

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 Dale Thompson at [dalethompson@losalamos.com](mailto:dalethompson@losalamos.com) or by mail at P. O. Box 546, Los Alamos, NM 87544.

#### **LRG Officers and Board Members**

President: Dale Thompson [dalethompson@losalamos.com](mailto:dalethompson@losalamos.com)

Vice President: Leigh House [hagar@newmexico.com](mailto:hagar@newmexico.com)

Secretary: Sheila Girard [sgirard@losalamos.com](mailto:sgirard@losalamos.com)

Treasurer: John Stewart [jns@rt66.com](mailto:jns@rt66.com)

Board Member: George Best [georgehbest@cs.com](mailto:georgehbest@cs.com)

Board Member: Norman Delamater [ynormdel@earthlink.net](mailto:ynormdel@earthlink.net)

Boord Member: Lester A. Hoak [mhoak@q.com](mailto:mhoak@q.com)

Board Member: Paul Lewis [plewis0@comcast.net](mailto:plewis0@comcast.net)

Board Member: **Charles R. Mansfield** [coyote2@swcp.com](mailto:coyote2@swcp.com)

Board Member: Mary L. Mariner

Board Member: Bob Meier [bobmeier@mac.com](mailto:bobmeier@mac.com)

Board Member: David Schiferl [dsconsult@centurylink.net](mailto:dsconsult@centurylink.net)

Board Member: Erika Spallitta [Erika.joseph@hotmail.com](mailto:Erika.joseph@hotmail.com)

Board Member: Cecil Stark [cecilstark@gmail.com](mailto:cecilstark@gmail.com)

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 (505) 672-3784

Membership: Sheila Girard (505) 672-3497

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

**Web Master:** Paul Lewis [plewis0@comcast.net](mailto:plewis0@comcast.net)

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

## **Dr. Charles R. “Chuck” Mansfield**

***7/27/1938 – 10/06/2017***



***We are sad to announce the passing of our good friend and founding president of the Laboratory Retiree Group, Dr. Charles R. “Chuck” Mansfield, on October 6, 2017. Since 1994, Chuck had been a champion for all lab retirees until stepping down last year. His great sense of humor, integrity, honesty and enthusiasm for life will be missed by all who knew him. A memorial will be held at Fuller Lodge on Saturday, November 18, 2017, at 11:00 AM.***

### **Health Issues** by Glenn Lockhart

LANL Open Enrollment for 2018 health care is October 31- November 16. No change in medical benefits or premiums are anticipated and LANL will not be holding any information sessions.

The Vision Plan for 2018 will allow one (1) set of frames per year and the lens allowance will increase from \$180 to \$200.

The Laboratory Retiree Group, Inc., will hold discussion groups (The Ken and Glenn Show) at the following locations:

WRSC - November 7, 1:30

BESC - November 9, 1:30

This is my last article for *The Main Gate*. It has been my pleasure to interact with retirees for the last 24 years.

### **Retirees' Scholarship Fund** by Norman Delamater

The LAESF Workforce Retirees' Scholarship Fund is a newly endowed component of the Los Alamos Employees' Scholarship Fund. It has been funded with generous contributions from Laboratory retirees, including contributions from Laboratory Retiree Group members. The LAESF Advisory Committee will now be able to award a \$1000 annual scholarship to deserving students each year in the name of the "Workforce Retirees' Scholarship Fund". These awards will be based on both scholarship and financial need and will now be a part of the entire LAESF scholarship awards. Thanks to all LRG members who have contributed to this fund or may contribute in the future.

## **Laboratory Retiree Group (LRG) Annual Meeting News** by Sheila Girard

The LRG Annual Meeting on May 19, 2017 brought 76 retirees and guests to the Betty Erhart Senior Center (BESC) – even though it snowed that morning! - and everyone enjoyed the green chili cheese enchiladas prepared and served by the BESC kitchen staff. Guests included members of Professional Case Management; Department of Labor, Espanola Office; Advocates Office, State of New Mexico; and Johns Hopkins University Health Screenings Office.

Having the Annual Meeting at the BESC was beneficial in ways we had not predicted – both the BESC and LRG gained some new members, the cost to LRG was much less than previous years, the food was delicious, and LRG had less work to do in cleanup. Pauline Schneider (BESC Director), Linda Boncella (LAVA Director in charge of the volunteers), Kay Burick (BESC Administrative Assistant), and Fred Ortiz (Chef) and all his crew did a wonderful job keeping up with numerous LRG requests.

The meeting, which was led by Dale Thompson, LRG President, included a wonderful presentation by Heather McClanahan of the Los Alamos Historical Society, who told of the latest plans for the new Manhattan Project Park in Los Alamos. In addition, Glenn Lockhart gave his latest information on the upcoming LANL contract negotiations and stressed our need to ensure our retiree medical benefits are included the same way as in the past.

The business meeting that followed the presentations included discussion about the necessity of increasing the yearly LRG membership dues. For several years, expenses have exceeded income from membership dues. After much discussion, a dues increase to \$20 per year per household was voted to take effect beginning January 1, 2018. Also, five current Board Members were re-elected to new terms: George Best, Paul Lewis, Cecil Stark, Dale Thompson, and Alan Wadlinger.

## **Early Nuclear Materials Transport** by Edgar Stein

I think the following incident occurred in the Spring of 1953. I had gone to Sandia in early 1949 when it was operated by the Laboratory, stayed through the management change, then returned to Los Alamos and the Laboratory early in 1953. Recollections and a little direct evidence make me believe that this incident occurred shortly after my return from Sandia, and was probably related to Operation Upshot-Knothole at the Nevada Test Site.

In the Ice House at TA-41, we were assembling nuclear components for a test device, I presume. It turned out that the plutonium parts wouldn't fit, and were probably slightly out-of-spec. We must have been in a big hurry to meet a delivery date, for we contacted John Anderson of CMR-11 and worked out some rush plans for the parts' rework. We wrapped the two Pu parts in gauze and put them in ice cream cartons, which were routinely used for short, local, parts movement. I put the cartons on the front seat of my Ford sedan, then drove them to John Anderson's home on Villa Street. He took them off my hands, got them reworked, and (presumably using approved procedures) returned them to us a day or so later so that we could meet our required delivery.

I rather clearly remember going to Villa Street, and the earliest Villa address for Anderson is in the telephone directory of Summer 1953. This reinforces my belief that Spring 1953 is the right chronology for this incident.

Of course we knew that this was a gross violation of nuclear materials transfer rules, but I didn't feel the least bit guilty or apprehensive about doing it. We were simply trying to get a job done on time and this may have seemed the only way to do it. The parts were perfectly safe to handle and didn't contaminate anything. Of course, not many people were privy to the move, so we weren't concerned about "terrorists".

I'm recording this before I forget any more details. I am certain that it did happen, but not as certain as to reason, time, why I took the parts to Anderson's residence rather than CMR, etc. If anyone still alive recalls the incident, perhaps he could shed some more light on it.

# Some Scarecrows on Central Avenue Los Alamos





Fall has arrived.

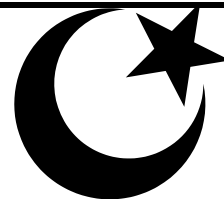






# LANL In Memoriam

06-24-2017—10-24-2017  
By Jack Clifford



Bruce Noel

Herta Schmidt

Phylliss Dube Petersen

Lawrence Seymour Germain

Gail Roach

Geoffrey B. Mills

Kathleen F. Witte

Joseph L. Thompson

Chad E. Walde

Patricia Gallagher

Tommy Hook

Mary (Rita) Bieri

John J. Saiz, Jr.

Ricardo M. Martinez

Herbert J. Newman

Dorothy Minor

Carolyn T. Ortega

Richard Warnes

George G. Hill

Lawry W. Mann

Glen A. Graves

James G. Steger

Epolitlo (Paul) Lopez

Glenn Wonn

Harry A. Mydock

Richard P Best

Vivian E. Pearson

Ruth J. Sherman

Charles R. Mansfield

Harold Fishbine

Charles A. Bankston

David N. Mullen

Louis R. Baca

## Quarterly Breakfast at Viola's Restaurant in Los Alamos

Professional Case Management (PCM) sponsors a quarterly breakfast at Viola's Restaurant in Los Alamos for LRG members who live in Los Alamos and White Rock. PCM pays for all expenses pertaining to the breakfast including invitations and food. They are sponsoring these breakfasts to educate people about the Department of Labor's program that compensates nuclear workers for health problems developed while working at a nuclear facility such as LANL. PCM only benefits if people qualify to enter the program and select their company to provide their health care services. Los Alamos and White Rock LRG members will soon be receiving invitations in the mail for the next breakfast this fall.

## +++++Volunteers Wanted+++++

DOE will begin competition for LANL's prime contract this year (2017). We do not know when our work will begin, but we do know that we have to protect our health insurance. LRG is seeking volunteers to write letters and postcards for mass mailings, make and answer phone calls, attend meetings, stuff mailings, and other unattractive but vital work.

To volunteer, e-mail [sgirard@losalamos.com](mailto:sgirard@losalamos.com) or write LRG, P.O. Box 546, Los Alamos, NM 87544 with your Name, Mailing address, Home phone, and e-mail address.

The old believe everything.  
The middle-aged suspect everything.  
The young know everything. (Oscar Wilde)

Don't worry about the world coming to an end today.  
It's already tomorrow in Australia.

Donations to the LRG Legal Fund will be accepted at P.O. Box 546, Los Alamos NM 87544.

### Coffee and Conversation (and Breakfast)

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

#### Morning Glory Baking Co.

(Across from the High School)

Coffee or tea is free.

### Please, need articles for the *Main Gate*.

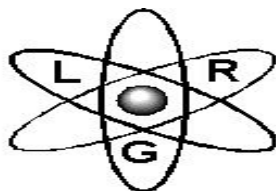
Experiences, humor, travels, work.

With or without pictures.

From a paragraph to a page and a half.

**E-mail them to [jns@rt66.com](mailto:jns@rt66.com)**

**White Rock Addresses are now "White Rock, NM 87547".**



Reaching Out From a  
Common Experience

## LABORATORY RETIREE GROUP (LRG)

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

#### LRG protects retirees benefits

Membership in the Laboratory Retiree Group, Inc. (Los Alamos) is open to any person age 50 or older who currently receives or expects to receive an ongoing financial benefit (health or other insurance, retirement income, or other forms of remuneration) from having worked or having an association with someone who worked for the prime contractor of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

**ACTIVE MEMBER:** pay dues of \$20.00 per calendar year, has voting privileges at Annual Meetings, and are eligible to serve as LRG Officers and/or Board Directors. Active Members receive copies of the LRG DIRECTORY and LRG's publication, *The Main Gate*.

**FRIEND:** A person who is not a member but supports LRG. Friends pay dues of \$20.00 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Workforce Retiree's  
Amount:\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship Fund Donation:\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total:\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address Service Requested

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