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# GARA News

Volume 37, Issue 4

October 2023

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## From the President

Junaid Razvi



Dear Colleagues –

I trust all of you are continuing to have a good year, enjoyed your summer months either traveling to other corners of the world, or just chilling in our own beautiful city. If predictions hold, it may be another wet winter so have your umbrellas (and perhaps sandbags?) ready!

Our all-volunteer GARA Board of Directors continue to meet quarterly in-person to plan the year's events and conduct the business of the organization. We continue to deal with inflationary pressures in finding reasonably priced locations for our luncheon meetings, and will strive to continue our normal in-person event schedule without a significant cost impact to GARA's balance sheet as well as our members' pocketbooks. We had a small but enthusiastic gathering for our early-fall luncheon speaker series at our outdoor patio-on-the-golf course luncheon at The Heights Country Club in Rancho Bernardo, and we plan to go back there in 2024. This event featured a speaker from the USS Midway Museum, who gave a well-received presentation on the history of the Midway carrier and activities at the museum.

Continuing our luncheon series to end the year and into 2024, we are planning to invite speakers who can speak to happenings, events and history of the beautiful city and county we call home. Please see additional details in this newsletter, and watch for additional details on our website [GeneralAtomsRetirees.org](http://GeneralAtomsRetirees.org).

We appreciate your continued support by staying current with yearly dues and attending our meetings. I encourage those that are not current with their dues, to

do so, and perhaps pay for multiple years at the current membership rate. Please also encourage other retired, recently retired and current qualifying employees to join. We are continuing to hold our dues at \$15/year as long as we can despite inflation. We encourage members - both long standing and recently joined members to consider stepping forward and volunteer to serve on the GARA Board. New blood and ideas are always welcome!

*Continued*

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### GA Retirees Association, Inc.

[www.generalatomicretirees.org](http://www.generalatomicretirees.org)

email: [contact@GeneralAtomsRetirees.org](mailto:contact@GeneralAtomsRetirees.org)

**President: Junaid Razvi**

619 646 2140

**Vice President: Jim Zgliczynski**

619 237 9812

**Treasurer: Niles Johanson**

858 752 4327

**Secretary: Pat Simmons**

858 748 4569

**Membership Chair: Liz Drees**

858 945 2942

**Social Chair: Nancy Hitchcox**

858 335 4839

**Newsletter Editor: Meera Venkatesh**

858 283 9612

**Webmaster: Tom Tasker**

858 369 0671

**Members at Large:**

Al Zimmer

760 436 2342

Karen Schultz

619-219-1884

Carmelo Rodriguez

619 475 0153

Venky Venkatesh

858 283 9610

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**December 6, 2023  
Holiday Luncheon  
With Raffle Prizes**

**See attached notice!**

*Continued "From the President" article in page 1*

We have some new BoD officers on the ballot this year, but more are needed so those of us who have been serving for many years can step aside.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of us individually or via our new [website](#). I look forward to seeing many more of you at our Annual Membership Meeting and Holiday Luncheon on December 06 at the San Yacht Club. Please don't forget to send in your completed ballot and your reservations for our holiday bash! Please bring your spouses/partners along!

### **From The Treasurer**

GARA can now accept bank to bank transfers using Zelle® for Membership Dues as well as payments to attend GARA events, or you may continue to pay via checks payable to GARA.

- Check Payable to: **GA Retirees Association** and mail to: (Check No \_\_\_\_\_)  
*Niles Jobanson, Treasurer, 6083 Via Regla,  
San Diego, CA 92122 (Dues)*
- Payment via Zelle® bank-to-bank transfer using the following e-mail  
[Treasurer@GeneralAtomicsRetirees.org](mailto:Treasurer@GeneralAtomicsRetirees.org)

### **August 2023 Luncheon – All about the Midway Museum**

The summer GARA Luncheon was held August 30th on the patio at the The Heights Country Club in Rancho Bernardo – a great setting with a warm summer day to meet friends and enjoy great food. The speaker, Rob Sudman, an USAF Veteran and Docent for the Midway Museum, gave a very interesting

summary of the history of the Midway Aircraft Carrier - from its commissioning in 1945 thru service in the Korean War, Vietnam War, the Cold War, as an arctic test ship, as a flagship ship during the Kuwait/Iraq War and eventually being decommissioned and brought to San Diego by a group of civic leaders to be used as a Naval Carrier Museum.



Through the very hard work of many volunteers, the Midway Museum hosts millions of visitors from throughout the world and is the most successful Naval Air museum in the world. Rob also gave a preview of the next big project for the Midway Museum: the development of the Navy pier property, next to the Midway, into a public park dedicated to military veterans – “Freedom Park”. This project will include the demolition of the derelict Navy storage building, turning the asphalt pier into an open to the public – free grass park with memorials honoring veterans, picnic areas, restrooms, snack bar and play areas for children. For those of you interested, there are volunteering opportunities – with some perks – on the Midway! The Midway Museum offers a discounted senior citizen yearly pass that allows you to bring your grandkids or visitors along for no extra charge (See Midway Web Site).

Sharing some pictures of your friends and colleagues:



Sue and Al Zimmer, Venky Venkatesh



Dorothy and A.C Wood



Maria Koploy and Sue Zimmer



Beverly Lloyd, Karen Schultz



Patricia Spire, Nick Platis



Pat and Doug Simmons



Fritz Dahms, Carmelo Rodriguez



Dennis Sheridan and Jean Moss



Frank Warner, Tom Tasker, Hedy Kleinsorge



Junaid Razvi and Nancy Hitchcox



Liz Drees and Quinette Begg



Jim Zgliczynski



Rob Sudman - Speaker

## **Annual GARA Meeting and Holiday Luncheon Wednesday, December 6 2023 at San Diego Yacht Club**

We will return to the San Diego Yacht Club again for our December Luncheon (thanks to Frank Warner). The December meeting is important, since as a California corporation, GARA needs to hold our annual GARA board member elections and approval of our proposed 2024 budget. Our guest speaker is Emily Davis from Father Joe's Villages in San Diego. Father Joe's Villages was established in 1950 to serve San Diegans experiencing homelessness and poverty. Father Joe's Villages mission is to prevent and end homelessness, one life at a time. We'll hear about the status of addressing the homeless crisis in San Diego and what we might be able to do as citizens of San Diego.

## **Retiree Benefits News from GA Human Resources**

### **General Atomics 401(k) Retirement Savings Plan**

Effective July, 2023, the General Atomics 401(k) Retirement Savings Plan transitioned service providers from Vanguard to Empower. All plan provisions, including investment options, remained the same so those with an account balance can register with Empower by visiting their website, <https://www.empowermyretirement.com>, or by calling them (877) 455-6204.

### **Pension Plan of General Atomics**

Our pension plan administrator, Milliman, remains the same so any account and demographic information can be updated by visiting their website, <https://www.millimanbenefits.com>, or by calling them at (866) 767-1212.

### **General Atomics Retiree Medical Coverage**

On Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Scripps Health announced that, effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, Scripps Clinic and Scripps Coastal medical group doctors will no longer accept Medicare Advantage plans. General Atomics and our retiree benefits administrator, Mercer, reviewed this decision, consulted with UnitedHealthcare, and our collective understanding is that this will impact HMO plans only. The current UnitedHealthcare PPO plan offered to retirees will continue in 2024 and will be accepted by Scripps. We encourage our retirees to contact their primary care physicians and UnitedHealthcare to ensure their care will continue uninterrupted. 2024 open enrollment materials were mailed from Mercer on Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, so they can be expected soon, if not received already. The General Atomics Retiree Service Center (GARSC) with Mercer can be reached at (855) 255-9093, available Monday through Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Pacific Time).

General Atomics group retiree medical coverage must be elected at the time of retirement, if eligibility requirements are met, in order to continue coverage. Retirees eligible for a General Atomics group retiree medical plan and enrolled in an

individual plan may be eligible for reimbursement of a portion of the premium and a separate mailing will be sent in December. Eligible retirees who do not elect a group retiree medical plan at the time of retirement will be unable to enroll in the future.

### **General Atomics Retiree Life and AD&D Insurance**

To update account, demographic, and beneficiary information, please contact the GARSC with Mercer at (855) 255-9093, available Monday through Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Pacific Time).

## **GA HAPPENINGS**

### **General Atomics Awarded Conceptual Design Contract Supporting Sandia National Laboratories**

General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems (GA-EMS) announced an award from Sandia National Laboratories to provide design development services in support of a conceptual research reactor design for a new advanced facility. The concept design will facilitate the safe utilization, operation, and maintenance of the reactor and supporting systems.

“GA-EMS has a rich heritage and extensive expertise in the design, construction, installation, and on-going upgrades and support of a worldwide fleet of TRIGA® reactors,” stated Scott Forney, president of GA-EMS. “We have long enjoyed a strong working relationship with Sandia and look forward to delivering a new facility conceptual contract to support their experimental, research and development activities going forward.”

GA- has installed a variety of TRIGA reactor configurations in 68 facilities in 24 countries to support nuclear research, testing, and training activities at universities, government and industrial laboratories, and medical centers.

### **GA-ASI to be Inducted into the International Air and Space Hall of Fame**

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) was inducted into International Air & Space Hall of Fame during an event at the San Diego Air & Space Museum on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023. The Museum is honoring GA-ASI for its celebrated history of developing and implementing unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) that have supported worldwide security and defense for more than three decades. Poway, Calif.-based GA-ASI is renowned globally for its advanced remotely piloted aircraft systems, particularly the

Predator® series which includes the advanced MQ-9A Reaper and MQ-9B SkyGuardian®. GA-ASI continues to innovate and enhance its UAS capabilities, expanding its product lineup to include additional variants and technology. The company’s contributions to the field of unmanned systems have significantly impacted military operations and have paved the way for developments in civilian and commercial applications.

GA-ASI headlines this year’s class of Hall of Fame inductees, which also includes William Shatner, Star Trek’s Captain James T. Kirk; Royce Williams, American aviator and Navy Cross recipient; Robert DeLaurentis, record-setting American aviator; and Jessica Meir, distinguished NASA astronaut, biologist and a pivotal member of the groundbreaking Artemis program, which intends to land the first woman and next man on the moon. The San Diego Air & Space Museum, located at 2001 Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA 92101 will celebrate the inductees on Oct. 21 in the Edwin D. McKellar Pavilion of Flight. Guests from around the world will assemble for a spectacular evening of fun and extraordinary recognition, as each guest is treated to a behind-the-scenes look into the lives of these true air and space legends.

Since 1963, the International Air & Space Hall of Fame has honored the world’s most significant pilots, crew members, visionaries, inventors, industry-leading companies, aerospace engineers, aerospace industrialists, preservationists, designers and space explorers.

### ***IN MEMORIA***



Linda S Lansville, age 76, of San Diego, California passed away on Monday, August 28, 2023. Linda was born in San Diego. Linda was the Manager of Configuration & Records Management at General Atomics for many years.

## Holiday Luncheon & Annual Members Meeting

Join us **Wednesday December 6, 2023** for our next Annual General Membership Meeting and our last luncheon for 2023 at San Diego Yacht Club. The cost will be \$40 for members and their spouse or guest. Non-members and additional guests are \$45. We will continue with our tradition of a holiday gift raffle

**Guest Speaker:** Emily Davis, Father Joe's Villages in San Diego

**Title of Presentation:** Homelessness in San Diego

December 6, 2023, 11:30 Meet and Greet, 12:00 Lunch, followed by speaker.



**San Diego Yacht Club  
1011 Anchorage Ln  
San Diego, CA 92106**

Please send in the following reservation form by November 30th.

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Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Fettucine Alfredo \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Fettucine Alfredo \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your luncheon selection to Hedy Kleinsorge (address below)

Payment can be made as follows:

1. Payment via Zelle® bank-to-bank transfer using the following e-mail:  
[Treasurer@GeneralAtomsRetirees.org](mailto:Treasurer@GeneralAtomsRetirees.org)

OR

2. Check Payable to: GA Retirees Association and mail to:  
Hedy Kleinsorge, Social Chair, 8237 Via Mallorca, La Jolla, Ca 92037

**RESERVATION DEADLINE NOVEMBER 30<sup>th</sup>**

**G.A. RETIREES ASSOCIATION INC.**

**Board of Directors Ballot**

**Calendar Year 2024**

**Instructions**

1. Vote for individual nominees by:
  - a. Check the box or a write-in your preferred candidate's name, OR
  - b. You can vote to approve ALL proposed nominees by checking the first box.
2. Please return ballot by First Class Mail or E-mail to the GARA Secretary at the address shown below:

**I approve all the GARA Board nominees listed below**

**PRESIDENT**

- Junaid Razvi  
 Write In \_\_\_\_\_

**VICE PRESIDENT**

- M. (Venky) Venkatesh  
 Write In \_\_\_\_\_

**SECRETARY**

- Pat Simmons  
 Write In \_\_\_\_\_

**TREASURER**

- Beverly Lloyd  
 Write In \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

- Karen Schultz  
 Write In \_\_\_\_\_

**SOCIAL CHAIR**

- Hedy Kleinsorge  
 Write In \_\_\_\_\_

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

- Meera Venkatesh  
 Write In \_\_\_\_\_

**WEBMASTER**

- Tom Tasker  
 Write In \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERS AT LARGE (Min 2, Max 5)**

- Nancy Hitchcox  
 Niles Johanson  
 Carmelo Rodriguez  
 Jim Zgliczynski  
 Al Zimmer  
 Write In \_\_\_\_\_

Please return your ballot by First Class or E-Mail to reach us no later than **04 December, 2023**

Pat Simmons  
GARA Secretary  
13054 Old Sycamore Drive  
San Diego, CA 92128  
E-mail: [PSimmons0105@Gmail.com](mailto:PSimmons0105@Gmail.com)



**REMINDER**

**Holiday Luncheon & Annual Members Meeting**  
**San Diego Yacht Club**  
**Wednesday 06 December 2023**  
**Noon PST**