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# GARA News

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## From the President

Nancy Hitchcox



As the new president of GARA for 2021, I'd like to give a big thank you to last year's board of directors: Jim Zgliczynski (President), Vojin Joksimovich (Vice President), Pat Simmons (Secretary), Niles Johanson (Treasurer and Membership Chair), Jim McNair (newsletter editor), Tom Tasker (Website), and members at large Carmelo Rodriguez, Al Zimmer and Ken Dawson. Even though we weren't able to have our usual luncheons, the Board met regularly through Zoom to continue with the business of the organization.

As you can see from the list of 2021 board members, some of the same people are continuing in their roles or assuming new roles. New to the board for 2021 are Junaid Razvi (Vice President), Maria Koploy (GARA News Editor) and Woody Snyder (Social Chair).

I hope you all have avoided Covid so far. If not, please let us know of your experience with this disease. You may email me at [nancy.hitchcox@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.hitchcox@gmail.com). Now that Covid

vaccines are becoming available, I hope you will take advantage of this potentially life-saving procedure. Because I am a volunteer at Palomar Medical Centers, I got my first vaccine shot in January. Aside from a slightly sore arm, I haven't had any side-effects.

We plan to reinstate our luncheons sometime this year when it is safe to do so. Please send ideas for future speakers to Junaid Razvi ([JRazvi49@gmail.com](mailto:JRazvi49@gmail.com)). I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in person soon.

### GA Retirees Association, Inc.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Due to Covid 19, all in person meetings and events are being postponed, we will keep you informed of any changes.*

## Board of Directors for 2021

During the December 9, 2020 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.

### Nancy Hitchcox, President



I retired in 2015 and have enjoyed traveling and supporting GARA as Social Chair and San Diego Mensa as Treasurer. I have also been a volunteer at Palomar Medical Center Poway, working in the Outpatient Surgery area until Covid hit. I look forward to seeing everyone in person as soon as it's safe to congregate.

### Junaid Razvi, Vice President



I retired from GA in 2018, just shy of my 40th anniversary. Many of my GA colleagues may remember me for work on TRIGA reactors, and especially so from my conduct of regular tours of GA's reactor complex for employees and visitors, showing off the Cerenkov "blue glow." In addition to my work with TRIGA projects, I was in engineering and project management on HTGR, nuclear waste management, and medical radioisotopes projects and initiatives. Not opting for full retirement yet, I currently support several companies as an independent consultant, serve as a Senior Fellow at the U.S. Nuclear Industry Council, in addition to enjoying tending to my garden, biking, and hiking.

## 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 3 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.

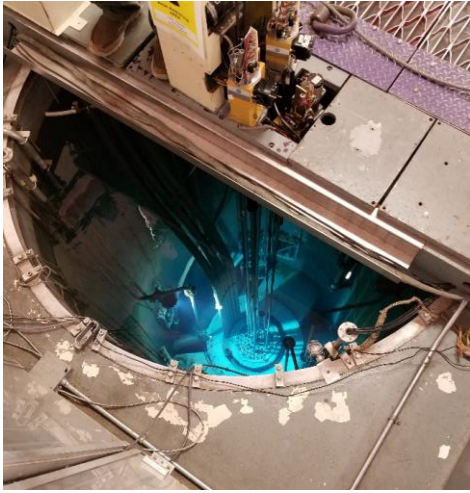
## Pat Simmons, Secretary



I worked at GA for 49 years and have been retired for 4 years. This is my 3rd year as GARA secretary. In my free time I quilt, do all kinds of puzzles, play with my cat and travel. My husband and I enjoy ocean cruising and can't wait for that activity to resume.

## Alan "Woody" Snyder, Social Chair





**Alan Woodward ‘Woody’ Snyder pictured in July 2020 visiting the Kansas State University TRIGA (<https://www.mne.k-state.edu/research/reactor/> Best explanation and demonstration of TRIGA on the web).**

Retired Naval Aviator working at GA-ASI since 2007. New GARA Board Member, Social Chair - Thanks for the opportunity! In 2021 I look forward to vaccinations, visiting with family and friends, and victuals with GARA members at some future luncheon with interesting presentation & conversations.

**Maria Koploy, Newsletter Editor**



2020 was my first year of retirement after 41 years

at GA and I could have never imagined how it was going to be, but at least I had two new grandchildren (a girl and a boy) and I was able to be with my daughters when they were born. I am looking forward to my second year of retirement being vastly different than my first! I want to travel to see my five grandchildren, visit some national parks and to travel to other areas as well.

**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



Laying low during the pandemic, catching up with house deferred maintenance, getting rid of things we no longer need, etc. Hope 2021 will allow us to travel, go out to dinner, see friends (in person), etc.

## 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.



## Ken Dawson, Member at Large



I retired in 2017 from General Atomics and have been mainly working on my place in Alpine since then. While at General Atomics I had the privilege of

leading the mechanical engineering design effort to develop a producible 50-year fatigue life design of the electromagnetic catapults for the new Ford class carrier.

### Jim Zgliczynski, Past President



This was a great year for Jim Z. I am now past president of GARA (it's been fun, but now time to drink martinis and help Nancy thru the chaos). More importantly, Sue and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. Due to Covid lockdown - no fancy ocean cruise - but a pontoon boat on Bass Lake was a fun substitute (Sue caught a fish). Also, new grandson, Jude, born this year, 4/2/20.



### GARA Board of Director Members during January 11 Zoom Board Meeting

*California Corporation promoting the interests of General Atomics retirees*