

CRA MARIN CHAPTER NEWS



Chevron Retirees Association
P. O. Box 6477
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October 2020

Bruce Niemeyer

Chevron Corporation, Vice President, Strategy & Sustainability

Our November 11 virtual meeting will feature a great presentation followed by Q&A with **Bruce Niemeyer, Chevron Corporate Vice President for Strategy & Sustainability**. Bruce is responsible for setting the strategic direction for Chevron, allocating capital, and guiding the company's sustainability efforts. He will discuss "Chevron's Strategic Outlook," including the long-term outlook for Chevron and Chevron's long-term strategies. There is hope for the oil industry and a good outlook for Chevron.



Prior to becoming Corporate VP in 2018, Bruce was vice president of Chevron's Mid-Continent business unit where he was responsible for developing Chevron's assets in the mid-continent United States, including Chevron's significant Permian assets in Texas and New Mexico. Prior to this role, Bruce was vice president of the Appalachian/Michigan strategic business unit, where he led the company's development of natural gas from shale in the northeast US. He also served as general manager of strategy and planning for Chevron North America Exploration and Production Company.

Bruce is a member of the Oxford Energy Policy Club. He joined Texaco in 2000 from Atlantic Richfield Company.

Bruce earned his bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering from the Colorado School of Mines and is a registered petroleum engineer in the state of California.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Memories, Nostalgia and Hope

Stuck inside again. Yet another fire has started. The wind delivers smoke to our house with the reliability of a package from Amazon. The weather forecast is as muddy as the Sacramento River after a big rainfall ... which we also need.

My wife and I increasingly reminisce pleasant memories. "Remember that wonderful transatlantic cruise

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... before cruise ships became incubators for new diseases?" "Remember that SF Giants game we went to ... when fans were people, rather than cutouts in seats." Pleasant memories are certainly enjoyable. And nostalgia can convert even unpleasant experiences into fond memories. Those grueling college courses with unsolvable problem sets and all-nighters studying magically transform into carefree college days, happy days that sing.

So, there's hope that our current situation will look much better in the rearview mirror. Think of the bragging rights to our children and grandchildren from this nostalgia! "When I was your age, things were so bad that we could not even go into a restaurant to eat. We had to actually cook our food ourselves ... at home!" "Going out for dinner meant slowly moving our car through the long line at the drive-thru of In-N-Out Burger."

Well, we can't help you understand air quality or predict fire containment, but if you're looking for a diversion from continued isolation, join us on November 11 for a wonderful presentation by Chevron Corporate Vice President for Strategy & Sustainability, Bruce Niemeyer. It'll be great!

Harbo Jensen, President

November 11 Social Meetings

The breakout rooms for small social discussions were such a hit at our August meeting that the CRA National organization has adopted that as a best practice. So, in addition to a **GREAT speaker** on November 11, we will again have breakout rooms for **social discussions among small groups** before Bruce's presentation.

If you have not yet used Zoom breakout rooms, this will be a new and fun experience. If you have not yet used Zoom at all, feel free to contact Mike Elgie for help. Mike's contact info is (415) 939-5601, melgie46@gmail.com

November 11 will be a virtual meeting accessible by computer, iPad, or smart phone. We will not serve lunch, but the event is **FREE**. You can make it a late morning BYOB ... "Bring Your Own Brunch."

The schedule for Wednesday, November 11 is:

10:15 AM - Click the Zoom link we will send you when you register to join the small group discussions. If you want to skip these small group social discussions, simply click to join by 10:50 AM.

11:00 AM - Presentation by Bruce Niemeyer, Chevron Corporate VP Strategy & sustainability followed by Q&A.

11:50 AM - Short business meeting to elect 2021 Marin CRA directors

12:00 noon - Adjourn. You're on your own for lunch.

Even though the November 11 event is **free**, **YOU MUST SIGN UP**. We need your email address to give you access to the Zoom event.

To sign up, simply send your name and email address to Brad McCullough at MarinCRAMember-ship@gmail.com. Then, Brad will email the Zoom link to you.

Want to meet interesting people and have some fun?

All the Marin CRA activities we enjoy are made possible by volunteers who make things happen. Because we have a big team, the duties for each of us volunteers are very light. For example, the directors meet for 2 hours, 4 times a year. Think about becoming involved with an event or as a director. Either role is a great way to meet and become friends with other interesting people. For info, contact Harbo Jensen at 1-415-827-2332 or Harbo@alum.mit.edu).

PLANNED ATTENDANCE AT THE AUGUST 2020 ZOOM EVENT

FROM MARIN

Charles Auerbach
Kirk Beales
Lyle Borcharding
Ignatius Chan
Nick Clark
Mike Elgie
John Foote
Lew Gibbs
Mark Heinemann
Kathy Henschel
Pat Hines
Jay Hubert
Harbo Jensen
Tyna Jensen
Dave Johnson
Des King
Alan Klaassen
Howard Klee
Henri Lese
David Lesnini

Brad McCullough

Brant Miller
Dave Mitchell
Richard Moore
Tim Mossteller
Chuck Oldenburg
Paul Premo
Gary Price
Bob Rettig
Vic Revenko
Mike Ring
Joe Rosenthal
Alex Ross
Jim Rutherford
Ron Schafer
Georgie Scheuer-
man
Bill Schultz
John Shook
Bruce Stangeland
Bruce Stein

Richard Sullivan
Jim Tighe

FROM CONTRA COSTA

Marielle Bootz
Lisa Cutino
Sheree Drummond
Adrian D'Souza
Beth Schleuter
Debbie Semenick
Claudia Starks

FROM EAST BAY

Bill Alvarez
Steve Bertholdt
Jackie Butler
Cynthia Gorman
Kristy Hart
Kristy Hart
Eileen Kuzmicky
Andrina Meier

Manuch Nikanjam
Sam Parino

FROM GREATER HOUSTON

Farrukh Ahmed
Glen Ewan
Larry Hahnolt
John Robert
Jackson
Howard Kessel
Linda Marlin
Scott McCay
Allan Quiat
William Richard-
son

OTHER

Ken Chrisman
Marty King
Bob Lindblom
Dick Peyla

KUDOS

For those of you who attended the Zoom meeting “luncheon” featuring Dick Spotswood in August, I hope you enjoyed his talk and the format. Although it was not quite the same as having an actual sit-down luncheon, we tried to incorporate as many features of our “normal” luncheon as possible. We had 71 connections, from all over the Bay Area and from Houston.

A behind the scenes look will surprise you as to the amount of effort that Harbo Jensen, Mike Elgie and Brad McCullough put into this project. It was like preparing for a movie.

Harbo wrote out a script of about 5-6 typed pages — just like a play. Mike worked the controls for speakers and microphone access — just like the director. Brad made the assignments and admitted attendees. There was a real learning process because no one had tried this before for the number of anticipated attendees. It actually went very well for a first-time attempt. Once Harbo, Mike and Brad became familiar with the process, the Board had a “dry run” to ensure that the system worked well. There were a few questions about the Breakout Rooms as to how many people would be in each room (to simulate a table gathering of our usual luncheons) so that each person could get to know the others in the “Room”. Ideally, 4-5 people in each Breakout Room would work well in the allotted time before the speaker. The process was a success.

With the learning of the process and the “dry run”, I think the meeting format was such a success that we’ve now put together a recommended practice that other Chapters can use until we all can get back to having restaurant luncheons.

Many thanks to Harbo, Mike and Brad for putting this together and having it run so smoothly.

Ron Schafer

RECOLLECTIONS AND REFLECTIONS

Moving to San Francisco from Montana to join Chevron was an exciting, invigorating experience. Like many of you, I had about 15 jobs over 31+ years with Chevron. The majority of that time was in S&D and CIOC assignments, while my last was a rotational assignment to Tengiz in Kazakhstan. What a fun, interesting way to finish up!

After retiring I got involved in non-profits and community work, but the most rewarding to me was my work with the Chevron Retirees Association (CRA). As hopefully you all know, CRA represents all Chevron Retirees in many ways with Chevron. Over time I filled a number of CRA positions and was elected CRA National President in 2015. To make my term especially interesting and challenging, the month after I took office, I got a call from the Chevron HR Manager inviting me to lunch. She even drove over to meet me in Marin. Uh oh I thought!

Sure enough, it was something big. That was the year Chevron made the change to move the 65 and over Retirees from their Chevron Health Plans to the outside company now known as Via Benefits. In a way it was interesting to have a seat at the table as we worked to get all the information necessary out to Retirees. It was challenging for the same reason, how best to inform Retirees what they needed to do, how to do it, and when. Our biggest concern was for those Retirees up in age who were not computer savvy.

Unlike many other companies who made similar changes, Chevron worked hard to make the change as easy and effectively as they could. CRA people participated in a number of focus groups to determine problem areas and how best to get communications out and how to help those in need. The CRA Benefits Chair and others travelled to a many Chapters to talk to the Retirees about the change and what they needed to do.

I'm still active in CRA and I urge you to get more active. We could use some new members of our local Board. The National organization can always use people on our various committees. The time commitment is not big at all. As I mentioned earlier, CRA represents all Retirees with Chevron, but the more dues paying members we have, the bigger voice we have with Chevron. So if you've let your membership lapse, please sign back up and if you have Retiree friends who have not joined, give them a call or invite them to the next luncheon, or perhaps the next Zoom meeting these days. Remember, the annual dues are very small, so it is not a burden.

While it has been a fascinating 50+ years as a Chevron employee and retiree, an even better experience was the birth of our second granddaughter just a few weeks ago. Those of you who are grandparents know the feeling. Even in trying times wonderful things can happen.

Best to all of you and stay safe,
Mike Elgie

The Fire, by Brant Miller

A couple of years ago my wife and I decided to change our lifestyle and to move into a continuing care community. We looked about and decided last year to move to Medford, Oregon. Medford is a nice community located in the Rogue River Valley about 30 miles north of the border with California. When we moved into the Rogue Valley Manor in July 2019, there had recently been a major forest fire and the facility itself was recovering from being locked down due to the novo virus. Well, such is life. Things like that only happen occasionally.

It turns out that lightning can strike twice at the same place more frequently than I thought. Early afternoon, Tuesday, 8 September, we became aware of a fire in Ashland. What became known as the Almeda fire was on its way – but Ashland is about 12 miles from here. We would have to put up with smoke, but surely, it was not a threat. However, that afternoon we were being advised to evacuate. I was not convinced and dawdled a bit. We drove up the hill to look at the fire. The photo attached is what we saw. Totally awesome to say the least. We evacuated – bringing a minimal change of clothes, toothbrush (who need to shave in such circumstances?) and an electronics battery charger. Mental note: plan something better in case this ever happens again.

We had missed the message about Jackson County Fairground being an evacuation center and therefore left our cottage with no idea where we were going. Perhaps just have dinner and check back? Fire



should be clearly bypassing us by then! But COVID restrictions had closed most restaurants. We headed north on Hwy 5. Passing the Fairground we noticed the traffic and realized it was an evacuation center. Wanting a better experience, we continued on to Grants Pass where there are plenty of motels – all full as it turned out.

I have several motel location services on my iPad, which I had brought with me. I started with local towns and worked outward. I was told that Roseburg had its own fire, so no point in going north. I located a room in Crescent City – on the south end of Hwy 199, some 90 miles from Grants Pass with an estimated arrival time of about 8:30pm. In the vicinity of

Gasquet heavy ash fell on the car. Turned out that the north-west end of the Slater Fire was encroaching on Hwy 199, which was closed later that night and stayed closed for several days. We were lucky to get through.

On Wednesday morning we checked with the Manor (stay away!), made a room change, had breakfast, did a bit of necessities shopping (Clorox disinfectant wipes for the motel room!) and then received a mid-morning call telling us we could return to our cottage. We decided to spend the day in Crescent City and return home on Thursday. Hwy 199 being closed and rumors of Hwy 101 to the south being closed too helped us to decide to stay for the extra day. Crescent City is a nice place with nice people; however, there is not a lot to do there. Nature walks were not on our agenda, given the fire smoke, so we set out to visit their lighthouse and keeper's cottage museum. Somewhat uniquely, the path leading to it is only open at low tide. We stood on our side of the intervening ocean and looked across. Oh well.

On Thursday morning we confirmed our plans, had breakfast, and headed for home. The Slater Fire had both Hwy 199 and Hwy 96 (through Happy Camp) closed. We could have gone north to Port Orford or, more likely, Bandon but decided to go south instead. We traveled via Arcata, Weaverville, Hwy 3 to Yreka, and Hwy 5 to home. Hwy 3 would have spectacular scenery, absent smoke. We arrived late afternoon, stopping for "dinner" in Medford since we were uncertain as to what the Manor might provide.

I now hear that the Alameda fire was deliberately set. A person has been arrested and charged with two counts of arson. He can be expected to be additionally charged due to several deaths (I now hear there are 5; however, about 50 people are still missing). About 1,000 homes were destroyed, many of them located in mobile home parks. About 100 businesses were destroyed, including Hansen's, my intended motorcycle maintenance shop. Today our air quality is considered "hazardous" due to smoke trapped in our valley. Life goes on.

DRIBBLES AND SCRIBBLES

From Louis and Susann Nordrum: Hello to all our Chevron Friends living in Marin. We've had a great 4 years travelling the Western World (and New Zealand). We hope all are happy and healthy.

From LiShan Firman: My late husband, Jesse Martinez, was the Chief Geophysicist with Unocal Vietnam at the time of his death. He served with Unocal about 30 years in various international positions. I have lived in San Rafael 20 years this year with my husband, 3 children and a little dog named Mochi. I am teaching in a small elementary school in San Francisco.

LINKS

CRA Marin Chapter: www.marincra.com

Chevron Retirees: www.chevronretirees.org.

Chevron: www.chevron.com.

Texaco: www.texaco.com.

Caltex: www.caltex.com.

Chevron Advocacy Network: www.chevronadvocacynetwork.com/

Chevron Humankind: <https://chevron.yourcause.org>

MetLife Long Term Care: <http://www.metlife.com>.

For recreation activities for Bay Area retirees: <http://chevrec.chevron.com>.

For Discounts & Deals: <http://chevrec.chevron.com/deals/default.asp>.

The company store: <http://www.chevronstore.com>.

Benefits Connection website: <http://hr2.chevron.com>.

CVX and other Chevron publications: <http://www.chevron.com/news/publications>.

Gulf retirees may be interested in checking out the web page on Gulf history: www.gulphistory.org.

Learn about the Company's historical milestones: www.chevron.com/history.

UnitedHealthcare: <http://www.uhc.com>.

BlueCross BlueShield: <http://bcbs.com>.

Medicare: <http://www.medicare.gov>.

Energy issues: www.willyoujoinus.com.

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