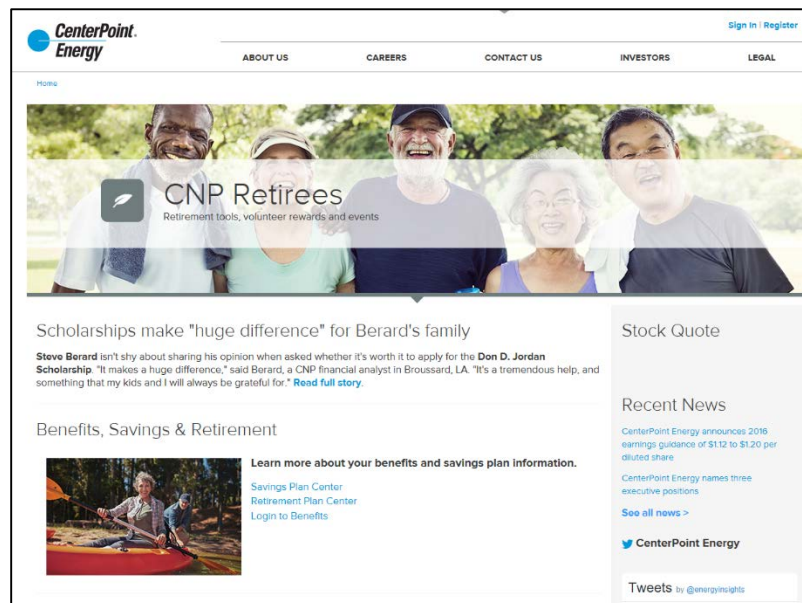


## RETIREE CLUB NEWSLETTER

### New Retiree Website revealed

After many months of work, the Company is almost ready to reveal a new section of the CenterPoint Energy web site devoted to retired employees. Wherever you live, you will be able to access up-to-date information of interest to retired employees. For Houston and Minneapolis area retirees there will also be notices of upcoming get-togethers, volunteer opportunities, etc. The new page can be found at [www.centerpointenergy.com/en-us/corporate/retirees](http://www.centerpointenergy.com/en-us/corporate/retirees). The site is still a work in progress, so be on the lookout for a postcard from CenterPoint that will provide more details and let you know when the web site will be open for you to check out.



The introduction of the new website eliminates the need for a printed newsletter. Therefore, **this is the last issue of the Houston area's Retiree Club Newsletter**. We appreciate CenterPoint's years of support, which involved the layout, printing and distribution of the newsletter for us. We look forward to providing you even more timely information in the future through the new website.

### May 18 Luncheon: Volunteer Activity, Speaker and Election of New Club Officers

We hope you'll plan to attend the May 18 luncheon meeting at Brady's Landing to learn about changes in the Company's support for the retiree club and get a first look at the new retiree website, as well as the new CNP Cares volunteer website. Members of the Corporate Community Relations' staff will bring laptops so that they can work with any of you interested in a "hands-on" demonstration of the new website or would like help setting up your personal profile page for CNP Cares.

Club members will also elect new officers during the meeting. Our current officers have all agreed to serve for a second year. Therefore, the Retiree Club's board of directors is proposing the following slate of officers for the 2016-17 year:

- President - Glenn Cole, Jr.**
- Vice-President – George Bilnoski**
- Treasurer - Anna Marie Weller**

In addition to those named above, nominations may also be made from the floor. You can self-nominate or nominate someone else. A nominal time commitment is required. We ask that you have the person's permission in advance, and if possible, let our president, Glenn Cole, Jr, know. Glenn can be reached at 281-467-4350 or by email at [curansb@msn.com](mailto:curansb@msn.com).

Prior to the luncheon, you are invited to participate in a short volunteer project at Brady's Landing. Using an assembly line technique, volunteers will assemble care packages to be delivered to Star of Hope to assist in their mission of aiding Houston's homeless. In exchange for our help, you will receive credit for 1 hour of volunteer time.

<b>Retired Employees Club - Current Board Members and Advisors</b>			
President	Glenn Cole, Jr.	281-467-4350	<a href="mailto:curansb@msn.com">curansb@msn.com</a>
Vice President	George Bilnoski	713-557-0733	<a href="mailto:gbilnoski@sbcglobal.net">gbilnoski@sbcglobal.net</a>
Treasurer	Anna Marie Weller	281-282-0410	<a href="mailto:weller3825@aol.com">weller3825@aol.com</a>
Past President/Advisor	Clem Reid	281-441-4122	<a href="mailto:earl.reid@comcast.net">earl.reid@comcast.net</a>
Past President/Advisor	Dick Patyrak	281-438-5350	<a href="mailto:rpatyrak@gmail.com">rpatyrak@gmail.com</a>
Past President/Advisor	Paul McBrayer	832-788-8013	<a href="mailto:therandale@gmail.com">therandale@gmail.com</a>
Tour Coordinator/Advisor	Evelyn Ramsey	936-931-1317	<a href="mailto:ramsyevelyn@ymail.com">ramsyevelyn@ymail.com</a>
E-mail Coordinator/Advisor	Allen Grant	281-261-5913	<a href="mailto:allen4u2@comcast.net">allen4u2@comcast.net</a>
Advisor	Lucretia Ahrens	281-980-9729	<a href="mailto:lucretiaahrens@hotmail.com">lucretiaahrens@hotmail.com</a>
Advisor	Ruby Tucker	713-703-6451	
CNP Liaison	Kim Davis	713-207-7708	<a href="mailto:Kim.davis@centerpointenergy.com">Kim.davis@centerpointenergy.com</a>

## **GIVE Grants**

In 2016 CenterPoint Energy's current and retired employees who had contributed at least 40 volunteer hours for a particular nonprofit organization obtained a total of 196 GIVE Grants for their organizations. Of that number, Houston area retirees accounted for 13 grants totaling \$2,600. Our local communities thank you!

## **Want to receive emails with the latest information about fellow retirees?**

As a service to the club, Allen Grant regularly sends information about upcoming retiree funeral services and obituaries to several hundred people on his email list. If you would like to be included in future emails, please send a note with your email address to Allen at [allen4u2@comcast.net](mailto:allen4u2@comcast.net).

For several years Allen has also maintained the Houston area **CNP Retired Employees website** at <http://cnpretireclub.wordpress.com>. He plans to continue, as this site allows us to post more photos and stories that can't be accommodated by the new "official" retiree website. Have information you'd like to share? Contact Allen, our Webmaster, at 281-261-5913 or [allen4u2@comcast.net](mailto:allen4u2@comcast.net).

## CNP volunteer program rebrands as CNP Cares™

. . . *Enhancements include new guidelines, new website*

CenterPoint Energy strives to be actively engaged partners with the communities it serves through a variety of education, environmental and community outreach initiatives. Much of this community impact is accomplished through current and retired employees, who volunteered 237,500 hours in 2016. Valued at \$5.6 million by the Independent Sector, this significant investment of time and energy was made through corporate-sponsored events, as well as personal volunteerism.

As part of its continuous improvement process, a recent review of the volunteer program –now known as CNP Cares™ – has determined the need to revise program details to better align with the best practices of peers and other Fortune 500 companies. The following are changes to personal volunteer hour credit requirements:

- **Definition of a volunteer activity** – Work or services performed for a **qualified** nonprofit organization, which is certified by the IRS as tax-exempt with a 501(c)3, 501(c)4 or 501(c)6 status. While CenterPoint values all community service, best practices indicate that corporate programs typically recognize time associated with nonprofits designated as such by the IRS.
- **Volunteering at faith-based organizations** – Volunteer time connected with a faith community's outreach to the community beyond its own membership is eligible for the CNP volunteer program. An example is staffing a food pantry that is open to the public. However, volunteer activities that serve the faith community membership exclusively are ineligible. For example, ushering guests to their seats during a faith-based community service would not qualify. Such activities serve a limited group of people and do not contribute to the welfare of the general public.



To ensure consistent data for the 2017 calendar year, these guidelines are retroactive to January 1. The updated volunteer program guidelines are available on the new retiree website. Questions about the guidelines may be directed to Angela Cox at [angela.cox@centerpointenergy.com](mailto:angela.cox@centerpointenergy.com) or by phone at 713-207-7310.

Retirees can easily access the new volunteer site by clicking on a link from our own retiree website ([www.centerpointenergy.com/en-us/corporate/retirees](http://www.centerpointenergy.com/en-us/corporate/retirees)). Once there, you will find step-by-step instructions on how to log your volunteer hours in the new system. You can set up your personal profile, enter your volunteer hours, access the volunteer rewards catalog, download a GIVE Grant application, and more.

Not comfortable with technology? The Community Relations' staff will bring laptops to the May 18 retiree luncheon and will be happy to assist you. You might also consider asking a relative or friend to help you.

## Retiree Luncheons' Change

CenterPoint Energy's Community Relations' department has long supported our retiree club by absorbing part of the cost of our semi-annual luncheons, as well as through printing and mailing our newsletters. The company has also supported the Minneapolis retiree group, though in different ways. Efforts are now underway to provide a similar program for both Houston and Minneapolis retiree groups. Department leadership has met with your retiree board and we have agreed that effective immediately, our **retiree club will now hold one luncheon per year**. It will be held in the spring and will be **completely paid for by the Company**. This year all Houston area retirees are invited to attend the May 18 luncheon at Company expense. For 2018 and beyond, any area retiree who has reported at least 1 volunteer hour in the CNP Cares system will be eligible to attend the luncheon (with 1 guest)—again at CenterPoint expense. In addition to the spring luncheon, each local retiree and a guest will be invited to attend the **fall CNP Barbecue Cookoff at no cost**.

### Helpful Contacts:

**CenterPoint Benefits Service Center:** 1-800-932-7444

**CenterPoint HR Help Line:** 713-207-7373

**United Healthcare Medicare Advantage Customer Service:** 1-877-456-4831;

[www.UHCRetiree.com/centerpoint](http://www.UHCRetiree.com/centerpoint)

United Healthcare Claims office address: P.O. Box 29675, Hot Springs, AR 71903-9675

Group number: 13518

**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services:** 1-800-633-4227; [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or [www.CMS.gov](http://www.CMS.gov)

## Don't have Internet Access? Let us Know . . .

Don't miss out on announcements of future retiree luncheons or special events. If you lack computer access, the retiree board will make sure that you are contacted by phone. Just fill out the following form with your contact information and send it to Anna Marie Weller.

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***I do not have Internet access. Please contact me by phone to let me know of upcoming retiree events.***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Feel free to cut out the label and use it on your envelope if you wish. You can also enclose this form with your luncheon reservation.



**Retired Employees Club  
c/o Anna Marie Weller  
15907 El Camino Real St  
Houston, TX 77062**