

# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Martinez Refining Company



January 2025

Edition 226

**Special points of interest in this edition:**

- ◆ SAVE THE DATES FOR 2025 EVENTS!
- ◆ Annual Breakfast/Canned Food Drive
- ◆ Travel Partnership with Martinez Senior Center
- ◆ New Alumni Members— membership at 348!
- ◆ Photo links to 2024 events and website
- ◆ Alumni Scholarship Recipients 1993 - 2024
- ◆ Food for Thought
- ◆ Museum Facelift & Annex Renovation Update
- ◆
- ◆ Share your Retirement and Scholarship Stories
- ◆ Donate Used Eyeglasses and Hearing Aids
- ◆ Museum Annex Update on Renovation
- ◆ Humor Corner
- ◆ Birthdays, Obituaries, & Anniversaries - Benefit Info.
- ◆ 2025 Calendar of Events
- ◆ Annual Breakfast/Canned Food Drive Flier
- ◆ Payment form for single/multiple Alumni events
- ◆ Alumni Membership Application

## SAVE THE NEW 2025 DATES

January 21st	Annual Breakfast and Canned Food Drive (gently used coats accepted)
February 13th	Crab Feed (price TBD) Parmesan Chicken served for those not wishing crab)
March 13th	Annual Membership Meeting
April 10th	Annual Alumni Reunion
May 5th	Scholarship Luncheon
June 10th	Annual Picnic
July 26th	Annual Bocce Tournament
September 9th	Annual Chili Bingo—Supporting Our Veterans

### January 21st—RSVP by Tuesday, January 14th, to attend

Please remember to **RSVP** to attend the annual breakfast (canned food drive) in January. We will be collecting canned (non-perishable foods) and also gently used coats for all ages for those in need. Please remember no breakable items will be accepted. Look forward to seeing you all. Menu will be pancakes, link sausage & bacon, scrambled eggs, hash browns, juice, and coffee. Note: We will also be donating the monetary donations we receive, as well as the proceeds for breakfast, to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano County in support of MRC. Annually the local refineries have a competition to support the Food Bank. If you are unable to attend the breakfast in person and wish to support the virtual food drive [click here](#) between **April 1 and April 30 to make a donation.**

### Travel Partnership with Martinez Senior Center

RED HAWK CASINO

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025

\$55 per person

Depart Safeway at 8:00am and arrive at Red Hawk Casino in Placerville around 10:30 am. Red Hawk offers over 2000 slot machines, 75 game tables, and six different restaurants to choose from. You will receive a \$15 casino slot package and a \$5 in food credit. Departs for home at 3:30 pm and arrives back in Martinez around 5:30 pm. Sign up at the front desk with cash or check made payable to the City of Martinez. **Space is limited, must sign up by February 7th. For more additional information, call the Martinez Senior Center at 925-370-8770.** Please note that you are not required to be a member of the Martinez Senior Center to attend. Would ask you to advise them that you are a MRC Alumni when signing up so we know how many MRC folks participate.

# ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP REACHES HIGH OF 348!

FYI WE NOW HAVE 80 MRC ACTIVE EMPLOYEES. Thanks to all the folks joining the Alumni to support the group. The membership form is found on the last page of this newsletter. Please pass on to those retirees/employees that have not joined us. Great work by current members reaching out to fellow coworkers and friends to join us.



Robert Bennett

Here are a few facts about our members: Members reside in the following countries and states: Australia, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, & Washington.

**Looking for current or previous Alumni newsletters or photos from recent or previous events, check out this link to the [MRC Alumni web site](#) for the items as they become available for viewing.**

## PHOTO ARCHIVES OF EVENTS

Crab Feed 2024 from February 20th. Open this [hyperlink](#) to check out all the photos from the event.



Annual Alumni Meeting on March 19th. Open this [hyperlink](#) to check out all the photos from the event.



Annual Alumni Reunion on April 18th, Open this [hyperlink](#) to check out all the photos from the event.



Scholarship Awards from May 2024, to view the photos of the event just open this [hyperlink](#).



Bocce Tournament on July 13th, to view the photos of the event just open this [hyperlink](#).



Mare Island Tour on July 18th, to view the photos of the event just open this [hyperlink](#).



Annual Toys for Tots November 12th. Open this [hyperlink](#) to check out all the photos from the event. This was a great success thanks to all who contributed or attended!



**[Open hyperlink this to view the Alumni scholarship photos from 1993 to current.](#) [This hyperlink opens the scholarship list of recipients.](#)**

## Alumni Scholarship History Now added to the Alumni Web Page

The compilation of the history of scholarships awarded from 1993 to 2024 is now available on the web site to look back at the number of scholarships presented to support education of the Alumni families and MRC employees that applied for a scholarship.

Hope you enjoy the lookback of these recipients.

## Alan Robbins

The Alumni BOD wishes to thank Alan for all his years of support in the Alumni and serving on the Board of Directors as the Secretary. Thanks for your many years of service and ongoing contributions to the Alumni.

Alan was born September 8, 1938 in Martinez, CA to Dwight and Margrethe Robbins. Dwight Robbins was a shift foreman as Shell Chemical Martinez.

Alan attended local schools and graduated from Mt. Diablo High School in 1956. He then attended Diablo Valley College while working summers at Shell Oil in the labor gang.

He was drafted into the Army in 1959, and spent two years at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico.

Alan met Pat Foster in the late sixties and they were married in 1967. They have one son, David, who works in the computer industry.

Alan retired from Shell in 1993, and worked off and on as a contractor, training operators to be instrument technicians.

Upon retirement, Alan and Pat joined the Alumni and have enjoyed several trips with the Alumni. Robbins recalls "The Scandinavia Tour, Spain, Portugal, and Italy Tour, Alaska Cruise, and Fall Colors Tour were all great".

Alan's hobbies have been growing and showing Iris, as well as rock collecting. He belongs to two local societies: Mt. Diablo Iris Society in Walnut Creek and Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society in Oakland. He is also a member of Region 14 of the American Iris Society. He participated in shows and has won many awards over the last 40 years. Alan is a retired Master Judge with the American Iris Society. Alan and Pat were made lifetime members of the Mt. Diablo Iris Society.

Alan is also a member of the Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society where he exhibits crystals collected by his parents.

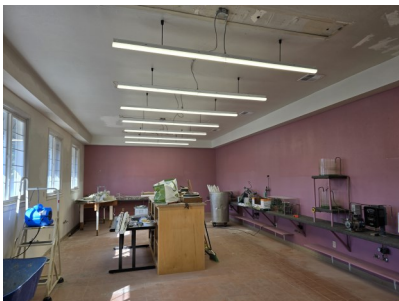
## Museum Annex Renovation Update

The work to patch, texture and paint the large room and two restrooms will be starting on Tuesday, November 19th. The contractor we hired did a great job on the second large area that is completed and partially set up. *Unfortunately, we still have a leak in the front wall, thought we repaired when scuppers were patched. This will delay the finishing of the room until the leak is found and patched.* The water leak test by the roofing contractor points to leaks around the windows and cracks/holes in the stucco leaking. Jon is sealing the window cracks with foam and caulking to see if this solves the issue. If not, we will the cracks/holes in the stucco repaired and paint the front of building to seal it up.

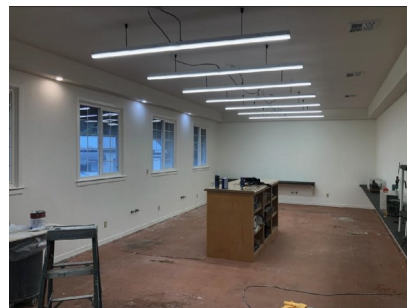
We are also updating the bathroom fixtures after the texturing and painting is completed. We have received the new ADA toilets to be installed in the Annex.

Then the big task of arranging the displays and setting up the areas for our open house begins.

Thanks to Jon taking the lead and doing the tedious task of troubleshooting and repairing the window leaks. THANKS FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO AT THE MUSEUM. IT IS APPRECIATED!



Before



After



## Everyone Has a Story in Life

A 24 year old boy seeing out from the train's window shouted...“Dad, look the trees are going behind!”

Dad smiled and a young couple sitting nearby, looked at the 24 year old's childish behavior with pity, suddenly he again exclaimed...“Dad, look the clouds are running with us!”

The couple couldn't resist and said to the old man...

“Why don't you take your son to a good doctor?” The old man smiled and said...“I did and we are just coming from the hospital, my son was blind from birth, he just got his eyes today.”

Every single person on the planet has a story. Don't judge people before you truly know them. The truth might surprise you.

## **Requesting submittal of stories for Alumni Scholarship Recipients for Successes/Journeys and Alumni Stories of Hobbies/Travel Adventures/Volunteering in Retirement**

Please submit your stories/photos about scholarship recipients or retirement adventures to [mrcmtzalumni22@gmail.com](mailto:mrcmtzalumni22@gmail.com).

We would love to share these stories from Alumni scholarship sponsors of their children, grandchildren or greatgrandchildren that received a scholarship from the MRC Alumni/EAA or MRC and where their journeys have taken them.

Also would love to hear what Alumni retirees are doing in their spare time. Share your hobbies, volunteer efforts or great travel adventures.

## **DONATE USED EYEGLASSES and HEARING AIDS**

The Alumni will collect used eyeglasses and hearing aids for The Lions Club at events and at the Museum. The collection box is available on Tuesdays and Thursday mornings from 9:00 am to noon at the Museum. Through your kindness we can help to offer the gift of sight or sound to those in need. Marj Leeds will pick up the donated items for The Lions Club.

## HUMOR CORNER

An old lady was standing at the rail of the cruise ship holding her hat so that the wind wouldn't blow it away in the wind. A gentleman approached her & said, "Pardon me, madam, I do not intend to be forward but did you know that your dress is blowing up in this wind?"

"Yes, I know," said the lady. "But I need my hands to hold onto my hat." "But madam," he said, "you must know that you're derriere is exposed!" The woman looked down, then back up at the man and said, "Sir, anything you see down there is 85 years old, but I just bought this hat!"

A little silver-haired lady calls her neighbor and says, "Please come over here and help me. I have a killer jigsaw puzzle, and I can't figure out how to get started."

Her neighbor asks, "What is it supposed to be when it's finished?"

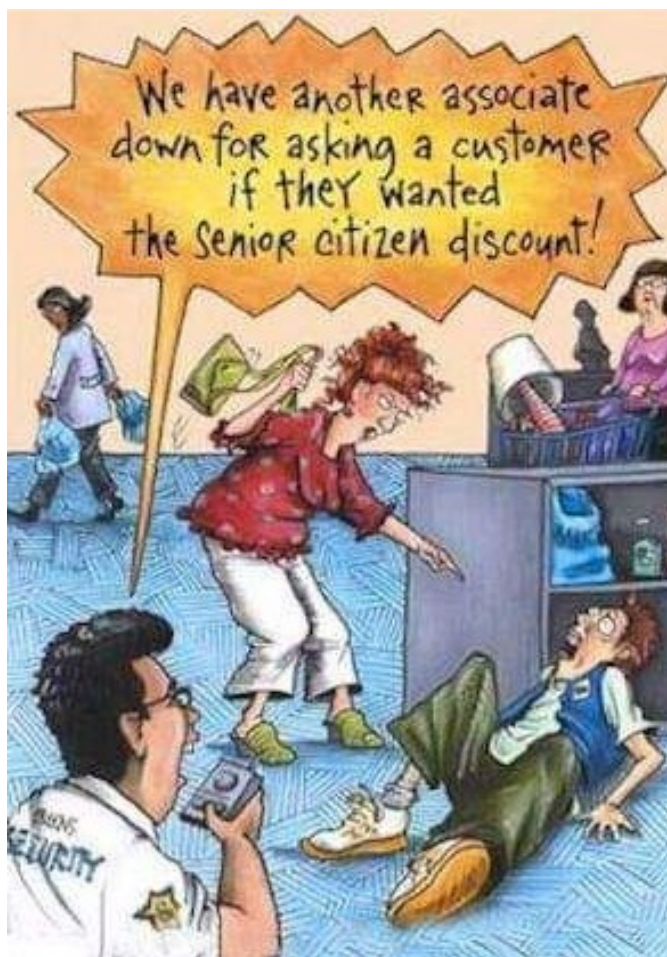
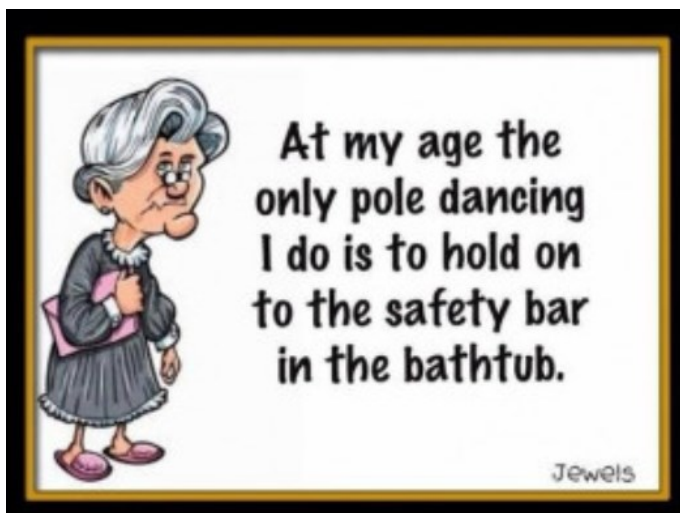
The little silver haired lady says, "According to the picture on the box, it's a rooster."

Her neighbor decides to go over and help with the puzzle.

She lets him in and shows him where she has the puzzle spread all over the table.

He studies the pieces for a moment, then looks at the box, then turns to her and says, "First of all, no matter what we do, we're not going to be able to assemble these pieces into anything resembling a rooster." He takes her hand and says, "Secondly, I want you to relax. Let's have a nice cup of tea" and then he said with a deep sigh .....

"Let's put all the Corn Flakes back in the box."





Chris Dooly, January 2nd
Ha Nguyen, January 2nd
Dewey Kranz, January 4th
Michael Armour, January 4th
Mike Beck, January 9th
Tony English, January 14th
Tony Graboyes, January 14th
Dave Gieber, January 14th
Nick Plurkowski, January 14th
Anita Edralin, January 16th
Elijah Edwards, January 19th
Dan Kubaczyk, January 19th
Ron Banducci, January 20th
Joe Sinosky, January 20th
Don Lapacek, January 20th
Lou Cooper, January 22nd
Patricia French, January 23rd
Dwight Harlander, January 26th
Glenda Robertson, January 28th
Kathy Wheeler, January 28th
Melisa Guillen, January 29th
Kurt Lusetti, January 30th



Kirsten Marczak & Jason Schulz, January 1st
Randy and Deanne Stone, January 2nd 10s
Gerry and Marian Walker, January 17th 30s
Mildred and Fermin Suzara, January 17th 30s

## Current Board Members and Officers

**Museum Phone number (925) 293-4162**

- Chairman—Brenda Hill
- Vice Chairman—Rodger Engebretson
- Treasurer—Jeff Facer
- Secretary—Dina Cotten
- Board Member—Allan Robbins
- Board Member—Jon Marangoni
- Board Member- John Wellner
- Board Member—Anne Fincke
- Board Member—Bob Canning (historian)

## SHELL—BENEFITS, MEDICAL, PENSION

**SHELL BENEFITS SERVICE CENTER** The old Shell Benefits number has been disconnected. The new phone referenced below is to a dedicated department who can further assist you on your Shell Benefits inquiry, you may directly contact them thru the following: **800-307-4355** Also as a backup for assistance, try reaching out to the Fidelity Patient Advocate (**Stephanie, 877-208-0936 Ext. 23411**).

**Attention Please: Are YOU and YOUR SPOUSE 65 AND ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICARE?**

*All retirees must be enrolled in Medicare Part "B" to enroll in the Medicare Senior Advantage Plan with Kaiser or their HMO.*

*Persons not a member of Kaiser must contact their HMO for application and approval.*

**Please follow these steps concerning Medical Coverage with your HMO or Kaiser.**

1. You need to contact your HMO or Kaiser for an application 90 days prior to your 65th birthday. Call Kaiser for an application at 1-800-747-2189.
2. Complete and return the application to your HMO or Kaiser for approval.

*"Success is walking from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm."*  
*Winston Churchill*

## Obituaries

Please email us if you know of other Alumni that have passed.

Tom Bendixen - November 8th, 2024

MARTINEZ REFINING COMPANY ALUMNI 2025 SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

P.O. Box 1093 Martinez, CA 94553

[MRCMTZALUMNI22@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MRCMTZALUMNI22@GMAIL.COM) (925) 293-4162

Proposed event schedule of activities for 2025 (cost and dates subject to change).

Please note that event pricing is **for members in good standing** (current on dues). Alumni that are non-members (dues not paid) MRC retirees or active employees may attend the events or any scheduled trips, however the pricing for non-members may be higher. Tickets will be available on a first-come first-served basis, members in good standing getting priority for events if there is limited availability of seating or tickets.

DATE	DESCRIPTION	MEMBER COST/PERSON	COMMENTS
January 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 (Monday)	Volunteers to assist with removing Christmas decorations at Clubhouse (lunch provided)		
Jan. 21 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 Tuesday January 20 <sup>th</sup> from 2 – 6 pm set-up	MRC Annual Alumni Breakfast and Canned Food Drive @ Clubhouse <b>(Doors open @ 9:30 am and breakfast served at 10:30 am)</b>	Breakfast \$10.00 and/or a donation of non-perishable food/ canned goods – non breakable containers only.	RSVP requested by 1/14/2025 – payment by 1/21/2025
Feb. 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 Thursday	Crab Feed @ Noon Clubhouse	Ticket cost TBD per member limited ticket sales – reserve your ticket	RSVP requested by 2/1/2025 – payment by 2/13/2025
Mar 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 Thursday	Membership Meeting- open 10:45 am, meeting @ 11:00 am, lunch served @ 11:45 am	Free (Members and their guest Only)	RSVP requested by 3/1/2025
April 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 Thursday	Retiree Reunion/Open House – Mexican Buffett	<i>\$10 at the door per member</i>	RSVP requested by 4/1/2025 – payment by 4/10/2025
<b>May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Monday</b>	Scholarship Lunch @ Zio Fraedo's Waiting on confirmation with restaurant	<i>\$10/person ? TBD</i>	RSVP requested by 4/26/2025 – payment by 5/5/2025
June 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 Tuesday	MRC Annual Picnic @ Clubhouse – The event will be held indoors again this year.	Alumni member and a guest \$10.00/person (Children, grandchildren and great grandchildren are \$5.00 each over the age of 5.)	RSVP requested by 6/2/2025 – payment by 6/10/2025
<b>July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Saturday</b>	Bocce Tournament Registration @ 8:30 am and Starting @ 9:00 am Lunch and t-shirts provided	Alumni members and their guest/and or family members \$10.00/person (children over 10 - free)	RSVP requested by 7/1/2025 – payment by 7/19/2025
Sept 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 Tuesday Sept. 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 Cook/setup	Chili Bingo – Honoring our Veterans	Alumni member & a guest \$10.00 per person	RSVP requested by 9/1/2025 – payment by 9/9/2025
Nov. 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 Thursday	Luncheon & Toys for Tots Drive	Alumni member & a guest \$10.00 per person and/or a new toy(s) per person	RSVP requested by 10/30/2025 – payment by 11/6/2025
December 2025 TBD	Volunteers to decorate Clubhouse		

# Annual Breakfast Canned Food Drive



Date: January 21st, 2025

Time: Doors open @ 9:30 am - Breakfast served at 10:30 am

Menu: Pancakes, link sausage & bacon, scrambled eggs, & hash browns.

Location: MRC Clubhouse

Please RSVP using the form below by **January 13th, 2025** - payment due by 1/21/2025. For those still working at the site, flier and payment can be mailed via intercompany mail addressed to Museum Alumni or dropped off at the Museum through the mail slot or in person on Tuesday or Thursday from 9:00 am to noon. The Museum will be closed on Christmas Eve., 12/24/24.

We will be serving breakfast at 10:30 am with the doors opening at 9:30 am for folks to mingle and visit. The cost for the breakfast will be \$10.00 per person and/or donation of non-perishable food item(s). The entry fee will also be used to purchase food items to be donated to the Contra Costa Food Bank for those in need. For those unable to attend, donations will gladly be accepted. Checks should be made payable to "Alumni General Fund" and mailed to the Alumni Museum at P.O. Box 1093, Martinez, CA 94553. If you live close by, you can also drop your envelope thru the mail slot in the main Museum entry door or drop off your food donation. If you have any questions, please email them to [mrcmzralumni22@gmail.com](mailto:mrcmzralumni22@gmail.com). **Please note that glass jars and other breakable containers are not accepted for the canned goods or all non-perisables donated.**

We will also collect gently worn coats for men, women, and children for donation to those in need. So if you have some items that you hardly ever worn or have outgrown, this is a great place to donate them.

Please advise if you will be paying for breakfast, donating canned goods, or both.

I plan on attending the breakfast on January 21st. Alumni Member's Name and phone number or email: \_\_\_\_\_

Paying for breakfast  Donation  Both

If bringing a guest, please provide their name \_\_\_\_\_

Paying for breakfast  Donation  Both

This form can be mailed to the Martinez Refining Company Alumni, P.O. Box 1093, Martinez, CA. 94553 or emailed to [mrcmtzalumni22@gmail.com](mailto:mrcmtzalumni22@gmail.com).



# Single or Multiple Payment(s)

Please make check payable to "Alumni General Fund" and mail to  
Martinez Refining Company Alumni at P. O. Box 1093 Martinez, CA 94553

This payment sheet is being provided for your convenience to eliminate multiple payments/mailings for annual dues renewal and/or events you plan on attending in the future. **Complete the appropriate portion of this form, print the form and mail with the appropriate payment.** Note the event fliers are not required if you use this payment form. Additional details and reminders for events will be forthcoming as the dates get closer.

Please provide your name and cell/email for contact information: Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Cell or email info. \_\_\_\_\_.

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**Annual Dues Renewal** – Please indicate the year(s) below that you are paying dues for or just provide the amount of dues paid and it will be recorded as necessary. **Please complete the membership form and include in the mailing if your information has changed or you are a new member.** Dues are \$5.00 per year.

Indicate the amount for dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  2024  2025  2026  2027  2028

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**Alumni Breakfast and Canned Food Drive, January 21st** – All funds collected for lunch and donations are used to purchase canned food/non-perishables. Please no glass or breakable donations. RSVP by January 13th, 2025.

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  \$10.00 for lunch  Donating canned goods  Both

Guest's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  \$10.00 for lunch  Donating canned goods  Both

**Response and payment due by \_\_\_\_\_ ???.** Amount Paid for Alumni Breakfast \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**Crab Feed, February 13th** – Please reserve your tickets below by signing up, seating is limited to ~60. Additional details will be given (ticket cost) and if crab is available this year. Tickets are limited to two per member.

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Reserve a seat—ticket cost TBD by supply availability

Guest's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  Reserve a seat—ticket cost TBD by supply availability

**Response and payment due by February 1st, 2025.** Tickets reserved for Crab Feed \_\_\_\_\_

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**Annual Membership Meeting, March 13th** – The annual membership meeting is reserved for Alumni members only and their guests. The lunch is free to members and their guest, however, an RSVP is required for catering count.

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**RSVP response due March 1st, 2025.**

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**Scholarship Luncheon, May 5th** – Details are still be worked to confirm date and lunch cost @ Zio Fradeo's.

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**Annual Alumni Reunion, April 10th** – Annual Alumni Reunion has been well attended, hope this year it is the same.

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  \$10.00 for lunch

Guest's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  \$10.00 for lunch

**RSVP response due by April 1st, 2025.** Amount Paid for Alumni Reunion \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## MRC (Martinez Refining Company) Alumni Membership Form & Dues

This information requested below is to allow the Alumni Newsletter to congratulate and celebrate folks on birthdays and milestone anniversaries. Please forward this form to other Martinez Refining Company retirees and active employees that would be interested in joining.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone Number(s):  Cell \_\_\_\_\_  Home \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding Anniversary Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse or Significant Other's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Retirement: Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the amount paid (\$5.00 per year), payment method, and indicate the year(s) for which dues are being paid.

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Check (Payable to Alumni General Fund)  Cash

Dues for  2025  2026  2027  2028  2029  2030

Mail your money and this form to the Martinez Refining Company Alumni, P.O. Box 1093, Martinez, CA. 94553. For those working at the refinery, correspondence, RSVPs, and dues, etc., can be mailed in the inter-company mail addressed to "Museum Alumni". Scott delivers the mail to the Museum.

*Disclaimer: Alumni Reunion Photos/Video*

*Please note that the Martinez Refining Company (MRC) Alumni owns/uses photographs and/or video taken of Alumni members and/or group shots taken at events. Those photos are shared in the Alumni and the MRC Martinez Minute newsletters and to be posted on Alumni web pages, in publications, news releases, online, and in other communications related to the mission of the MRC Alumni, Martinez Refining Company and PBF Energy. By joining the Alumni and attending the events you approve of these photos and the use thereof.*

*Revised November 2024*