



Building a caring community for residents who want to remain in their homes safely and affordably while maintaining a meaningful lifestyle.

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2018

PRESIDENT'S POST



We are embarking on a very busy time of year with the holidays fast approaching. It can be hectic, but there is so much to enjoy. I particularly like Thanksgiving as we celebrate the people and things we are grateful for in our lives.

As president of AIP-TW I am very grateful for all our members. I am inspired by our members who choose to remain in their homes and gracefully accept a bit of help with activities. I'm especially thankful for our volunteers and supporters who make it possible to help our members age in place.

Below you will read about Colin MacRae who has worked and traveled all over the world and now as a consultant finds time to volunteer as a driver on our rideshare team.

I hope you can join us for our holiday celebration at the Palmer Country Club on Saturday, December 15th. I look forward to seeing you there and I wish you a wonderful season of thankfulness and joy. **See Upcoming Events below for details.**

Best wishes,
Peggy Reinhold
President, AIP-TW



MEET VOLUNTEER DRIVER COLIN MACRAE

(Note: The newsletter regularly includes a short bio of a member or volunteer to help us get to know one another and to highlight the programs and services we offer.)

Colin MacRae, a volunteer driver in the AIP-TW rideshare program, is a man of the world and a man of his word.

“Colin is one of our most responsive and reliable drivers,” says **Ken Dorland**, team leader of rideshare volunteers. “While he signed up for two days a week, he is often available other days as well.” You

can count on him to be on time, awaiting his riders with a cheerful greeting to take them to medical appointments, shopping, or social events.

Born in Northern Ireland and now a U.S. citizen, he has lived and worked in various parts of the world during his career in the oil and gas industry. After obtaining a master’s degree in petroleum engineering from the Royal School of Mines at Imperial College in London, he worked in Africa, the Persian Gulf, Australia, Singapore, South America and the U.K., among other places.

He met his wife, Sally, in Bahrain where his son Andrew was born in 1966. Sally grew up in Kenya where her father was the port captain in Mombasa. When her father retired and moved to England, Sally fled cold, wet England for a warmer climate, the kind she enjoyed growing up. She was working as a secretary for Bahrain Petroleum Co. when they met.

After Sally was told she might not be able to have more children, they adopted six-weeks-old Duncan while living in Australia. Daughter Helen came as a surprise in 1979. At the time, the family was living in Houston where Colin was vice president of engineering for the Production Services Division of Baker Oil Tools. He left Baker Tools during the industry contraction in the mid-1980s. Then followed what he calls, “the best job I ever had.” He was in on the ground floor of AVA International Houston, an oil industry services company started by an old friend – “who you know can often help!” As manager of international operations he helped grow the company until it was bought out by Dresser in 1992. “It was

hard work and I did a lot of travelling, but I had a ball. I established operational bases in the U.K., Holland, France, Italy, Nigeria, Congo, South Africa, Dubai and Indonesia,” he says.

Despite a full, busy life, it has not been without heartache. Around the turn of the century, both Sally and daughter Helen were diagnosed with myotonic muscular dystrophy, a long-lasting deterioration of the nervous system for which there is as yet no cure. Helen, who started showing symptoms in her late teens, died in 2007. Sally passed away in 2011. “We were married for 46 wonderful years and I still miss her terribly and consider myself to be incredibly lucky to have been with her that long.”

His family life now revolves around his two sons, their wives and five grandchildren. A consultant since 1999, he has “ghost written” more than 250 technical papers and industry magazine articles. Although he no longer is an avid golfer or skier, he enjoys a good game of bridge. In addition, he says, “I have found doing a little private chauffeuring can be very rewarding with the people I have met and helped as a result.” His grateful passengers can’t say enough nice things about the tall, friendly guy with the plummy English accent.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 15th, 11:30 – 1:30 Saturday. Join us for a festive holiday lunch at the Palmer Country Club. Choose from a few menu items selected for the occasion. The price is \$20 per person and includes tax and gratuity. **R.S.V.P. by December 10th** to Peggy Reinhold, 281-845-4441 or aiptwtx@gmail.com. Guests are welcome.

January 16th, 11:30 – 1:30 Join us for a Lunch and Learn at Houston Methodist The Woodlands Hospital. Dr. Hardeep Gill, a specialist in Internal and Geriatric Medicine will speak to us about topics relevant to older adults. We will order sandwich boxes from Jason’s Deli for \$10 each.



Happy Thanksgiving, everyone. Because of the Thanksgiving holidays, we will not have a social event this month. Enjoy your time with family and friends.

OCTOBER SOCIAL ENJOYED IN ART-FILLED HOME



When the weather forecast predicted a cold front moving in, Erika Pratt, chair of our October picnic in the park, was undeterred. She changed the venue to her home filled with art and conversation pieces. Erika, who also serves on our board, a volunteer driver and general all-around service

provider brings sunshine into a lot of lives. Her friend Susan Daniels seated at right, is a Qi Gong enthusiast who got everyone up and moving to basic Qi Gong moves. The social team hasn't given up on outdoor picnics. Another one is scheduled in the spring when the weather can usually be counted on to cooperate.

