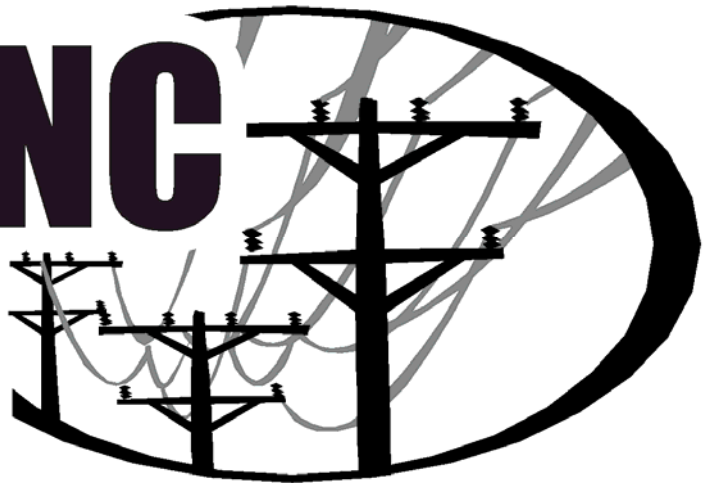


SCS/SNC OUTSIDE



Volume 27

Number 3

May – June 2015

PREZ SEZ

The “Tiny Treasures” exhibit at the Birmingham Museum of Art in March was very interesting. We learned a little about Dutch history and saw some incredible work by some very gifted individuals. The drawings are small in size but so precise you would think they were photographs.

For those wishing to get out and see the country Horace Waugh of the Energizers is offering a trip called “Heritage of America”. This trip begins with two days in New York City before traveling through Philadelphia for the “Liberty Bell” and Independence Hall and then moving on to the Amish country of Lancaster, Gettysburg, Shenandoah Valley, Monticello, Williamsburg, and ending in Washington D.C. This trip will run from Oct. 3rd through Oct. 12th of this year. You can contact Horace Waugh at 205-243-7720 or energizerstvl@gmail.com for more information.

I am looking forward to our annual spring luncheon at the Pelham Civic center on May 11. We have a delicious lunch planned and our speaker this year is Bill Ball who is the EVP and Chief Transmission Officer for the Southern Company. Billy will talk on the status of the system transmission system. If you have listened to the national news lately the country’s aging electrical

transmission system and increased outage rates are an area of national concern. It will be interesting to hear Billy’s thoughts on this topic and other related transmission topics.

The luncheon check in starts at 10:30, Lunch at 12:00, and Billy will talk at 12:45. Please do not forget that you will be refunded your \$5.00 registration fee at the registration desk prior to our lunch.

As a heads up, our summer meeting will be Monday July 13 and our speaker will be Dr. Andrew Graettinger who is the Director of the 3D printing lab in the Civil Engineering Department of the University of Alabama. It appears that they can make some very interesting things with 3D printing.

See you May 11th in Pelham.

— Al Nebrig

SPOTLIGHTING OUR FOUNDERS

ROBERT C. WALKER

Robert C. (Bob) Walker was born in Knoxville, Tennessee. However, he was reared and schooled in Florida. His family settled in Jacksonville, FL. In 1945 he came to live in Alabama. It was in Birmingham, at the Alabama Power Company building that Bob was hired by Fred Hale, Principal Engineer for Commonwealth & Southern Company. He began as a drafter in the Electrical Department under Adolph Mergenthaler. During this time, he worked with K. W. Boyles, who was designing communications for powerhouses.

Want to keep up with what’s happening? Got a computer? Visit the SCS Retiree Website
<http://www.scsretirees.com>

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After a brief employment with Commonwealth & Southern Company, Bob was drafted by the Army and served in the European Theater of Operation with the 71st Infantry Division, occupying the Luftwaffe Air Base in Augsburg, Germany. During this time, a new command was formed called American Graves Registration Command (AGRC) headquartered in Versailles, France. Their mission was to identify American soldiers' bodies. The AGRC needed someone with engineering/draftsman experience. While serving with AGRC, he traveled to Austria, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Holland. Bob served the remainder of his tour of duty as Sgt. Major with the AGRC headquartered in Strasburg, France. After returning to the states he was honorably discharged in 1946.

Upon returning to Birmingham, Bob was reemployed by Southern Company Services within the Electrical Department under Adolph Mergenthaler and M.P. Smull.

In 1947, “he married the love of his life, Angeline Country, of Cardiff Alabama”. Then Bob was offered a position with the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), and they moved to Andalusia, AL. He worked on the renovation to existing Point “A” Hydro Plant on the Conecuh River, as well as electrical substations.

In 1950, Bob returned to Birmingham, and worked with two private Architectural Firms; Long & Gatling, and Jack B. Smith. Mr. Smith was commissioned to design the new office and annex building adjoining, the existing Alabama Power Company corporate headquarters building. It was during Bob’s tenure with the Smith firm, that he first met John W. Thomas, who would become a dear friend and long time professional mentor. John was an architect for Southern Company Services, and the project coordinator for Alabama Power Company.

In 1951, because of the close relationship he formed with John Thomas, Bob decided to return to Southern Company. Subsequently he was hired by Ernest Gaston, Chief Engineer. He was placed in the Architectural Department under Paul Fischer. There he worked as a designer/drafter alongside of

John Thomas. Thus began his experience working on: the enclosures of power plants and the adjoining service buildings; also water treatment plants and new central control rooms in the power plants.

Bob introduced new metal sheet materials for the enclosure of powerhouse siding, in lieu of corrugated asbestos material. The first time the metal sheeting was used was on the elevator-stair tower for Gorgas No. 2 Steam Plant. He then also designed the use of 3" thick, insulated aluminum faced prefabricated wall panels for the central control room enclosure, in lieu of asbestos "cemesto" board wall panels. The new design of the central control room included the lavatory and kitchen facilities. In addition, he designed the use of fixed and adjustable aluminum louvers for the ventilation of the owerhouse structures.

During his tenure with Southern Company Services, Bob produced architectural drawings of owerhouses at: Gorgas, Bowen, Yates, McDonough, and Daniel. These included steam plants and their adjoining service buildings. Bob also did work on other associated facility buildings for Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and Gulf Power Companies. This included architectural design drawings for Alabama Power Company hydro/dams including; Harris, Neely Henry, Logan Martin, and Mitchell. Some of these were turbine room enclosures. He introduced precast structural concrete panels (for vertical walls). He also designed the service bay addition to the masonry wall enclosure of the Lay Dam hydro plant that was built in 1914. This redevelopment project was under Gale Dougherty, manager of the Hydro Department.

Other special projects Bob was involved with, included SEGCO Mine No. 2 where he designed the office and shower buildings; as well as the portal wall to the mine shaft entrance which was requested by Alvin Vogle. At the request of Bob Hart he designed a metal substation wall fencing near Vestavia shopping mall and also for a short time he worked with Charles Hickman on “noise abatement” for powerhouse structures.

In late 1985, Bob was offered the position of Manager of Construction for Mississippi Power

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Company. In early 1986 he was offered a retirement package, which he accepted after 35 years with Southern Company Services. He retired from the Structural and Architectural Departments as Senior Project Architect.

Bob and his wife, Angie, have been married 68 years, have three children, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Four family members currently work for SCS.

Bob's hobbies include golf, Jazz music, and University of Florida athletics. For over 50 years he has served as a Sunday School teacher, Deacon and was on a number of committees with Westwood Baptist Church in Forestdale, Al., including serving as head of the building committee for the church's major expansion programs. He and Angie, have also traveled extensively throughout the USA, as well as cruising to the Virgin Islands.

In closing, he says, "My life has been richly blessed in my career with SCS and I enjoyed the work and the many games of hearts played during "brown bag" lunches with a number of my colleagues. I'm truly grateful for the many friends and golfing buddies (members of Structural Steel, Architectural, Concrete, Mechanical, Electrical, and Nuclear Departments) that were made during the course of my career. Thank you for letting me share these memories."

BIRTHDAYS

May

1-Barbara Mohon; 2-Wilbur Matlock; 3-Jane Tingle; 4-Bill Burmeister & Norma Young; 6-Andy Dearman & Dominick Viruleg, Sr.; 7-Jo Benson, Virginia Burnum, Donald Mansfield & Cary Martin; 8-Rhonda McGill; 9-John G. Adkins, Robert Walker & Dale Wyatt; 10-Wandra Wyatt; 12-Faye Patterson; 13-Judy Irvin & Mary Sue Ludwig; 14-Ricky Allen; 15-Elaine Chambers, Douglas Farris & Dean Koch; 16-Cindy Patton; 17-Margaret O'Brien & Ed Williamson; 18-Bob Hart; 19-Linda Griggs; 21-Lorraine Messick & Roy Shanlever; 23-Gene Byars; 26-Sam Bowman; 27-

Sue Dalton & Helen Robin; 29-Joe Katz, Jr.; 30-Marcia Edmundson & Robin Posey

June

1-Diane Adams, Karen Edwards, Janice Luster & TonyNiemzak; 3-Steven Bailey, Warren Glover, Theda Griffith, Joyce Hickman & Brenda Marlar; 4-William Newman; 6-Cary Campbell & Linda Shepard; 7-Sam Hart, Peggy Howard & Angeline Walker; 8-John Brandt; 9-Jim Newton; 10-Preston Willis; 11-Catherine Heinzerling, Carrie Phillips & Jerry Smith; 12-Mary Dougherty; 13-Malek Barroody & Sandy Brothers; 14-Bill Coughlin, Jr., Anna Garlington, William Marlar, John Thies & Bob Winter; 15-Glenn Brothers; 16-Mike Burns & Peggy Hinton; 17-Adel Alapour; 20-Keith Calhoun, Diane Cocherell, Dewana Green, Nell Larson & Wayne Walton; 21-James Hartin, John Heatherly & Charley Long; 22-Ray Bailey & Betty Jackson; 23-Jack Woodward; 25-Richard W. Patton; 27-Gary Chambers & Kate Newman; 28-Ron G. Cocherell & Mike Griggs; 29-Judy Coggin & Janet Thompson; 30-Sue Burmeister, Gayle Busby & Marty Turnage

— 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.

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.

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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

OBITUARIES

In Memoriam

Helen Worrell, 83, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on February 14, 2015. She retired from Southern Nuclear Company. Helen is survived by her husband Henry Worrell, a son, Stephen, a daughter Susan, three grandchildren and six great-grand-children. A funeral service was held for Mrs. Worrell at 12 noon on February 18 at Ridout's Southern Heritage Funeral Home in Pelham, Alabama followed by a graveside service and internment in the Southern Heritage Cemetery.

Wendell Kirk, 79, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on Friday February 20, 2015. He was an employee of Alabama Power Company and Retired from Southern Nuclear Operating Company as Manager of Safety and Health. Wendell is survived by his wife, Phyllis, a son, Kevin, a daughter, Kristen and four grandchildren. A Memorial Service was held for Mr. Kirk on Tuesday, February 24 at 11:30 am at the Shades Valley Presbyterian Church, Mountain Brook, Alabama

Doyle Shaw, 82, of Hoover, Alabama, passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 26, 2015. He retired as a Principal Engineer with over 30 total years of service at Southern Company Services. Doyle is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Sara, two sons, Steven and Stanley, and a grandson Zachary. He was the youngest and last living survivor of six brothers and sisters. A visitation was held for Mr. Shaw on Sunday, March 29 at Southern Heritage Funeral Home in

Pelham, Alabama. Funeral services for him were held the next day Monday, March 30 at the Bluff Park United Methodist Church followed by a graveside service and internment at Union UMC, The Church at Chelsea Park.

Toby Leamon, 63, Homewood, Alabama, went to be with his Lord on Monday, March 30, 2015. He retired in 2007 after 32 years of service with the Southern Company as a Licensed Professional Civil/Structural Engineer. Toby is survived by his loving wife of 21 years, Krista, a step-son, Christopher Michael Lantrip and his wife, Andie May as well as their two children. Toby is also survived by a sister, Donna Lynn Leamon and a brother and fellow SCS employee Joe Leamon.

The Leamon family received friends at Ridout's Valley Chapel in Homewood on Monday evening April 6. A celebration of Toby's life and Holy Eucharist was held at St. Peter's Anglican Church in Mountain Brook beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 7. Burial followed at Elmwood Cemetery.

Condolences

We express our sympathy to the family of **Kenneth Earle Nellums, Jr.** 61, a former SCS employee who died at his home in Woodstock, Georgia on February 27, 2015.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family of **John Ed Willoughby**, 80, who, while not an employee of the Southern Company was a friend and well known person to everyone who was an employee. He was like one of our own so it is only right that we note his passing away on Wednesday, March 25, 2015. RIP John Ed.

— Jay Dorrance

I wonder if other dogs think poodles are members of a weird religious cult.

— Rita Rudner

**SCS RETIREE LEADERSHIP
FOR 2015**

MARCH MEETING REPORT

Faye Patterson reports that 41 members and guests were present at the March 16 meeting.

MEMBER CARE

Once again, Patsy Evans reports that she has had no reports of illness or other problems from any of the membership. Nor has she received any reports of occasions that cause smiles or cheers.

If you have news concerning yourself or another member of your family that you believe would be of interest to other members, be sure to pass it along to Patsy. Her phone number is listed in the leadership table in each issue.

A LITTLE OF THIS, A PINCH OF THAT

Electricity—Then and Now

In 1950, I was just a 6-year-old girl living on a one-horse farm near East Dublin. We did not have electricity in our house.

My mother, Mary Lee Maddox, washed our clothes in a No. 2 washtub outdoors. She scrubbed them on a washboard and boiled Daddy's work clothes in an iron wash pot over a fire. Once washed and rinsed, she hung them on a clothesline to dry. This job was performed year-round.

There was no running water in the house. We had a well at the back porch. When we needed water, we dropped the bucket into the well and pulled it up with the attached rope.

Without electricity there were no lights. At dusk, Mama would light the kerosene lamps, and if we had to go to another room, we took a lamp for light.

I still remember the icehouses in town. Daddy would go to the icehouse every two or three days and buy a block of ice for the icebox on our back porch. He would wrap the ice in burlap to keep it from melting, bring it home and put it in the top part of the icebox. Below was where Mama stored the milk, butter and other food. Of course, the ice did

Officers	
President	hanebrig@charter.net 532-8596
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Vice President	bubbamac51@yahoo.com
John McCoy	631-7190
Secretary	ghjames19@gmail.com.
Glanda James	240-2458
Treasurer	michaelgriggs@gmail.com
Mike Griggs	823-7950
Directors	
Keith Calhoun	987-0383
Paul Brown	822-4295
John Edmundson	969-0065
Rhonda Cook	541-8905
Lou Long	936-6765
Gray Murray	381-9818
Ray Bailey (ex-officio)	988-3032
Committee Chairs	
Arrangements	Faye Patterson 664-9666
Audit	OPEN
Fellowship	OPEN
Finance	Mike Griggs 823-7950
Member Care	Patsy Evans 991-7900
Membership	Dora Brandt 956-0502
Newsletter	Dan & Myrna Wise 942-2336
Nominating	OPEN
Program	Walt Dean 879-5775
Website	Cary Campbell 678-4725

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melt, dripping into a pan under the icebox, which had to be emptied daily.

We took baths in a tin tub, usually on the back porch. We would draw up enough water from the well to fill the tub, which placed in the sunshine so the water would warm up.

In those days, out in the country, many families still had outhouses, but we were really uptown. We had a two-seater. This was where we had to go in winter and summer, rain or shine.

These are the things I remember from the early days of my childhood.

In 1953, my Daddy was killed in an accident. Thankfully, he had recently taken out a life insurance policy. My mother was left with three children, a car she could not drive, a cow, a mule and a farm. She survived somehow.

The first thing Mama did was have the house wired for electricity. We were hooked up to the Altamaha EME (electric membership corporation) in Lyons. What a blessing that was! Next, she purchased a wringer washing machine. Looking back, I realize how wonderful it must have been for my Mama. No more washtubs or scrubboards!

Suddenly there were lightbulbs above us with cords that you pulled. I was amazed! These bulbs lit up the whole room, not just where you stood holding the lamp.

In addition, we now had running water that came from a new well operated by electricity.

Mama also bought an electric stove. Previously, we had a stove that required a fire built inside it to use it. Imagine that on a hot summer day! And how convenient it was when the bathroom was put in. We finally had a real bathtub.

I missed my Daddy very much and wouldn't have traded him for any of the new conveniences we had, but the insurance helped Mama take care of us when he no longer could.

Rural electricity provided us with many things that are now taken for granted. When I tell my grandchildren about those times, I get strange looks. They seem surprised when I mention that we never had a telephone in the house, while they walk around with one in their hands.

Electricity, what a blessing!

Altamaha EMC member Rosemary Trifiletti is a retired payroll clerk from Graham Brothers Construction Company in East Dublin and a freelance writer.

— *Georgia Magazine*, January 2015,
Georgia Electric Membership Corporation,
Tucker, Georgia

Moral of the Story Is....

Remember when the stories and poems in children's school books concluded with a message of preferred behavior, a moral of the story as it were?

My fourth grade reader, copyright 1925, comes to mind. Among my old books there is a much worn copy of Grimm's Fairy Tales. Literary history tells us that Hans Christian Anderson and his brother left law school and spent weeks walking the German countryside in search of old stories which had been told only by word of mouth. They sat in kitchens and gardens listening to grandmothers tell stories that their grandmothers had told them. Perhaps the most famous in *The Emperor's New Clothes*, which tells the story of a proud emperor to whom fine clothes meant everything. Today, we might say two scam artists made him a bogus offer, promising to weave fine garments of solid gold threads. When the emperor wore the garment they had supposedly created, it took the honesty of a small child to point out that he had nothing on!

Then there is the tale of *The Three Little Pigs*. One built a house of straw, another built one of sticks, and a wolf huffed and puffed and blew those houses down. The third little pig was wise and built his house of brick, preventing the wolf from blowing it down.

Most of these stories begin with "Once upon a time" or "long, long ago." Remember the story of *The Ugly Duckling* who grew to be a beautiful, graceful swan? Remember the story of *Little Red Riding Hood*? She was told never to talk to strangers. Even the story *Cinderella* that contrasted a lovely young girl with her wicked step-sisters had a moral.

My second grade teacher, teaching about honesty, taught us to sing about George Washington as a little boy. We sang the following little rhyme to the tune of *Jesus Loves Me*.

*Once a father very sad
Thought his little boy was bad.
Took the lad upon his knee,
Son, did you cut my cherry tree?
Yes, I cut it down. Yes I cut it down
Yes, I cut it down. I cannot tell a lie.*

A story in my fourth grade reader, *Dust Under the Rug*, made a lasting impression on me. A sick mother's little girl went in search of work to get money to buy food before hers gave out. Finding a tiny house in the forest, she went in and cleaned it thoroughly. The owners of the house, 12 tiny dwarfs, asked her to clean for them every day. One day, cleaning moved along at a slow pace. She decided not to sweep under the rug, thinking no one would notice. When she went to bed that night and tried to sleep, it seemed a little voice in her heart was saying, "Dust under the rug, dust under the rug." She could bear it no longer so she sprang from bed, grabbed the broom, made her way to the house and swept away the dust under the rug. Lo, and behold, under the dust lay 12 shining gold pieces, round and bright as little moons! The 12 little dwarfs came into the room and, as they always did, began speaking in rhyme.

*Our love goes with the gold we give,
And oh! Forget not while you live,
That in the smallest duty done,
Lies wealth of joy for everyone.*

Here I am, 75 years later, still turning my door mats and sweeping beneath them thoroughly. Although I have never found 12 gold pieces, there's a certain satisfaction in a job well done.

— Joyce Ray Wheeler
Senior Living,
December 2009

Shades of Scarlett

A friend suggested that I write about the Golden Years when she realized how much gold (money) it takes just to keep us healthy and moving when we have a certain amount of years behind us. I told her I didn't think that's what the term meant, but it is something that makes you think.

When I was growing up down here in the South, I never heard the word retirement. Everyone in my life just worked till they couldn't anymore. Back then, there were a few options. I don't remember nursing homes back in the 1930s and 1940s, but I do remember what was called "the poor house," and no one wanted to end up there. Many families lived together, and Granny and Grandpa, after their working days were over, helped raise the grandchildren and the great grandchildren. The older generation was cared for by the younger when they could no longer "do" for themselves. I don't need to elaborate on changing times because, dear readers, most of you know the reality today. The "middle" generation, in many cases, has one or more of their parents and/or children and offspring living with them.

I don't know when I first heard the term Golden Years, but it evoked visions of retirees, surrounded by breathtaking scenery, contentedly watching the golden sunset, and breathing a sigh of utter happiness and telling themselves they had earned it. For many, however, this would not be possible—not then, and not now, either. Now, people are having to work longer just to make ends meet. Because of all the medical and technological advances, we have a longer life span. So here we are, Senior Citizens, and available for some of us are artificial parts: knees, hips, hearts, lungs, kidneys, and, yes, even faces. Oh my goodness! The downside is that not everyone can afford replacement parts or transplants. And those who can, learn what my friend learned. It takes a whole log of "gold." It also takes a lot of hassle, dealing with all kinds of paperwork, appointments, etc., just to keep us going. I am blessed, in that I am in good shape (for the shape I'm in), with only what I call "Inconveniences" of my almost ripe old age. You no doubt heard the old joke about tying your shoe

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and then looking around to see what else you might be able to do while you're bent over.. I've done that. You can go in a room and forget what you're there for, so you just do a little cleaning. Done that, too. I heard somewhere that if can't find your car keys, that's normal, but if you find them and don't remember what they are for, you're in trouble. I haven't done that. Yet. Because of arthritis, I do have to check to see which knee is working and which one isn't before I get out of bed.

I hate button-up clothes. And then there's this. If I wear no makeup, I look like Casper the Ghost's grandmother; if I wear too much, I look like an old lady wearing too much makeup. If I dress like women my age dressed when I was a kid, they'd put me in a "home," thinking I had regressed.

So what do I do? Well, I'll tell you. I do what I've always done. I be me! I live every day and breathe in as much joy as I can. When things are not going well, and I'm in the valley, I remember the mountaintop. I have the wonderful opportunity to look back on memories that sustain the joy. The bad memories I can put in perspective at this distance. I

have the privilege of sharing some experiences with others who are going through rough times, and perhaps help ease their suffering. The music of life and love is all around. Don't allow yourself to be depressed by signs of corruption, crime, unrest, and negativity in the media and all around us. Listen! Look! Learn! Live! This month add one more year to the tally. And you know what? These years really are as precious as gold!

— Joyce Jordan

400 Edition, What's Up in North Georgia,

March 2012, Dahlonega, Georgia

A Pointed Tale

A bee will only sting when the hive or their life is threatened. Upon stinging, the bee tries to pull out the barbed stinger. Instead, it tugs out its entrails and dies. So giving its life to save the colony is a true Kamikaze gesture. How bees are bred for such self-sacrifice is a mystery, but perhaps that's why they've been around for 6 million years.

— Howard Scott, Bee Lessons,

Professional Press, Chapel Hill, NC, 2002

SCS RETIREES

P.O. BOX 2625

BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202

SPRING LUNCHEON DETAILS:

When: Monday, May 11, 2015

Where: Pelham Civic Complex

Board meeting: 11 a.m.

Lunch will be served: 12:00 noon

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED