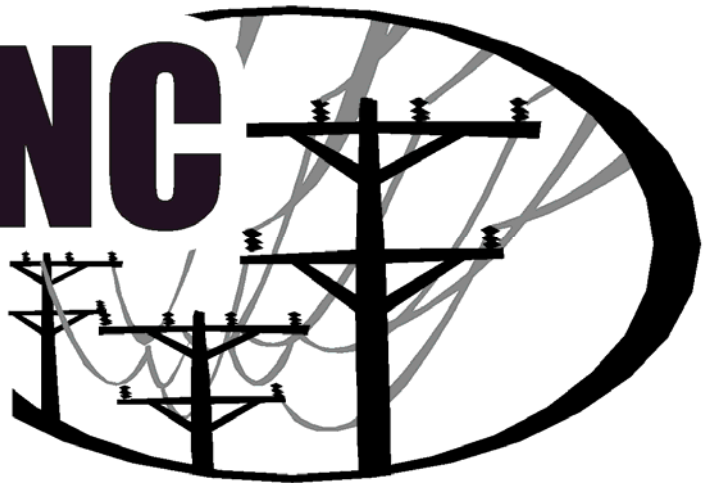


SCS/SNC OUTSIDE



Volume 25

Number 3

May – June 2013

PREZ SEZ

It is my sincere hope and prayer that this newsletter finds you in good health enjoying your retirement to the fullest. I don't know about you, but I seem to have as much to do as ever with the difference from a regular work schedule being that I can set my own priorities without a regular work schedule. It is great to be able to select time for children and grandchildren, outside interests and hobbies, fellowship with close friends and neighbors, and other things over being at work each day at 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. (or later).

I hope that one of your priorities this year will be to take a small amount of time for fellowship and reconnection with your former work associates. I think you will find it rewarding to fellowship with them outside of a work environment. This is a major part of the value of the SCS/SNC Retirees. With our upcoming spring luncheon, it is hard to understand any reason each of us would not take the opportunity. First, while the saying goes "there is no such thing as a free lunch", this is as close to one as you will ever come. It is open to all retirees, not just members of our organization. All you have to do is RSVP and show up at Pelham Civic Center on the appointed day. More detailed information is included in the newsletter.

This year we are so privileged to have Tom Fanning, top dog of the Southern Company, as our program which shows the value he places on Southern Company Retirees. I encourage you to arrive early, reconnect with old friends and acquaintances, and get a good seat.

If you are a member of SCS/SNC Retirees, you are getting one of these newsletters every other month. At a cost to you of \$6.00 per year (\$12.00 for couples), the value of this communication itself is worth the price. If you are currently not a member, I encourage you to join. There will be applications at our luncheon. As an additional opportunity, our fellowship chairman Joe Leamon has arranged for a group of our members to have lunch at Vestavia Country Club (wonderful buffet) and afterwards attend "Annie Get Your Gun". Dianne and I were the first to reserve our place because we regularly attend Virginia Samford Theatre productions. Their performances are fun and very entertaining at very reasonable prices as is the Vestavia County Club lunch buffet. There is very limited availability and it is filling up fast, so don't delay reserving your place for this time together as covered later in this newsletter as well.

Our first two meetings this year were well attended, despite awful weather. Our Elder Care program last meeting was very informative as well as getting a contact for further information should we be faced with that for our parents or ourselves. Keith Calhoun did a great job arranging this program and has many other informative ones planned the balance of the year. I hope you will take the time to note the Committee Chairs on our

Want to keep up with what's happening? Got a computer? Visit the SCS Retiree Website

<http://www.scsretirees.com>

SCS OUTSIDE

May – June 2013

leadership team. These are the people who do most of the work in making everything happen and run smoothly. You really can't appreciate the amount of effort they devote to making everything run smoothly until you are behind the scenes and see what it takes for everything to take place. There is a separate article acknowledging the service of one of our committee chairmen who is transitioning out of that particular role after 6 years of service. Please take the opportunity to thank them for their servant's heart and service to you as a retiree of one of the top companies in the country.

God bless you and I look forward to seeing you at the luncheon, enjoying a free lunch together, and hearing a great speaker and leader of our company.

— **Gray Murray**

SPRING LUNCHEON

Invitations to our May meeting should have arrived at your home by now. There is no charge for the event, but we need you to complete and return the reservation form to **Dora Brandt by May 3** for you and a guest to attend.

We especially want to invite retirees who have not yet become members of our organization to join us for lunch on May 13. Well-established friendships and common experiences occurred over many years. We not only worked alongside you, but all of us helped shape the success of the Southern Company. Why not celebrate that time together as retirees.

— Glenda James

BIRTHDAYS

May

1-Barbara Mohon; 2-Wilbur Matlock; 3-Ann Damsgard; Richard Locke, Patricia Phillips & Jane Tingle; 4-Norma Young; 5-Robert Conry; 6-Andy Dearman, Bermelida Morrison & Dominick Viruleg, Sr.; 7-Virginia Burnum & Donald Mansfield; 8-Edith Goodner, Rhonda McGill & Brenda Warren; 9-John G. Adkins, Bob Shaw,

Robert Walker & Dale Wyatt; 10-Carlynn Welch & Wandra Wyatt; 12 Paul Boehme & Faye Patterson; 13-Judith Irvin & Mary Sue Ludwig; 14-Ricky Allen & Ray D. Baker; 15-Dean Koch & Robert Murphy; 16-Mrs. Tommy Greer; 17-Rachel Hubbard, John C. Mcwhorter & Margaret O'Brien; 18-Milton W. Futral, Bob Hart & Linda Knight; 19-Linda Griggs & Joyce House; 20-Betty Bradshaw & Cathy Corbin; 21-Eugene B. Allison, Jr. & Roy Shanlever; 22-Corinne Hart; 23-Gene Byars & Lyndall Ulch; 25-Larry Washington; 26-Sam Bowman, Stephen Ashworth & Betty Mikell; 27-Sue Dalton Duckworth, Harold Jones & Helen Robin; 29-Joe Katz, Jr.; 30-James Black, Marcia Edmundson, Kerry L. Lambert & Robin Posey; 31-Earl Parsons, Jr.

June

1-Diane Adams, Debi Lacher & Tony Niemzak; 3-Timothy A. Granberry, Warren Glover, Theda Griffith, -Joyce Hickman & Paul Wise; 4-William Newman; 5-Joyce Hickman; 6-Cary Campbell, Anthony J. Topazi & Wade Warren; 7-Alvin Joel Connor, Eunice Draper, Peggy Howard & Angeline Walker; 8-John Brandt, Cheryl L. Garner & James S. Simpson; 9-Jim Newton; 11-Catherine Bailey, Carrie H. Phillips & Jerry Smith; 12-John Adrian; 13-Malek Barroody, James T. Reed & Mrs. W. R. Smith; 14-Ann Batum, Bill Coughlin, Jr., Anna Garlington, John Thies & Bob Winter; 15-Glenn Brothers & Agnes E. Chambers; 16-Michael Burns & Peggy Hinton; 17-Adel Alapour, Clyde Howard, & Alice Wells; 20-Keith Calhoun, Dewana Green, Nell Larson & Wayne Walton; 21-James Hartin & John Heatherly; 22-Ray Bailey, Ethel Hale & Betty Jackson; 23-Billy Kent Hatcher, Donald Walton Mansfield, Joyce Steele & Jack Woodward; 25-Arthur G. James, Jr.; 26-Nancy Adrian; 27-Carl G. Chambers & Kate Newman; 28-Mike Griggs & Freddie Nell Jones; 29-Judy Coggin, Joey B. Hudspeth, Cheryl Locke & William R. Smith; 30-Gayle Busby

No matter what accomplishments you achieve, somebody helps you

— **Althea Gibson**

GETTING A RETIREE BADGE

If you would like to obtain a Southern Company retiree badge, please contact Dan Calvert or Lorean McAdoo, Inverness Building 42, Room 158. The times are from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

If you join us for our next retiree meeting, you may find it convenient to contact them after the meeting.

— Dora Brandt

HOW TO CONTACT HEWITT

**When You Don't Remember
Your Password**

How does someone get to a real live person at Hewitt without knowing passwords and IDs? Here is the answer: You still must be prepared to provide the personal information necessary to identify yourself or the person you are calling for.

There are two ways.

Hewitt Direct. Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. you can call Hewitt at 1-888-435-7563. When their automated system answers, and after it asks for your ID, press *0# (star, zero, pound). Someone will answer.

HR Direct. Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. call 1-888-678-6787 and select Option 3. You will get a contact person who will transfer you to the right Hewitt benefit person.

— Dora Brandt

OBITUARIES

In Memoriam

Gary Auburn Argo, 72, of Birmingham, Alabama, passed on to glory Wednesday, March 6, 2013.

Gary was born in Walker County and graduated from Hueytown High School, class of 1958. He retired from SCS in 1988 with 30 years of service.

(continued on page 4)

**SCS RETIREE LEADERSHIP
FOR 2013**

Officers	
President	Gray Murray 381-9818
Vice President	Keith Calhoun 987-0383
Secretary	Peggy Burdeshaw 608-9636
Treasurer	Mike Griggs 823-7950
Directors	
Ray Bailey	9883032
John Brandt	956-0502
Fred Ehrensperger	655-2725
Patsy Evans	991-7900
Linda Griggs	823-7950
Don Welliver	733-1684
Lou Long (ex-officio)	936-6765
Committee Chairs	
Arrangements	Glenda James 823-6140
Audit	Glenda James 823-6140
Fellowship	Joe Leamon 870-5637
Finance	Mike Griggs 823-7950
Member Care	Liz Winter 822-6142
Membership	Dora Brandt 956-0502
Newsletter	Dan & Myrna Wise 942-2336
Nominating	
Program	
Website	Charles Hickman 823-4597

SCS OUTSIDE

May – June 2013

(continued from page 3)

He was preceded in death by his mother and father and was survived by a sister, a brother and several nieces and nephews. At Gary's request there were no planned funeral services.

— Jay Dorrance

MEET OUR FOUNDING MEMBERS

The Spotlight Shines on *Jerry Vandegrift*

Jerry Vandegrift had a long and productive professional life at SCS. When he retired he was Director of System Planning. But Jerry has never really retired, not fully at least. He was one of the founding members of our retirees group, and was the group's first President. As is our normal leadership progression, Jerry spent the following year in the leadership mix as an ex officio member of the Board. But his service to his fellow retirees did not stop there. He also spent two years as an elected director, a year handling Member Care, and three times on the nominating committee.

When I said Jerry has never fully retired, I was not speaking lightly. After retiring from SCS, Jerry handled the electrical engineering required to place a hydroelectric generating plant into service in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This generating plant became the reliable source of power for a mission hospital.

The task of bringing this plant from drawing-board to completion required four extended trips over a span of years. Jerry, though now legally blind, continues to serve as a consultant to the project.

Jerry and his wife Dean have a long history of partnership in volunteer work on behalf of the Congo, both at home and abroad.

Jerry has also been active in his church since retiring, having served as an Elder, a Trustee of the presbytery and a Moderator of the Presbytery Coordinating Council.

Jerry and Dean joined their lives in marriage March 13, 1954, and just celebrated their 59th anniversary. They live in Mountain Brook and have two living children and one grandchild nearby.

But Jerry and Dean have not been all work and no play in retirement. They have vacationed in some interesting, and sometimes exotic, places, including Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Yugoslavia, England, Scotland, Wales, Alaska, Israel, Egypt, Canada, Yucatan, Greece, D.R. Congo and Kenya. Oh, and they also found time to visit New England and Florida as well.

— Dora Brandt and Dan Wise

MARCH ATTENDANCE

Glenda James reports that 36 members and guests attended the March meeting.

MEMBER CARE

Get well wishes to **John Brandt**. John broke his left arm recently during a skating event with his six-year old grandson. Stay off those skates John!

I plan to begin sharing personal notes from family members of our deceased retirees with you in the newsletter. I would appreciate hearing from you if you would also be interested in reading letters from the recipients of donations made in memory of our members. Here is the first one.

Note from the family of Bill Guthrie:

Dear SCS Retirees, thank you for the contribution to the American Heart Association in memory of Bill. We, as a family, are very appreciative.

Sincerely, Jean, Patti and children

— Liz Winter

A NOTE ON MEMBERSHIP

Late last year a membership form was mailed to all Alabama retirees of both Southern Nuclear and Southern Company Services. We have received responses and dues checks from a good share of you already, but we are still open to receiving more of you as new or returning members. Mike Griggs, our treasurer, will be at the luncheon and will be happy to receive your check if you wish to join at that

time. If you are unable to attend, you can also mail your completed form and check to Mike at:
277 Shades Crest Road
Birmingham, AL 35226

A FEW MORE WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Gray Murray has some thoughts about three different topics he wanted to share with you.

SERVICE:

Purpose #5 of our SCS/SNC Retiree Organization is stated in our Articles of Incorporation as follows:

5. To further the common good and general welfare of the Greater Birmingham, Alabama Metropolitan Area communities by encouraging members to perform services in endeavors of charitable, social improvement and civic betterment.

We encourage each of you to be involved or get involved in some type of service organization. With our nation's debt spiraling totally out of control, we can all play a part in growing private sector service to others, which hopefully would slow or eliminate the need for growth of federal programs. While we have little control over political priorities in Washington, we do have control over what we choose to do with our time. One of those priorities should be some type of service to our fellow citizens, which many of you already do. There is a real sense of personal satisfaction and peace that comes with helping those less fortunate. It is our Maker's will for us to do so and show our love and concern for our neighbors.

Your SCS/SNC Retiree Organization makes a considerable contribution each year to United Way. Additionally, we have budgeted additional funds to contribute to a nonprofit organization (which will be selected by a panel of the Board of Directors) which is nominated and supported by one or more of our members through their time and involvement.

If you are involved in support of a nonprofit organization on a personal level through donation of your time, talents, or serving on an advisory board or board of directors, we invite you to nominate that nonprofit to be considered for a cash award.

Please send an email to Dora Brandt, membership chairman (brandtd@bellsouth.net), and let her know if you have a heart for a specific nonprofit organization and are involved in giving time, talents, and efforts to that organization. We want to keep a list of these so we can know which organizations receive assistance from our members and also know how we are meeting the purpose stated above. If you do this, we will advise you of the nomination process for such award.

SCS/SNC RETIREE LEADERSHIP

Each year we pull a nominating committee together to examine the membership and to select and recommend a slate of officers for the next year. This year is no different. As President this year, I am also Chairman of the Nominating Committee. The Committee will consist of at least three other officers, directors or committee chairs. This is an important process because it will determine the leadership and direction the organization will take in 2014. We need people who are willing to serve the organization in some capacity. There are many opportunities to serve, many of which do not require any special abilities, **just a willingness to serve and work for the organization on a limited basis.** There are five meetings each year that we ask members of the leadership team to attend as available. In addition, there is a limited amount of work outside of these meetings that is necessary. We have very committed and effective leadership presently; however many of these have served for a number of years (especially the Committee Chairs) and have requested a respite. They are willing and able to provide support and training necessary for their successors.

The nominating committee would very much appreciate knowing of anyone who has a desire to serve the organization in some capacity. In addition to yourself, if you have a recommendation of someone else who may be willing to serve the organization effectively, that would also be greatly

SCS OUTSIDE

May – June 2013

appreciated. We do not draft or pressure anyone into serving. If you are willing to devote a little effort toward the success of your organization or know of someone who would be effective in serving, please email me at egmurray@murraybuildingcompany.com and let me know as we will be selecting your leadership for 2014 this summer.

WEBSITE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Your organization has a website at <http://scsretirees.com/>. [See the foot of page 1.] If you have a question about our organization or about how to get additional information on any subject touching on retirement, chances are you can get an answer there. It has each newsletter posted there going all the way back to 2003. It also contains our Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, history of our present leadership and their contact information and our past leadership going back to our start in 1987. In addition, we keep a current Member Care Report, program summaries for all of our meetings, fellowship activities, and informational items on where to get information on items of interest to all our retirees. It is a great resource and has been invaluable to me and the rest of our leadership team. I highly recommend you check it out.

We want to acknowledge **Charles Hickman**, Chairman of our Website Committee. Charles has served in that position since 2008 when the need was established for having a website. He has developed the website from scratch and organized it in a manner that is easy to use. Additionally, he updates it regularly and keeps it current. In addition to this, Charles has served in almost every leadership position including President in 2002, several years as a Director, and several committees. Charles has wanted to turn the website over to someone else for some time to continue its development and we have arranged for Cary Campbell, a 2012 retiree, to transition into this committee chairman position.

We cannot overstate or overemphasize the contributions that Charles has made to our organization over the years and particularly in the last five years to our website development. Your committee chairmen and chairwomen are the heart and soul of

our leadership team and the ones who keep the organization together and running smoothly. As Charles Hickman turns this committee over to Cary, we want to acknowledge his contributions and hard work on behalf of SCS/SNC Retirees. We look forward to having Cary as a member of our leadership team as well as Charles continuing to support us in other ways. **THANK YOU CHARLES!!!**

A LITTLE OF THIS, A PINCH OF THAT

AS MANAGING EDITOR OF...

The Colubus (Ga.) Ledger-Enquirer in the mid-sixties, I remember my “office.”

I called it my office, but it was really just a fenced-in area in the newsroom, with a swinging wood gate.

They were having a governor’s race in Georgia in 1964, and this sandy-haired young man was running in a race he couldn’t win. He came by the newspaper to shake some hands. It was a hot day, and he was taking his time. The newspaper was air-conditioned.

He went to see the publisher, who handed him off to Carlton Johnson, the editor of the Ledger. Carlton talked to him for a little while, then handed him off to me.

I looked up and there was Carlton, outside my little gate, introducing him to me. I could see Carlton wanted me to talk with him so he could go back and write some more editorials.

So he pushed open the swinging door to my “office,” and sat down in the visitor’s chair.

He told me about his Navy experiences, and I told him some sea stories from my Navy time during the Korean War. He talked about life in a small town, and I told him about growing up in the small town of Thomaston, Ala.

We talked for about an hour. Like I said, it was a hot day, and the air conditioning was better than walking the hot streets. I really enjoyed talking with him, even though we were both aware that he was losing this one.

He finally left, and we shook hands. I really liked him. Four years later, he made another run for

governor, and this time he won. And in 1976, he ran for the White House, and won it.

I was rooting for him the whole way. I was glad to see a Southerner with class win the presidency.

While he was running for governor and president, I changed newspapers. I went from Columbus to The Birmingham News.

While I was city editor of The News, I got an invitation to a briefing at the White House. President Carter invited newspaper people from all over the U.S., about 30 of us, to the briefing.

We listened to generals and government big shots tell us about the state of the government. Frankly, they talked government jargon, and I don't remember a single thing they said. What they didn't tell us was that hostages in Iran would cost Jimmy Carter the presidency in 1980.

The last meeting was in the White House, and we were all sitting around this big table, with Jimmy Carter smiling, showing those big teeth, at the other end.

At the end, we all filed out, and each one of us shook his hand. When it came my turn, I reminded him of our talk in the newsroom about 10 years before. And he remembered. He remembered how hot it was, and how glad he was to sit down in an air-conditioned place. He even remembered what we talked about. I guess I was flattered that he would remember a chance encounter a long time before.

Later, of course, the Ayatollah took U.S. hostages in Tehran, and Jimmy Carter took the fall for it.

After he left office, Jimmy Carter took on the mantle of leadership as an ex-president, brokering an agreement here, stepping in as a mediator there, helping to build a Habitat for Humanity house.

— Clarke Stallworth
Senior Living,
August 2012

ORB MONSTERS

If you have ever been outside at dusk in late summer or early autumn, you have probably seen

some big brown spiders that spin some pretty amazingly large webs. Officially known as members of the family Araneidae, they are commonly called orb weavers.

To me, they are more like man-eating monsters. When I was a kid, I saw a horror movie where a grown man was actually trapped in a giant spider web and the horrendous, red-eyed arachnid was working its way toward its prey. I could not stand seeing the poor fellow being eaten, so I closed my eyes and turned away from the TV. I do not know how the scene ended, but it could not have been any more terrifying than when I unwittingly stumbled into an orb-weaver's lair.

It actually happened on two occasions. The first encounter was in an old cemetery in Cherokee County, and I very nearly became its newest occupant. I like to stroll through old graveyards and visit the final resting places of soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War. This particular day yielded no results, and on the way back to the car I glanced down at the ground for some reason. When I looked back up I was literally face to face with the horrid beast!

The web was all over me, and the half dollar-sized spider was dangling from the bill of my cap. All eight legs were thrashing about as it desperately tried to climb up to the top of my head. I let out a yell that was probably heard throughout all of north Alabama and west Georgia. Thrashing every bit as much as the spider, I threw my clipboard about twenty yards and then set the world record for cap flings. If anyone had driven down the road in front of the cemetery, they would no doubt have thought that I was having some sort of spastic fit.

Shoulders heaving from heavy breathing, it took several minutes for me to gather myself and muster up enough courage to go pick up my things. Of course I kicked at my cap and then violently shook it, just to be sure the killer was gone. These creatures are non-poisonous, but a blood pressure spike can nevertheless lead to a stroke.

The second attack happened at home while I was trying to feed my dogs. I never suspected that a familiar, well-worn path would be booby trapped. This time I was not wearing a cap and the thing

SCS OUTSIDE

May – June 2013

started crawling through my hair. Web on face and spider in hair equaled two three-gallon buckets—one full of feed and another full of water—spilled all over me and scattered throughout the pen. I had to grab that thing in my bare hand to get it off of me. When you squeeze those bad boys, they ooze out some sort of orange gook. I never have quite gotten over that.

Nowadays I DO NOT wander around outside after dark. If it absolutely cannot be helped, I carry a powerful flashlight so that I can scan the area in front of me before I even take a step. I avoid going underneath trees around bushes and between objects. I have seen the Araneidae webs range in size from a few inches wide underneath the eaves of the house to as much as ten feet high and three feet across when spun underneath trees. Ain't no way I'm walking into another one. The third time's the harm!

In closing, I will pass along a heads up. If the sun's rays reveal a silvery single strand of tough

silk about size and strength of a fishing line—BEWARE!! Avoid that particular area after dark, for you have an orb weaver haunting your property.

— Greg Starnes
The Groundhog,
Mentone, AL, Sept/Oct 2011

GOVSPEAK

We have become so accustomed to hearing the sugar-coated phrases politicians use to soften the impact of their statements that we now use similar words and phrases in our everyday lives. For example,

A room isn't cluttered, it's "passage restrictive."

Kids don't get in trouble anymore. They merely hit "social speed bumps."

— From the Internet

SCS RETIREES

P.O. BOX 2625

BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202

MEETING DETAILS:

When: Monday, May 13, 2013

Where: Pelham Civic Complex

Registration: 10:30 a.m.

Board meeting: 11 a.m.

Lunch served: 12:00 noon

Featured Speaker: 12:45 p.m.

Door Prize Drawing: 1:45 p.m.