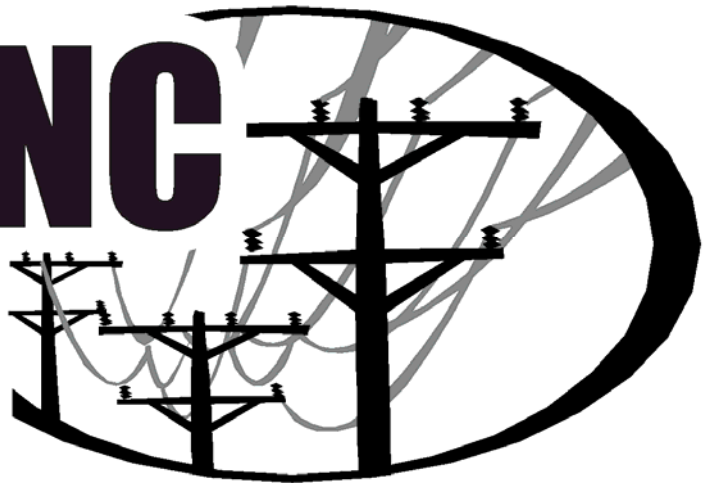


SCS/SNC OUTSIDE



Volume 25

Number 5

September – October 2013

PREZ SEZ

Time flies when you are having fun (unfortunately it also flies the more you age). We are 2/3 through the year already as you receive this newsletter and most of us are another year older or soon will be. I hope that this year has been a good one for you, particularly with regard to your health.

Changing gears, I am thankful for the wisdom and vision of our founding members in starting SCS/SNC Retirees. This year we have tried to feature in our Spotlight column a number of them. They must have done something right because our charter and mission have not changed over the 25 years since our founding. Life is a journey that our Creator has allowed us to travel with its ups and downs. How we react to ups and downs shapes our character, as does how we react to the challenges of others. One of the most important aspects of life is about relationships and what we choose to do with them. As I pointed out in an earlier column, other than our family, we probably have spent more time with our former coworkers at SCS than anyone else. They shared our life experiences in the work environment and we matured and grew together through the journey. SCS/SNC Retirees is one mechanism where we can nourish those relationships we made during our working careers, share in

each other's joys and sorrows, have a time of fellowship outside of a work environment, and communicate on a more personal level. We can all learn something from one another and can enjoy time together. Our meetings and outside activities provide an outlet to allow us to do that. I hope you are not missing out on this tremendous opportunity that is provided for you.

I am also thankful for our committee chairmen who are the heart of our organization and who work tirelessly to make it successful without pay and many times without appreciation. You cannot serve effectively as an officer of an organization on your own. It is the people who selflessly serve that determine the success of any organization. From those who work voluntarily to pull together and get out this newsletter, set up for our meetings and functions, plan and organize our two main luncheons during the year, arrange our programs, manage our website, to those who communicate about our fellow members who are sick or need encouragement (member care). They are all listed in this newsletter and I could not have a better team of people to call on to make things happen (most of the time without me even calling on them). I appreciate them and I hope that you do too and will tell them that when you have an opportunity to do so.

I hope you will take advantage of attending our final two meetings this year. September will feature Stacy Kilcoyne, Vice President of Human Resources. It is an opportunity to gauge where the company is headed relative to benefits for its retirees. Tom Fanning mentioned to me that he saw a growing value in the Company retirees, partic-

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

<http://www.scsretirees.com>

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ularly in communication with the public, and he realizes the importance of our organization in communicating with them. It will be your chance to ask ANY question relative to the changing face of medical insurance, life insurance, pension changes and timing of pension evaluations for increase, the health of the pension plan, the potential for additional benefits for retirees (such as shingle shots, etc.) or anything else on your mind. I believe that Stacy will address each one as completely as she can. If you don't get a satisfactory answer, I will follow up until we do. I particularly urge each of our new retirees to come and get a feel for our function and the benefits of being a member. We need new faces and ideas each year and if you have an interest in serving in any way, please pass that on to a member of our leadership team printed in this newsletter.

As I write this article, we have two critical decisions facing us as an organization. Your nominating committee will be meeting to decide on a slate of officers and directors for next year. We need good solid leadership to continue and grow the organization and bring in new ideas to make it more accessible to each of you and to fulfill our mission of communication, fellowship and service. I will be chairing this committee with five other representatives of SCS and SNC retirees. Additionally, for the first time, we will have a charitable giving committee that will determine how we spend our charitable giving budget this year. In addition to just United Way, Angel Tree, and other charities sponsored by our company, we will be considering charities that were nominated by our membership. Particular weight is being given to those charitable organizations that our members nominate where they spend a large amount of their own volunteer time and effort to support. That committee will have the flexibility of taking the total charitable giving budget (which is in excess of \$1,500.00) and recommending to the board the allocation of this budget. Fred Ehrensperger will be chairing this committee, also with five other SCS and SNC retirees. I pray that we will be given the wisdom and discernment to make well thought out decisions in this regard. The results of both will be reported

at our September meeting. I want to personally thank the people in our organization who took the time to nominate 10 charitable organizations to be considered. This was an excellent response for our first year at this.

Come see us on September 9. I promise you will be glad you did.

— Gray Murray

SEPTEMBER MEETING PROGRAM

September is time to start thinking about benefits and enrollment for the coming year, as Gray mentioned above. This time of year we normally start wondering about what is coming, whether the benefits will be reduced, improved or remain the same and how to take care of the necessary paperwork. Well, we will have the answer for all of those questions and more when you come to the September meeting. Bring all of your questions and put our speaker from Human Resources on the "hot seat." Of course I'm kidding about the "hot seat," but not about your ability to have all of your questions answered by a knowledgeable and approachable Human Resources/benefits expert. It may be beneficial to write down all of your questions between now and the September meeting so you will not miss this golden opportunity to have them answered.

— Keith Calhoun

SPOTLIGHTING OUR FOUNDERS

John Plaxco

How much can be said about John? He was born in Abbeville, SC and grew up in Louisville, GA. He came out of WWII and into Georgia Tech, graduating in December 1946. He came to Commonwealth & Southern in January 1947 and stuck around for almost 40 years, retiring as Director of the Electrical Design Department at SCS. When he mentions his early coworkers you recognize some names that everyone can relate to—names like

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Bomke and Mergenthaler, Hancock, Brinson and Boyles.

He also might mention that working conditions in those days weren't exactly like they are today. For example, he tells us the Alabama Power building in those days was not air conditioned, had no hot water and no parking lot. People who drove to work parked on the street.

The electrical design functions were later moved to an auditorium on the 13th floor that had doors on each side opening out onto balconies.

When you talk to John about plants he's worked on, he'll mention Sweat, Hammond 2, Gaston 5, Gorgas 9, Watson 1 & 2, Sinclair and Weiss Dams and Plant Hatch. I'm sure those names will bring back a lot of memories for many of you.

John and Jeanne met at First Presbyterian Church. Jeanne was born in Shugqulak, MS and arrived in Birmingham as an 8th grader. She went on to earn a degree in Clothing and Textiles from Auburn. The Plaxcos raised two children and have seven grandchildren and five greatgrand.

John says his hobbies are golf and woodworking while Jeanne devotes her time to sewing and gardening.

John was, of course, one of the founding members of our Retirees organization, serving as a Director in 1999 and 2000 as well as serving on the auditing, nomination, membership and member care committees.

Let's give a tip of the hat and a round of applause to **John Plaxco**.

— Dora Brandt and Dan Wise

BIRTHDAYS

September

1-Ruth Campbell; 2-Yvonne Colvin & Keith Tenney; 3-Linda Chastain & Gregory Stephens; 4-Carol Newton & Richard D. Stevens; 6-Larry Weaver; 7-John L. Gwin & Lawrence Kilgore; 8-Alfred Mikell, Jeane Rayburn, Mary Ross Searcy & Karen Viruleg; 9-Wayne Carr; 10-Gisela Hancock; 11-Gene Kachelhofer, Bob Patrick, Bill Ponder & Alice Smith; 12-Virginia Bidy, Fred Ehrensperger,

John Hall & Rick Kaster; 13-Donald Clevenger, Steve Dickson, Betsy Kopecky & Carol Yeager; 16-Joseph Colvin & Charles Maxwell; 17-Juanita Leonard & Neal Andrew Macnamara; 18-Byron Rex Yance; 19-Lois Burns, Carolyn Garner & Dewey Yeager; 20-Jim Lofe; 24-Mary Varagona; 25-Bryan Baldwin; 26-Barbara Argo & Liz Winter; 27-Robert Oedamer & Rickie G. Woodfin; 28-Donnia Kilpatrick, Percy Mohon & Bill Thurman; 29-Gerald Prince; 30-Martha Dorrance, Jerry Hall & Jerry Vandegrift

October

1-Rosemary Green, Bill Hanks, Jr. & Sandy Watkins; 2-Mary Alice Thurman; 4-Bennie R. Williams; 6-Glenda Beason; 7-Carole Allen, Eldridge Cook & Mary Weaver; 9-Luverne Blackwood; 10-Dean Vandegrift; 12-Guy Mitchell, & Janice Thies; 13-Gayle Price; 15-John Euler & Ann Huddleston; 18-Billie Ewing, Nettie Hartin & James Ludwig; 19-Bonnie Russell; 20-Rhonda Cook & Glenn Evans, Sr.; 21-Robert E. Elliott, Dianne Murray & Gerald Neyman; 22-Ernestine Craig & David Winston Cofer; 23-Hal Miner; 24-Don Burdeshaw, & Robert Ryan; 25-Raymond Garnem; 26-Bill Edmundson; 27-Pat Cofield, Glen Gammon & Grace Miller Prigmore; 28-Monroe C. Smith; 29-Nell Mehaffey

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

I don't ask for the meaning of the song of a bird or the rising of the sun on a misty morning. There they are, and they are beautiful. —Pete Hamill in *Esquire*

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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

Claude Jerry Poe, 72, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Monday, June 17, 2013. He was an employee of Southern Company Services for several years. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Emilie Jane Poe. Chapel services were held for Mr. Poe on Thursday, June 20, with burial in Forest Crest Cemetery.

David Howard Blaylock, 57, of Muscle Shoals, Alabama, died Friday, July 12, 2013. He was a Designer/Drafter at SCS and BE&K from 1974 - 1992 when he moved to Muscle Shoals. He is survived by his wife, Suzanne, and several other relatives. A funeral service was held for Mr. Blaylock on Monday, July 15, at Ridout's Garden-dale Chapel with interment in Oakwood Memorial Gardens.

Stanley Sundar Vasa, 62, of Birmingham, Alabama, passed away peacefully at his home after a long illness on Monday, July 29, 2013. He worked in the Environmental Assessment Department for 26 years. A native of India, Mr. Vasa is survived by

his wife, Yeshanthi Maria. A service celebrating Stan's life was held at the Currie Jefferson Memorial Home on Saturday, August 3, with a reception following

James Forrest Tillery, Sr., 75, of Wilsonville, Alabama, passed away Tuesday, July 30, 2013. He was an employee of Alabama Power Company, transferring to Southern Company Services from which he retired. He was a U.S. Navy veteran. He is survived by his wife, Alice and a number of family members. Funeral services were held for Mr. Tillery on Friday, August 2, at Ridout's Southern Heritage Chapel in Pelham, Alabama.

— Jay Dorrance

JULY MEETING REPORT

Glenda James reports that 40 members and guests attended the July chapter meeting.

MEMBER CARE

Scott Herron was in St. Vincent's East hospital for three weeks with an unknown ailment, and was being treated with antibiotics. He has been transferred to East Glen Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation, 53 Medical Park Drive East, Birmingham, AL 35235. We wish him the best and hope his medical issues can be resolved.

Joyce Steel is now residing at Columbia Cottage, 3776 Crosshaven Drive, Birmingham, AL 35223, Room #14. Her phone number is 909-6510. I'm sure she would appreciate cards.

Janice Thies suffered a TIA during preparation for her chemo treatment several weeks ago. She is now at home, and John reports no lasting effects from the TIA.

— Liz Winter

Unknowingly, we plow the dust of stars,
blown about us by the wind, and drink the
universe in a glass of rain.

— Ithab Hassan

**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	Cary Campbell 823-4597

Glenda James reports that our November luncheon meeting will be held Wednesday, November 20 at the Vestavia Hills Country Club. Prelunch activities will begin at 11 a.m., with lunch at 12 Noon. The annual business meeting will follow.

Keith Calhoun notes that this is a slightly different day but the fun is just as much fun on Wednesday as on Mondays. Besides the great fellowship and gluttony on the great food at the Vestavia Country Club we will be treated to some real foot-stomping bluegrass and gospel music. More on the bluegrass group will be provided in the next newsletter but you can start practicing your dancing and toe-tapping now to be prepared.

A LITTLE OF THIS, A PINCH OF THAT

Searching for Roots...Travel Routes

I don't know what makes us want to know about who and where we came from, but I can tell you that I have the bug, and have had it for quite some time. Recently I have been really looking, because I was invited to join the Daughters of the American Revolution. I think the Lord has many plans for us of which we are not aware, and I always knew I had an interest in this because my mother used to tell me so many stories about her mother and grandmother; mostly about how they lived, where they lived, where the family originated, and humorous stories about Lily and her escapades growing up. Many of these I have published in [Senior Living], but there are many more that I have found while digging around for information. For instance, did you know about the "Old federal Road"? I had wondered how the family traveled from Boston to Maryland, to North Carolina, then down to Alabama—and why they even came!

Many of my questions have been answered, but I still wondered about the mode and route of the travel. My Patriot ancestor, Henry Morris Townley, was born in 1775, in Johnson County, North Carolina. After the Revolutionary War, he was

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awarded 100 acres of land in the state of Georgia in 1791, but eventually his son, John Luther Townley, purchased land in 1822 in Alabama.

When tensions increased with Great Britain, and the possibility of war loomed, there was a tremendous need to protect Alabama's coast, resulting in the construction of three Federal roads. These roads merged with the earlier horse paths that linked Athens, Georgia, to New Orleans, Louisiana, and quickly became a major travel route for the pioneers moving westward. It directly contributed to the dramatic increase in Alabama's population growth between 1810 and 1820. Alabama outdistanced both Mississippi and Louisiana in population growth through 1850.

So now I know how my ancestors traveled from Georgia to Alabama!! And I learned something new in the process. I surely don't remember anything about the "Old Federal Road" in my Alabama history classes!! For more information on these roads and trails, see the excellent website *Early American Roads and Trails* by Beverly Whitaker.

— Becki McAnnally
Senior Living, May 2013

**SCS RETIREES
P.O. BOX 2625
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202**

MEETING DETAILS:

When: Monday, September 9, 2013

Where: Inverness 42, Room 140

Board meeting: 11 a.m.

Dutch Lunch: 12:00 noon

General Meeting: 1 p.m.

The Feast of Tishri

Rabbi Julius Nodel, in a Feast of Tishri [*celebrated by Scottish Rite Masons*] address to the St. Louis Scottish Rite Bodies some years ago, said: "among the symbols of Succoth are four species of plants—the citron, the branch of the palm tree, the myrtle leaves, and the willow leaves. The citron plant produces both fruit and fragrance. The palm produces fruit but no fragrance. The myrtle produces fragrance but no fruit and the willow produces neither fruit nor fragrance. This teaches us that there are also four kinds of people. There are those that have knowledge and good deeds—they correspond to the citron. There are those who live a life of good deeds, but have no knowledge—they are like the palm. There are those who have knowledge, but perform no good deeds—they are like the myrtle, and there are those who have neither knowledge nor good deeds—they are like the willow. Yet, in Succoth, all of these different species of plants are placed together and bound as one, thus teaching us that though there are different kinds of people on Earth, with their own interests and desires, accomplishments and failures, they must still be bound together in one universal brotherhood.

— William J. Jason
Scottish Rite Journal,
October 1999