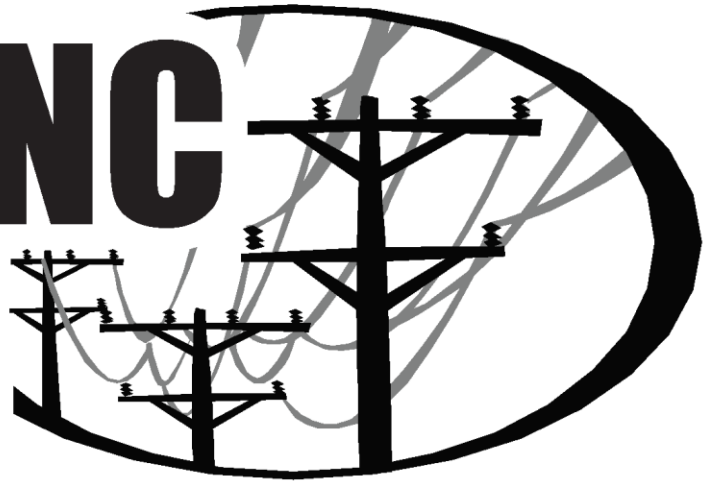


SCS/SNC OUTSIDE



Volume 37, January - February 2025 No. 1

Word from the editor:

Remember that this is your newsletter. Make sure information you have that is relevant to all gets to me to be included in the newsletter.

Prez Sez:

My hope is that everyone had a great holiday season and is looking forward to the new year!

In 2024, we got together every other month for meetings and events. The Spring and Holiday luncheons and our event at Vulcan Park in September were successful and fun. We also had excellent speakers for all six of our get-togethers. As most of you know, our group's charter contains guidance to "further the common good and general welfare of the Greater Birmingham, Alabama Metropolitan Area communities." In the fall of 2024, as we do every year, board members screened and nominated non-profit charitable organizations to receive funding. Many of our members already support local community organizations, and local charities have been a focus for our choice of funding in the past. The board reviewed the member nominations received, and three charities were chosen. The recipients spoke at

our Holiday luncheon at Vestavia Hills Country Club. More details on the November 5th event are in this newsletter. We have also included on the last page of this newsletter a list of the 2025 board members approved at the luncheon.

This was a good year for the retiree group, and I wanted to thank Dave Lisenby and the rest of the group members for their service. Dave mentioned a few items in the November - December newsletter, but the quality of speakers at our meetings was excellent and we have returned to the meeting facilities at the Colonnade Energy Center. Also, we now have the option to register and pay on-line if you don't want to write a check and use a stamp.

For 2025 please plan six bi-monthly meetings with the first on Tuesday, January 21st at the Colonnade Energy Center. We will have another get-together in March and our Spring luncheon will be at The Club in early May. Don't forget to bring a guest! We will continue our efforts to have quality speakers at each event. Speakers may be from our company or from our community, but always selected to bring us new and relevant information.

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

Prez Sez (Cont'd):

I'm looking forward to being your president this year and offer one more thank you to the board members for their efforts!

We are always looking for interesting speakers and topics for our in-person events and your newsletter and feedback/ suggestions are appreciated. On the last page of this newsletter are the phone numbers of your board members so don't hesitate to call. If you'd prefer to make contact through e-mail, the group's email is socosncretirees@gmail.com.

Don't forget to visit our website for more information on the group and events at <http://www.scsretirees.com>.

Ken McElroy

**Correction to Our November –
December 2024 Newsletter**

On Page 11 of our last newsletter under the "Employee Spotlight" section, the editor inadvertently listed the contributor as "Jim" Norton. It should have been listed as "Bill" Norton. Be sure to check out the book that Bill has published about the history of northeast Shelby Count, *The Dunnivant Valley Journal*.



OBITUARIES

Ruby Jo Hallman Benson (Jo), (Southern Company Services), age 90, passed away on October 26, 2024. She is preceded in death by siblings Edna Mae Willis, Billy Ralph Hallman, Martha Bookout and Linda Walker; husband Troy Benson; and daughter Kimberly Seale. Jo is survived by siblings Betty (Billy) Hicks, Hubert (Carol), and Larry (Diane); daughter Candace (Stewart) White; son-in-law Michael Seale; grandchildren Brandon (Bethany) Seale, Kayla Watson, Nathan Seale; great-grandchildren Angelina, Sadie and Emily Watson and Clara and Truman Seale.

William Edward (Bill) Hanks, Jr. (Southern Company), age 86, passed away on November 3, 2024. He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Elizabeth Hanks, his sister, Mary Elizabeth Barrington and his granddaughter, Ashley Elizabeth Collins. Bill is survived by his wife, Dora, his daughters, Barbara Gray (Stephen), Suzanne Collins (Brian), Mary Measel (Andy), his son, William Edward Hanks III, 8 grandchildren, Dylan (Allison), Evan and Morgan Gray, Madison and Alex Collins and Garrison, Carter and Maegan Measel and one great grandson, Hudson Gray.

In lieu of flowers memorials in Bill's memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or a charity of your choice.

SCS OUTSIDE
January - February 2025



Celebrate

JANUARY - FEBRUARY SCS/SNC MEMBERS' BIRTHDAY LIST

January Birthdays:

- 2 Dennis Rickertsen
- 3 David Whitehurst
- 6 Bob Folker
- 6 Bob Haubein
- 6 Marion Price
- 7 Wayne Jones
- 7 Beverly Mays
- 8 Willard Brooks, Jr.
- 8 Fred Ellis
- 9 Doug Boylan
- 9 Monica Morton
- 11 Paul Brashier
- 11 Brenda Nichols
- 11 Richard Vatovec
- 12 Dee Dee Lyon
- 13 Raymond Kinsaul
- 13 Gary McKinney
- 13 Robin Woodfield
- 14 Dwight Hostetter
- 16 Thelma Walker
- 17 Bobby Jones
- 17 Stan Smith
- 18 Derek Ackley
- 18 Susan Clevenger
- 18 Alison Edmonson
- 18 Vivian Mann
- 18 Randall Marlow
- 19 Randy Lee
- 20 Janine Hagan
- 21 Steve Taylor
- 22 Tom Wood
- 24 Ronald Bergeron
- 24 Elizabeth Oedamer
- 24 Nedra Smith
- 24 Peter Webb
- 25 Jane Webb
- 26 Phyllis Ford
- 27 Carolyn Calhoun

January Birthdays (Cont'd):

- 27 Charles Craig
- 27 Deborah Rouse
- 28 Lindsay Lucas
- 29 Janice Welliver
- 30 Charles Goodman
- 30 Clyde Price
- 31 Sidney Hoover
- 31 Barbara Quinn
- 31 Nina Wilson

February Birthdays:

- 3 Jeanne Fallon
- 4 Betsy Black
- 4 James O. Chaffin
- 5 Mike Burgess
- 5 Cheryl Jones
- 6 Paul Brown
- 6 Dot Kachelhofer
- 6 Wanda McKelvy
- 6 Steven Shipman
- 7 Allan Morton
- 8 Don Falletta
- 9 John Quinn
- 10 Judy Yance
- 12 Donald Smaha
- 13 Dale Elliott
- 13 Dave Lambert
- 14 Joey Ciza
- 14 Mei Mulvehill
- 14 Charlotte Shanlever
- 14 Brent Thighpen
- 18 Walter Dean
- 18 Ann Wilkinson
- 19 George Walter Robson
- 19 Cecelia Utley
- 20 Don Charles Hagan
- 20 Betty Sue Prince

SCS OUTSIDE
January - February 2025



Thank you!



February Birthdays (Cont'd)

- 20 Myrna Wise
- 20 Rocky Wright
- 21 Veva Naramore
- 23 Kelli Agnew
- 23 Ken Carr
- 24 Doby Hanks
- 24 Wayne Troulias
- 25 Paul Hermann
- 25 Joe Leamon
- 27 Angela Cassablanca

“Southern Company Services Retirement Group:

Thank you so much for selecting Hope-Filled Room for the \$1,000 award for 2024. We are extremely grateful. The women we serve are one step closer to a better life due to your kindness.

Thanks again,
Hope-Filled Rooms"



THANK YOU



“So thankful for our SNC Retirees’ Participation in Birmingham’s Veteran’s Day Celebration.”

Dave Burford

SCS OUTSIDE
January - February 2025

If you weren't at our November meeting you missed a great program, entertainment and meal!!

We had a great November 2024 luncheon meeting at the Vestavia Country Club. We presented donations of \$1,000 each to three local charities nominated by our members. Each charity gave a brief presentation on their charity and how the donation would be used. We also elected the officers for 2025. If you missed it, you missed a great luncheon and a great time visiting and sharing with fellow retirees.

**PLEASE COME JOIN US FOR
OUR NEXT MEETING**

MEETING DETAILS



DATE: January 21, 2025

WHERE: Colonnade Energy Center Auditorium
3535 Colonnade Parkway
Birmingham, Alabama 35242

TIME: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. - Board Meeting
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Meeting
2:00 p.m. – Door Prizes and Adjourn
(Note: our speaker will be from SCS).

**Schedule for the 2025 SCS/SNC Retiree Meetings
(Dates with Locations)**

Tuesday – January 21, at the Colonnade Energy Center Auditorium
Tuesday – March 11, at the Colonnade Energy Center Auditorium
Tuesday – May 6, Spring Luncheon at The Club
Tuesday – July 8, at the Colonnade Energy Center Auditorium
Tuesday – September 9, Southern Company Retiree Benefits Presentation –
location TBD
TBD – November, Holiday Luncheon at Vestavia Country Club

PICTURES FROM OUR NOVEMBER HOLIDAY LUNCHEON



Outgoing President Dave Lisenby with New Board Members Ray Kinsaul and Nick Santoro (new Board Member Not Pictured Greg Allison)



2025 Board Members Mike Reed, Ray Kinsaul, Nick Santoro, Bob Moore and John Brandt (new Board Member Not Pictured Greg Allison)



**Ethan Hill, Charitable Award Recipient, and his mom Monica
Ethan's Heart-Bags 4 Blessings**



**Holly Pugh, Charitable Award Recipient,
Hope-Filled Rooms**



**Dave Burford, Charitable Awards Recipient,
National Veteran's Day Foundation**

SCS OUTSIDE
January - February 2025

Pictures from Our November Holiday Luncheon – Cont'd



Fun, Food and Fellowship



Pictures from Our November Holiday Luncheon – Cont'd



Retirees Enjoying Holiday Luncheon



Great Entertainment provided by Pianist Adam Bowles



Recipients of 2024 Charity Awards



**Ethan Hill and His Mom Monica,
Ethan's Heart-Bags 4 Blessings**

Ethan's Heart-Bags 4 Blessings provides sleeping bags and other essential needs to homeless individuals living on the streets of Birmingham. We all realize, especially in today's world with all the financial difficulties, "there but for the grace of God go I". Ethan's organization's biggest effort took place in December when Ethan hosted a 'packing party' on Friday, December 6th, at The Altamont School, and a Serve Day on December 7. He is always looking for volunteers for their events if any of our members would like to do so.

If you would like additional information or would like to donate / volunteer, please go to the following link:

[Ethan's Heart-Bags 4 Blessings](#)



**Holly Pugh,
Hope-Filled Rooms**

Hope-Filled Rooms provides a safe, caring and life-giving environment where trafficked women can experience rest and hope, as they develop awareness of and trust in God's love for them, and gain confidence in the future He has made available for them to receive.

If you would like additional information or would like to donate / volunteer, please go to the following link:

www.hopefilledrooms.org



**Dave Burford, National
Veteran's Day Foundation**

SNC is home to many veterans from the several military services, some with recent mobilizations and deployments of the Guard & Reserve soldiers into wartime combat zones and peacekeeping missions across the globe for the ongoing war on terrorism

The **National Veterans Day Foundation** puts on the annual Awards Banquet for 750 paying guests on Nov 10th that celebrates our award of the Veteran of the Year / past honorees include national figures like Senator Robert Dole, Jimmie Doolittle, Colin Powell, the Tuskegee Airmen, COVID first responders and several Medal of Honor recipients. The parade on Nov 11th has high school bands, floats, marching elements like Marion Military Institute, Cub Scouts, Corvette clubs, Jeep clubs that are judged for awards in several categories and featured participants like the Budweiser Clydesdales as well as vintage aircraft flyovers.

If you would like additional information or would like to donate / volunteer, please go to the following link:

www.nvf.org

RETIREE SPOTLIGHTS



Submitted by: Cary Campbell



Festival '25 will be held Sunday, February 16, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at Bluff Park United Methodist Church, 733 Valley St., Birmingham, AL 35226. This season the Festival chorus and orchestra is pleased to offer A German Requiem, Op. 45, by Johannes Brahms, which will be presented in English. Unlike the famous Mozart's Requiem, Brahms wrote his seven-movement Requiem not as an address to the dead but to comfort the living.

Over The Mountain Festivals is a community choral group that exists to foster and perpetuate the singing of sacred choral music and provide training and encouragement to directors of small choirs and choristers, both adults and children, to the glory of God, the edification of participants and the enjoyment of the greater Birmingham, Alabama community and beyond.

This year's chorus will consist of over 130 singers from across Alabama and the Memphis, TN area, including Cary Campbell, our SCS/SNC Retirees' website editor. The featured soloists will include Mrs. Sadie Goodman, Soprano, who has performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City and has been a chorister, cantor and soloist for daily masses broadcasted internationally on the Eternal Word Television Network, headquartered in Irondale, for over a decade. Mr. James A. Brown, Director of Music at Independent Presbyterian Church, Memphis, will conduct this beloved work. A pre-concert lecture discussing the history and significance of Brahms' Requiem will begin at 2:00 p.m., and there is no admission fee. If you like classical choral music, please come and enjoy this wonderful free concert!

RETIREE SPOTLIGHTS – Cont'd



Submitted by: Pannalal Vilmalchand

Be Secure

Protecting yourself against phishing, scams, and identity theft is crucial in today's digital age. The victims of these fraudulent activities are predominantly retirees. Here are some effective strategies:

Phishing Protection

- ✦ Recognize the Signs: Be wary of emails or messages with urgent requests, or suspicious links.
- ✦ Don't Click on Unknown Links: Avoid clicking on links or downloading attachments from unknown sources.
- ✦ Verify the Source: Always verify the sender's email address and look for inconsistencies.
- ✦ Use Security Software: Install and update security software to detect and block phishing attempts.

Scam Prevention

- ✦ Be Skeptical: If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Be cautious of unsolicited offers and requests.
- ✦ Educate Yourself: Stay informed about common scams and how they operate.
- ✦ Fraudulent Charge text/email: Do not respond by clicking a link or calling phone number appearing in an email or text message that has a fraudulent charge. Find appropriate phone number to call and check bank and credit card accounts.

Identity Theft Protection

- ✦ Secure Personal Information: Keep critical personal information, such as your Social Security number and bank details, in a safe place. Much of other information is publicly available and scammers use such information to contact you by email or text message.
- ✦ Monitor Accounts: Regularly check your bank and credit card statements for unauthorized transactions.
- ✦ Use Strong Passwords: Create strong, unique passwords for your accounts and change them regularly. Even though it takes time to get used to, password managers are highly effective in securing online accounts.
- ✦ Web Sites: Bookmark or add to favorites bank, brokerage, credit card and other important web sites and make it a habit to access these websites through bookmarks/favorites in your web browser. If possible download and use Apps to access online accounts.
- ✦ Enable Two-Factor Authentication: Add an extra layer of security to your accounts by enabling two-factor authentication.
- ✦ Shred Sensitive Documents: Shred documents containing personal information before disposing them.
- ✦ Use mobile payment service such as Apple Pay or Google Wallet instead of paying directly by credit or debit cards to minimize compromising physical cards. Be sure to turn NFC (near field communication) off on your phone in crowded locations.

Promote awareness among family and friends and stay vigilant and proactive in protecting your personal information. Be cautious and question anything out of the ordinary.

(Edited AI generated version – Vimal)



RETIREE SPOTLIGHTS – Cont'd

Submitted By: John Dolar

SOUTHERN LIGHT TACKLE

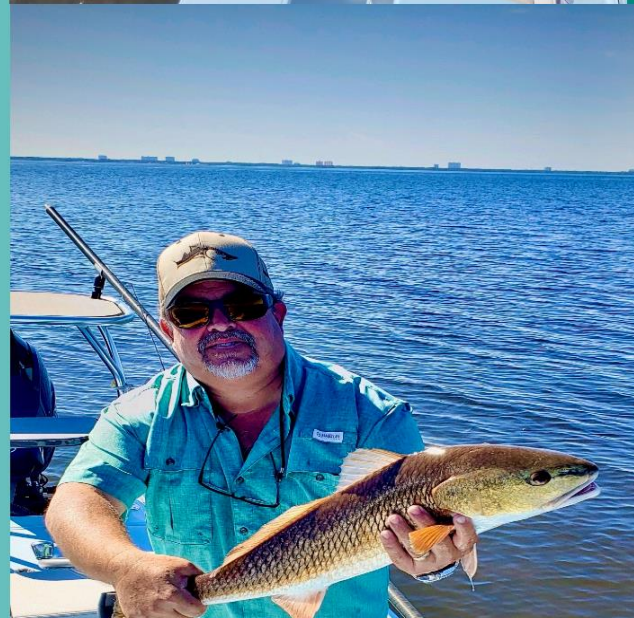
GUIDE SERVICE

As a retiree from Southern Company myself, and owner of Southern Light Tackle Guide Service, I am offering Southern Company retirees a \$100 discount on light tackle fishing trips out of the Panama City Beach area for the 2025 season.

I have been a professional guide for over 40 years and have returned to full time guiding since my retirement, and would like to offer my fellow retired Southern Company employees a discount to help you experience a great day in the bays and marshes of Panama City chasing redfish, trout, tarpon and other species.

Just contact me Capt. John (Corby) Dolar at:

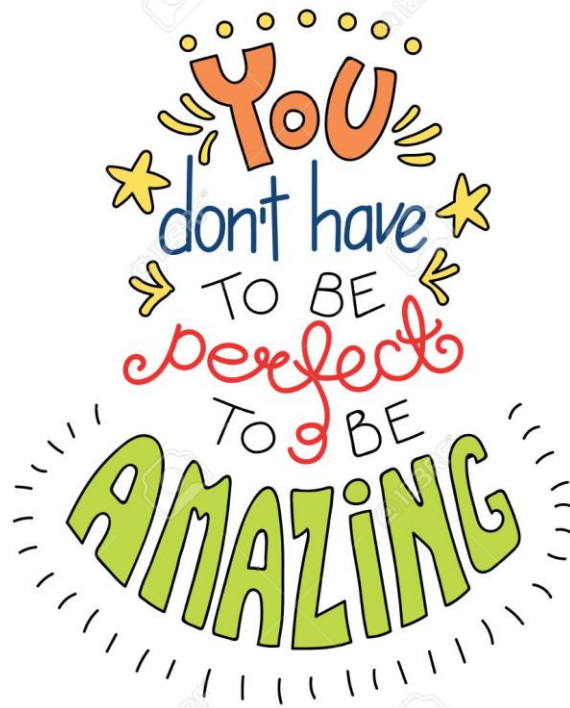
southernlighttackle@gmail.com or
call @ 334-500-2587 and mention
reference code: southern retiree.





Submitted by: Charley Long

SCS retiree Charley Long has established AMP Fundraising LLC Corporation, a 501 (c) 3, to provide financial support to organizations that benefit people living with neurological diseases such as ALS, MS and Parkinsons. This will be done through fundraising events known as AMP events. One such event is a stationary bike event held outdoors. AMP stands for Amazing Motivated People. If you are an Amazing Motivated Person and want to volunteer to help with these events and make a difference in the lives of other people, contact Charley Long at text/phone: 205-370-2781 OR email: cclong4lake@gmail.com



Thanks to each of you that submitted an article for our “Employee Spotlight” section.

We would love to hear from each and everyone of you – vacation plans, community/volunteer involvement, grandkids, anything that you would like to share with our retiree group!



Holidays to Remember - January 2025

In the United States, there are two major holidays celebrated in January: **New Year's Day (January 1, 2025)** and **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (January 20, 2025)**, Both are federal holidays as decreed by Congress, which means that banks and many businesses will be closed, including federally run departments like the post office.



Martin Luther King Jr. (born Michael King Jr., January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968) was an American Baptist minister and activist who became the most visible spokesman and leader in the American civil rights movement from 1955 until his assassination in 1968. King was chief spokesperson for nonviolent activism in the Civil Rights Movement, which protested racial discrimination in federal and state law and civil society. The movement led to several groundbreaking legislative reforms in the United States.



Holidays and Dates to Remember - February 2025



- **February 2 - Groundhog Day** - According to tradition, if a groundhog sees its own shadow, it means six more weeks of winter. No shadow means an early spring.
- **February 9 – Superbowl Sunday** – For all you football fans, Super Bowl LIX will be played on Sunday, February 9, in New Orleans at Caesars Superdome with kickoff slated for 5:30 p.m. CT.
- **February 14 - Valentine's Day** – Love is in the air on Valentine's Day. Even though we believe that love should be spread and celebrated every day, we don't always remember to do that. So, on this dedicated day, go above and beyond in expressing your love for family, friends, and, of course, your significant other.
- **February 17 – President's Day and Washington's Birthday** - Presidents Day is also called Washington's Birthday as a celebration of the nation's first President.



Laughter – the BEST Medicine!!!

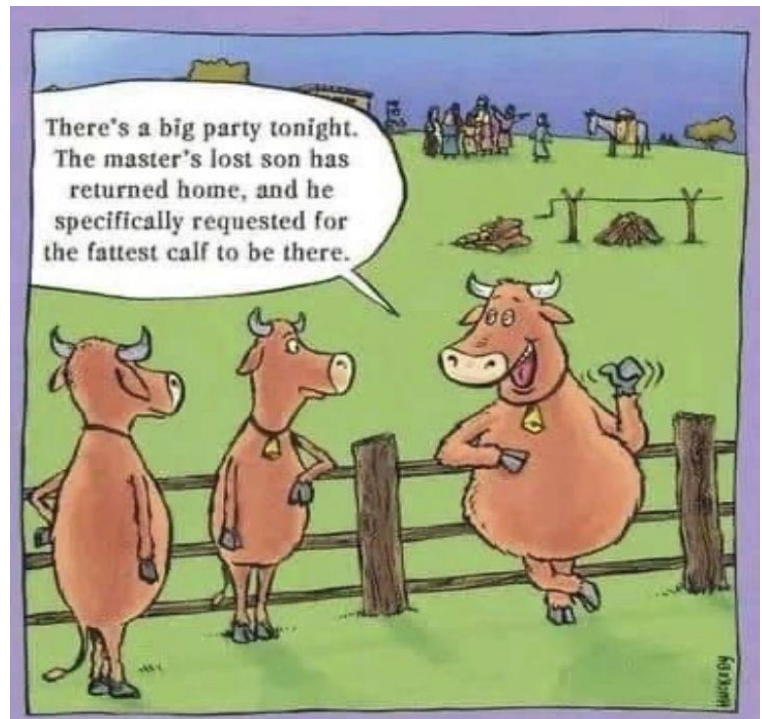
Stop drop and roll was such a big deal when I was younger. I really expected to be on fire way more than the zero times I have been so far.



Things that no longer interest me:

1. Driving at night
2. Leaving the house at night
3. Driving in the winter
4. Leaving the house in the winter
5. Driving
6. Leaving the house

A hacker called me and said he had all my passwords, I got a pen and paper and said 'Thank God for that, what are they'





AND MORE LAUGHTER!!!



I dropped a box of spaghetti on the ground and accidentally graduated from Art School.



THINGS TO PONDER 🤔

1. If the No. 2 pencil is the most popular, why is it still No. 2?
2. Why do we press harder on the remote control when we know the batteries are getting weak?
3. Why are you "in" a movie, but "on" TV?
4. What was the best thing BEFORE sliced bread?
5. Why do we drive on parkways & park on driveways?
6. Why do "fat chance" & "slim chance" mean the same thing?
7. Why do British people never sound British when they sing?
8. At a movie theater, which arm rest is yours?
9. When does it stop being partly cloudy & start being partly sunny?
10. When French people swear do they say "Pardon my English?"
11. Why do people say "heads up" when you should duck?

SCS OUTSIDE
January - February 2025

**Notes from our Officers, Committee Chairs
and Board Members**

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!

If you know of someone that is sick and doesn't object to their information being shared, please send an email to me at the following address so that we can send them a card and include them in our prayers.

socosncretirees@gmail.com.

Additionally, we love to hear good news!

Patsy Evans,
Member Care



We would LOVE to hear from any of our retirees wishing to share with us how they are spending their time now that they have retired (vacations, volunteer work, family time, etc.), or any other items that they would like to share.

Please send your input to us at the following e-mail address. This newsletter is **YOUR** newsletter, and we truly appreciate all contributions.

Rick and Charlotte Graham
dricharlo@gmail.com

2025 Leadership

Officers

President:	Ken McElroy	205-907-6011
Vice-President:	Jim Ripple	205-902-4485
Secretary:	Rick Rice	205-266-6517
Treasurer:	Dave Lisenby	205-603-9220

Directors

Dave Lisenby (ex-officio)	205-603-9220
Greg Allison	205-915-1850
John Brandt	205-956-0502
Ray Kinsaul	205-907-1477
Bob Moore	205-979-2390
Mike Reed	205-910-8025
Nick Santoro	205-902-4485

Committee Chairs

Arrangements :	Sharon Venz	205-482-6836
	Mary Romano	205-492-6450
Audit:	Fred Ehrensperger	205-715-9656
Fellowship:	Ken McElroy	205-907-6011
Member Care	Patsy Evans	205-991-7900
Membership:	Dora Brandt	205-956-0502
Newsletter:	Charlotte & Rick Graham	205-440-7935
Nominating:	Rick Graham	205-807-1890
Programs:	Beverly Lisenby	205-701-4589
Website:	Cary Campbell	205-641-9137

E-mail: socosncretirees@gmail.com