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USGS RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 173

November 2016

An organization of retirees of the U.S. Geological Survey, whose purpose is to keep its members in touch with each other and their former agency.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hope this newsletter finds all of you doing well. I hope everyone had a great summer and are planning to travel to the reunion in Nashville. I don't have much to report this month, but we are looking at fewer people at the Nashville reunion. We all hope that will improve. Look forward to seeing you there.

We would like to recognize and express our appreciation to Celso Puente for his tremendous volunteer efforts over the past 10 years. Celso took responsibility for editing the newsletter (the task was recently taken over by Dan Fitzpatrick) and being the Treasurer. One of Celso's many strengths is paying attention to detail, a trait that comes in handy being a treasurer. In the 10 years he kept the books he was only audited once, and that was at his suggestion. The audit found no errors in the books, thanks to Celso's meticulous records. Celso, we appreciate your efforts!! The Treasurer responsibilities have been taken over by Cathy Hill, who only hopes she can do half as well as Celso!

For the first time in many years, this newsletter contains less than the normal 24 pages. We are receiving fewer contributions related to 'News of Retirees', 'Retirements', and 'Memorials'. Some of this may be due to the passing of older retirees and current retirees not in the loop as the USGS organization changes. I would like to encourage the remaining retirees to submit 'news' on your travels, new hobbies in retirement, membership in other organizations; and, new enhancements (i.e., leg, hip, heart replacements, etc.). It doesn't have to be paragraphs long, it can be 'we traveled to China and participated in 6 wonderful tours.'

I am still hoping someone will give me some new ideas or even volunteer to help with the organization. A volunteer organization needs lots of volunteers. Please drop me an email or give me a call (303-638-3404) with any ideas you may have or if you are willing to help in any way.



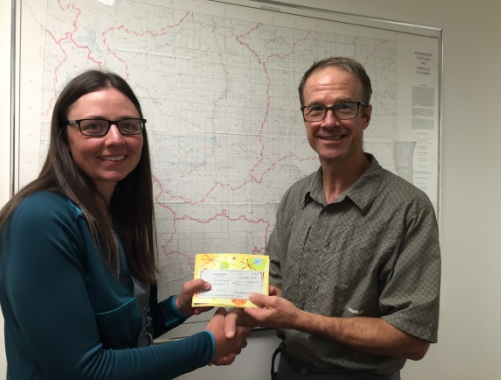
18th RETIREES' REUNION UPDATE

NOTE: NL173 does not contain any additional updates related to the Nashville, TN reunion. Information and pictures from the reunion will be highlighted in the February 2017 newsletter.

2016 -- HYDROLOGIC TECHNICIAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
By Jim Kircher

The WRD Retirees organization awarded three \$2,000 scholarships this year. Since the program began in 2006, our organization has awarded 20 scholarships, not including the three awarded this year. About 50 percent of these winners have eventually become career USGS employees.

Our five person selection panel this year included Joe Gorman, Jim Wellman, Ron Kuzniar, Karla Burnley, and Mike Dorsey. This is a great contribution by WRD Retirees! We have awarded \$53,000 in all.



Ruth Law

Ruth has been involved in all aspects of surface-water field work, water-quality sampling and is quickly advancing her skills in surface- and ground-water records computation. She also has been working on the WLCI Small Streams seepage work in the Wyoming Range out of the Field Office in Riverton, WY with Cheryl.

Attends: University of Wyoming

Presenter: Kirk Miller Data Chief, Montana/Wyoming Science Center



Joe Morgan

Joe works in the Northwest Washington Field Office in Ferndale, WA (Bellingham, WA Metro Area)

Attends: Western Washington University

Presenter: Cynthia Barton, Washington Water Science Center Director



Jacob Pascoe

Jacob works in Tulsa, OK

Attends: Oklahoma State University

Presenter: Scott Strong, Supervisory Hydrologic Technician,
Tulsa Field Office, OK

RETIREMENT



Stephen E. “Steve” Curtin retired from the MD-DE-DC District now referred to as the MD-DE-DC Water Science Center (WSC) in August 2016. Steve served his entire 42-year career in the WSC, the first 30 plus years in the then Annapolis field office and the rest in the Baltimore office. Steve, a groundwater hydrologic technician, did the majority of his work in the multi-aquifer system of the coastal plain of southern Maryland. In the almost half century that Steve worked in southern Maryland, the area changed from mostly rural to much more suburban and urban. Along with that change,

came the need for various water-supply management agencies to have a more factual record of actual water levels in the Aquia, Magothy, Patuxent, Upper Patapsco and Lower Patapsco Aquifers, which make up the multi-layer groundwater system in the area. In addition to the ongoing development, the system was also stressed by major water withdrawals from three electric power plants. Steve did the planning and coordination and led the actual data collection of the twice-annual data trips for obtaining high and low water levels for each of the aquifers in the system for all of the years of the project. He did the contouring of the potentiometric surface for each aquifer map initially under the tutelage of the late Fred Mack, and later on his own. The compilations of these data, in easy to read map form, were a popular report for water-management officials and the public for many years. Steve was author or co-author on about 150 of these reports as well as some 40 annual data reports. He also was an author on at least two major compilations of water-level data for the area. Steve, many times, also served as the lead for borehole geophysical logging in the WSC. Working closely with the Maryland Geological Survey, he logged many deep bore holes, primarily from water wells, that provided hydrogeologic framework data for filling in important gaps in the hydrogeology of the system. Steve also mentored many groundwater hydrologists and technicians on data collection and analyses techniques. In his later years, Steve served as the administrator of the entire groundwater data base for the WSC and also played a large role in transforming the instrumentation of the WSC’s groundwater network to fit a real-time data transmission system. Steve’s knowledge of the southern Maryland groundwater system and his everyday versatility will be missed. Steve and his wife, Mary Dee (also a former USGS’er) and son, Spencer, reside in Crofton, MD.

HOW TO SEND TEXT MESSAGES TO USGS RETIREES

By Tim Smith and Andy Anderson

As we all know, the implacable march of time brings new technologies that we have to cope with. For example, I have heard that millennials will not even answer a phone, but prefer to send and receive text messages from their smart phones. Then too, it may be that some members only use smart phones for all their communications, and do not have a computer. Text messages from smart phones are certainly faster to send than email.

So, the USGS Retirees worked out how to receive text messages from smart phones and forward them to our email inbox. If you wish to send us a text message, please send it to [703-596-5468](tel:703-596-5468). This telephone number will receive both text and voice messages, and forward them to our email inbox. The voice function can be a backup to the regular telephone number at the USGS. If you attend retirees’ functions and take pictures with your smart phone camera, you can also send them to us as an attachment to your text message; this will help the newsletter. Also, if we have voting on various issues, members may find it easier to send their opinions via text message. In the future this number can be added to the newsletter mast for easy location.

This way we hope to keep in touch with more members. Let us know if you have any questions, or clever ways to use this feature.

MEETINGS & GATHERINGS

Headquarter's Retirees' Luncheon Reston-Herndon, VA October 3, 2016



Betsy Cody of the Congressional Research Service spoke to the Reston-Herndon group at the luncheon. Her talk was on the drought in the West. Also in the photograph are Tom Yorke and Eileen Smith, with Peggy McCafferty in the background.

New Jersey Chapter, USGS Retirees August 17, 2016 The King George Inn Bristol, PA



Back Row: Ted Ehlke, Herb Buxton, Joe Hochreiter, Jack Gibbs, and Tony Navoy
Front Row: Debbie Buxton, Bob Schopp, Eric Evenson, Karen Fell, Ed Pustay, and Marilyn Pustay

All, with the exception of Marilyn Pustay (Ed's wife), worked at the New Jersey Water Science Center of USGS at various times.

**Washington Retirees – Potluck Meal
A Beautiful Summer Afternoon – August 2016**



Karen Schurr, Barbara Wagner, Rick Wagner, Patrice Carpenter, Phil Carpenter, Norm Dion, Madeleine Dion, Denny Cline, Ralph Embrey, Sandy Embrey, Mick Schurr, Gil Bortleson, Sue Webb (Gary Turney's wife), Marlene Bortleson, Gary Turney, and Greg Justin.

NEWS OF RETIREES

Dan Ackerman writes: Greetings from East Idaho. I am glad to see that Joanne Kurklin's obit was in the issue I received today. Last December Mark called Charlotte and I from the hospital with the news that they had just found out Joanne had stage 4 Pancreatic Cancer. That was Tuesday the 8th. We talked with Mark and Brian a couple of times and then Mark called on the 12th to let us know she had just died. I contacted NARFE in OK to get Mark help with survivor's benefits. This time I will get on the stick. I am attaching Phil Randich's obit from April. Charlotte and I drove to Bismarck for his funeral. Phil was my first mentor after I returned to the Survey from Grad School. Phil and Genie were Charlotte's Godparents.

Edward 'Bush' Boyd writes: I am enclosing a check to pay for my dues through 2017, and the rest is for the scholarships. Not much news from here. Lost my wife Sara of 66 years on August 2, 2016; tough blow for a 90 year-old person. However, my 3 children Marsha, Susan and Ernie have really been helpful. My regards to the few remaining Survey folks of my generation. I do see Charlie Gamble and Jerry Lowery occasionally. We are looking forward to the Reunion in Nashville. Thanks

Fern Burmeister writes: Enclosed is a check for past and future dues. **Ivan (WRD retiree - 1985)** and I have lived at the Oaknoll Retirement Center for 10 years but **Ivan** has recently moved to their health center. He will be 91 this coming December 13th, and I will be 90 in September. We celebrated 71 years of marriage this last February. There are very few retirees we know but I enjoy reading the newsletter. ***(This note was written on June 28th, and we subsequently learned of Ivan's passing on October 6th – please reference Memorials, page 10).***

Judy Cornwell writes: Dear Retirees: Enclosed is my check to cover dues for the two-years and an extra for expenses or the scholarship fund, wherever it is most needed. Our family is growing by leaps and bounds. Just this year, three great-granddaughters have been added to the mix – in January, April and August – for a total of seven great-grandchildren, two boys and five girls. Three of the seven live in Littleton, CO. We get to see them regularly. The other four have been here within the last six-months, and their parents keep us updated with letters and pictures. Dick and I will be married 65 years in December. He has slowed down some – we no longer do road trips back to the Chicago area where we both grew up and still have family. He volunteers at St. Anthony Hospital at the Denver Federal Center Campus two mornings a week. Having been a patient at both the main hospital and the ortho-hospital next door, he wants to give back for the good care he received there. I belong to several church organizations, sing in the Lutheran Chorale, and volunteer at the Lakewood Heritage Center. We are as busy as we want to be – sometimes even more. I enjoy reading about the retirees and their activities, whether I know them or not. Blessings to all!

Bob Cory writes: Just finished reading the latest newsletter, 26 letters and 14 obits! I just turned 90 on June 16th and got some good tips on writing my own obit. Reading the newsletter prompted me to phone Andy Anderson one of my buddies from my USGS WRD days. Andy called me back and we had a good chat. A few months ago I received a brief letter from Jon Nauman out of the blue. Andy had phoned him up in Alaska and that prompted him to get in touch with me. Jon was my assistant on my marine biological studies and became good friends with Andy and family. I was sort of sort of a Maverick as far as the WRD was concerned. Probably the first or close to the first Marine Biologist hired by the USGS. Walt Durum hired me in anticipation of trying to get a staff together to start a marine program. The money never came thru and as a result Luna Leopold trusted me to have a small budget to carry out some studies that I convinced him would be of interest to USGS. Long story short I had a good run of about 18 years from 1965 to 1983. By that time technology had advanced to the point where an accumulation of data was keeping me too close to the desk and office when my desire was to be out on the water. I took an early out at age 57 and have been drawing a good pension for more than 33 years. Hard for me to believe. Before retirement I had the good fortune to buy 15 acres of marginal farm land in Anne Arundel County, 4 miles north of where I now reside in Calvert City. It had 3 acres of pasture and 12 acres of woods. Each year I planted about ½ acre (500-600 trees) Christmas trees while 2 acres were cleared out of the woods, selling the firewood. At the same time my beekeeping expanded from 6 to 25 colonies and I had a hand shake contract with Swan farm to maintain 15 colonies for berry, cantaloupe and watermelon pollination. At age 60 I took a part-time job with the Maryland State's Department of Agriculture as bee inspector for St. Calvert and St. Mary's Counties, and Charles City. At age 70 quit the bee inspecting because the bees were dying from 2 parasites and their associated diseases. At age 83 I reduced

my bee colonies to 6 in my back yard and at 80 had stopped planting Christmas trees. Believe it or not I sold trees for 20 years. Fifteen last year, 2015, where I let some of my old customers help themselves and pay whatever suited them. My wife Jan and I just celebrated our 68th year of marriage and without her none of the above would have been accomplished. Health wise I've been truly blessed. At age 77, the day of our 45th anniversary landed in the emergency room with a heart block. I'm convinced that my good friend of Ed Pluhowsky of USGS WRD died about the same time in his sleep of heart block. Am now on my 3rd pacemaker, and 3 days ago everything looked good and expected battery life is 9 ½ years. Thank you to the editorial staff for keeping the newsletter going all these years.

Bobbie Cloud writes: Hello to the Editor of the USGS Retirees' Newsletter. I read every word on every page and still see names I remember from my working days. I do miss seeing an article written by Jim Daniels. What happened to him? I always knew what he was writing about. I'm embarrassed to realize how long it has been since I paid my dues! So I'm sending a check to maybe catch one up, if anything is left then put it in the Scholarship fund or maybe the "Lunch Bunch" fund. Thanks for all you do. P.S.: Good Luck getting volunteers to help you.

Russ Curtis writes: Hi to all from warm, sunny Palm Beach, FL. I haven't written for a while so guess it's time for an update. Maria and I were married last December on my 81st birthday. The ceremony was on the beach here at our condo with a small reception in the party room attended by friends and relatives. Maria was given away by her son, her daughter was her maid of honor and my son was my best man. Maria likes to stay active so we are doing a lot of traveling. We've been visiting her relatives and sightseeing in New England and Canada, ballooning and climbing pyramids in Mexico and snorkeling in the Galápagos Islands (Ecuador) and locally. We recently returned from a 5,000 mile trip to Kansas, Colorado and Texas to visit my kids, grandkids and most of my 12 great grandkids. Learned I have a great-great on the way. We shared the driving in our new orange Mustang convertible and stopped along the way to visit the St. Louis Arch and Carlsbad Caverns. We won't be going to the Nashville Reunion as we will be just returning from a two-week plus trip to Uganda. Maria will be my tour guide as she lived there several years when working with the Peace Corps. Also plan to spend a couple of days in Dubai on the way. Please update the directory to include Maria and my current phone number 561-779-9383. I think I'm up to date on dues but if not please let me know.

Fred Dreher writes: I've enclosed my check for 3 years subscription fee, sorry for the misses. I've also enclosed info on my wife Gerry's death (*please reference Memorials, page 10*). We met at the Survey office, USGS, WRD, SW Branch, Madison, WI. She left the Survey to raise our children. She later worked in two other federal offices, retiring in 1983. Please take any info you choose (and her picture) from the enclosed church folder. I'm doing well but know 'assisted living' is in the offing (I'm in my 95th year). Again, sorry I'm late with my dues.

Dorothy Maltby writes: Thanks for the newsletter. I enjoy reading it.

Dot Niles writes: Thanks for all you do.

Ed Pustay writes: Andy, I hope to enclose a check to take care of me. I have gotten calendar for 2017 from the Audubon Society and a couple other organizations, so I guess including my check for 2017 is reasonably safe. Things are fine by me but if you get this letter without the check please send me a note asking what I was going to do after writing this letter. Please tell Mike that I really want to write him but other than this one I haven't written a letter in many years and it's hard. I owe George Kish a letter from years ago. Thanks.



Tim Smith writes: The Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable held a meeting on July 19, 2016 at the Department of Energy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, CO. The theme of the meeting was Energy Issues in the West.

For those who are interested, the proceedings from the conference can be found at:

http://acwi.gov/swrr/p&p_library/July19-2016/001_swrr_meeting_july19_nrel_in_golden_CO..pdf

Richard Wagner writes: Attached is a check for dues and a contribution for the scholarship fund. Since retiring in 2013 Barbara and I have had the opportunity to catch up on life and visit Italy and France. In 2015, we traveled much of the US via train and car (by Route 66) visiting friends, relatives and colleagues.

Ben Whetstone writes: "The older you get, the more problems you have!" Hopefully, I'll get this check mailed. It's the third time since April 8th. Hope everyone is well and 'doing fine.' Many thanks for the publications. Will 5-years plus scholarship be OK?

Eleanor A. Whitford writes: I am writing with great sorrow the death of **John L. Ebling (WRD retiree – 1989)** June 18, 2016 (*please reference Memorials, page 10*). He was a great supporter of the University of Denver for the Engineering Department. He lived in Quonset housing after World War II using his service time to help him through school. He graduated in 1950 not only with his B.A. but a wife and two active baby boys. He worked for the USGS (Water Dept.) he always said it was a job made fit for him. He enjoyed his job. He met his present wife in 1953, Portland, OR and married her in 2002, after the death of his wife Beverly of 52 years.

Ruth E. Yeager writes: Looks like I own dues for two years, so I've enclosed a check to cover three years plus, and then added an additional amount for the WRD scholarship fund. Thanks much.

Johnson J.S. Yee writes: Enclosed please find a check covering my past and future dues. I enjoy following the activities of all the Retirees through the WRD Bulletin. Due to dwindling numbers of the Hawaii WRD retirees, we will suspend our twice per year luncheon/social activities. We will continue to meet, eat and greet as opportunity arises. Aloha

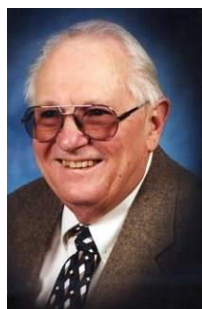
MEMORIALS



Ivan L. Burmeister, 90, longtime resident of Iowa City, died Thursday, October 6, 2016, at Oaknoll Retirement Residence. Ivan was born December 13, 1925, in Plattsmouth, NE, the son of Max and Wilhelmina (Dagendorfer) Burmeister. He graduated from Louisville High School in Nebraska with the class of 1943. He enlisted in the United States Navy serving aboard the U.S.S. Craven during WWII. During his enlistment he married his high school sweetheart, Dortha (Fern) Shelton on February 5, 1945 in Louisville. After four years of service he earned his Civil Engineering degree from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE. In 1965 he earned a Master's degree in Hydraulics at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, and enjoyed a fulfilling career in Water Resources with the U.S. Geological Survey. His work began in Lincoln, NE, moved to Raleigh, NC on special assignment and then to Iowa City in 1959. He retired in 1985. His family includes his wife, Fern; two daughters and their husbands, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Ivan and Fern hosted an AFS student, from Joensuu Finland, and became her USA mom & dad. Ivan was preceded in death by his parents, a sister and a brother. Ivan was a member of First United Methodist Church, Optimist Club of Iowa City, University of Iowa Alumni Association, Quarterback Club, Iowa City Bowling Hall of Fame, USS Craven Reunions, and several professional engineering organizations. Favorite activities included dancing with Fern, hunting with the family beagle, photography, woodworking, coaching Babe Ruth baseball, fishing, bowling, golfing, and HAWKEYE SPORTS! In later years, Ivan and Fern travelled extensively in the U.S. and abroad, as well as taking numerous cruises, which included a Christmas cruise with the entire family in 2001.



Geraldine E. 'Gerry' Dreher, 89, passed away peacefully on September 5, 2014 in Madison, WI. Gerry was born on May 30, 1925 in Chicago, IL to Dr. Leo and Mae McDermott. Upon her father's death when Gerry was 7, her family relocated to downtown Madison where Gerry went to Edgewood and graduated from Central High School. She began attending University of Wisconsin in Madison, WI but was unable to finish her degree as she became the primary caregiver for her ailing mother and took on the landlord duties for the family's boarding house. Gerry worked at the U.S. Geological Survey offices where she met the love of her life, Frederick Dreher, whom she married on October 9, 1954. She loved being a stay at home mother until her three children were in school, at which time she went back to work at the U.S. Forest Products Lab, and later at the VA Hospital. Gerry enjoyed entertaining her family and friends, golfing, needlework, and bowling. Along with Fred, she also enjoyed winters in Florida and Arizona, many trips that covered almost the entire US, and sight-seeing in central Europe. Most importantly Gerry loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. Gerry is survived by her husband of 60 years Fred, a daughter and son, four grandchildren, a brother and his wife; a sister-in-law, and many nieces and nephews. Gerry was preceded in death by a son; her parents, and two brothers. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on September 12, 2014 at St. Peter Catholic Church, Madison, WI. Interment will be at the Resurrection Catholic Cemetery.



John L. "Lou" Ebling, 89, passed away on June 18, 2016 in Portland, OR. Lou was born on June 10, 1927 in Denver, CO to John and Lyndia Ebling. He grew up in Denver, and joined the Navy when he finished high school in 1945. Lou return to Denver at the end of WWII, and enrolled in the Civil Engineering program at the University of Denver. While in school, he met and married Beverly Fletcher on April 30, 1948. After graduation and the births of sons, John and Bruce; John took a job in Lysite, WY and from there to Bremerton, WA; and then on to Portland, OR where daughter Patricia was born. In the early 50's, while living in Portland, OR Lou accepted a job with WRD, where he was to spend the rest of his career. He transferred from Portland to Eugene, OR in 1958; to Topeka, KS in 1968; and back to Denver in the early 70's. He retired in 1989. Lou was in the Data Program his entire career, where he was a leader, instructor, adviser, and a father to many young hydrologists! Beverly passed away in the year 2000, and in 2002 he married Eleanor Whitford. Lou volunteered at St Vincent hospital in the maternity ward, ushered and greeted at St. Anthony's Catholic Church and worked with the Knights of Columbus cooking breakfasts for many parishes, the Garlic Festival and Oktoberfest in Mt. Angel. Lou is survived by his wife Eleanor; his two sons and a daughter; two step daughters; five grandchildren; four step-

grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. A rosary was held for Lou at Young's Funeral Home on July 10, 2016, followed by a Memorial Mass on July 11, 2016 at St. Anthony Catholic Church. Lou was laid to rest at St. Anthony's Catholic Cemetery following the Memorial Mass. John was a true people person.



Herman Curtis Gunter, 80, passed away on June 24, 2012 he was a resident of Garner, NC at the time of his passing. Curtis was born on October 4, 1931. He was a graduate of Fuquay-Springs High School and North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC. He is survived by his wife Barbara. A service to celebrate his life was held on June 27, 2012 at Fuquay-Varina Baptist Church, Fuquay-Varina, NC. A family graveside service was held at the Rawls Baptist Church, with interment at the Rawls Baptist Church Cemetery.



Todd M. Kelly, 54, died August 2, 2016, due to cardiac arrest. He was a 22-year resident of Rio Rancho, NM. He was born March 7, 1962, in Cherokee, IA to Clinton and Marlene (Jensen) Kelly. Prior to graduating from Washington High School he enjoyed playing football, biking, creating art, attending car races with his dad and visiting Spring Lake Park with his mom. He received his Bachelor of Science in geology from the University of Northern Iowa and Master of Science in geology from Colorado State University. He married his high school sweetheart, Michele (Courtright) in August 1987. Todd worked for the federal government for 26 years, he began his career with the Soil Conservation

Service for two years in Indianapolis, IN. He worked for the US Geological Survey in Indianapolis and eventually retired from the USGS in Albuquerque, NM in May 2014. Primarily a hydrologist working with water levels and water quality, he was the Project Chief for the Albuquerque Urban Storm Water Project. As Michele and his kids said, his job was "wading around in rivers." He loved being able to work outdoors and developed many long-term friendships throughout his career. Eight months into retirement his family encouraged him to find work outside the home. This led him to employment at Perfection Honda in Rio Rancho. Todd loved traveling, biking, camping, photography, hot air ballooning, motorcycling, auto racing, and spending time with his family, including playing with his grandson. He was a Packers, a Broncos, and a Hawkeyes fan. He coached many children, including Garrett and Amanda, in both football and soccer. His interests led him to be a Safety Team Member at the pit gate at the Indianapolis 500; to work at a variety of concerts; and to participate with fellow bicycling addicts in RAGBRAI and other events. Among his favorite travel experiences were hiking, rafting and jeeping in southwest Colorado, canoeing the Boundary Waters in northern Minnesota, mountain biking in Canada, and seeing wildlife in many national parks. He enjoyed a variety of music, with particular fondness for Bruce Springsteen, Dire Straits, Boston and Rush. He has always loved animals and had several pets over his lifetime. He is survived by his wife Michele; two daughters; a grandson; his parents; sisters: two sisters, their spouses and their children. A Memorial Service was held Tuesday, August 9, 2016 at the Daniels Family Funeral Services, Rio Rancho, NM. A memorial service will also be held at a later date at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Cherokee, IA.



Edwin "Ed" McGavock passed away peacefully at home on March 14, 2016 after a brief, courageous battle with cancer in Prescott, AZ. He was born in 1936 in Stanton, VA. Ed graduated with a Master's degree in Geology from the University of Virginia and began a 31-year career with the US Geological Survey Water Resources Division in Arizona and Washington State. He supervised water resources investigations. Also, he planned and participated in groundwater and water-use studies. Ed retired in 1993 from the U.S. Geological Survey. He continued with a 21-year career as a consultant with Montgomery & Associates as a hydrogeologist where he worked on groundwater investigations principally in Northern Arizona, Texas and Chile. He shared much of his research, speaking at numerous conferences. Ed was a special individual who led by virtue of who he was; a man of unbiased honesty who insisted his clients receive the best, most

accurate information possible. He was highly regarded by his peers for his diligence, intellect and integrity. He is survived by his wife of 56 years (Suzanne); his son and daughter; five grandsons; one great-granddaughter; and his five brothers. We will miss his humor, his sincerity, love of storytelling, friendship and companionship.



F. Rinella, D. Rickert, **S. McKenzie**, J. Rinella, T. Smith

Stuart W. ‘Stu’ McKenzie, 77, passed away on September 15, 2016 in Oregon. Stu was born on October 12, 1938 in Ellensburg, WA in the Kittitas Valley and grew up on his father’s farm near Grandview, WA. Stu met his wife Connie while he was in the Peace Corp. He received his BS degree from the University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA and his MS from the University of Delaware, Newark, DE. He spent one year in the Coast Guard Reserves, and was hired in the WRD District Office of Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia as part of the investigative staff for which much of the work during that period was county ground water studies done in cooperation with the Maryland Geological Survey. Other studies Stu participated in during this time included water-quality reconnaissance of streams in

Delaware and of streams affected by mine drainage in western Maryland. In 1973 Stu transferred to the Oregon District to work in the Portland project office as part of the first ever nationally sponsored Water Quality Assessment in the Willamette River, headed by Dave Rickert. By 1980 Stu participated in a water quality study in the Bear Creek Basin, which helped Jackson County identify and locate sources of pollutions and make plans to alleviate the pollution. As the USGS WRD moved forward with proposal for the National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program, resistance outside the Bureau from the Environmental Protection Agency was apparent due to competition for funds. Stu had a profound respect for farming and nature since he had been raised on a farm and was the perfect choice of farmer’s son and scientist. Stu along with several other key WRD members made multiple presentations of the proposed program to the National Academy of Sciences seeking their support. The proposed program was so well received that their work was fundamental in gaining both Departmental and Congressional support. The NAWQA pilot program began in 1986. Stu headed the Yakima River Basin NAWQA pilot study in Washington, with full-scale implementation of the NAWQA program in 1991. He was able to navigate some politically challenging trust areas with the local farmers, irrigation districts, soil conservation districts, and the Yakama Nation tribal sovereigns. Without his leadership, the pilot study would have had great difficulty in successfully launching. One publication deserves special recognition for its contributions to the successful funding of the program: Circular 1090, “Persistence of the DDT pesticide in the Yakima River Basin, Washington” by Joseph F. Rinella, Pixie A. Hamilton and Stuart W. McKenzie. It served as a model for future publications focused on communicating scientific information. Stu’s name appears as author or co-author of 37 WRD, USGS publications. Throughout his career, Stu received numerous awards from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and cooperating agencies including a Meritorious Service Award for his outstanding NAWQA work. Stu is remembered personally for his work ethic, honesty and integrity, and his love of brainstorming how to improve studies and overall water quality programs. Stu was an excellent scientist and a great mentor and supervisor. He was mentor and supervisor for such notables as Tim Miller, Frank Rinella, Joe Rinella, and Greg Fuhrer. He retired from the Oregon District in 1997 and moved to Auburn, WA. Stu is survived by his wife Connie, two daughters, Suzanne and Carrie, and eight grandchildren. Stu was preceded in death by his parents.

Joseph “Joe” P. Piro, 91, passed away August 2, 2016 in Denver, CO, surrounded by his loved ones. Joe was born on March 19, 1925 to Eugene and Isabella Piro. At the end of 1986, Joe worked as a Financial Administrative Specialist in WRD’s Nuclear Hydrology Program in support of Department of Energy’s (DOE’s) Nuclear Waste Storage Investigation. From 1988 to 1990, Joe served as the Chief of Administrative Services Section, Office of the District Chief for the state of Colorado. Joe lived all his life in Denver and proudly served in the Army during World War II. He is preceded in death by his beautiful wife, Catherine. Joe is survived by his two daughters; six grandchildren; and a brother and sister. Private services will be held.



Donald 'Don' Price, 87, passed away on August 9, 2016. He was born in Midvale, Utah on May 12, 1929 to Milan and Eva (Derikrava) Price. He suffered a stroke at age 50 and lived with that disability until one final stroke took his life. Don excelled in sports at Jordan High School, participating in football, basketball and baseball. He lettered in all three sports. He graduated from Jordan High School with high honors. He and two of his brothers played baseball for the Salt Lake Industrial baseball league. They were a crowd pleaser with the way they worked the plays. It was a pleasure to watch them. Don was awarded a baseball scholarship to the University of Utah where he played both football and baseball. He graduated from the University in Geology. His career was with U. S. Geological Survey as a

hydrologist. He was nationally recognized in Who's Who in America as one of the leading hydrologists in his field. He continued working after a disabling stroke and received an award as the Disabled Employee of the year from his employer, U.S. Geological Survey. He served his nation in the Korean War as an Army communication specialist. Don is preceded in death by his parents; four brothers and seven sisters. He is survived by his two sisters Ann and Amelia (who has been his caregiver for many years). Also surviving are his many nieces and nephews that loved him dearly. At Don's request, there will be no viewing or services. A private memorial will be held.



Brigadier General (Ret) Philip G. Randich, 83, passed away on April 15, 2016. Phil was born to Andrew and Josephine Randich on September 26, 1932, on the family farm in New England, ND. He married his high school sweetheart, Genie Jaeger, and they were blessed with four children. Phil enlisted in the North Dakota National Guard while in high school and was honorably discharged in 1953 at the rank of Sergeant 1st class. He re-enlisted in 1954 as a 2nd Lieutenant. As he progressed thru the ranks, he commanded Five Engineering Battalions, graduated from the US Army Command Staff General College, and retired from the Guard in 1989 after attaining the rank of Brigadier General. Phil studied Geological Engineering at the University of North Dakota and began working

for the US Geological Survey in 1955. He became a certified professional hydrologist and was a project chief for groundwater investigations, publishing 35 manuals documenting the Geohydrology of Central North Dakota. Phil loved hunting, fishing, and playing cards. Phil is survived by his wife Genie; their four children; five grandchildren; two step grandchildren; and one step-great grandchild. Preceding him in death were his parents and six siblings. Mass of Christian Burial was held on April 22, 2016, at Church of Corpus Christi, Bismarck, ND. Burial will be at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery in Mandan, ND.



Rita M. (nee: Loraine) Searles, 94, passed away after a short illness on March 27, 2016 in Pittsford, VT. Rita was born in Florence, VT, on May 16, 1921 to Antoine and Susie (Bostwick) Loraine. She was raised in Worcester, MA. Rita married **Gordon H. Searles (WRD Retiree - deceased)** in 1946, they lived in Malden and Medford, MA, before settling in Melrose, MA, in 1955, where they remained for 21 years until retiring to Pittsford, VT, in 1976. Rita worked for Automatic Radio for a number of years in addition to raising her family and was very active in the communities she lived in over the years.

She was also a member of the Pittsford Congregational Church in Pittsford; and, a member of the Pittsford Lions Club and was a recipient of the Melvin Jones Award. Rita was the loving wife of the late Gordon H. Searles Sr.; the loving mother of a daughter and son; six grandchildren; step-grandmother to three step-grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren and seven step-great grandchildren; many nieces, nephews and cousins. She was predeceased by eight siblings. A private service was held at a later date in Evergreen Cemetery in Pittsford, VT.

The Newsletter Staff would like to express their appreciation to Marvin Fretwell, Greg Fuhrer, Joe Rinella, and Dennis Lynch for their contribution to Stuart 'Stu' McKenzie's Memorial.

NEW MEMBERS

None

NEW AFFILIATE

DeHerrera, Carole (Chris) U.S. Geological Survey, P.O. Box 25046, MS 612, Lakewood, CO 80225, ph 303-236-9561 cdeherrera@usgs.gov

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Curtis, Russell E. 'Russ' (94) (Maria) 561-779-9383 – add spouse, phone

Maltby, Dorothy (87) (James) 915-678-0929 – phone

Renken, Robert (14) (Mary Ann) 108 Brookhaven Lane, Downingtown, PA 19335-12790, 484-364-4825 –
addr phone

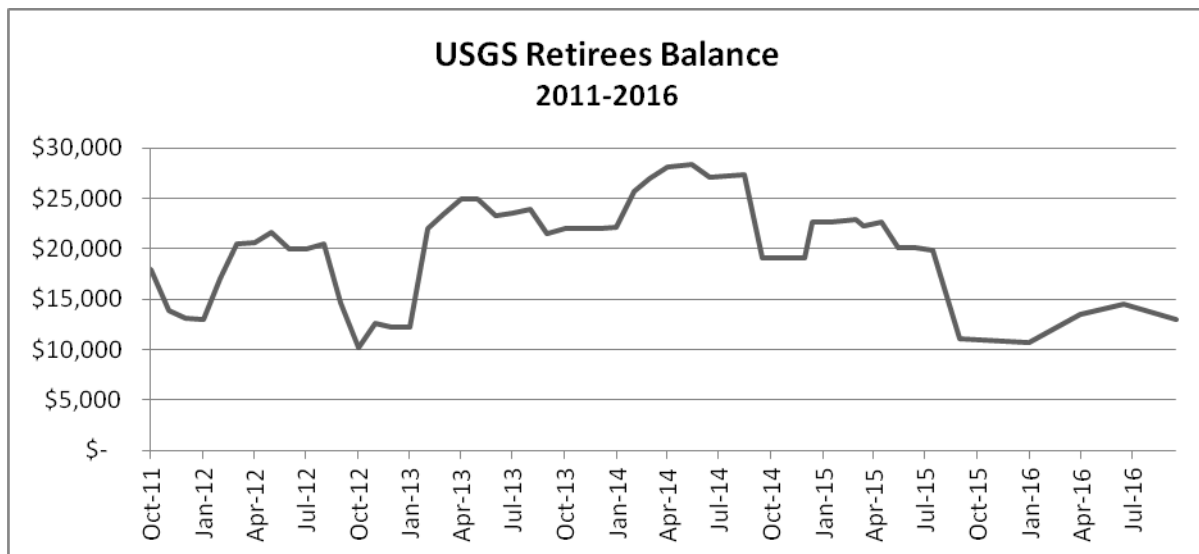
Smith, Mrs. Robert E. 'Eleanor' (W) 7400 Clarewood Dr., Apt. 1005 , Houston, TX 77036 , 713-778-8550 –
addr phone

TREASURER'S REPORT – THIRD QUARTER 2016

Our Retirees' Organization had \$12,921.08 in its treasury as of September 30, 2016. Receipts from dues and contributions totaled \$4,845. Distributions for the quarter totaled \$8,414.78. This includes \$6,000 in scholarship funds awarded to three USGS employees and printing of the annual directory for \$1,986. The remainder was spent to print the Quarterly Newsletter and procure bank checks.

Special thanks for contributions above dues are given to several members, including:

Matt Larsen, Russell Plume, Bobbie Cloud, John Briggs, Ralph Cheng, and Jim Eychaner.
Thank you!!



HUMOR

Senior Texting

http://www.tensionnot.com/jokes/one_liner_jokes/texting_codes_senior_citizens

Young people have theirs, now Seniors have their own texting codes:

- * **ATD**- At the Doctor's
- * **BFF**- Best Friends Funeral
- * **BTW**- Bring the Wheelchair
- * **BYOT** - Bring Your Own Teeth
- * **CBM**- Covered by Medicare
- * **CUATSC**-See You at the Senior Center
- * **DWI**- Driving While Incontinent
- * **FWIW** - Forgot Where I Was
- * **GGPBL**- Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery Low
- * **GHA**- Got Heartburn Again
- * **HGBM**- Had Good Bowel Movement
- * **LMDO**- Laughing My Dentures Out
- * **LOL**- Living on Lipitor
- * **OMSG** - Oh My! Sorry, Gas
- * **TOT**- Texting on Toilet
- * **WAITT** - Who Am I Talking To?
- * **GGLKI** - (Gotta Go, Laxative Kicking in!)

Hope these help.