

Reaching Out From a
Common Experience

"Reaching Out From a Common Experience"

Greetings from a unique group of people - the retirees of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The Laboratory Retiree Group (LRG) is a non-profit corporation which seeks to maintain communications with and to serve the needs and interests of retirees from LANL. If you wish to join our organization, an application is available in this newsletter. For more information, please contact our President Charles R. Mansfield at coyote2@swcp.com or by mail at P. O. Box 546, Los Alamos, NM 87544.

LRG Officers and Board Members

President: Charles R. Mansfield coyote2@swcp.com

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Board Member: Melvin L. Brooks

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Board Member: Sheila Girard sgirard@losalamos.com

Board Member: Mary L. Mariner

Board Member: Bob Meier bobmeier@mac.com

Board Member: David Schiferl dsconsult@earthlink.net

Board Member: Alan Wadlinger awadlinger@vla.com

Committee Chairs

Health Issues: Glenn Lockhart, (505) 672-3784, and Ken Wilson, Co-Chairs

Health Care Premium Working Committee: Glenn Lockhart

Computer Literacy: Mary L. Mariner, (505) 672-1950

Membership: Sheila Girard, (505) 672-3497

Main Gate: John Stewart, (505) 662-7158

Web Contact: LRG Web Master: Don Reid lrg271a@gmail.com

The **Laboratory Retiree Group** web site is www.losalamoslrg.org.

Health Issues

By Glenn Lockhart

LRG has established contact with retiree groups at other DOE sites. The Savannah River Retiree Association has compiled information comparing health insurance for each site. In 2011, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory retirees coordinated with Medicare were given a stipend of \$2,200 per year per person (now \$2,400) to procure their own health insurance. For 2014, retirees coordinated with Medicare at Hanford, Lawrence Livermore, Nevada Test Site, Oak Ridge, Sandia-Livermore, and Savannah River are required to buy their own health insurance from outside sources. They are paid a stipend ranging from \$1,500 - \$2,400 per year per person. All of these plans use a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) to administer the stipend (retirees must submit bills for reimbursement).

For 2014, The University of California has instituted an HRA for retirees coordinated with Medicare and living outside the State of California with a stipend of \$3,000 per year per person. For 2013, UC spent \$6,300 per year per person for these retirees.

The Health Care Premium Working Committee (established in 2011) concludes that an HRA with a stipend is the National Nuclear Security Agency's preferred health care option, and that an HRA would not be in the best interest of LRG members.

LRG has written to the Secretary of Energy (Chu and Moniz), the NNSA Administrator, the President of the University of California (Yudof and Napolitano), Senator Tom Udall, Congressman Ben Ray Lujan, and the Director of Los Alamos National Laboratory (Anastasio and McMillan) opposing the HRA and the stipend. Personal contact was made with Senator Udall and Congressman Lujan. A briefing document on Health Care Premiums was mailed to Congressman Lujan. A staffer informed LRG that the Congressional delegation would act as facilitators, but would not take a position. The DOE/NNSA responded to all of LRG's correspondence, but would not divulge what their policy is or change present practices.

The LRG Board of Directors has authorized up to \$10,000 to explore legal action with a California attorney. Lawrence Livermore retirees sued the University of California in trying to get back into the UC health care plans. Their suit is estimated to cost \$250,000 - \$300,000, all of which has been pledged.

If you have questions about benefits, contact Glenn Lockhart at (505) 672-3784 or e-mail at mandmlockhart@cs.com, or snail mail at 91 Mimbres Drive, Los Alamos, NM 87544.

Annual General Meeting

4:00-6:00 p.m. 10 May
Masonic Lodge
15th St & N. Sage, Los Alamos
Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Cookies,
Soda & Coffee.

Coffee and Conversation (and breakfast?)

1st Tuesday of the Month, 8:00-10:00 a.m.
Fusion Café - Mari Mac Shopping Center

Sweet Seventy

By Dale Thompson

Due to the New Mexico Senior Citizen Reduced Tuition Act of 1984, persons 65 and older can take college classes at a very reduced rate. Go to www.aseniorcitizenguideforcollege.com for more information. A follow-up article will be in the next *Main Gate*.

The Worst Manhattan Project Leak

The following are excerpts from an article written by Alex Wellerstein, posted September 20, 2013. I've sometimes heard people suggest that were the press like this during World War II, things like the secret of the atomic bomb could never have been kept as well as they were. And while there is something to that, in the sense that American journalists were far more cooperative and acquiescent during the 1940s, it also projects a rosier picture backwards than ever truly existed. The worst violation came in March 1944. John Raper, a reporter for the *Cleveland Press*, while on vacation in New Mexico, somehow stumbled upon one of the biggest, most secret stories of the day. (Below is most of John Raper's article)



THE CLEVELAND PRESS, MONDAY, MARCH 13, 1944

Forbidden City - Uncle Sam's Mystery Town Directed by "2nd Einstein" / Jack Raper, *Press* columnist

New Mexico has a mystery city, one with an area from eight to 20 square miles, according to guesses. It has a population of between 5000 and 6000 persons, not more than probably half a dozen of whom can step outside of the city except by special permission of the city boss. He grants permission only in the most exceptional circumstances and under the most rigid conditions. And it is even more difficult for a non-resident to enter than for a resident to leave. Commonly known as Los Alamos, the place is a thoroughly modern city. It has fine streets, an electric light plant and water-works with capacity for a city twice as large as Los Alamos, a service department that really serves, public library, high, grade, and nursery schools; recreation centers, hospital, apartment houses, cottages, dance hall, an enormous grocery, refrigeration plant, factories and jail. Shortly after the man who thinks he is going to the mystery city of Los Alamos reaches the level on which it is built, he will see, if he looks into the windshield mirror, a man following him on a motorcycle not many feet behind the car and he will be in the same position when the gate is reached. The instant the car stops there is a man directly in front of it and a man on each side. The three men are in military uniform and each has a rifle. Then you realize that the owner of this strange city is Uncle Sam and you make no kind of protest and answer questions politely. If you have gone through all of the preliminary red tape previously and have been notified that you will be admitted, the men at the gate will know all about you and there will be little delay after you show the necessary papers. You will be escorted to the office of the man whom you are to meet, escorted by two jeeps, one in front and one behind your car, men in each jeep armed with rifles. En route you will notice that the city is fenced in and that mounted soldiers patrol it and you will see scores of buildings. Uncle Sam has placed this in charge of two men. The man who commands the soldiers, who sees that the garbage and rubbish

(Continued on page 8, back page)

Los Alamos Christmas from the Los Alamos Daily Post



More Los Alamos Christmas from the Los Alamos Daily Post



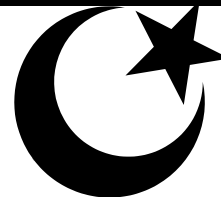
Lights Across Ashley Pond



In Memoriam

As of 02-23-2014

By Jack Clifford



Wilbert H. "Walt" Meyers
Jeanne E. Hasty
Robert A. Hardekopf
Ruth L. Demuth
Sabino A. Ortiz
Ronald F. Christian
Toshiko N. Bradley
Guy E. Barasch
Mary Marlett
John L. Montano
Susan M. Brozik
Duard I. Morris
Allan K. Stoker
Robert E. Cowan
Robert F. Ford
Charles R. Walters

Anthony V. Biebel
Frank Osvath
Charles H. Smith
Merced Manuel Lopez, Sr.
Peter N.V. Olivas
Fae Bueschel
Edwin L. Kemp
Dimitri Mihalas
Stirling A. Colgate
Jenifer M. Neuman
Alvin "Gene" Fox
Harley E. Walker
George H. Whitehead
William Patterson
Darrell P. "Bosco" Hohner
Mary Penneman

Richard C. Anderson
Robert J. Gill
Fritz Paul Schilling
Richard E. Prael
John S. "Butch" McGurn
Willard H. Schmidt
Vernon L. Zeigner
Stewart A. Apgar III
Michael P. Goda
Harold D. Ferguson
Bill Hodges
James P. Cooper
Walter Benjamin

Los Alamos Employees' Scholarship Fund (LAESF)

Administered by the LANL Foundation

The Fund's goal is to provide scholarships that support the students of Northern New Mexico who are pursuing 4-year undergraduate degrees in fields that will serve the region. Awards are based on academic performance, leadership potential, critical thinking skills, and career goals. Financial need, diversity, and regional representation are integral components of the selections process.

In 2013, 108 scholarships were awarded totaling \$438,500. Funds awarded to students are generated primarily by donations from LANL employees, retirees, and affiliates during the LAESF annual fund drive in May. LANS matches the campaign contributions dollar-for-dollar up to \$250,000. In 2013, LAESF raised \$563,000 during the annual campaign.

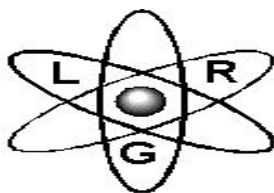
LAESF would welcome financial contributions of any amount from members of the Laboratory Retiree Group (LRG), and in particular contributions from retirees who would be interested in funding a pre-established LAESF LANL Retiree Scholarship. This fund was established in 2006 by LANL retirees as a way to continue supporting students in the region who have a sincere desire to pursue and succeed in higher education. To date, the Retiree fund has collected nearly \$10,000, and when funded to completion at \$30,000, LAESF will begin making scholarship awards of \$1,000 annually to a deserving student, in the name of the LANL Retirees endowment. Awards are made on academic merit, leadership, and community service. Regional and ethnic diversity are also integral components of the selections criteria.

If interested in supporting this fund with a tax-deductible donation, please visit the LANL Foundation's website and download and complete the general pledge here:

http://www.lanlfoundation.org/Docs/LAESF_GeneralPledgeForm.pdf.

Be sure to write "Designate to Retiree Scholarship" in the giving options if you wish for your gift to be applied to the Retiree Scholarship Fund. Or, if you desire, you may designate your contribution on the pledge form to the General Fund.

For more information, please contact Tony Fox, Scholarship Program Officer with the LANL Foundation, at 505-753-8890 x116 with any questions you might have regarding the LANL Foundation or the scholarship fund.



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Membership Application

LRG has three classes of membership. Participation in all LRG social or educational events is open to all members regardless of membership classification.

ACTIVE Member: A Los Alamos National Laboratory employee who has retired **from the prime contractor of LANL (presently UCRS, PERS, and LANS)**. Active members pay dues of \$12.00/ calendar year. VOTING PRIVILEGES at Annual Meetings and eligibility to serve as LRG Officers and/or Directors are reserved for Active Members. Active Members receive copies of the LABORATORY RETIREE DIRECTORY and LRG's publication, *The Main Gate*.

AFFILIATE Member: The spouse of an Active Member, of a deceased retiree, or of a deceased person who would have been eligible for ACTIVE membership. **AFFILIATES pay no dues. An Affiliate member may become a Member on the death of the spouse by paying dues.**

FRIENDS: Persons who are not LANL retirees or affiliates but support LRG. FRIENDS pay dues of \$15.00/yr to cover cost of postage for the DIRECTORY and all issues of *The Main Gate*.

THE LABORATORY RETIREE GROUP, INC. (LRG)

☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal ☐ Affiliate ☐ Friend
☐ Change of address ☐ Check here if requested information remains unchanged.

Lab. Retiree: _____, _____ Year Retired: _____
(Please print or type last name first)

Retiree System: _____

Spouse: _____, _____ LANL Retiree? Y ___ N ___ Year Ret.: _____
(Please print or type last name first)

Friend: _____, _____
(Please print or type last name first)

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____ Fax or E-Mail _____

I WISH TO BE LISTED IN THE LABORATORY RETIREE DIRECTORY: Yes ___ No ___

Please make your check, which will serve as your receipt, payable to LRG, Inc. and mail to:
LRG, Inc.
PO Box 546
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Cash or Check #: _____ Date: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Laboratory Retiree Group
LRG, Inc.
PO Box 546
Los Alamos, NM 87544

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Address Service Requested

(continued from page 3) are collected, the streets kept up, the electric light plant and the water-works functioning and all other metropolitan work operating smoothly is a Col. Somebody. I don't know his name, but it isn't so important because the Mr. Big of the city is a college professor, Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, called "the Second Einstein" by the newspapers of the west coast. Dr. Oppenheimer is a Harvard graduate, attended Cambridge a year, received a Ph.D. from Gottingen University, Germany; is professor of physics at the University of California and the California Institute of Technology, and is a "fellow" of too many organizations to enumerate. It is the work of Prof. Oppenheimer and the hundreds of men and women in his laboratories and shops that makes Los Alamos such a carefully guarded city. All the residents will be obliged to remain there for the duration and for six months thereafter and it seems quite probable that many of them don't know much more about what is being done than you do. It is gossip that no one mechanic is permitted to finish a piece of work. He starts to make something and it is passed at a certain point in its production to another, who goes a little further with the work and passes it to another and so on until the article is finished. One of the public's guesses is that nothing but research is done. Thousands believe the professor is directing the development of chemical warfare, so that if Hitler tries poison gas Uncle Sam will be ready with a more terrifying one. Another widespread belief is that he is developing ordnance and explosives. Supporters of this guess argue that it accounts for the number of mechanics working on the production of a single device and there are others who will tell you tremendous explosions have been heard. The most interesting story is that Prof. Oppenheimer is working on a beam that will cause the motors to stop so that German planes will drop from the skies as though they were paving blocks. In support of this there are stories of the experiences of automobile drivers in the vicinity of Los Alamos. According to these, their radios and motors stopped suddenly at the same instant and after 15 or 20 minutes suddenly began to operate as usual. One of these days Prof. Oppenheimer may tell the newspapers about what he has done at Los Alamos, there may be another now-it-can-be-told book, or the Secretary of War may hand out the report made to him.