
GARA News

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November 2021

From the President

Nancy Hitchcox



Greetings, GARA members! I hope you are all doing well. I want to thank you for supporting the association with your dues through this long COVID period without meetings. We plan to start in-person meetings early next year with a special surprise for members whose 2021 dues are paid by December 31, 2021. If you receive a hard copy of the newsletter, the year next to your name is the year you're paid through. If you're not sure, contact Niles Johanson (nilesjo@yahoo.com).

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Zoom December 8, 2021 at 2:00 pm. We will vote on a slate of officers (write-ins encouraged) and a proposed budget for 2022. The ballot and budget are included in this newsletter. You can either vote in-person during the Zoom or mail in your ballot. Details on how to attend the meeting are provided on the ballot. I hope many of you will attend. It would be nice to see you after so long apart.

As you have no doubt noticed, prices are going up everywhere. Mailing costs are increasing and luncheon venues have increased their prices, some

dramatically. Be forewarned that we may have to increase dues and/or luncheon costs next year. The Board needs suggestions for speakers for next year. Please send ideas for either GA or outside speakers to me (nancy.hitchcox@gmail.com). I hope you have a happy and safe holiday season. See you next year.

GA Retirees Association, Inc.

www.garetirees.org

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Open

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Open

Past President: Jim Zgliczynski

619 237 9812 zgliczynski@outlook.com

Website: Tom Tasker

858 369 0671 ttasker103@aol.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Due to Covid 19 there will be no in person business meeting this year, instead a Zoom meeting has been scheduled for December 8 at 2 pm. Please see the Zoom meeting notice included with the GARA Board Meeting Ballot attached.

IMMEDIATE BOARD OPENING: Member at Large

The GARA Board of Directors is looking for someone to assume the position of Member at Large.

Duties:

1. Attend all scheduled Board of Directors meetings.
2. Represent the G.A. Retirees Association (GARA) at scheduled GARA social functions.
3. Encourage new General Atomics (GA) retirees to join GARA.
4. Attend, if possible, GA social events outside the GARA “social circle” and promote GARA.
5. Be a member of the GA Employees Recreation Association (ERA) and be known by the ERA Board of Directors.
6. Support other members of the GARA Board of Directors in their duties as necessary, contribute to the draft Agenda for the Board of Directors meetings, comment on draft meeting minutes, etc. Be an active participant in Board meetings.
7. Fill in as needed at GARA functions or on Board committees as requested by the President.

If interested in this position, contact GARA President Nancy Hitchcox (Nancy.Hitchcox@gmail.com).

GA HAPPENINGS

The following are synopses of recent GA press releases. The complete releases can be found at Press Releases | General Atomics (ga.com) or by clicking on the title.

[GA-EMS and Boeing Team to Develop 300kW-class HELWS Prototype for US Army](#)

A General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems (GA-EMS) and Boeing [NYSE: BA] team has been awarded a U.S. Army Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office (RCCTO) contract to develop a 300kW-class solid state Distributed Gain High Energy Laser Weapon System. Oct 25, 2021

[General Atomics Completes Successful NASA Deep Space Atomic Clock Mission](#)

“I am extremely proud of the GA-EMS team that worked diligently through the design, build, integration, on-orbit operations, and through to completion of the NASA JPL DSAC mission,” stated Scott Forney, president of GA-EMS. Oct 12, 2021

[General Atomics Scientists Use Cloud Supercomputing for Fusion Research](#)

Experts at General Atomics (GA), working together with the San Diego Supercomputer Center (SDSC) and Canadian firm Drizti Inc., have developed a prototype for running fusion reactor simulations in the cloud. The idea may significantly simplify the modeling process for fusion reactor designs and help bring fusion energy closer. Sep 27, 2021

[GA-ASI Flies UAS in the Canadian Arctic](#)

In a flight that originated from its Flight Test and Training Center (FTTC) near Grand Forks, N.D., General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) flew a company-owned MQ-9A “Big Wing” configured Unmanned Aircraft System north through Canadian airspace past the 78th parallel. Sep 10, 2021

General Atomics Continues On-Time Delivery of EMALS/AAG On-Time Delivery for CVN 79, CVN 80

General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems (GA-EMS) announced today that it continues on-time delivery of the Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS) and Advanced Arresting Gear (AAG) for installation on the future *Gerald R. Ford-class* aircraft carriers *USS John F Kennedy* (CVN 79) and *USS Enterprise* (CVN 80).

Jul 12, 2021

GA-ASI Completes First MQ-9A Block 5 for the Netherlands

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) announced today the completion of the first MQ-9A Block 5 Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) and Ground Control Station (GCS) for the Royal Netherlands Air Force (RNLAf).

Jul 8, 2021

General Atomics LINCS System Launched Successfully and Deployed

GA-EMS announced today that, in partnership with the Space Development Agency (SDA), its Laser Interconnect and Networking Communications System (LINCS) satellites were successfully launched on the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket as part of the Transporter-2 mission from the Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral, FL.

Jun 30, 2021

General Atomics to Ship World's Most Powerful Magnet to ITER

After a decade of design and fabrication, General Atomics is ready to ship the first module of the Central Solenoid, the world's most powerful magnet.

Jun 15, 2021

New Generator Coming Online for Gray Eagle ER UAS

On May 13, 2021, General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. (GA-ASI) completed initial flight tests of a new brushless generator system on a company-owned Gray Eagle Extended Range (GE-ER) Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) at Yuma Proving Grounds, Ariz.

Jun 9, 2021

In Memoriam

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

James Milton McNair

December 10, 1942 - December 4, 2020

Jim graduated from the University of Nebraska with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering. After graduation he worked as a nuclear engineer at the National Reactor Testing Station near Idaho Falls, Idaho. While living in Idaho Falls, he met and married his wife Judith "Judy" Ann (Hingsberger) and had two children, Sean and Kelli.

He worked in General Atomics as a nuclear engineer and a project manager for about 32 years. He retired in 2004 and enrolled in law school. He graduated from law school in 2006 and passed the California Bar exam in February 2007. He practiced law for 10 years including serving as a "Pro Tem" small claims judge and traffic court judge.

Judy and he loved traveling in our later years. And he had a passion for photography and woodworking.

Jim served as the GARA newsletter editor for two years.

John Shay Greenwood

1951 – July 2, 2021



John was one of GA's longest serving employees and had attained the distinction of having served on GA's staff continuously for 50 years this past January. At the time of his passing, John was the Manager of GA's TRIGA Reactors Facility on the Torrey Pines mesa, a position he had held since 1998. Prior to that, he was Manager for the GA megacurie Hot Cells, Radiochemistry Laboratories and Linear Accelerator Facilities.

John started his career at GA in 1971 as a technician doing laboratory analyses for nuclear fuels. He received

his B.A. in chemistry from UCSD in 1980, allowing him to contribute as a scientist to a variety of radiochemistry projects including production of the critical medical radioisotope yttrium-90. He also became a licensed Senior Reactor Operator for GA's two research reactors. John was a charter member of the GA Softball Club and enjoyed playing the guitar and preparing his signature liquid nitrogen "nuclear" ice cream for his colleagues.

Thomas D Vanecek

July 4, 1945 – August 16, 2021

Tom was a graduate of Grove City College and served as an officer in the US Navy in the Pacific theater during the Vietnam War. He went on to a long career with General Atomics before his retirement. He is survived by his beloved Lifetime Partner Lisa Santoro.

Dave Kapich

Dave passed away August 23rd, 2021, at home with his family by his side.

Dave Kapich was a brilliant engineer who worked at GA over 18 years. He designed and led the production of high efficiency and passively safe circulators for power generation plants, in particular for High Temperature Fast Cooled reactors, starting with the Fort St Vrain Nuclear Power Plant in Platteville Colorado. Very few gas-cooled nuclear reactors were built. But independently, NASA used the process for outer space power generation. In a sense, Dave was an early clean power pioneer.

Dave was President of Kapich Engineering and had numerous patents under his name.

PK Patel

November 8, 1939 – October 8, 2021

PK was born in Minkachh, Gujarat, India. He went to Barada for college and finished a Master's in mechanical engineering from Berkeley. He attended Columbia University for a PHD. He was married to Kanta and together with their family they moved to Encinitas in 1974. They became central members of the San Diego community. PK was a founding member of the San Diego Indian American Society and started the AVID scholarship program with his dear friend Dr Madhovon. It was PK's passion to provide education as a means of uplifting individuals and families.

GARA Board of Directors Ballot

Calendar Year 2022

Instructions

1. Vote for individual nominees by:
 - a. Check the box or a write-in your preferred candidate's name.
 - b. You can vote to approve ALL proposed nominees by doing so in the first box.
2. Vote to approve the 2022 GARA budget by at the bottom of the ballot.
3. Please return ballot by First Class Mail or E-mail to the address shown below, please do so by Dec 7.

Approve all the GARA Board nominees listed below

PRESIDENT

- Junaid Razvi
 Write In _____

VICE PRESIDENT

- Jim Zgliczynski
 Write In _____

SECRETARY

- Pat Simmons
 Write In _____

TREASURER

- Niles Johanson
 Write In _____

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

- Liz Drees
 Write In _____

SOCIAL CHAIR

- Nancy Hitchcox _____
 Write In _____

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

- Maria Kopley
 Write In _____

MEMBER AT LARGE (1 of 4)

- Carmelo Rodriguez
 Write In _____

MEMBER AT LARGE (2 of 4)

- Tom Tasker
 Write In _____

MEMBER AT LARGE (3 of 4)

- Al Zimmer
 Write In _____

MEMBER AT LARGE (4 of 4)

- Vacant
 Write In _____

APPROVAL OF GARA CY2022 Budget

- YES
 NO

Pat Simmons
Secretary, GARA Board of Directors
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Annual Members Meeting
Wednesday 08 December 2021
2 PM – 3 PM PST

Join via our Zoom Platform

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86157210006>

Meeting ID: 861 5721 0006

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,86157210006# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,86157210006# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 861 5721 0006

Find your local

number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86157210006>

Proposed GARA Budget For Calendar Year 2022

The association's atypical year of 2020 has very much continued into 2021. Most members miss the social contacts we valued in the past. The Covid pandemic has now been significantly diminished and we feel safer due to the emergence of successful vaccines and various Covid treatments.

The GARA board is optimistic and hopeful that 2022 will be the year in which the members can regroup and re-bond at the traditional quarterly luncheons, as has been our history.

Based on recent discussions with venues that we have used in the past we expect significant increases in food, service, and room rental rates. The increases are attributable to food & labor inflation, attempts to make up for losses experienced during the pandemic, and the squeeze induced by some venues limiting luncheon groups (supply & demand).

As we did for the 2021 budget, the following assumptions apply,

1. Events and activities will approximate the pre-pandemic period.
2. There will be four quarterly luncheon meetings.
3. Estimates are estimated on the 4 pre-pandemic quarters.
4. Luncheon group size based on 40 attendees rather than 45-50.
5. A 20% adder for higher restaurant and other expenses is incorporated – an additional 10% over last year's escalator.

The pre-pandemic quarterly luncheon expenses averaged about \$1,700 per event. Applying the 20% escalator raises that to \$2,050.

Therefore the proposed GARA annual budget for CY 2022 is **\$8,200**

If it turns out that this budget misses the mark on actual 2022 expenses the GARA board, at its discretion, may subsidize luncheon costs to incentivize a robust membership attendance.