President’s Message

By Esther Pierce Kooiman, President

This edition of the newsletter contains news from the reunion held at the Union League Club in Chicago this past October and the results of the election of officers.

Special thanks go to John Wilhelm, Debbie Reister, Irene Machado, Nancy Savage and Agatha Lowe who planned and executed a great meeting in October. Thanks to those from HOPE Center who shared their time with us and to Rachel Cline, who served as a liaison between HOPE Center and the Alumni Board. We have added two new members to the Board of Directors. Sheila Cardwell, RN and Earl Rogers, are the new Members at Large. Sheila lives in Salt Lake City, Utah and served on recent missions. Earl was Pharmacist Educator on the SS HOPE in Natal, Brazil and has worked at the Veterans Administration until retiring in 2007.

Recent layoffs at HOPE Center have led to changes in the way we produce each edition of the newsletter and a long delay in sending out this issue. As we no longer have technical assistance from HOPE Center President-Elect Dr. John Wilhelm found help from staff at his workplace in Chicago. Thanks to Vahan Koloyan for his assistance.

We welcome a new liaison at HOPE Center. Elia Desruisseaux will serve as Senior Director of Individual Giving and will be working with us on Alumni Relations. A special thanks to Rachel Cline for all her help as liaison during the past few years. On July 1 John Wilhelm will take over as President of the Alumni Association. I wish him well and know that he will do a great job.

And lastly, I want to thank the members of the Board of Directors and other Hopies for all of their support during my term. It has been an honor to serve as President.

Alumni Reunion --- Chicago 2012

The 2012 Alumni Reunion was held at the Union League Club of Chicago, a private, downtown club. There were 54 alumni registered with 10 people from HOPE Center and 70 attendees at the Banquet.

During the meeting we were honored to hear presentations by Dr. John Howe, CEO of Project HOPE, Dr. Michael Maves, VP for Global Health and Business

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The Keynote Speaker at the Banquet was Walter Montgomery who is a member of the Board of Directors of Project HOPE. Mr. Montgomery specializes in developing and executing communications strategies for many of the world’s leading companies. His thoughtful speech was about changes in communications and how we need to adapt to these changes. I first met Mr. Montgomery and his family on a trip to the southern part of Africa in September. We were on a team from Project HOPE that visited HOPE clinics in the Republic of South Africa, Namibia and Malawi. A report on the trip will be in the next Alumni Bulletin. Over the years the Alumni Board of Directors has selected special people as Honorary Members of our Association. Two were honored for their connections with Project HOPE and their support of the medical volunteers: Captain Jeannie Comlish Proano, USN Nurse Corps and Captain Robert Wiley, a Civilian Mariner in the Merchant Marines Military Sealift Command. Captain Proano was Director of Nursing on the USNS Mercy in 2005 during the emergency mission to SE Asia and again in 2006. Captain Wiley was Ship’s Master on the USNS Mercy in 2006 and in 2008 and is a long-time supporter of Project HOPE. Although they were not able to join us in Chicago, we did declare them to be Honorary Life Members of the Project HOPE Alumni Association and they, too, can now be called “Hopies”.

Development and Rich Rumsey, VP for Communications and Fundraising. We also enjoyed the presentation by Judith Moore, WBW Fellow, Senior Advisor for Women’s and Children’s Health who updated us on her plans. Matt Peterson gave us an update on the current Volunteer Programs. Matt is helping the Alumni Board connect with the new volunteers by encouraging their participation with our organization.

The election of officers was completed and the results were announced on Saturday. Our President Elect is Dr. John Wilhelm, Vice President is Debbie Reister and Michele Okamoto will serve a second term as Secretary-Treasurer. I know that they will serve us well.

Something new was tried this time in the form of a panel discussion with audience participation. The discussion focused on how HOPE experiences have changed our lives, the lives of our families and sometimes our career paths. It was held during lunchtime and was well attended.
Tom Kenyon, M.D., MPH

Grenada (1985-86)
Swaziland (1987-90)

Dr. Kenyon, trained as a pediatrician, was appointed Director of Global Health for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to begin May 19. Tom has been addressing global epidemics and strengthening in-county public health systems with CDC since 1994. He has served as country director in Botswana, Namibia and since 2009 in Ethiopia. Prior to Ethiopia, Dr. Kenyon served as the Principal Deputy Global AIDS Coordinator and Chief Medical Officer for the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in Washington, D.C.

We congratulate our fellow alumnus on his appointment and wish him well.

Faye Pyles

Ms. Faye Pyles, a pediatric nurse practitioner and retired US Navy captain, volunteered 969 volunteer hours with Project HOPE. She served as the HOPE Operations Officer on board the USNS Mercy for Pacific Partnership 2012 for the entire four month sail. She received an excellent rating and is known widely as an incredible volunteer. Faye also serves as the Project HOPE clinical volunteer consultant for the East Coast US Navy missions. Further, she funded her own travel to Jacksonville, FL for the Continuing Promise 2013 mid-planning conference to assist with the operational planning. In addition to her advocacy and leadership, Faye volunteered to help with the internal Volunteer Operations process improvement initiative. She also volunteers with the HOPE Alumni Association as the Mid-Atlantic Regional Director. Faye lives in Norfolk, Virginia.

Tuesday, June 11
New York

This black tie Cocktail Reception, Silent Auction, Dinner and Program will highlight Project HOPE’s work with non-communicable diseases particularly HOPE’s work in the area of diabetes.

Awards that will be presented are:
- Project HOPE Volunteer of the Year
- Global Health Leadership
- Global Health Partner
- Global Health Impact

It will be ideal if the Alumni Association can put a table together to support the 2013 Volunteer of the Year. For information and reservations please contact: Lynn Jennings at HOPE Center - ljennings@projecthope.org.

In each future issue of the Project HOPE Alumni Bulletin we will be introducing a new HOPE volunteer. Faye Pyles is a current member of the Alumni Association Board serving as Regional Director for the Mid Atlantic Region.
In Memoriam

Saul Aronow, MD – v. 9 Jamaica

John Bailey, Pharmacist – Barbados

John Beall, OT – v. 9 Jamaica, v. 10 Natal

Martha Cooper, Speech and Hearing – v. 5 Nicaragua, v.6 Columbia

Elaine Geissler, RN, MN, PhD – v.6 Columbia, v.7 Ceylon, v.8 Tunisia, Headquarters

Delia Greer, RN – v. 8 Tunisia

William T. Griffin, MD – Republic of Georgia, Consultant to the Ministry of Health

Armin F. Haerer, MD – v. 7 Ceylon

Richard Hennessy – v. 2 Peru

William “Bill” Jackson, Chief Engineer – many voyages including v. 7 – v. 11

Mark Kuhn, MD – v 1 Indonesia & Vietnam, v. 3 Ecuador, v.4 Guinea

Alfred F. Miller, MD – Grenada, West Indies

Maureen O’Hara, RN – Ganado

Sylvia Peckham, RN – v. 2 Peru

Paralee Turner Riley, Med Tech – v. 7 Ceylon, v. 10 Natal

Alice Royaltey, RN – v. 9 Jamaica, Brazil, Headquarters
Delia Greer

Delia was a nurse in the OR on the voyage to Tunisia. She attended many of our Alumni Reunions over the years and had registered to join us in Chicago last October.

Before her work on the SS HOPE, Delia had been a flight nurse in the US Air Force from 1958 until 1969. Following the voyage to Tunisia, she worked for over 28 years in St. Louis, Missouri. After earning her private pilot’s license, she volunteered as a flight nurse with the Medical Relief and Air Transport (MAT) Program at Wings of Hope where she supervised on-board health care of hundreds of patients who required transport to distant facilities.

Delia received the Award of Achievement for Humanitarian Efforts at the 2012 Ninety Nines* International Conference last July. She died unexpectedly 11 days later.

* The Ninety Nines is a women’s aviation group founded by Amelia Earhart.

William A. “Bill” Jackson

Bill Jackson was Chief Engineer on the SS HOPE for many voyages. I first met him on the voyage to Ceylon in 1968 and found him to be very happy, hardworking and always smiling.

The last time I saw him was about five years ago in San Francisco at a Northern California HOPE Alumni event. He and my late husband, Bill Kooiman, were the guest speakers. Both Bills told their stories about how they came to be on the hospital ship. That day Bill Jackson was wearing his formal officer’s dress uniform. He was so proud that it still fit!

Bill’s job on the SS HOPE was very important to him as his road through life had been difficult. He was denied acceptance by the US Army during WWII because of his color, but he found other ways to serve and, after many years, had an impressive resume.

We also saw Bill and his sister, Anita Black, during a tour of the Red Oak Victory Ship docked in Richmond, CA. He was a very active volunteer over the many years it took to restore the 1944 merchant ship which is now a floating museum. One stop on the tour was his quarters where he often spent the night on board.

Bill Jackson died October 28 at the age of 94.

Alice Royaltey

Alice Royaltey was the wife of Dr. Harold Royaltey who was the Chief of Staff on the SS HOPE in Jamaica, Brazil and later worked at HOPE Center.

One of Alice’s jobs while on the SS HOPE in Jamaica was working with the wives of local physicians to coordinate tours of the Ship. There were many requests for tours and she helped develop the plans for when the tours were available and what would be included in each tour.

After their retirement, the Royalteys moved to Sequim, WA to be near their sons.

Alice died in April 2012 and will be missed by those who knew her, especially for her smile, humor and friendliness.

We extend our thoughts and prayers to their families and friends.
ADDRESS CHANGES

The alumni directory is updated monthly by one of our regional directors. If you change your address or email, please contact Irene Machado at machado.irene@gmail.com so you will receive the newsletter and all communication from the Alumni Association.

The information in our alumni directory is kept confidential and is NOT shared with any other organization. If you want to change the amount of donor mail that you receive from Project HOPE, contact dcombs@projecthope.org.

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DECEASED*

Project HOPE Alumni Association

PRESIDENT
YEARS SERVED
Elmer Diskan*
1986 - 1988
Herbert Bloom*
1988 - 1992
Sam Kron*
1992 - 1994
Alice Mild *
1994 - 1996
Al Long*
1996 - 1998
John McGregor*
1998 - 2001
Paul Cherney
2001 - 2004
Joanne Jene
2004 - 2007
Jean Kohn
2007 - 2010
Eldon Ellis
Valerie Cook
Judith Berner
Wallace Chipman
Harold Royaltey
Nancy Savage
Carol Fredriksen
DECEASED*
Valerie Cook
2004 - 2007
2007 - 2010