues are due on the form at the end of this newsletter. Timely payment of your dues helps your chapter operate smoothly. Please help us out and pay your dues when they are due.
- For any member that wants to end the yearly hassle of paying their \$10 dues, we accept early dues payments. So a check or credit card payment for \$20, \$30, or more will get you ahead of this dues payment problem. Try it, you might like it.
- And for all those members that have asked to pay by credit card, please go to our MHCwebsite/Membership/Pay Dues by Credit Card <http://directory.cra-metrohouston.org/Luncheon/Luncheon0.php>
- **You do not need to have a PayPal account to use this service and there are no fees to you either.**

Membership(cont'd Page 7)

Membership(Cont'd from Page 6)

MHC has a “try it for free” for first time members. Any retiree of Chevron or one of its merged companies that has not been a member of any other Chevron Retiree Chapter will receive their current year’s MHC membership for free. You may want to use this first time offer to entice one or more of your retiree friends that haven’t yet joined MHC. Just give them the link to our website, www.cra-metrohouston.org to show them the benefits of our chapter.

Speaking about our website, www.cra-metrohouston.org 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 idea or suggestion that you may have to make our chapter more to you liking. Please email membership@cra-metrohouston.org with your idea or suggestion.

Renew today. Don’t put off until tomorrow what you can do today.

To all our members and families, please stay safe and healthy.

Thank you,
Bill Alvarez
MHC Membership Committee Chair

DOOR PRIZE WINNERS



Linda Schneider



Charlie Hancock



Bill Vermilyea



Evelyn Kassey

GRAND
PRIZE
\$50



Mary Hill





IN MEMORIAM



We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of these individuals

FRANCIS A ACKERMANN	TEXACO	R	ERNEST J LAITKEP	TEXACO	R
GLENNA M ALEXANDER	CHEVRON	S	MARVIN E LASH	UNOCAL	R
RICKY D BRADFORD	TEXACO	R	MARY A LAYMAN	UNOCAL	R
HENRY S BRAUER	GULF	R	GERALDEAN LEGG	TEXACO	R
WILLIAM R BUHRMAN	GULF	R	LOIS H LILLEY	CHEVRON	S
ROBERT E BURCH	TEXACO	R	NORMA LITTLEJOHN	UNOCAL	S
VIRGINIA C COLLETTI	GULF	S	PATRICIA B LODEN	CHEVRON	R
JAMES M CONEY	TEXACO	R	TERRY R MARLIN	TEXACO	R
ALBERT COURVILLE	GULF	R	DOLORES T MC ANALL	GULF	S
PAULINE S COWART	TEXACO	R	KENNETH J MCADAMS	GETTY	R
GLENN E CUNNINGHAM	GULF	R	DORIS M MYERS	CHEVRON	S
MICHAEL DEMING	UNOCAL	R	FLOY A NASH	UNOCAL	R
KURT A DETTMERS	GULF	R	PRENTICE R ODOM	TEXACO	R
ROBERT D DUDLEY	CHEVRON	R	CARLTON W PACHALL	TEXACO	R
JOSEPH L DUNN	TEXACO	R	SALLY G PESCE	TEXACO	S
S JANE ENTERLINE	GULF	S	MARY L RICE	TEXACO	R
DAN FERGUSON	TEXACO	R	ROBERT C SAENGER	TEXACO	R
STELLA B FRANKLIN	UNOCAL	S	WILLIAM A SIEGEL	CHEVRON	R
VIRGINIA B GAFFNEY	GULF	S	J E SIEGMUND	CHEVRON	R
JAMES R GIBBS	TEXACO	R	LESLIE J SILHAN	TEXACO	R
LENORA P GRAHAM	CHEVRON	S	ELIZABETH SLEEPER	TEXACO	S
ARTHUR E GRAY	CHEVRON	R	GUY T SPENCER	TEXACO	R
WILLIAM H HUDSPETH	TEXACO	R	JAMES H STEPHENS	UNOCAL	R
LOY G HUFF	GULF	R	GARY L TAYLOR	GULF	R
DONNA R JOHNSON	TEXACO	R	ARTHUR F TYBOR	CHEVRON	R
RAMEE D JORDAN	UNOCAL	R	LARRY G WARREN	TEXACO	R
STEPHEN C KIRSTIEN	TEXACO	R	VIOLA M WILLISON	GULF	S
JOY KITTRELL	CHEVRON	S			

Note - We are showing the recently deceased as reported quarterly by Chevron to CRA Demographics. The new R/S column indicates that the person was listed as a Retiree or a Survivor in the Chevron records.



PAY BY CREDIT CARD



The Metro Houston Chapter developed a special function “web site” which facilitates your payment of dues, reserving luncheon entrees, or making donations to the Scholarship Fund. Access this site through this link [MHC Pay by Credit Card \(http://directory.cra-metrohouston.org/Luncheon/Luncheon0.php\)](http://directory.cra-metrohouston.org/Luncheon/Luncheon0.php)

You need to be a member of MHC and have registered an email address with us in order to use this site. You will enter your email address to validate your membership before entering the site. The navigation is rather intuitive, but if you do encounter any problems, we are here to help. Call me (Glenn Ewan) at 281-693-5461.

MHC Chapter Meeting Opinion Survey

The survey is available as a fillable PDF on the MHC Website
www.cra-metrohouston.org home page

The following little survey will greatly assist us in selecting a venue to continue holding our Chapter Meetings. Please let us know your criteria for a new meeting place by completing and returning the following by May 15.

Please rank the following in order of importance to you.

1=Most Important, 5=Least Important

_____ Price? _____ Individual pricing, Open Menu - Pay for what you order
_____ Fixed Price for everyone, Set Menu(Current style)

The HESS price was \$25. What price would prevent you from attending?

_____ \$30 _____ \$35 _____ \$40

_____ Location? Stay near current HESS club location, _____ YES _____ NO

If NO - Move Further (Indicate direction)

(Indicate neighborhood if you have one in mind)

_____ North, _____

_____ South, _____

_____ East, _____

_____ West _____

_____ Service Style? _____ Served at table _____ Serving Line

If lower priced, would a serving line prevent you from attending?

_____ YES _____ NO

_____ Food? Style? _____ Informal Burgers/Pizza/BBQ _____ Formal Plated Meal

Type? _____ Mexican, _____ Chinese, _____ American, _____ Italian

Bar? _____ Required _____ Nice, but Not Required _____ Don't Use

_____ Other Criteria _____

Please send your input on this serious question to

mhcluncheon@cra-metrohouston.org. Or Postal Mail to MHC Data Coordinator
11152 Westheimer #729
Houston, TX 77042

If you have questions feel free to telephone Glenn Ewan at 281-693-5461

