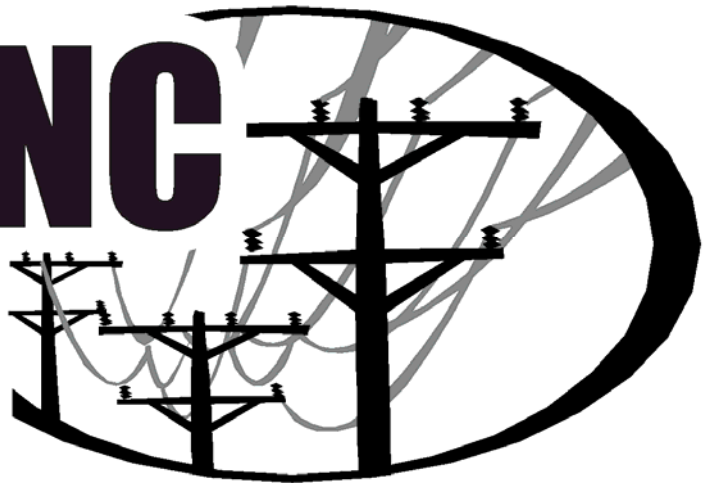


SCS/SNC OUTSIDE



Volume 25

Number 4

July — August 2013

PREZ SEZ

As I reflect on our recent spring luncheon which is our largest annual event, I am **encouraged** by the attendance and participation. We had about 280 reservations and even with no shows we had actual attendance of over 230 (the largest by far of any year to date). I am sure the program consisting of both Tom Fanning as our guest speaker and the recognition of Woody Woodruff (see pictures included in this issue) had a lot to do with the attendance. For those of you who missed it, you missed a great and fun event. What an honor to have Tom Fanning there and announce that Southern Company had been named the #1 Electric Utility by Electric Light and Power Magazine. Quoting from the magazine, “Southern Company flourished in 2012 under Mr. Fanning’s leadership,” said Teresa Hanser, Electric Light and Power editor in chief. “He and his employees drove the fourth largest utility in the United States to achieve high rankings in market capitalization, innovation, construction, job creation, and customer satisfaction reports, despite expected coal plant retirements next year and tough political and economic times.”

While I know that each of us had our ups and downs during our years at SCS and SNC, when you look back at the experience as a whole we can all

count our blessings that we worked for such a world class company and had a small part in making it the successful corporation that it is today. I hope that each of you feels this way, no matter what your role or position was with the company. Tom Fanning said as much to me both privately and in his presentation. He realizes that the retiree base of the company is growing rapidly and represents a valuable and vastly underutilized resource for the company. We discussed a couple of ideas relative to improving communications with retirees and encouraging our involvement in putting public pressure on our elected representatives as well as being an advocate for the company among our friends and neighbors. I am going to follow up on this through Corporate Communications.

Second, I was encouraged by the knowledge, energy, and focus that our CEO, Tom Fanning, displayed in his talk. He is very adept on his feet, deep and broad in his knowledge, and in a position to make a large impact, not only on our company but on government policy as a whole. We need more executives like him. As I said in our meeting, the Southern Company has always developed leadership talent within the company and is second to none in that regard. It is also evident that he is concerned and will do all he can to protect the benefits we have as employees and retirees of the Company. I was hoping and waiting for someone to ask when the next pension increase would be. Woody would have been the perfect one to ask. I was going to do it myself but we ran out of time. Maybe I can work it in to a thank you note for his attendance.

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

<http://www.scsretirees.com>

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Third, I was inspired personally by the positive attitude, energy, optimism, and concern for the less fortunate that is exemplified by the life of Woody Woodruff. In the course of preparing for the luncheon, I had the occasion to visit with him for about three hours total time. He is even more amazing than came across at the luncheon. I am convinced that these characteristics are a primary reason for his longevity. For instance, when I first met him, I asked him how he liked living in the assisted living facility at St. Martin in the Pines. His answer was classic and tells a lot about him. It was “what is there not to like – they feed me each day, provide programs and entertainment for me, let me check out whenever I like, and provide fellowship to keep my mind sharp”. He told me that he checks out each weekend and still goes to the house he lived in for years to “tidy it up, check on things, pick up trash and sticks in the yard, etc”. He also told me he has a large boat on Lake Guntersville in a marina that he checks on regularly but that he hasn’t been out on the lake in it lately because “I really haven’t had the time”.



Tom Fanning congratulates Woody on his many achievements

I think that this is a good lesson for each of us (I know that I took note of it Little is more rewarding than helping those less fortunate or volunteering for the common good. We all have talents and gifts that the Lord blessed us with that we can use in some way and it is our responsibility to take the initiative to do it. I hope you are taking advantage of that in any way you are able. It will help to keep you

young at heart, active, and you will receive a real blessing from it. I hope you will look over the associated comments below on Community Service

Thank you again for your support and participation. We hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to visit with us again at our July 8th meeting. Until then, may God bless you and keep you in good health!

Service and Charitable Giving

As mentioned above, there are very few things more rewarding than concern for and helping others. We can all do this in any number of different ways. It does not necessarily involve financial contributions. There are many very important and worthwhile nonprofit organizations that depend not only on financial support, but on volunteers for various tasks. If you were at the Spring Luncheon, you heard of Woody Woodruff’s contribution of his time and talents to the Village Creek Society, a 501(c) 3 organization that is dedicated to improving the lives of some of the less fortunate individuals in the Birmingham Area who suffer from the flooding of that creek. Woody’s efforts had led to an engineering solution to the flooding problems as well as improvement of water quality and environmental improvements there. There are any number of other good organizations that need advisory or executive board members or just volunteers to answer the phone, assemble equipment, and any other number of tasks which many of us could do.

We have begun keeping a list of these organizations where our members are volunteering or serving in some way as well as a list of some that could use some volunteers. We are also beginning a program to provide small financial grants (\$500 or under) annually to organization that are nominated by our members and evaluated by a committee reporting to our board of directors. This committee, with the approval of the board of directors, will govern the annual charitable giving of our organization both to traditional charities we have supported (United Way, Foster Children) and to these service organizations. We expect to have this committee in place by our July meeting.

**SCS RETIREE LEADERSHIP
FOR 2013**

We would ask you to let us know of any volunteer work you are presently involved in which benefits our greater community. Also, if you would like to nominate a nonprofit service organization to be considered for a grant, you can obtain a nomination form by email to either me (egmurray@murraybuildingcompany.com) or to Dora Brandt (brandtd@bellsouth.net). The form is very short and will take less than 10 minutes of your time. We need these nominations prior to August 30. If you would like some suggestions on organizations that you could support with your talents, please let me or Dora know. For instance, I help with the assembly of bicycles for AMBUCS which provides customized trikes for special needs children. Many of you engineers would enjoy these types of volunteerism.

Fellowship

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have completed a great time of food, fellowship and entertainment at Vestavia Country Club and the show, Annie Get Your Gun, afterwards at the Virginia Samford Theatre. We sold out our initial allotment of tickets prior to our Spring Luncheon and had a waiting list. Thanks to Joe Leamon for arranging that time for us. I would encourage your participation in future fellowship activities sponsored by your Retiree organization. You don't know what you are missing!! If you have suggestions for a future fellowship outing, please contact Joe at joe4ski@att.net or me at egmurray@murraybuildingcompany.com.

— Gray Murray

MEMBER CARE REPORT

This month I have nothing to report, which is good news in itself. If you have any news of a member or member's family, please let me know. My phone number is in the Leadership table in this newsletter.

— Liz Winter

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	Cary Campbell 678-4725

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MAY ATTENDANCE

Glenda James reports that attendance at the May luncheon was 232. Out of 275 who had made reservations, 43 failed to show up.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

Contacting Hewitt When You Don't Know Your Password or ID number

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.

Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET

Call Hewitt 1-888-435-7563 - when they answer and after they ask for your ID key in *0# (star, zero, pound). Someone will answer

Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET

Call HR Direct – 1-888-678-6787 and select Option 3. You will get a contact person who will transfer you to the right Hewitt benefit person.

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 150.

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

— Dora Brandt

BIRTHDAYS

July

2-Linda M. Brown, Sonia Garnem & Howard Hubbard; 4-Brenda Akridge, Mohinder Ghuman & Carolyn Muglach; 5-Ann Garrett, & Greg Neher; 6-Dorothy Bailey, Debbie Evans & Kathleen Rickerts; 8-Jeanne Plaxco; 9-Lee Haubein; 12-Ralph Phillips & Pat Redwine; 13-Terry James Coggins & Larry Posey; 14-Sandra McCoy, Sherry Runyans &

George Russell, Jr.; 15-Peggy Brashier; 16-DeanUlch; 18-Jack Faulkner; 20-Daniel Wise; 21-Dennis Runyans, Elbert Teat & Rosemary Wright; 22-Jo Ann Stallings; 24-Sandra Morgan & David Searcy; 25-Gerald Aultman & Andre' O. Prewitt; 27-Carter Leonard; 28-Kerry Adams & Jan Witt; 30-John Garlington & Mary Koski; 31-Mary Ann Glover, Keith Harper, Susan Lefoy & Mary Nelle Shelton

August

1-Ruth Shepherd & Margaret Xanders; 2-Hubert Pair & Mona Gail Rollins; 3-Jim Coleman, Karen Maze & Ronald Mitchell; 4-Willard Payne & Milton Stephens; 5-Nancy Hunt & Larry Don McDowell; 6-Robert Beason & Barbara Colby; 7-Gwen Garrett; 8-Donald East; 10-Deborah Bush, Jim Gordy & Jean Horton; 12-Jim Rooker & Allen N. White; 13-Fouzia Ahmed, Phyllis Lawrence, Nancy Mooney & Barbara Murphy; 14-Ed Muglach & Annette Todd; 15-Michael Delynn Firestone; 16-Margaret Carter & Mary Love Dearman; 17-John Naramore; 19-Nancy Moore; 20-Peggy Case & Don Welliver; 22-Gina Kitchens & Geoff Huddleston; 24-Stephen Sisson; 25-Lee Rayburn; 26-Lamar Sumerlin; 27-Jay Dorrance, Anne Fucich & James Jarrell; 29-Barbara Maluff, Charles David Pugh & Ty Robin, Jr.; 30-Alex Morrison & Mary Romano; 31 Charles Bidy

SPOTLIGHTING OUR FOUNDING MEMBERS

Editor's Note: As noted below some of the members of the retiree Class of 1986 got together and formed the nucleus of this retiree organization. It is our intention to bring to your attention these pioneers, their histories, and their accomplishments. For the record, here are the individuals from that 1986 membership roster who are still with us today.

Sam Bowman, Angie Campisi, Margaret Carter, Bill Coughlin, Jay Dorrance, Jack Faulkner, Henry Garrett, John Hargett, Samuel R. Hart, James Hartin, William Hinton, William R. Lambert Jr. (1984) Alfred T. Mikell, Grace Miller Prigmore,

Tony Niemzak, John Plaxco, William Rowe, George Russell, Jr., Jack Townsend Jerry Vandegrift, Henry Vincent, Billy J. Walker Robert C. Walker, James O. Welch, and Richard Woodruff (1978).

This month we have in the spotlight...

As one of the Charter Members of our retiree organization **Margaret Carter** was the first Secretary to serve in the Officers and Board of Directors Leadership in 1987. She also served as:

Secretary in 1988 and 1991

Director in 1994, 1995 and 2001

Nominating Committee in 1998 and

Membership Committee in 2005

And managed our mailing list for more years than most of us have been members.

Margaret began working with SCS in January 1960 for A. H. Mergerthaler, Chief Engineer. When he retired, she worked for Elmer Bomke, Manager of the Electrical Design Department until he left to become a Vice President of Gulf Power. John Plaxco became the Manager of Electrical Design, and Margaret worked for him until they both retired at the same time.

About her personal life, Margaret says she was born in Atlanta and moved to Birmingham when she was 37. She also told us she met her beloved Johnny at a Sweetheart Banquet at her church and they dated two years before getting married. She and Johnny were married for 62-1/2 years and had two children, one passing away at birth. Their daughter, Karen, is a Developmental Pediatrician in Augusta.

Many of us will remember the Carters loved to travel and shared stories of their travel with us in these pages after returning from trips to England, Scotland, Alaska, Hawaii, China, New Zealand, Australia, and the Caribbean

Margaret told us that she has just too many memories of her time at SCS to try to relate them for us here. But she did comment that when she began working, Electrical Design had 57 employees. By the time she retired that number had grown to 217. And I'm sure she will be happy to

share her story of "forbidden fruit" with you if you will only ask.

OBITUARIES

In Memoriam

Frank J. Sciarabba, 78, of Grayson Valley (Birmingham), Alabama died Thursday, May 9, 2013. A native of Rochester, NY he retired from SCS Engineering & Project Support (Cost and Schedule) Department in June of 1996. Frank is survived by his wife, Shirley, two sons and a sister.

Eugene T. Johnston, Sr., of Birmingham, Alabama died in May 2013. He was born in Selma, Alabama and graduated from Parrish High School and the United States Naval Academy after which he received his Master's Degree from the University of Alabama in Industrial Engineering. He retired in 1995 from the SNC Quality Assurance Department with 15 years of service. Eugene was preceded in death by his wife of 54 years, Mary Lou. He is survived by three children, four grandchildren, a brother and a sister. His ashes were interred at the Cathedral Church of the Advent Rector's Garden on Saturday, June 1, followed by a memorial service.

Henry G. Vincent, 84, of Vestavia Hills, Alabama passed away on Saturday, June 8, 2013. He retired from SCS Electrical Design Department in 1986. Henry was preceded in death by his wife of 40 years, Beverly. He is survived by a son, Graig, and his wife, Diane, and their son and daughter. A visitation was held for Mr. Vincent on Wednesday morning June 12 from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Currie-Jefferson Funeral home chapel followed by a funeral service at 10 with interment in Jefferson Memorial Gardens, South.

Condolences

We offer our most sincere and deepest sympathy to SCS Retiree **Edna W. McCullers** of Hoover, Alabama and her family in the death of Edna's husband, Walter B. McCullers, 83, who died on Wednesday, May 1, 2013.

We also offer our deepest sympathy to SCS Retiree **Jack Townsend** of Birmingham, Alabama

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and his family in the death of Jack's brother Mack E. Townsend, 88, of Midfield, AL who passed away on Saturday, June 1, 2013.

— Jay Dorrance

A LITTLE OF THIS, A PINCH OF THAT Can Hummingbirds Really Talk

Connie Jones' story is proof of the lasting value of amazing nature stories.

She and her husband, Joseph, were field station directors for the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry at a site near the John Day Fossil beds National Monument in east-central Oregon. Early on an August evening, Connie Jones noticed a male Rufous hummingbird making huge ellipses in front of a western juniper tree. Since it was late for a courtship display, she pulled a few lower juniper branches aside.

"I found a female Rufous hummingbird lying spread-eagled on the ground, bound in a black widow (spider) web, with the female spider sitting in front of her as she struggled to free herself. She was extremely tangled and could only vibrate," Jones wrote.

Jones rescued the bird and took her to camp where Joseph was about to lead an evening hike. "With all the students watching, he teased off the very strong web with his tweezers, eventually freeing her. During this process she did not struggle at all. Setting her on his hand, she sat for about a minute and then flew away, to the cheers of everyone," Jones wrote.

"Eight days later, Joseph was in the dining hall (which was open to the outside) just before 6 p.m. when a male Anna's hummingbird flew in and landed on its belly on the counter next to him.

"Rather surprised, he looked closely at the hummingbird and gently picked it up. He found the bird's feet totally bound up in black widow spider web (distinguished by its strength and audible breaking sound). The hummingbird then remained still while he unbound the web (with students watching). When done, the bird again sat still in his hand for a bout a minute prior to flying away," Jones wrote.

"While the scientist in us would like to write this off to just coincidence (particularly with it being a separate species and gender), the timing of the two events does push credibility. Who knows?"

— Sharon Wootton
Senior Living, August 2012

Tornado

When I was six years old we lived in a four-room house outside Oneonta (Blount County) about one-third the way to a steep mountainside.

I had been outside playing in a nearby field. As I stepped up to the porch the old wringer washer and double rinse tubs began to vibrate and "dance" along the porch. I swung open the screen door and yelled that info to my daddy. He came to the porch, took one look at the sky and hollered to my mom, "Ruth, get the kids in the car." (Less than a half a dozen times in my life did I hear my dad address my mother as "Ruth." It was always sweetheart, darling, precious, baby or some other form of endearment.) I guess dad knew our little house would blow away so up the mountain road we went to the basement safety of a nice brick home.

By the time we got there, all the scary sounds a six year old can imagine were happening—sounds like the roaring of a train, the crash, bang and splintering of nearby homes, businesses and trees. Soon all the fire and police sirens were going off too. Then came the eerie quiet. We rushed back to the large picture window upstairs to see fires in the distance. Daddy and my older brother left to go join search and rescue teams. (My brother just recently told me of some of the horrors he saw that night. He was fourteen at the time.) Second floors of homes had been removed, the little motel had been destroyed, dead cows littered nearby fields. Bed linens, furniture, piano keys, dining chairs, cars, trucks, pets and hurt folks were everywhere.

After what seemed an eternity daddy and Jimmy came back and we got in the car headed for Tate's Gap on the top of Straight Mountain where my grandparents lived. The strain of the night showed on my daddy's face in the tense silence.

When we drove up to the house (still last one on the left before Oneonta Airport) my daddy ran up

Continued on page 8



The May Luncheon Gathering was large



Lou Long introduces Tom Fanning



Woody was our guest of honor



Fanning spoke words to catch our attention



The Head Table prepares for lunch



And congratulated Woody on his achievements

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Continued from page 68

the side steps and across the porch yelling, “Momma,” “Poppa,” flung the screen door open (people didn’t latch doors back then) and practically fell into the bed in the front room where my grandparents had always slept. By the time we got to the door, Grandpa had pulled the string that ran from the headboard to the overhead light and the fear on his face showed as he said, “Son, what on the earth is the matter?”

My sweet grandparents had slept right through the wind and noise. Their barn roof was gone (later to be found in a nearby field).

Sandra Thames
Senior Living,
June 2011

Big Family, Small House

Sharing the two bathrooms in his house with a wife and five daughters has at times been very trying for a close friend of mine. However, his sense of humor has carried him through.

Recently, his two youngest daughters received a large turtle as a gift. They put the new pet in the bathtub while they went looking for more permanent accommodations for it. I was visiting with the man of the house in the living room when the oldest daughters suddenly burst in.

“Daddy!” she screamed, “There’s a turtle in the bathtub and he’s trying to get out!”

Without even shifting position in his favorite chair, my friend calmed her with “Just close your eyes, honey, and hand him a towel”

— Bill Grant

*Laughter, the Best Medicine:
Those Lovable Pets.*

The Reader’s Digest Association,
New York, 2012

A dog wags its tail with its heart.

— Martin Buxbaum
In Table Talk

SCS RETIREES

P.O. BOX 2625

BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202

MEETING DETAILS:

When: Monday, July 8, 2013

Where: Inverness 42, Room 130

Board meeting: 11 a.m.

Dutch Lunch: 12:00 noon

Membership Meeting: 1 p.m.

***Program: Suzanna Ethridge Rawlings,
Birmingham genealogical Society***