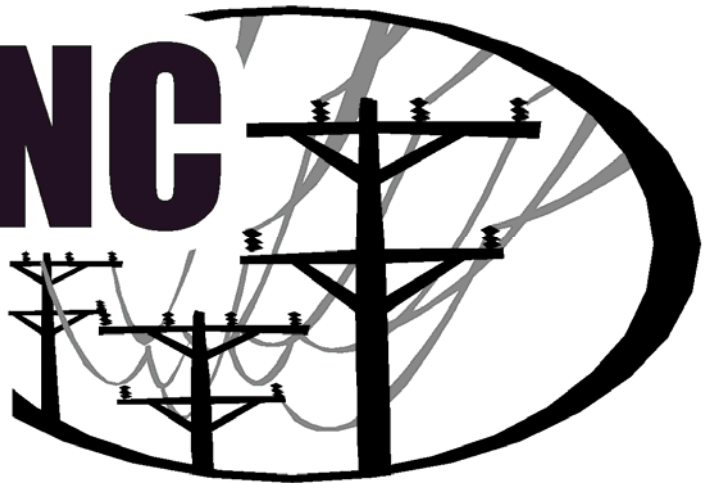


# SCS/SNC OUTSIDE



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Volume 25

Number 6

November — December 2013

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## **PREZ SEZ**

As we enter the last quarter of 2013, I realize how fast time has flown by this year. I have been encouraged by our good attendance and participation, even considering that the first two meetings of the year were with inclement weather. I am also encouraged by our growth in ranks. Our current membership shows an increase of approximately 10% over last year including 45 recent Alabama Retirees. These new retirees will receive a free membership for the remainder of the year, will receive this newsletter, and will be invited to our November Holiday Luncheon at Vestavia Country Club to be held on Wednesday, November 20 (see separate announcement in this newsletter). On behalf of all the officers and directors of the organization, I want to personally welcome each of you new retirees and strongly encourage you to take advantage of this special opportunity. You will be truly entertained with our special guests. The food will be delicious and the fellowship second to none. Please be sure to respond to your invitation and make your reservation for this event. We will also introduce the new officers and directors elected for 2014.

It has truly been my distinct privilege and honor to serve as President this year. Looking back, there

were two major changes we were able to make which I believe will bode well for the future of our organization. First, in March we were able to obtain a 100% increase in Southern Nuclear Company's contribution to support our organization (from \$500 per year to \$1,000 per year) to better reflect the growing percentage of SNC members. This was a significant accomplishment, especially considering the budget restraints the company was faced with. We hope to maintain and/or increase this support in the future.

We made a major change in our charitable giving philosophy. In past years, we made a single contribution to United Way. The Directors of your organization have been discussing whether this was the most appropriate and effective use of our charitable giving budget, especially considering the fact that each individual is solicited for a contribution. A change was approved by the Board of Directors this year, feeling that our charitable giving budget could potentially be used more effectively by considering other non-profit (501C3) organizations that (1) were not supported by United Way, (2) were actively supported by individuals in our membership through giving of their time, service and donations, (3) maintained an extremely low overhead such that contributions went directly to assist those in need, and (4) were located in and served the people of Jefferson and Shelby County. We asked our membership to nominate their favorite organization, resulting in the award of a \$500 grant to each of four deserving organizations (out of a total of 13 that were nominated). A special committee of Directors and Committee Chairman led by Fred

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

**<http://www.scsretirees.com>**

## **SCS OUTSIDE**

### **November—December 2013**

Ehrensperger reviewed the nominations and recommended the recipients to the full Board which approved the awards. Two of these organizations (Ambucs and Exceptional Foundation) provide support and equipment to children in the area with special needs, especially those who are economically challenged. Oak Mountain Mission Ministry provides assistance to the poor and homeless in the Oak Mountain Area. Two Hots and a Cot provides assistance to our Veterans who have challenges in helping themselves.

These four are very deserving of our support and I congratulate the charitable giving committee in selecting there charities and the full Board for their wisdom and willingness to change our approach to giving in this way. I am excited about this change of direction and believe it will prove to be a much more effective use of our giving.

As we close out 2013 and enter the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, I want to express my special appreciation and thanks to the other officers and most especially our committee chairmen who are the backbone of our organization.

Glenda James in her first active year with our organization has served most effectively and unselfishly as our arrangements chairman and audit chairman. You can thank her for handling all of the details and arrangements for our meetings and luncheons.

Dora Brandt has served the organization in many capacities over the years and is effective in so many ways as our membership chairman and in assisting and training Glenda as arrangement chairman and following up with me to be sure I was doing my job.

Joe Leamon, who has served for years as our social chairman, arranged a special sold out outing in June for a special buffet luncheon at Vestavia Country Club followed by our enjoyment of the Broadway musical *Annie Get Your Gun* at the Virginia Samford Theatre.

Liz Winter, as a favor to me, agreed to serve once more as Member Care Chairman She has effectively served in this position for many years and did her usually excellent job in keeping us all informed of our members needs and status. Her

dedication and service to your organization has been second to none.

A special thanks to Keith Calhoun serving as my Vice President and also agreeing to handle the Program Chairman responsibility. The programs this year have been excellent and I believe you will agree that the November program is special as well.

Peggy Burdeshaw and Michael Griggs were both reliable in performing their responsibilities impeccably as Secretary and Treasurer, so much so that they have been nominated to continue to serve in those positions for 2014.

Dan and Myrna Wise continue to produce and keep us informed with our regular newsletters.

Cary Campbell took over the website chairman duties from Charles Hickman who had managed our website since its inception. Cary used his technical expertise in computers to revamp and make our website more user friendly.

Our Board of Directors provided their full support and guidance, showing their wisdom in making the change to the charitable giving process covered above. I could not have asked for a better group to serve with.

Speaking of the leadership of our organization, please note the article on Page 6 covering the recommended slate of officers and directors for 2014. I think this is an excellent group of officers to provide effective leadership. They will be introduced to you at our November Holiday Luncheon.

This organization can continue to effectively serve you and flourish only with dedicated retirees who are willing to serve and contribute their time, talents and efforts to make it successful and one that each of us can benefit from. It is critical that we continue to develop future leaders of this organization. If you are willing to consider serving and getting more involved, please make it a point to mention this to one of the current or future officers/directors so that we will know of your interest and can consider getting you more involved. We need your support, thoughts and ideas on how best to serve all of our members.

Thank you for your support and may God bless you richly as we continue to give him thanks and praise for all he has provided this Thanksgiving

**SCS RETIREE LEADERSHIP  
FOR 2013**

season. My hope is that you are blessed with good health, good fortune, and good friendships in the coming year.

— Gray Murray

**SEPTEMBER ATTENDANCE**

Glenda James reports that attendance at the August general membership meeting was 45

**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

**People need responsibility. They resist assuming it, but they cannot get along without it.**

— John Steinbeck

<b>Officers</b>	
President	Gray Murray 381-9818
Vice President	Keith Calhoun 987-0383
Secretary	Peggy Burdeshaw 608-9636
Treasurer	Mike Griggs 823-7950
<b>Directors</b>	
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
<b>Committee Chairs</b>	
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

## SCS OUTSIDE

November—December 2013

### MEMBER CARE REPORT

This may represent a first for the organization, or at least in recent years. For the second time this calendar year, there are no illnesses or other negative things to report.

— Liz Winter

### BIRTHDAYS

#### November

4-James Davis Warren; 7-Eugene Ellison, Jr., Douglas Moore, Emma Laura Patrick, Betty Ponder, Linda Sanders & Johnny Wilkes; 8-Betty Hendricks & Edwin L. Vernon; 9-Ronnie Green & James Triplett; 10-Dennis Kendrick & Mary Jane Maple; 11-Charles Hickman; 12-Angie Campisi, Dorothy Cole, Robert Fucich & Thomas Sanford; 13-Condy Alley; 14-Dora Brandt & Brenda Hall; 15-Renee Gwin & Jim Redwine; 16-Bruce Hunt, George Raymond Love & Dilip Ray; 17-Beverly Teat; 18-Sherry Baldone, Theresa Burns & Rosemary Tenney; 19-Sharon Jones, James Patrick Ryan, Terry E. Sprayberry, Billy Walker & Margaret Williams; 20-John Ives; 22-David Winston Cofer, Robert Michael Akridge & Sharon Stephens; 23-James Shivers; 25-Michael Belford, Larry Huey, Linda Jane Smith & Martha Gail Pugh; 26-Trudy Strain; 28-Dot Legg; 29-John Evans, James O'Brien & Charlsie Smith; 30-Cindy L. Shaw, Sondra Smaha & Clifton W. Smith.

#### December

1-Amal Barroody, William G. Copeland & John Edmundson; 2-Jo Ellen Ives & Dinah Sisson; 3-Paula Blevins-Russell & Evelyn Mansfield; 4-Gail Kendrick & Lou Payne; 9-Linda Henry, Jimmy Kilpatrick & Roy Miller; 11-Linda R. Baker, Mrs. W. Porteous, Jr. & Judith Shaw; 12-William B. Frye & Jerry Nichols; 13-Betty Jo Allen, Jerry Sappington & Jackie Walton; 14-Judy Wilkes; 16-Ted McGill, Jr.; 17-John Sechrist; 18-James Bailey; 19-Patsy Evans; 20-Steve Franklin Harrison, Pat Moore, Jane Rooker & Stephen Wells; 22-Wayne

Bush, Lee Niemzak & Doug Shelton; 23-Richard Chastain & Malcolm Garner; 24-Larry J. Stanford; 25-Tallulah DeMarco & Glenda Maxwell; 26-Melanie Crane, Betty Headley Latta, Mary Dean Shelton & Jack Townsend; 27-Edward Price; 28-Deborah Hostetter, Krishna Ray & Katherine Sechrist; 29-Ronald Campbell, Penny Manuel & John Plaxco; 30-Lucille Belford, Sandi Boylan & William Lambert, Jr.; 31-Buddy Coggin, Eleanor Connor, Jack Jones & Billy Latta.

### 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...*

#### ALFRED MIKELL

Besides being a Charter Member of our organization, Al has continued to be an active member, serving as Director in 2004 and 2005.

When Al retired in 1986 he was a Steel Design Engineer in the Structural and Architectural Department. While working at SCS he did design for power plants located in Georgia, Mississippi and Alabama.

Al and his wife Betty were married in 1948 and have one son and six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

November—December 2013

Four years ago Betty suffered a back fracture and this has contributed to other ailments. She has slowly improved but she has to use a walker to move around.

Until a few years ago, the Mikells enjoyed vacationing yearly at Destin, Panama City and other Florida beaches. They went to Hawaii twice about 20 and 25 years ago.

— Dora Brandt

## OBITUARIES

### In Memoriam

**Jerry Lynn Nichols**, 75, of Madison, Alabama died on Sunday, May 26, 2013. He retired from SNC December 31, 2002. A funeral was held for Jerry on Friday, May 31, at the Spry Funeral Home in Huntsville, Alabama.

**Marvin Otto Richter**, 90, of Gainesville, Georgia, passed away on Monday, August 19, 2013. He was a graduate of Columbia Military Academy and held a bachelor's and master's degree in Electrical Engineering from Georgia Tech where he attended on a football scholarship. Marvin was an Army veteran of WWII retiring as a Major in the Army Reserve. He was employed by Georgia Power Company and retired from Southern Company Services before going to live in Gainesville. Marvin was preceded in death by his wife, Thera; and is survived by a brother and numerous other family members. A graveside service was held for Mr. Richter on Saturday, September 7, in the Athens City Cemetery followed the next day, Sunday September 8, at 2 p.m., by a memorial service in his honor at the First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville, Georgia.

**David Americo DeMeis**, 63, of Birmingham, Alabama died on Thursday, September 5, 2013. He was a Southern Company retiree. He is survived by his wife, Jane, and several children, a brother and a sister. A funeral was held for David on Tuesday, September 10, at the St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in Birmingham with burial in the Southern Heritage Cemetery in Pelham, Alabama

**Luther Scott Herron, Jr.**, 89, of Huffman (Birmingham), Alabama passed away on Thursday, October 3, 2013. He retired from the SCS Electrical Design Department in 1977. Scotty is survived by his wife of 65 years, Nell, a daughter and a son, two grandchildren and two brothers. A funeral service was held for Scotty at the Radney Funeral Home, Mobile, Alabama on Monday, October, 7, followed by Graveside Services at Veterans Cemetery in Spanish Fort, Alabama.

### Condolences

We offer our most sincere and deepest sympathy to SCS Retiree **Fred Ehrensperger** and his family in the death of his daughter-in-law Brenda Hamaker Ehrensperger, 58, of Argo, Alabama who died on Saturday, September 7, 2013. She is survived by her husband, Fred, and Joyce's son, David Earl Ehrensperger and a daughter. Brenda was employed by Southern Research Institute. A funeral service was held for her on Tuesday, September 10, and burial followed at Oakwood Memorial Gardens, Gardendale, Alabama.

We also wish to express our deepest and most sincere sympathy to SCS Retiree **John Thies** and his family in the death of his wife, Janice Neff Thies, 79, of Hoover, Alabama, who passed away on Monday, October 7, 2013 five days short of her 80th birthday. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, John. 3 daughters and numerous other relatives. A funeral service was held for Janice on Friday, October 11, at The Southern Heritage Funeral Home, Pelham, Alabama with interment at Elwood Cemetery, Birmingham, Alabama.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to SCS Retiree **Nell King Larson** and her family in the death Nell's husband Alfred J. Larson, 88, of Vestavia Hills, Alabama who died on Saturday, October 12, 2013. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Lee, and survived by his wife of 7 years, Nell; four sons and a daughter; three step daughters and a number of grandchildren. Al was a WWII U.S. Navy veteran, a 1949 graduate of the University of Utah and a 1985 retiree of Chicago Bridge and Iron Company in Birmingham. A funeral service was held for Mr.

## **SCS OUTSIDE**

### **November—December 2013**

Larson at the South Highland Presbyterian Church in Birmingham on Wednesday, October 16, followed by burial in the Southern Heritage Garden, Pelham, Alabama.

We extend our deepest sympathy to SCS Retiree **Barbara Jones** and her family in the death of her daughter-in-law, Tracy Wheeler Jones, who died from her battle with cancer on Monday, October 14, 2013. A graduate of the University of Montevallo, earning both a bachelor's and master's degree she taught school for nine years. Tracy is survived by her husband, Carl; two sons, her mother, a brother and numerous other family members. Funeral services were held for Mrs. Jones on Thursday, October 17 at the Briarwood Presbyterian Church.

— Jay Dorrance

### **2014 MEETING SCHEDULE**

Many of you have requested the upcoming year 2014 SCS/SNC Retirees meeting schedule, so here it is.:

**Monday, January 14** - General meeting at 1 p.m., Inverness 42, Room 130

**Monday, March 11** - General meeting at 1 p.m., Inverness 42, Room 130

**May** - Spring Luncheon - TBA

**Monday, July 8** - General meeting at 1 p.m., Inverness 42, Room 130

**Monday, September 9** - General meeting at 1 p.m., Inverness 42, Room 130

**November** - Holiday Luncheon and annual meeting – TBA

— Dora Brandt

### **NOVEMBER ENTERTAINMENT**

We have a great group of “retirees” to play bluegrass and gospel music at the November lunch meeting. They have been playing together for around 20 years as the “Wilson Hill Bluegrass Band” and most hail from the Montevallo area. In fact, this area was called the town of Wilson Hill before the name was changed to Montevallo around

1825. The group consists of Doug Morris, Barney Perkins, Lee Wallace, Gary Jones and Ron Morko. Barney (88 years old) is a retired fireman who is an excellent cook and also can “pick and grin” with the best. I’ve known Barney for many years and he is proud of his guitars that were hand-picked at the factory. Ron, the fiddle player, has a “stable” of old cars including a 1938 Rolls Royce, a 1949 Bentley and multiple Packard cars. Look out the window and he may be driving one to the meeting. Lee is 82 years old and plays base and guitar for the group. Gary is retired from the telephone company and plays banjo. Maybe we can encourage a banjo-guitar duel as in the movies. I’m sure everyone will enjoy our entertainment and I know I’m looking forward to hearing this group of fellow retirees.

So, make sure you reserve **Wednesday, November 20, 2013** for our annual holiday luncheon. We’ll see you at the **Vestavia Hills Country Club at 11 a.m.!** The invitation is in the mail.

— Keith Calhoun

### **OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2014**

The nominating committee for recommending the slate of officers and directors for 2014 consisted of Gray Murray, Chairman; Lou Long, Vice Chairman; and committee members Dora Brandt, Linda Griggs, Peggy Burdeshaw, and Liz Winter. The committee met and developed the following nominations for 2014 which were approved by the full Board at our September meeting. They will be introduced to the general membership at our November Holiday Luncheon. They are as follows:

#### **Officers:**

President – Ray Bailey

Vice President – Al Nebrig

Secretary – Peggy Burdeshaw

Treasurer – Mike Griggs

#### **Directors:**

Keith Calhoun (2014 and 2015)

Rhonda Cook (2014 and 2015)

Lou Long (2014 and 2015)

Gray Murray (Ex-Officio 2014)

November—December 2013

John Brandt (2014)  
Linda Griggs (2014)  
Fred Ehrensperger (2014)

## A LITTLE OF THIS, A PINCH OF THAT

### A Touch of Trivia

Here are five little things you may know or you may have never even thought about. Either way, let's see what you know.

1. Witches on secret errands for the devil would depart from their homes on a broomstick after dark so they wouldn't be detected. What expression did this give us?
2. During the revolutionary War, when soldiers said, "Lock, stock and barrel" what were they referring to?
3. In the days of knights in shining armor, some knights would go from town to town offering themselves and their lances for hire to the highest bidder, leading to a common word still used today. What is it?
4. The Latin words "de lira" mean "out of the furrow. Any farmer who let his oxen wander out of the furrow while plowing became known as this.
5. This mythical Greek nymph was condemned to always repeat whatever she heard.

Look for the answers to these bits of trivia on Page 8.

### Saturday Afternoon at the Lyric

My sister Margaret and I were at the Lyric. We would rather have been at the Alabama Theater, Showplace of the South, but we missed the movie there the week before that we wanted to see.

Those were the days of movies playing only one week at first-run theaters. It was probably *Dark Victory* with Bette Davis (who I wanted to learn to smoke cigarettes like) or *Mildred Pierce* with Joan Crawford, or any one of a number of black and white "dark movies," those with dark plots. Ill-fated women, women going blind or committing crimes or any type that was in deep, deep trouble. Just not a mom who stayed home and baked cookies.

I really liked the Lyric because it was a champion of second chances. If you missed the first time, well, there was the good old Lyric ready to give you another chance. Maybe something more fun came up the day of the last showing of a movie you really wanted to see. But then Margaret or I would say, "Let's just see it at the Lyric" which was just across the street from the Alabama. But, oh, the Alabama. People of today don't know the joy of not minding walking in late to the movie. We would just sit there and see it to the "this is where we came in" part and maybe see it through to the end again. We might just stay and see it through a second time. No extra charge. Your thirty-five cents, or whatever miniscule amount was charged in the 'forties, would cover you until the closing of the theater that night. In the days of scant money, this was a world of generosity. No wonder people say, "Those were the good old days." My mother never ever turned away a hobo, bum, whatever you called them. But I never heard mother or father say they were people who were too lazy to work. Therefore, I never turn down a panhandler if I can help it.

Saturday afternoon at the Lyric, between shows, was a good time in itself. The Lyric had a "black people" balcony. It also had an "around the corner" ticket office, and a black staircase for them to go up to the balcony. That's just the way things were, like women not being allowed to join certain clubs, or being fired from their jobs at the defense factories at the end of World War II so returning veterans could have their jobs. "Now you just go home and have babies, dear, and, oh, by the way, thanks a lot for helping us out." Like, could we have won the war without women doing those jobs?

Between shows at the Lyric, mostly boys, I think, black or white, after the lights in the theater came on, crumpled their popcorn sacks and threw them at each other. Some just tossed them, playing catch, and some of them hooted at each other, calling each other choice racial names, but it all seemed accompanied by some laughter. The management never called anybody down, or flicked the lights on and off. I remember Margaret and I just sitting there saving what was left of our

## **SCS OUTSIDE**

### **November—December 2013**

popcorn to eat with what was left of the part of the movie we hadn't seen.

No, it was not the Alabama with its plush seats or Stanleigh Malotte at the gigantic Wurlitzer organ that rose up from the bowels of the theater with Stanley just a wee bit tipsy, smiling broadly, bald head gleaming in the spotlight, and the audience ready to follow the bouncing ball in Take Me Out to the Ballgame, and a few songs later to watch him sink back into the floor, organ and all. No, the Lyric was a theater of wooden benches, a black balcony and some good-natured fun between shows. At least it was good-natured. I'm sure, people being what they are, some really meant those bangs on the head or shoulder with a paper ball. But I do not remember, the times I was there, having a fight break out on the sidewalk or in the theater. We all just caught our buses or walked back to our homes on the fringes of the city.

But maybe throwing any kind of ball to one another, paper or otherwise, primed us for the way both races play ball together today. At least I hope

that is the case. I learned a lot from those times at the Lyric, including the generosity of second chances.

—Anne Nall Stallworth  
Senior Living, August 2012

### **Answers to A Touch of Trivia**

1. Witches on their broomsticks gave us the expression fly-by-night.
2. Lock, stock and barrel referred to an entire gun. Thus today it means “a complete package.”
3. Knights offering their lances to the highest bidder gave us the word “freelance.”
4. A farmer plowing out of “de lira” must be “delirious.”
5. Echo was a Greek nymph who could only repeat what she had just heard.

— Tidbits of the River Region,  
V2, No. 9, P&K Corp.  
Wetumpka, AL, Feb. 20, 2013

## **SCS RETIREES**

**P.O. BOX 2625**

**BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202**

### **MEETING DETAILS:**

***When: Wednesday, November 20, 2013***

***Where: Vestavia Hills Country Club***

***Board meeting: 11 a.m.***

***Sign In: 11 a.m. 'til Noon***

***Lunch: 12:00 noon—Reservation Required***

***Program: Wilson Hill Bluegrass Band***