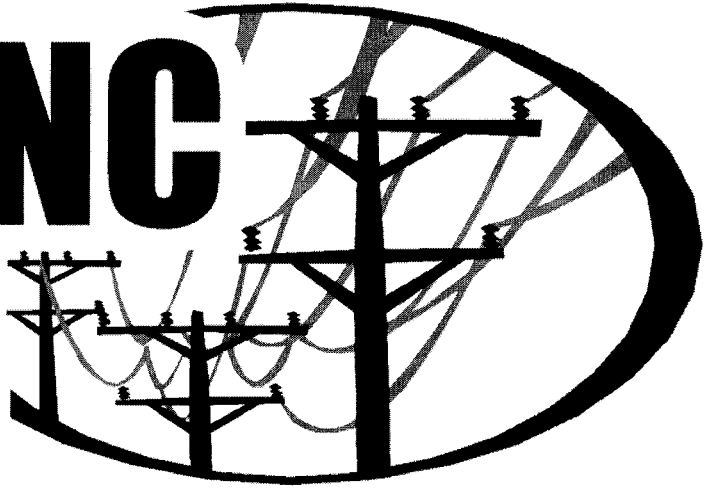


# SCS/SNC OUTSIDE



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Volume 21

Number 2

March – April 2009

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## PREZ SEZ

As I begin my term as president of our organization I would like to thank all of the previous officers, directors, and committee chairs who have worked so hard to continue our tradition of useful and interesting meetings and enjoyable fellowship opportunities. Much of this work is done behind the scenes, but it is all important to achieving the results that you see.

All of you should have received our 2009 membership renewal form and approximately 140 of you have already responded. This puts us about half way to our membership goal. Last year many of our members misplaced the letter or forgot to send in their forms so we have attached a copy to this issue of Outside for your convenience.

Your membership in The SCS/SNC Retirees organization will provide you the opportunity to see your fellow retirees at our bimonthly meetings, get updates on active members via e-mail or phone, and through our fellowship events throughout the year.

Charles Hickman, our Web Committee chair, has completely redone our SCS/SNC Web site that includes all information about our organization. This is very well done and I encourage you to take a look at it: <http://www.scsretirees.com/>

Last year our Fellowship chair, Joe Leamon, arranged three great events. They were the play *Menopause* at the Montgomery Shakespeare theater, viewing the Pompeii exhibit at the Birmingham Museum of Art, and the musical *Sand Mountain Saturday Night* at the Virginia Samford Theater. This year Joe is working on several events and we will let you know once the plans have been finalized.

Our **March 9** meeting will be at **Inverness 42, Room 130 at 1:00 p.m.** Many of our members come early to have lunch at the Inverness cafeteria prior to the meeting and we encourage you to join us. Our March speaker is **Lauren Whitt**, the Alabama Power Wellness Coordinator, who is responsible for the Alabama Power Southern Life Style Health and Wellness program.

Our Spring Luncheon, open to all SCS/SNC Retirees is tentatively scheduled for **May 12** at the Pelham Civic Complex with **Jim Miller**, President of Southern Nuclear, as our featured speaker.

I hope that you decide to join our group and look forward to seeing you all at the March 9 meeting.

— John Brandt

**Want to keep up with what's happening?**

**Got a computer?**

**Visit the SCS/SNC Retiree Website**

<http://www.scsretirees.com>

**SCS RETIREE LEADERSHIP  
 FOR 2009**

<b>Officers</b>	
President	John Brandt 956-0502
Vice President	Carol Yeager 822-5506
Secretary	Pat Moore 979-3353
Treasurer	Henry Garrett 853-6079
<b>Directors</b>	
Buddy Coggin	785-5992
Jim Coleman	991-7403
Charles Goodman	823-5187
Don Irvin	491-3841
Jim Rooker	287-3210
Don Smaha	823-0173
Richard Chastain (ex-officio)	822-8971
<b>Committee Chairs</b>	
Arrangements	Jay Dorrance 663-2828
Audit	Mike Griggs 823-7950
Fellowship	Joe Leamon 870-5637
Finance	Henry Garrett 823-6079
Member Care	Liz Winter 822-6142
Membership	Dora Brandt 956-0502
Newsletter	Dan & Myrna Wise 942-2336
Nominating	Fred Ehrensperger 655-2725
Program	<b>Open</b>
Website	Charles Hickman 823-4597

**BIRTHDAYS**

**MARCH:** 2-T.D. Posey, 3-David Busby, 4-Rita Townsend, 5-Al Stallings, 6-Ken Horton, 7-Linda Katz, Kathryn Owens & Clara Posey, 9-Danny Lofton & Gene Rollins, 11-Bill Nicholson & Mary Sue Thornburgh, 12-Ron Fowler, John Troha & Sid Varagona, 16-Martha Cook, James Ewing & Lewis Williams, 18-Iris Gilbert & Mary Rimel, 19-Pat Bowman & John Meier, 20-Mary Anchors & Cheryl Baker, 21-Myron Fieldler, Scott Herron & Doyle Shaw, 22-Woody Woodruff, 23-John Tilton, Joe Tyner & Clyde Wood, 24-Peggy Davis, 26-Barbara Mitchell, 28-Bernice Hill, Richard McRee & Joe Romano, 29-Barbara Jones and 30-Marvin Watkins.

**APRIL:** 1-Shirley Rutherford, 2-Lowell Brothers, 3-Don Turner, 4-Vicki Garner & Frances Johnson, 5-James Cofield & Jean Shaw, 6-Joe Spears, 7-Paul Cone, Jeanette Crane & Geraldine Lofton, 8-Lodema Evans, Eugene Johnston, Ken Kopecky, Sarah Ann Michlewright, Stokely Morgan & Jerry Ray, 9-Geraldine Holmes, 10-James Legg, 11-Nancy Carr, Henry Garrett, Susan Goertz & Ron Letson, 12-Richard Rivers, 13-Don Jackson & Rhoey Swearingen, 14-Ken Damsgard & Charles Kirk, 15-Jerilynn Sansom & Hoy Taylor, 16-Leonard Bates & Lewis Williams, 18-Jack Goertz, 21-William Brown & Judy Sanford, 22-Don Irvin & Bill Rowe, 23-Don Walker, 24-Doug McCary, 25-Janet Smith, 27-James Baldone, 28-Ken Mooney, 29-Bob Davis, Billie Greenhill & Judith Heatherly and 30-Joyce Ehrensperger, Bill Garner & Hugh Turner.

— Jay Dorrance

**MEMBER CARE REPORT**

No news has been received regarding our members for this period. We still would like to have news regarding you and your family members that you will share with our organization.

We have had several deaths, and these are reported in the Obituaries column.

Please let me know if you are not receiving an e-mail or calling post message from me when deaths of members or family members occur. Our organization sends a memorial when the death of a member or a spouse of a member occurs.

If you have any information concerning any retiree that should be given to the membership, please let me know. We like to hear good news as well as those concerning health problems. Also we need the names of any retiree who might be confined at home or a nursing home. These retirees are eligible to be honorary members, and the Member Care Committee would like to keep in touch with them.

— Liz Winter

## **OBITUARIES**

### **In Memoriam**

**Jane Freeman**, 73, of Hoover, Alabama, passed away on Thursday, January 1, 2009. She and her husband Donald died from received in an automobile accident on I-65 South of Montgomery Monday, September 22, 2008. She retired from the SCS Fossil & Hydro/Electrical Design Department on July 1, 1994, as a Senior Clerk with 16 years of service. Jane was survived by her husband who followed her in death on January 11; one son, Gaylon Melton; two brothers; a sister and a number of nieces and nephews. Funeral services for Jane were held on Thursday, January 9 at 11 a.m. at Ridout's Elmwood Chapel followed by burial in Elmwood Cemetery Birmingham, Alabama.

**Thomas Ray Morgan**, 81, of Trussville, Alabama, died on Sunday, January 18, 2009. He retired from the SCS Mechanical Department on September 1, 1986, as a Metallurgist. T Ray, as he was known to his many friends, was born in Mississippi, served in the Navy in WWII after which he graduated from Delta State University with degrees in mathematics, chemistry and physics followed by a masters degree in physical chemistry from LSU. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mary; two sons; four grandchildren and several step-grand and great grandchildren; a brother and

two sisters as well as some nieces and nephews. A funeral service was held for T Ray on Thursday, January 22. from the Chapel of the Jefferson Memorial Funeral Home followed by burial in Jefferson Memorial Gardens East in Trussville, Alabama.

**Vasil Charles Valekis**, 87, of Birmingham, Alabama, passed away on Friday, January 30, 2009. Bill, as he was known to his family and friends, served in the Navy in WWII and came home to earn a degree in engineering from Howard College (now Samford University). He then put together a successful career at APC and SCS totaling 34 years, retiring from the SCS Fuel Services Department March 1, 1989,. Bill is survived by his wife of 59 years, Maria; three sons; one daughter; several grandchildren; and a sister as well as nieces and nephews. Funeral services for Bill took place at the Holy Trinity Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Cathedral on Monday, February 2, at 11 a.m. followed by a graveside interment service at Elmwood Cemetery Birmingham, Alabama.

**William Mylius, Jr.**, 89, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on Tuesday, February 3, 2009. Mr. Mylius worked locally for Rust Engineering Co., Alabama Power Co. and Southern Company Services, retiring from SCS September 1, 1989. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Mary Jane; a daughter and a son, one grandson and one great granddaughter. A funeral Mass was held for William on Friday, February 6, at 10 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

### **Condolences**

Sympathy is extended to SCS Retiree **Phyllis Craven Lawrence** and her family in the death of her husband Dr. Edmond Lawrence, 90, of Spanish Fort, Alabama, who died Sunday, January 4, 2009.

Our heart felt sympathy is extended to SCS Retiree **Bruce Bailey** and his wife, Gladys, in the death of their son Bruce Bailey, Jr., 53, of Atlanta, Georgia, who died Friday, January 9, 2009. In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife Teresa and three step-children.

Sympathy is also extended to SCS Retiree **Arthur Johnson** and his family in the passing of

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his wife of almost 36 years, Jacquelyn "Jackie" Johnson, 66, of Indian Springs Village who died Saturday, January 10, 2009.

We extend our heart felt sympathy to the family of SCS Retiree the late **Jane Freeman** in the untimely death of Jane and her husband, Dr. Donald Freeman, 73, of Hoover, Alabama, who died Sunday January 11, 2009. The Freemans died from the injuries received in an automobile accident that happened on I-65 South of Montgomery, Alabama, on Monday, September 22, 2008. Dr. Freeman was a retired pharmacist from Cooper Green Mercy Hospital and he taught a class in pharmacy at Samford University.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to SCS Retiree **Ed Williamson** and his family in the death of his wife, Betty Williamson, 73, who died on Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at her son's home in Crestview, Florida, after a long and courageous battle with ALS.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to SCS Retiree **Clyde Wood** and his family in the death of his wife of 64 years, Fay Wood, 85, who died Tuesday, February 3, 2009. Fay and Clyde were former residents of Indian Springs Village before they moved to Kirkwood by the River Independent Living.

— Jay Dorrance

### **JANUARY ATTENDANCE**

Jay Dorrance reported attendance at the January 2009 meeting was 50 retirees, spouses and guests.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Henry Garrett reports that income from member dues in the month of January was \$1770. Expenditures for the period amounted to \$233.81.

Spring is nature's way of saying "Let's party!"

— Robin Williams

### **THE SPOTLIGHT shines on EDWARD GRAY MURRAY**

Gray Murray was reared in Buena Vista, Georgia, which then was a small community with one traffic light and is located about 30 miles east of Columbus. He was valedictorian and president of his senior class at Marion County High School. Gray was also a star in basketball and tennis, including a second place finish in a state doubles competition. In 1973, he graduated cum laude in mechanical engineering from Auburn University, and he was elected to engineering honor societies Tau Beta Pi and Pi Tau Sigma.

His Southern Company Services career began on April Fools' Day in 1973 in the Steam Projects Planning department. Among several SCS people Gray listed as having a positive impact on his career were Sherwood Lawrence, Frank Doar, Hoot Gibson, Ed Williamson and Fred Ehrensperger. Who with a background at SCS does not remember these people as well as many others as leaders? Charles McCrary once had a cubicle next to Gray's.

The 1970s were years of tremendous growth for the Southern Company. Engineers were involved in the conceptual design of plants such as Miller, Scherer, Wansley, Hatch and Vogtle. At the same time, retrofits of pollution control equipment were being designed and installed. Gray interacted with vendors throughout the country to ensure that the best designs were used in these plants. Through the years, he progressed through the management ranks; manager of power engineering (12 years) and manager of generating plant performance (14 years).

After 33 years, he retired in August 2006. Since retirement, Gray has used his management skills in the area of land management and development. Currently, he manages an 800 acre family farm near Valdosta, Georgia, that includes commercial properties such as timber and pecan groves. He and three partners are involved in managing The Village at Lake Martin. Just to finish out his day, he maintains a development office in Homewood with a son and a son-in-law.

Gray married his high school sweetheart, Dianne Henson, in 1973, and they have four children, two girls and two boys. All of the children are married and three of these families live near them in Homewood. A second daughter lives in Jacksonville, Florida, which gives Gray and Dianne an excellent reason to travel to visit.

So far, there are six grandchildren, with a seventh on the way. Gray and Dianne are members of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Homewood, and Gray coordinates a nondenominational Bible Study at Covenant. Gray noted that the Lord has truly blessed his family and he gives Him the glory for it.

— Charles Hickman

### **MEMBERSHIP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

What – Village Creek Society  
Contact – Woody Woodruff  
Phone – 205-823-7480 or 205-798-0087

### **FUN AND STUFF**

#### **Monkey Bashing**

I went to college and got my degree in Education after my five children were born. By that time, though I didn't use them often, I was familiar with at least a few expletives—the d--- and h—l words in particular.

Now, I knew that the model teacher I dreamed of being would never use such words no matter what. I also knew I was no saint and decided to protect both myself and my future students by adopting a few harmless 'venting' words or phrases to use in case of stress or emergency.

My favorites soon became 'Piffle' and 'Shoot a monkey!' These served me well for years, eliciting some laughter, but little comment until my seventeenth year of teaching.

That year in my fifth grade class at Clay Elementary I had a pretty, rather serious young lady named Karen. After making some 'boo boo' or

other, I came out with my well worn 'Shoot a monkey.'

Karen looked at me with a perfectly straight face and asked, "Mrs. M, what have you got against monkeys?"

— Kit Mullinax  
Senior Living, May 2001

#### **Now that I'm Older**

*This has been around the Internet a few times, but I ran across it in a 2001 issue of Senior Living. It's interesting what one finds when cleaning out desk drawers.*

Now that I'm older (physically, at least), here's what I've discovered.

- I started out with nothing and I still have most of it.
- I finally got my head together, but now my body is falling apart.
- People say I'm absent-minded, but I don't remember being so.
- If all is not lost, where is it?
- It's so much easier to get older than it is to get wiser.
- I wish the buck stopped here—I could use a few.
- It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.
- The only time the world beats a path to your door is when you're in the bathroom.
- If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would have put them on my knees.

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- When I'm finally holding all the cards, everyone decides it's time to play checkers.
- It's not hard to meet expenses, they're everywhere.
- These days I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter. I go to get something and then ask myself "What am I here after?"
- All reports are in. Life is officially unfair.

**A Pair of Golden Oldies**

The choir had been working diligently on a special anthem and had found one particular passage, with long sustained notes in the first soprano section, to be especially tricky. Finally the director took to using a measured handclap-and-chant operation to demonstrate her point. "Vir- - - tue and hon- - - or." we chanted eight or ten times before the director was satisfied.

"Now, from the top of page three," she instructed. We plunged in—too fast again—only to break up completely at her anguished cry: "Girls! You are not hanging onto your virtue long enough!"

Reader's Digest  
June 1969

My sister and I were comparing our own adolescence with that of today's generation. I commented that there were no demonstrations or protests in our day, and instead of expensive and faddish new clothes we wore hand-me-downs. "But," I concluded, "we didn't complain."

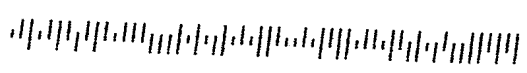
"No," replied my sister thoughtfully. "We didn't know we could."

Reader's Digest  
October 1968

**Springtime is the land awakening. The March winds are the morning yawn.**

— Lewis Grizzard

**SCS**  
**P.O.**  
**BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202**



**MEETING DETAILS:**  
**When: Monday, March 9**  
**Where: Inverness 42, conference Room 130.**  
**Board meeting at 11 a.m.**  
**General Meeting at 1 p.m.**  
**Everyone is invited to join us for lunch in the Inverness Cafeteria.**

CHARLES HICKMAN  
3244 BURNING TREE DRIVE  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35226