

EPA Alumni Association Newsletter

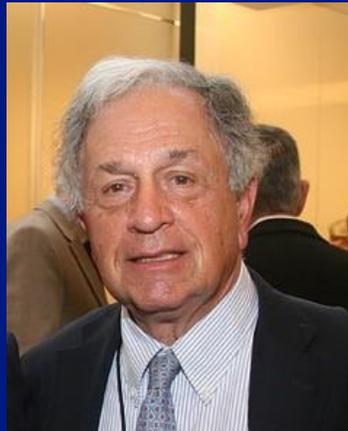


Dear Chuck,

Greetings!

We can all agree that this has been a very strange year, dominated by the changes we have had to make in our lives because of Covid. I am confident the sun will eventually shine again, but it will be a while yet before it does.

Among other impacts, we had to suspend our Teach-In program, and recast it for virtual delivery. We have used the down time profitably, to build up the infrastructure that supports the program, with a team of Regional Coordinators who will recruit additional presenters, and work with the presenters in delivering the program to classrooms. We have also completed an impressive set of virtual presentation materials, based on our *Half Century of Progress* modules. About 100 Members have signed up to be presenters, and we are very hopeful that this program will be a big success. Additional volunteers are of course welcome. See article below for more information and to sign-up!



David Menotti

Fall 2020



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Alumni Association Leadership

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Bob Wayland
Vice President

David Calkins
Secretary

Tom Voltaggio
Treasurer

Chuck Elkins
Executive Director

As discussed in greater length later in this Newsletter, we have had to postpone our in-person celebration of EPA's 50th Anniversary, but as described below, we are planning a fun virtual celebration on December 2nd. Other exciting plans for 2021, including an EPA Alumni Academy, are also discussed below.

Stay well!

David Menotti
President

What is the Latest on the 50th Anniversary of EPA Celebration?

We are going to Celebrate EPA's 50th Twice!!

On **December 2, 2020, at 6 pm Eastern**, we will host a Virtual 50th Birthday Celebration! The highlight will be a short look back at the Agency thru a film clip celebrating the life of Bill Ruckelshaus. We will preview our **December 2, 2021, in person Gala** at the National Press Club (fingers crossed) and give a Toast to EPA - Past, Present and Future! We will also have a discussion of next steps for the Teach-in Program. We will be ending with some break out rooms where members can have a coffee or cocktail (depending upon your time zone), see and chat with friends. We will be sending out an **email invitation** for the event soon, which will include instructions on how to RSVP for this event.

We want to say thank you to the National Press Club; they worked with us to move our Gala event to December 2, 2021, for a "50+1" event using our current deposit so the Association did not lose any of the deposit.

We also want to say thank you to all of you for your generous support for all of our special efforts this year including our major revisions to our Half Century of Progress publications. Please read the article below on our Teach-In efforts as we as Members help train and challenge the next generation of environmentalists!! Thank you as we celebrate, in a variety of ways and methods, the 50th Anniversary of our great Agency.

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Membership Tops 2,060

Welcome to the new members listed below who joined the Association from April 9th through October 18, 2020. Click on any name to to read the member's profile.



Have You Been Thinking about How You Can Help Celebrate EPA's 50th?

Recruit a New Member or Associate Member to the EPA Alumni Association!!*

You joined the EPA Alumni Association to connect (or re-connect) with friends and colleagues. Over 2,000 alumni are now members - from charter members of the Agency to EPA staff who have just become retirement eligible. You can keep in touch with these people through the Association.

The EPA Alumni Association has also given you the chance to work together on projects that help EPA or other environmental programs protect public health and the environment. This is your chance, in honor of EPA's 50th, to recruit new people to the organization because "**We're Not Done Yet!**"

And when they ask you what the Association is doing today and will do next year - here are just a few things that you can say! The EPA Alumni Association will:

- Continue to celebrate EPA's Anniversary this year and next!
- Continue to keep our Membership abreast of what is happening at EPA and on the Environment through a weekly newsletter;
- Gear up the Teach-In Program for high schools and colleges. EPA alumni offer their experience and expertise to educators by teaching and participating in classes virtually using materials developed by Association members such as the *Half Century of Progress*.
- Continue to run the Job Bank which provides employment opportunities suited to current and former EPA employees.
- Run a mentoring and coaching program for EPA staff by Association Members
- Kick off the EPA Alumni Association Academy. EPA AA members will present topics on public health and the environment to Members virtually.

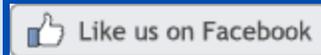
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- And More on www.epaalumni.com

[Click here to join the Association](#)

*Individuals need to have worked as a federal EPA employee for one continuous year of service OR be a current EPA employee who is eligible for retirement

[Laura Scalise](#)
[Leo Schweer](#)
[Delia Scott](#)
[John Steketee](#)
[Pat Svetaka](#)
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Thank You Donors

The Association is supported entirely by voluntary contributions. We greatly appreciate the contributions of members.

[Click Here to Make a Secure Online Donation Now](#)



If you prefer to send a check, please make it out to EPA Alumni Association and mail it to 628 Chester River Beach Road, Grasonville, MD 21638

How is the Association Revving Up the Virtual Teach-Ins?

We have reopened our **50th EPA and Earth Day Anniversary Teach-In Program** offering virtual presentations to college and high school classes for the remainder of this as well as next semester. We have visually appealing presentation materials available, based on our updated **Half Century of Progress** reports [[See Reports here](#)]. We now have 100 volunteers around the country and would welcome any additional alumni interested in adapting and delivering remote, interactive presentations to students. We've delivered several virtual presentations of our HCP material that were well received at high school and colleges. Indeed, **engaging students in Q and A sessions is a fun and rewarding experience**. In most cases, the school hosted the session, but the association can assist with training and access to unrestricted Zoom software, where needed.

Our major challenge this fall is expanding our outreach to environmental science, policy and other teachers to let them know about our program. We particularly can use help in this effort from alumni with connections to schools and teachers - whether or not they want to present. Although the Earth Day anniversary is passed, we also recognize that for some classes, our material might fit the curriculum better in spring, so we are flexible. **Here are our "asks:"**

- Please help us spread the word - if you have helped out in a school or university over the last four or five years, you may know teachers or school administrators.

- Or you may not have been in a classroom recently, but you have been active in your children's school or in your own alma maters. Do you have the name of a teacher or administrator that you think might be interested in the Teach-In Program?

If yes to either of these questions, we can send you an email which you can use to introduce the program. This won't commit you to teaching - - just to helping us network!

We have regional and area coordinators, so if you have ideas or are interested, please contact **Dave Calkins** at [this link](#).

 Like us on Facebook

Follow us on **twitter**

What Are They Doing Now?

Have you been wondering what some of your former colleagues are doing? We thought you might be interested so the EPA Alumni Newsletter has initiated a new series of articles for the periodic newsletter; they are interviews with Alumni Members. Our inaugural interview is with **Stan Meiburg**, formerly of RTP, Region 4, Region 6 and Headquarters. Stan retired four years ago from the Agency, and in all probability, you have a Stan Meiburg story! And please let us know if there are particular people you would like to have interviewed for future articles.

What have you been doing since you left the Agency?

First, Stan retired the second time from EPA four years ago. (Do you remember Stan's "failed" retirement from Region 4 about six years ago?). After the latest retirement, he and his wife, Julie, moved to Winston-Salem, NC

where Stan was recruited to lead Wake Forest University's (Stan's alma mater) Graduate Studies in Sustainability. It is a multi-disciplinary and diverse program designed to train future leaders in sustainability. The program is small, and students come from all over the country. He also teaches a course on "*Environmental Policy and Politics*" which he really enjoys. He said that it has been fun to reach out to former EPAers (e.g. from Regions 4 and 5 and from HQ) to help him convey that our environmental issues are real, dynamic, personal to the people who live close to the problem, and are the result of systemic issues. This semester, Stan has been recording lectures on the history of US environmental law and policy.



Second, he is serving on the Board of the Environmental Protection Network (EPN) and participated in the development of their Reset Project. He is also thrilled that Sebastian Irby, who graduated from the Sustainability Program at Wake Forest, has been working at EPN!

Third, Stan is now the Chair of the NC Environmental Management Commission. Stan is one of 9 individuals appointed by the Governor along with 6 appointed by the State Legislature to this Commission. The Commission approves and adopts the regulations written by the NC Department of Environmental Quality. Stan's appointment as Chair expires July 2021.



Fourth, probably most importantly, Stan and Julie have 8 grandchildren who are truly all over the country - four are in Maryland, two in Texas and two in Washington state. The grandchildren are between 14 and 1 years old. They were able to see a lot of their grandchildren before the pandemic, and they are both looking forward to being able to resume those visits!

For a fun challenge, Stan drove, and blogged about, his

1,100 mile round trip road trip in his all-electric Chevy Bolt from NC to Georgia, keeping in mind the need to find charging stations along the way.



How do you keep in touch with former Colleagues?

It is clear that Stan stays in touch with a lot of his former colleagues and friends around the country. His job at Wake Forest allows him to stay in touch with former colleagues to participate in lectures. His classes were converted to online this past spring. A planned trip to Washington, DC with the students was converted to a marathon Zoom call in May with current and former EPAers for TWO days. It was a whirlwind and very memorable for the students!



Stan also talked about an event to be hosted by Wake Forest on November 9th at 7:30 pm EST entitled "*The Path Forward, US Environmental Leadership Beyond 2020.*" The speakers will be former Administrators Lee Thomas and Gina McCarthy. **See announcement below.**

He said he was able to re-connect with Lee Thomas when he had the good fortune of attending a 30th anniversary reunion of staff who worked closely with him. Stan had been in touch with former Administrator Thomas during his time in Atlanta, and interviewed him on an article that Stan has written, but not yet published, on the founding of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). Stan's participation in the EPA Alumni Association has helped him stay involved. He sees tremendous value in keeping people connected and engaged in environmental issues. He keeps up with folks through the RTP and Region 6 EPA Alumni Association networks. He also said that the Association has been very fortunate to have had Chuck Elkins at the helm. Chuck's long view of what needs to be done coupled with his articulate and methodical approaches have resulted in an organization that continues to think about how all of us can continue to make a difference.

Stan also enjoys keeping in touch with friends and colleagues through his work and advocacy with the EPN, described earlier in this interview, and the network of former Obama Administration officials.

What is your Pre-Election Wish for 2021?

Regardless of the outcome, Stan hopes to back off from work a bit. And, Covid permitting, he and Julie want to see more of their grandkids and travel to see friends and new places. If there is a transition, Stan hopes the new team can reduce the transaction costs of their transition. In the past, he's seen political appointees lose valuable time because they "do not fully appreciate the dedication, insight and commitment career employees bring to the mission of EPA."

Thanks to Stan for participating in this interview!

A Virtual Conversation with Gina McCarthy and Lee Thomas

To address climate change and protect public health, the US government must act swiftly and creatively. Unfortunately, the US government faces something approaching a crisis in legitimacy with regard to environmental policy. What kind of public leadership will suffice for this moment?

To discuss that question, Wake Forest is hosting an event with two former U.S. EPA Administrators, **Gina McCarthy** and **Lee Thomas**, on Monday evening, **November 9th, at 7:30 p.m.** The conversation and Q&A will be virtual. The subject of the event will be: ***The Path Forward: US Environmental Leadership Beyond 2020.***

This event is free, but please [click here](#) to register so that Wake Forest can properly manage it. Share this link and information with others whom you think might be interested.

This event is sponsored by Wake Forest's Graduate Studies in Sustainability Program, the Leadership and Character Program, and the Center for Energy, Environment and Sustainability. For further information contact **Stan Meiburg** (meiburas@wfu.edu), **Ashley Wilcox** (wilcoxam@wfu.edu) or **Elizabeth Whiting Pierce** (piercee@wfu.edu).

Have You Heard About the Valdas Adamkus Museum and Library?

Alumnus **Dave Ullrich** is working with the people from the Valdas Adamkus Museum and Library in Kaunas, Lithuania, on an exhibit highlighting former President Adamkus' career at EPA. The US Embassy in Vilnius is funding it. **Val**

Adamkus was the Deputy Regional Administrator (DRA) in Chicago from 1970 to 1980 and the Regional Administrator (RA) from 1980 to 1996. He may be the longest serving RA at 16 years. He was able to work across political boundaries to help keep EPA on target with its mission to protect human health and the environment. He was famous for saying at the end of almost every briefing, "What is the best thing to do for the environment," and almost always accepted staff recommendations.

Val just received the *Lech Kaczyński Prometheus Award* from Poland for his years of work to strengthen cooperation among the Eastern European Countries [[click here for more information](#)]. After leaving EPA, he served as President of Lithuania between 1997 and 2007 and was instrumental in bringing Lithuania into NATO and the European Union. He was also involved in helping Lithuania be the first of the Eastern Bloc countries declare independence from the former Soviet Union on March 11, 1990.



Have you Heard about the EPA Alumni Association Academy?

Starting in 2021, the Alumni Association will be hosting virtual Academy sessions on environmental and public health issues.

We will be looking to our membership for ideas on topics and speakers. Stay tuned for more details!

We are Sorry to Share this Sad News

Since we last connected in May, we have heard that we lost some of our former colleagues and friends. They include:

Timothy Backstrom, Patrick Chan, Roger Cortesi, Grant James Dufficy, Lisa Feldt, Bill Frick, Andrew Gordon, George Jeffrey "Jeff" Herndon, Robert M. Lee, Stanley Legro, Patricia Maxwell, Jerry Miller, Marian Mlay, Christina Moraga, James Morant, Richard Nawyn, Dale Parke, Win Porter, Ellen Seigler, Bernard Stoll, Jr., Orterio Villa, Jr.

We invite you to share your memories of them by commenting on their obituaries found on our website. We will gather up your reflections later and pass them on to the family.

If you know of other individuals, you can post their obituary on the web site or email the information to the Association at epaalumni@aol.com.

[Click here for more information](#)

Winter is Coming! What Will You Be Doing?

No, this is not a plug to get you to re-stream (or watch for the first time) the Game of Thrones series. Now that it's Fall, are you making any plans for a wintertime project? Perhaps you're reading (or writing) some books, getting ready to brew some interesting ale, bottling a wine, painting a new picture, or even building a boat in your basement. We know COVID-19 has kept all of us in some sort of quarantine but most have been able to get outside for some recreation.

But in winter, many outdoor activities wind down and people spend more time indoors. Let your fellow alumni know what you're doing by updating your profile or send in an email - maybe you'd be willing to share some details in a future Newsletter! [Click here](#) to edit your profile now.

How are You Staying Informed About the Agency and the Environment?

Almost 800 Members currently subscribe to the weekly EPA and Environmental News Update. If you are not a subscriber, but are interested, please go to this link to sign up: <https://www.epaalumni.com/transition-news>

If you don't want to subscribe, you can see copies of the News Update on the front page of the EPA Alumni Website.

We Again Thank Our Many Donors Who Make This Work Possible!

The EPA Alumni Association appreciates the support of all of its donors especially in such a turbulent year. The following individuals have donated from April 21 through August 2020:

**John Armstead; Thomas Barnwell; Michael Berman;
Richard Boice; Marilyn Bracken; Helga Butler; Joe Cascio;
Kathy Daniel; Walter DeRieux; Patricia Eklund; Mike Flynn;
Marius Gedgaudas; Daniela Golden; Thomas Kelly; Michael
McCabe; Daniel McGovern; Jack McGraw; Colleen
McKaughan; John Moebes; James Rogers; Phillip Ross;
Robert Sanchez; Leo Stander; David Stangel; Judy Stober;
Pat Thorne; Carolyn Yale; Steve Young**

Many of our members have donated to the 50th Anniversary of EPA Education Fund via the Meridian Institute. Since our last newsletter, the following individuals donated to support EPA's 50th Anniversary:

**Dale Bryson; Lorrain Chang; Elissa Feldman; Mary Dingee
Fillmore; Linda Fisher; Odelia Funke; Daphne Gemmill;
Mark Greenwood; Charlie Grizzle; Rick Hoffman; Roger
Janson; Mary Klein; Richard Kotelly; Dawn Martin; Michael
McDougal; Stan Meiburg; Anne Miller; Cheryl Diane Patrick
in memory of her husband, Bob Patrick; Dorothy Patton;
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EPA Alumni Association

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