
GARA News

Volume 36, Issue 1

January 2022

From the President
Junaid Razvi



Dear Colleagues –

As GARA's president for 2022, let me start by sending everyone our wishes for a Healthy, Safe and Prosperous New Year! Omicron notwithstanding, I trust all of you have gotten off to a good start in 2022.

I'll start with a sincere vote of thanks to last year's GARA board: Nancy Hitchcox (President), Pat Simmons (Secretary), Niles Johanson (Treasurer; and Membership Chair), Maria Koploy (Newsletter Editor), Tom Tasker (Website), Woody Snyder (Social Chair) and members at large Carmelo Rodriguez and Al Zimmer. Even though we were restricted in arranging our usual in-person speaker luncheons, the Board buttoned down, met regularly virtually to continue with the business of the organization.

Many of us are continuing to support GARA by staying on the board, and prior members have chosen to step up and help us keep GARA going. Some of the same people are continuing in their roles or assuming new roles and coming back as members of the board are Jim Zgliczynski (Vice Chair) and Liz Drees (Membership Chair). Changing roles are Nancy Hitchcox (Social Chair). Thank you to all for continuing to help keep GARA going under what will likely continue to be challenging circumstances in 2022.

We look to make some minor administrative changes in 2022. First, improve the security of our website (garetirees.org) due to some issues we have faced with personal e-mail addresses that could be traced back to the website. Second, we will try and institute a GARA domain with e-mail addresses for the officers for more efficient communications. Stay tuned.

Finally, we are planning to reinstate our in-person luncheon next month – February 23 to be precise - and have one of GA's executive team who has agreed to update GARA members on GA's current global activities. This newsletter provides more details on the event and our speaker, and we will be sending out an e-mail blast with additional details. Of course, all this was planned pre-Omicron, and we are hopeful that we will be transitioning to a post-Omicron world by the end of February to allow us to host this indoor event.

Continue in Page 2 column 1.

GA Retirees Association, Inc.

www.garetirees.org

President: Junaid Razvi

619 646 2140 jrazvi49@gmail.com

Vice President: Jim Zgliczynski

619 237 9812 zgliczynski@outlook.com

Treasurer: Niles Johanson

858 752 4327 nilesjo@yahoo.com

Secretary: Pat Simmons

858 748 4569 psimmons0105@gmail.com

Membership Chair: Liz Drees

858 945 2942 dreesea2016@gmail.com

Social Chair: Nancy Hitchcox

858 335 4839 nancy.hitchcox@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Maria Koploy

619 740 1153 maria.koploy@gmail.com

Members at Large:

Tom Tasker

858 369 0671 ttasker103@aol.com

Al Zimmer

619 475 0153 alandsuezimmer@cox.net

Carmelo Rodriguez

760 436 2342 carmelo.rodriguez@att.net

One Position is Open

Website: Tom Tasker

858 369 0671 ttasker103@aol.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**February 23th In person
luncheon meeting.
See attached notice!**

Continues “From the President” article in page 1.

For paid GARA members, we invite you to attend as our guests. We are hopeful and looking forward to seeing all of you in person then.

I look forward to this opportunity to serve the GARA Community. Best wishes.

Board of Directors for 2022

During the December 8, 2021 GARA Business Meeting a new Board of Directors was elected. So that all the members refresh their memory about our Board members, we have asked them to provide a picture and say a few words about what they are doing.

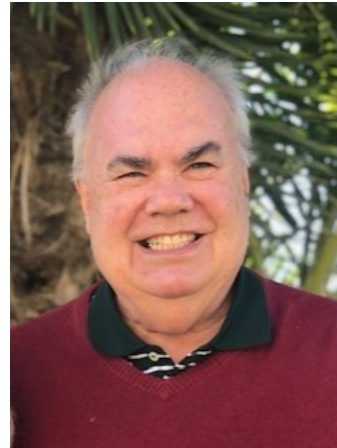
Junaid Razvi, President



I retired from GA in 2018, just shy of my 40th anniversary. Former GA colleagues may remember

me for work on TRIGA reactor programs, and especially as the Director of GA’s TRIGA Reactors Facility where I hosted regular tours of GA’s reactor complex for employees and visitors, showing off the Cerenkov “blue glow” and explaining the science behind it. In addition to my work with TRIGA projects, my career at GA spanned engineering and project management on HTGR projects, nuclear waste management, medical radioisotopes projects and initiatives, and as Chair of GA’s Corporate Radiation Safety Committee. Not opting for full and complete retirement yet, I currently supports several companies as an independent consultant, I am a Senior Fellow at the U.S. Nuclear Industry Council, in addition to renewing my interest in gardening, biking, and hiking. My wife Anjum and I have lived in Rancho Penasquitos for 40+ years.

Jim Zgliczynski, Vice President



As the GARA vice president I am responsible for arranging our GARA luncheon speakers. So if you have ideas for possible speakers or subjects please let me know. After EE and NE engineering studies at Purdue and Texas A&M, and management studies at USC and UCSD, I joined GA in 1980 and retired in 2015. At GA I worked on HTGR programs, including Ft. St. Vrain and GT-MHR, and later worked on US Navy power electronics and motor programs. I previously was GARA president for 3 years.

Niles Johanson, Treasurer

I retired from GA in 2017. Since then, I dabble in various market & R/E investments to generate retirement income. I have also had the honor of volunteering as GARA Treasurer for 4 years.



One of the activities that Toulia and I normally enjoy is travel. Like so many others, our life for the past year has been seriously circumscribed by the Covid virus. In the past 10 years, we have cruised Alaska, the Panama Canal & the Danube River, rented a villa in Tuscany for a family get-together, spent 3 weeks visiting my cousins in Sweden including a Baltic cruise (Helsinki, St.Petersburg, Estonia & Latvia). We visited the Canadian Rockies, toured Spain & Portugal, the beautiful Alps of Austria, Italy, and Switzerland. We combined some of our European trips with side trips to Nicosia, Cyprus (Toulia's birthplace) to visit family.

Our future (post-Covid) plans include Ireland/Scotland, the Fjords of Norway, Australia / New Zealand, Asia and U.S. National Parks.

Pat Simmons, Secretary

I worked at GA for 49 years and have been retired for 5 years. This is my 4th year as GARA Secretary. In my free time I quilt, do all kinds of

puzzles and travel. My husband and I enjoy cruising and can't wait for that activity to resume.



Liz Drees, Membership Chair



I have worked at GA for 38 years, most recently as a nuclear engineer and manager for the TRIGA Reactor Facility Decontamination & Decommissioning Project. The project just came to a close with the termination of GA's NRC licenses for the TRIGA Mark I and Mark F reactors whose operating history dates back to 1958. I continue to work for GA part-time and serve as Chair of the corporate Compliance & Radiation Safety Working Group. I served on the GARA Board in recent years as President and prior to that as Secretary, looking

forward this year to serving as your Membership Chair. I enjoy spending time volunteering at a favorite cat shelter and poking around estate sales for hidden treasures. I make my home in San Carlos near Mission Trails Regional Park with John, my husband of 30 years, and 4 cats (two seniors and two six year old brothers who can't help but get into mischief).

Nancy Hitchcox, Social Chair



I retired from GA in 2015 after 28 years as a Communications Specialist. I started in the Advanced Technologies Group as a proposal specialist, gradually moving into the marketing communications field. After a brief stint in the Energy Group, I spent my last few years in Electromagnetic Systems as the lead of a small group handling trade shows, press relations, brochures, videos, web site content and other tasks.

In retirement I have served GARA as Social Chair and President. I'm also active in San Diego Mensa, currently serving as Development Chair and as editor of the local newsletter. I am a volunteer with the Poway Library and with Palomar Medical Center – Poway. I also enjoy traveling, theater, and movies and spending time with friends and family.

Maria Koploy, Newsletter Editor

I worked at GA for 41 years. While Covid, I have spent most of my time being a grandmother, both in Colorado where I have three grand kids and in



California where I have two. We have been spending more and more time in Colorado, and have enjoyed becoming familiar with Lakewood, Golden, Morrison and several of the areas around Denver.

This will be my second year as the newspaper editor for GARA and I am looking forward to seeing all in person in this new year.

Tom Tasker, Member at Large and Website Manager



I am the webmaster for the GARA website which consists of maintaining the website and keeping it updated. I worked at General Atomics for 14 years until my retirement in 2017. While I was there, I was the project controller for the Advanced Arresting Gear (AAG) program and then went to GA Aeronautical to be a member of the Earned Value

Management System (EVMS) staff as a subject matter expert. Prior to joining GA, I worked for another company supporting the Accelerator for Production of Tritium (APT) program in Los Alamos New Mexico. My wife, Jane, and I live in Solana Beach and have a son who lives with his wife in Venice Beach CA.

Al Zimmer, Member at Large



I retired in 2013 after 43 years at GA working on many different projects including HTGR, High Level Waste Shipping casks, APT and EMS projects. I graduated with a Masters in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois and have been long involved in the local Illinois Alumni Club. Before arriving at GA I spent 2 years in the Navy. My wife Sue and I have enjoyed traveling over the years, just not lately. Since retiring I have joined a local Optimist club which supports the youth of the community. I am also a coin collector and joined the local coin club. I have been a Member At Large of GARA for several years and enjoy maintaining contact with fellow GA retirees.

Carmelo Rodriguez, Member at Large

I spend my days working in and around the house, mainly maintaining the yard, suggesting to my representatives to Congress ideas about climate change, helping care givers to my neighbors, mainly going to the supermarket and to the pharmacy for them, and... ..very pleasantly dreaming of the next GARA meeting.



New GARA members in 2021

The following people joined GARA in 2021:

Baron Asher
Howard Grunloh
Kathy Murray
Joanie Richards
John Shumate

Welcome!

Annual Dues Are Going Up

The annual dues fee has remained unchanged at \$10.00 for many years while the costs of producing and mailing the quarterly newsletter, and the fixed costs associated with luncheon have continued to increase with inflation. The last two years of the Covid pandemic have resulted in a significant spike in prices as most members must be aware.

Accordingly, effective March 1st, 2022, the GARA Board will increase the annual membership dues to \$15.00/year to cover increased costs.

Member payments for CY-2022 dues received before March 1, 2022 will be accepted for \$10.00.

Payments for CY-2022 dues received after March 1st or advance payments for 2023 and beyond must be in the amount of \$15.00/year.

Catch up payments for dues in arrears (2021 and earlier) will still be accepted at \$10/year.

All members that are currently receiving mailed hard copies of the newsletter and can do without it are requested to go digital and provide us with their e-mail address.

Please send your e-mail address to Liz Drees at dreesea2016@gmail.com

In Memoria

GARA is deeply saddened to announce the passing of the following colleague:

Richard “Dick” McCormack
September 6, 1931 - November 4, 2021

Dick passed away November 4, 2021 at his home in La Jolla of natural causes.

Dick attended Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey. After graduation, Dick joined the Navy as an officer. After 3 years in the Navy, Dick was hired as an engineer in Combustion Engineering's Manhattan office. In 1966, at age 35, he became the youngest vice president in CE history. Two years later, he transferred to CE headquarters in Connecticut and managed its nuclear power and fossil steam generator business. In 1974, he left CE to become president of General Atomic (GA) Power Systems Co. in La Jolla, California. After GA, Dick began a new career as a serial entrepreneur. Over the next 40 years, he started businesses associated with solar energy storage, publishing, sports videos, utility plant safety, software, consulting, green renovation of homes, hydrogen generation, and water desalination. Dick was active in the Catholic Church, his faith growing stronger as he aged.

GARA Luncheon Will Be Held In Outdoor Pavilion

Due to Covid, the luncheon will be held in an outdoor pavilion at the Bernardo Heights County Club that is covered and has heaters and fans, see picture below. The sides have drapes that can be open. There is plenty of space to spread out.



GARA Luncheons are Back!

Join us Wednesday February 23, 2022 at the Bernardo Heights Country Club for our first luncheon in two years. Since it looks like COVID isn't going away, it's time to continue our normal activities while being as safe as we can. We hope everyone will be vaxxed and boosted and will wear masks when not eating or drinking. **We will be in an outdoor covered pavilion with heaters.**

Our speaker will be Dr. Vivek Lall, Chief Executive of General Atomics Global Corporation, which is a vehicle for global recognition and deployment of GA technologies.



Dr. Vivek Lall

To celebrate our return to near-normal, the GARA Board of Directors invites members who have paid their dues through 2021 to attend the luncheon as guest of GARA. As catering prices have gone up considerably, it will cost \$40 for guests.

February 23, 2022, 11:30 Meet & Greet, 12:00 Lunch, followed by speaker.
Bernardo Heights Country Club
16066 Bernardo Heights Parkway, San Diego, Ca 92128

Please send in the following reservation form to be received by February 14. Paid-up members coming alone may send reservation and food choice to nancy.hitchcox@gmail.com.

Member*: _____ Salmon ____ Chicken ____ Veg. Pasta ____
\$ 0.00
Guest: _____ Salmon ____ Chicken ____ Veg. Pasta ____
\$40.00

*\$0.00 Must have dues paid through 2021, otherwise \$40.00.

Send this form and check made out to GA Retirees Association to:
Nancy Hitchcox
12302 Old Stone Road
Poway, CA 92064

Phone: 858 335 4839
E-mail: nancy.hitchcox@gmail.com

RESERVATION DEADLINE TO BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 14