

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](mailto: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](mailto:coyote2@swcp.com)

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Board Member: Alan Wadlinger [awadlinger@vla.com](mailto: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](mailto:lrg271a@gmail.com)

The **Laboratory Retiree Group** web site is [www.losalamoslrg.org](http://www.losalamoslrg.org).

## Health Issues by Glenn Lockhart

Empyrean Benefits Solutions (Empyrean) took over administration of LANL retiree health care, dental, vision, and legal benefits (effective April 1, 2015) from AON Hewitt. One of the changes which occurred is the introduction of a monthly Statement, or Invoice. I have received numerous calls asking how to read this Statement, so I will try to explain.

The first page is only your address.

The next page is the Statement:

Your address is in the upper left hand corner.

The **Statement Date**, **Retiree ID** (Z Number or last four digits of your Social Security Number), and **Invoice ID** are in the upper right hand corner.

The **Summary** shows the amount that you owe or the amount LANL owes you (details are in the sections which follow). If you are on Medicare and are not enrolled in Vision or Legal insurance, LANL will owe you. Otherwise, you owe LANL.

**Contact** provides the telephone number, office hours, and website information for Empyrean.

**Prior Balance from Last Invoice** is self-explanatory.

**Payments Received** shows payments that you have made by check or bank deduction (a "debit") or payments that LANL has made to you for partial refund of the Medicare Part B premium.

**New Charges** shows the premiums charged for coverage (health care plan, dental, vision, and legal) minus the partial reimbursement of the Medicare Part B premium. If the algebraic sum is negative, LANL owes you.

The bottom of the Statement is for payments by check.

The third and fourth pages are the Premium Debit Authorization Form and instructions for bank deductions. If you want your refund check deposited to your account, call Empyrean at 1-800-805-0002. They will send you a form.

I asked LANL Benefits why a monthly statement (which is an added expense to LANL) was considered necessary. The answer that I received (I am interpreting what I think I heard) was that LANL wanted to err on the side of providing too much information rather than not providing enough. I pointed out that for decades LANL retirees had been well informed by only receiving one Statement per year.

We have received a rumor from the street that insurance plans for 2016 will remain the same.

If you have questions, call me at (505) 672-3784, e-mail at [mandmlockhart@cs.com](mailto:mandmlockhart@cs.com), or snail mail at 91 Mimbres Drive, Los Alamos, NM 87544.

## Inventory by Tom Sandford

This is a story related to me by Clarence Courtright who was the safety officer for the explosives division (GMX Division) where I began my career at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory in 1960. He came to work at the Lab in the 1950's.

"Court" said that his boss, Roy Reider, safety director for the Lab, asked him to take care of some debris at Technical Area 6 on Two Mile Mesa. Court said that there was a row of 18 piles of wooden debris spaced about 100 yards apart along the mesa. He asked around about them, and found out from John Russell that as WWII in Japan ended, the US had 18 more incomplete Fat Man atomic bombs in the pipeline. When the military asked what should be done with the remainder, the answer was "send them back where they came from." So these devices were returned to Los Alamos, and wooden shelters were hastily built to protect them from the weather. By the '50s, - 17 bombs/parts were long gone to other places, and the shelters fell apart.

But the puzzle was, where was the 18<sup>th</sup> incomplete bomb? Court raised this issue, and Max

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Roy, W-Division Leader, spent about 3 ½ years tracking this bomb.

Meanwhile, Wendover Air Base, in the Utah desert on the border of Nevada, was the place where Army Air Force bomber crews were trained. Crews for the B-17, B-24, and B-29 bombers were all trained there. When the 509<sup>th</sup> Composite Group was assigned there to train to load, fly, and drop the atomic bombs, that part of the air base became very secret and compartmented. Many mockups of the Fat Man and Little Boy were built and tested. These mockups possessed varying degrees of exactness to the real bombs, ranging from bomb cases filled with concrete to ones that included all the electronics and high explosives and a dummy pit. The Fat Man mockups were called “pumpkins” because of their shape.

Punch Line: Max Roy tracked the missing bomb (maybe complete except for the pit’s core) to Fort Wingate near Gallup, NM, stored with a bunch of the inert pumpkin units!

### S-Site Luncheon by Tom Sandford

On August 10, 2012, at the Chamisa Country Club, Rio Rancho, several people who used to work at S-Site met for lunch. A group photo and their names are listed below. Were it not for family illnesses, or people out of town, attendance would have been greater. It was really great to see everyone that we worked with after many years, in many cases several decades. We did a lot of reminiscing before and after lunch. After we finished eating, everyone had a chance to tell stories of memories about working at S-Site. Mixed with lots of fun stories and anecdotes were also unforgettable memories of the fatal explosives accidents in 1959.

S-Site was a great place to work. We were one big family. Most of the early days, our Group, GMX-3/WX-3, was larger than most of the Laboratory’s divisions. The Group accomplished lots of important work during the war years and continued to do so afterward. Everyone remembered that families flocked to the S-Site Cafeteria every Wednesday evening for enchilada or taco dinners. They also remembered the group’s baseball team and the many Christmas parties. We had many good times throughout the years



Left to Right: Andy Wilson, John Ramsay, Bun Ryan, Larry Fulgenzi, John Ruminer, Joanne Claybrook, Bill Claybrook, Tom Sandford, Polly (Siverly) Bravine, Dan Bravine, Mel Brooks, Harry Flaugh, Roger Goldie, Clarence Courtright, Bill Spencer, Al Popolato, Dan Loughran



## Los Alamos' New Nature Center

Pictures by John Guenette



**View of the Front**



**Looking toward Canyon Road**

## Inside the New Nature Center Pictures by John Guenette



**The Planetarian**



**View out the Back**





# LANL In Memoriam

02-22-15 – 06-29-15

By Jack Clifford



Mary Ann Reimus

Larry J. Mitchell

Jose A. Gutierrez

Juan J. Montoya, Jr.

Steven W. Mudge

Harold Robinson

Rick S. Gutierrez

Irving V. Johnson

Redus F. Holland

Robert L. Chiles

Richard A. Chiavario

Niomi G. Bowler

Jim Dominick

Jeffrey M. Bradley

John R. Rinaldi

Jeannie M. Vasquez

Madeline H. Lucas

Larry J. Mitchell

William F. Zelezny

Judith Gursky

Jesse J. Lytten

Lenard E. Trimmer

Thomas J. Merson

Leroy Horpedahl

Frank S. Abeyta

Milton Bailey

Carl C. Friedrichs

Leroy (Lee) R. Warren (AEC)

Irene (Gotti) Morris

Lawrence (Larry) Fulgenzi

Carol Robinson

Wynoka F. Miller

Robert A. Pena

Barbra L. Ruffe

Horace T. Gasca

Teymoor Gedayloo

M. Dean Keller

Alvin R. Vigil

Manuel Levi Olivas

Robert O. Eikleberry

Lawrence (Larry) Apodoca

Oneta Klatt

John F. Brackbill

Ronald D. Holmes

Linda Ettinger

Anthony J. Vergamini

Jack W. Aeby

Sent in by Chuck Mansfield:

Claude P. Brubaker

Ruben Manzanares

John Frazer

Abedon Ortiz

Jay B. Witte

Ralph Yetter

Robert F. Gribble

Herman Rohr

Harold A. Hidy

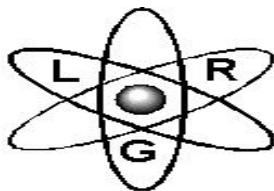
## Coffee and Conversation (and Breakfast)

1st Tuesday of the month, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Viola's on Trinity.

Coffee or tea is free.

Looking for interesting articles/stories of working at the lab or other experiences with or without pictures to publish in the Main Gate, up to a page and half. E-mail them to [jns@rt66.com](mailto:jns@rt66.com)



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## LABORATORY RETIREE GROUP (LRG) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**LRG has two 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 a prime contractor of LANL (UCRS, PERS, LANS or OTHER). Active members pay dues of \$12.00 per calendar year, have voting privileges at Annual Meetings, and are eligible to serve as LRG Officers and/or Directors. Active Members receive copies of the LRG DIRECTORY and LRG's publication, *The Main Gate*. A spouse (or ex-spouse) may become an Active Member upon death (or divorce) of the Active Member with payment of \$12.00 yearly dues.

**FRIEND:** A person who is not a LANL retiree but supports LRG. Friends pay dues of \$15.00 per year to cover the cost of printing and postage for issues of *The Main Gate*. Friends cannot vote, hold office or receive the directory.

### THE LABORATORY RETIREE GROUP, INC. (LRG)

- ☐ New Membership   ☐ Renewal   ☐ Friend   ☐ Change of Address  
☐ Check here if requested information remains unchanged (including phone no. and e-mail)  
☐ Check here if you DO NOT want to be listed in the DIRECTORY

**Lab Retiree:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Year Retired \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last Name) (First Name) (MI)

System: UCRS   PERS   LANS   OTHER (circle one)

**Spouse:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Retiree? Yes No  
(Last Name) (First Name) (MI)

System: UCRS   PERS   LANS   OTHER (circle one) Year Retired \_\_\_\_\_

**Friend:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last Name) (First Name) (MI)

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail?** No Yes: \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment:** Please send dues payment by check to the following address:

LRG, PO Box 546, Los Alamos, NM 87544

Check#: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Dues \_\_\_\_\_ Los Alamos Employees' \_\_\_\_\_  
Scholarship Fund Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
LOS ALAMOS, NM  
PERMIT NO. 152

Address Service Requested

## **Los Alamos Employees' Scholarship Fund (LAESF) Administered by the LANL Foundation**

Since 1998, over 1000 Northern New Mexico students have been awarded \$4.9 million in scholarships—funds contributed by LANL employees, retirees, and contractors, as well as the business partners of our Northern New Mexico community. In 2014, 108 scholarships were awarded totaling \$450,000. Funds awarded to students are generated primarily by donations from LANL employees, retirees, and affiliates during the LAESF annual fund drive in May.

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. 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](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. You may mail the form to the address specified on the form.

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.