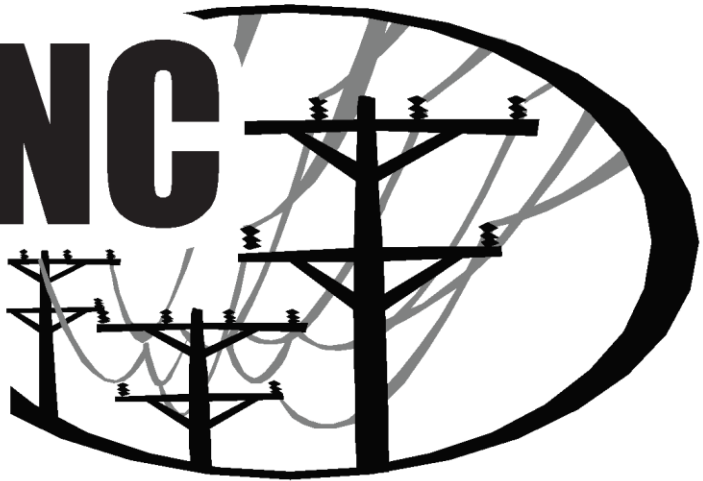


# SCS/SNC OUTSIDE



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Volume 38, January - February 2026 No. 1

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**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:**

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year. The 2026 year is shaping up to be another great one full of opportunities to reconnect and stay in touch with our Southern Company roots.

We will kick off the year on January 13th with a special guest speaker, Scott Stantis. Scott is a nationally syndicated cartoonist who has been on the editorial boards of both the old Birmingham News and the Chicago Tribune and now draws for both CNN's Michael Smerconish Show and the Chicago Tribune. Scott is the creator of the internationally syndicated comic strip Prickly City. He also is the creator of The Buckets, one of whose strips was chosen as one of the hundred funniest cartoons of the 20th century. I've been to his presentation before and he is exceptionally entertaining and probably will be able to give us some input into Chicago and Illinois politics, if asked.

Most likely in late May we will have our expedition to the Vogtle Nuclear Plant. We have twenty-two folks already signed up for it, and it should be a lot of fun. I was hoping to have this trip in April, but the folks running the Masters in Augusta would not shift their tournament times for me. Imagine that! There are also two outages at Vogtle in February through early May that we had to avoid due to hotel accommodations (cost). More on that as the year progresses.

We are still looking for someone to take over the role of Nominating Committee (of one). Ironically, that is the only position we don't have anyone nominated for.

All for now. I'm looking forward to working with the rest of the Board to make 2026 a fun and successful year.

Jim

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

**SCS OUTSIDE**  
*January - February 2026*



*Celebrate*

**JANUARY - FEBRUARY SCS/SNC MEMBERS' BIRTHDAY LIST**

**Januaary Birthdays:**

- 2 Dennis Rickertsen
- 3 David Whitehurst
- 6 Bob Folker
- 6 Bob Haubein
- 6 Marion Price
- 7 Dan Fraser
- 7 Wayne Jones
- 8 Willard Brooks, Jr.
- 8 Richard Dunkin
- 8 Fred Ellis
- 9 Doug Boylan
- 9 Michael Dunn
- 9 Monica Morton
- 10 Stephen Bryson
- 11 Paul Brashier
- 11 Richard Vatovec
- 12 David Beaty
- 12 Dee Dee Lyon
- 13 Raymond Kinsaul
- 13 Richard Lulling
- 13 Gary McKinney
- 13 Robin Woodfield
- 14 Elaine Hawkins
- 14 Dwight Hostetter
- 15 Joe O'Brien
- 16 Edward Knobeloch
- 17 Bobby Jones
- 17 Stan Smith
- 17 Karen Sumerlin
- 18 Derek Ackley
- 18 Susan Clevenger
- 18 Alison Edmonson
- 18 Roxanne Healy
- 19 Randy Lee

**January Birthdays (Cont'd):**

- 20 Janine Hagan
- 20 Cherry Martin
- 21 Steve Taylor
- 22 Tom Wood
- 23 Brion Casey
- 24 Nedra Smith
- 24 Peter Webb
- 25 Jane Webb
- 26 Phyllis Ford
- 27 Carolyn Calhoun
- 27 Charles Craig
- 27 Deborah Rouse
- 28 Lindsay Lucas
- 29 Janice Welliver
- 30 Charles Goodman
- 31 Sidney Hoover
- 31 Barbara Quinn

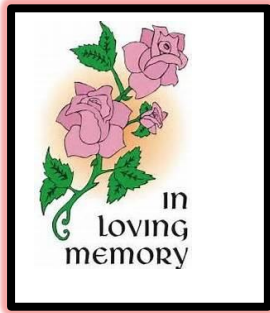
**February Birthdays:**

- 2 Rex Walker
- 3 Jeanne Fallon
- 4 Betsy Black
- 4 James O. Chaffin
- 5 Mike Burgess
- 5 Ed Healy
- 6 Paul Brown
- 6 Wanda McKelvy
- 7 Allan Morton
- 8 Don Falletta
- 9 John Quinn
- 10 Judy Yance

**February Birthdays (Cont'd):**

- 11 Valerie Webster
- 12 Donald Smaha
- 13 Becky Cheatwood
- 13 Dale Elliott
- 13 Dave Lambert
- 14 Joey Ciza
- 14 Mei Mulvehill
- 14 Charlotte Shanlever
- 14 Brent Thighpen
- 18 Walter Dean
- 19 George Walter Robson
- 19 Cecelia Utley
- 20 Don Charles Hagan
- 20 Betty Sue Prince
- 20 Myrna Wise
- 20 Rocky Wright
- 21 Veva Naramore
- 22 Louis Long
- 23 Ken Carr
- 24 Ken Boyd
- 24 Wayne Troulias
- 25 Paul Hermann
- 25 Joe Leamon





## OBITUARIES

**Eugene Stewart Ellison, APCO, Southern Company and Southern Nuclear**, passed away on December 21, 2025. Eugene is preceded in death by his parents, Stewart and Ruth Brownlow Ellison and his brother-in-law, Don Cason. Survivors include his wife, Rebecca Ellison; sons, Jaylon Ellison and his wife, Lauren, and Jonathan Ellison, and his wife, Amanda; stepchildren, Amanda Douglas and Jim Douglas; grandchildren, Bryson Ellison, Grace Ellison, Stewart Ellison, Chloe Douglas, and Cason Douglas; a sister, Julia Bline and her husband, Michael; brothers, Ray Creel, Fred Ellison and his wife, Jenny, and Jeff Ellison and his wife, Tammy. Contributions may be made in memory of Mr. Ellison to the new Children's Building at Golden Springs Baptist Church, 3 Robertson Road, Anniston, AL 36207. Contributions may be made online at [www.goldensprings.org/give](http://www.goldensprings.org/give).

**David "Neil" Evans, Southern, Company**, age 79, passed away on November 4, 2025. He was preceded in death by his father, David Edward Evans and his mother, Helen Looney. Neil is survived by his children, Brandon (Anne) Costerison and Ashley (Brittany) Evans; and his granddaughter, Addison.

**James "Bert" Hamrick, APC / Southern Company Services**, age 96, passed away December 13, 2025. He was preceded in death by his parents, Clate and Lily Hamrick; his son, James Anthony "Tony" Hamrick; and his siblings, Ray Hamrick, Gladys Waldrep, and Carol Holmes. James is survived by his wife, Dean Rooks Hamrick; his daughter, Dari Walker (Kirk); his grandchildren, Natalie Bowen (John-Eric), Tony King, Lauren Barnes (Chris), DK Walker (Amanda), and Clayton Hamrick; and his great-grandchildren, Brooks Bowen, Holland Walker, Lane Bowen, and Porter Walker.

**Paul Luster (son of Grady Luster), Southern Company**, age 49, passed away on November 14, 2025. He was preceded in death by his brother Ryan Lee Luster (Soonju). Paul is survived by his father, Grady Luster and mother, Janice Luster, his sister, Chistie Montgomery (Kent) and his sibling's children, Laren Trujillo (Peter), Grant Brooks, Tyler Brooks, and David Luster.

**John Thies, Southern Company**, age 96, passed away on November 11, 2025. He was preceded in death by his father, John Thies, mother, Gertrude Thies, and his wife, Janice. John is survived by his daughters, Melissa (Mike) Wilson, Brenda (Frantz) Johnson, and Becky (William) Lucas; grandchildren, Marsha (Nick) Butler, Amanda (Justin) Smith, April (Blake) Kitchings, Adam (Lindsay) Johnson of Hoover, Austin (Erika) Lucas, and Trent (Katy) Lucas; great-granddaughters and great-grandsons, Cameron Kitchings, Troy and Eli Butler, Eliana Butler, Gemma Lucas and Greyson Lucas, Perry and Neely Lucas, John William Smith, and Aaron Johnson; one brother, Henry Thies of ; and several cousins in the USA and in Germany. For those who desire to do so, the family requests that any memorial contributions be made to the Friends Helping Friends Ministry at Lakeside Baptist Church (2865 Old Rocky Ridge Rd., Birmingham, AL 35243), Anchor Community Respite Ministry – Asbury United Methodist Church (6690 Cahaba Valley Road, Birmingham, AL 35242), or your favorite charity.

**If you weren't at our November Holiday Luncheon.....**

**.....you really missed a great meal AND Fellowship!!**

We had a great Luncheon/Meeting on November 11 at the Vestavia Country Club at which time we heard from the recipients of our 2025 Charitable Contributions awards. Additionally, the proposed 2026 Officers and Board Members were announced. (See pictures on pages 5 – 7.)

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**JANUARY 13 MEETING DETAILS**

- Date:** Tuesday, January 13 2026
- Location:** Colonnade Energy Center Auditorium  
3535 Colonnade Parkway  
Birmingham, Alabama 35242
- Time:** 11:00 a.m. to 12 Noon – Board Meeting  
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. – General Meeting  
2:00 p.m. – Door Prizes and Adjourn
- Speaker:** Scott Stantis – Nationally Syndicated Cartoonist



Scott is a nationally syndicated cartoonist who has been on the editorial boards of both the old Birmingham News and the Chicago Tribune and now draws for both CNN's Michael Smerconish Show and the Chicago Tribune. Scott is the creator of the internationally syndicated comic strip Prickly City. He also is the creator of The Buckets, one of whose strips was chosen as one of the hundred funniest cartoons of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

*See You  
There*

**PICTURES FROM OUR NOVEMBER RETIREE LUNCHEON**



**Ken McElroy - President**



**Fred Ehrensperger Announcing 2025 Charitable Awards Recipients**



**Retirees Enjoying a Delicious Holiday Meal and Great Fellowship**



**...AND MORE FELLOWSHIP**

**PICTURES FROM OUR NOVEMBER RETIREE LUNCHEON – Cont'd**



**Retirees Enjoying a Delicious  
Holiday Meal and Great Fellowship**



**...AND MORE FELLOWSHIP**



**...AND (YOU GUESSED IT) MORE FELLOWSHIP**



**PICTURES FROM OUR NOVEMBER RETIREE LUNCHEON – Cont’d**

**Presenting our Four Charitable Contributions Recipients**



**Buffy Grondin – Hope Inspired Ministries**



**Tristen Bryant - Urban Hope Leadership Initiative**



**Larry Savage - Hearts of Wheels**



**Sherry Bray - First Light**

**PICTURES FROM OUR NOVEMBER RETIREE LUNCHEON – Cont'd**

**AND ANNOUNCING (DRUM ROLL PLEASE) .... 2026 OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS**



**Pictured Left to Right: Dave Lisenby (Treasurer); Fred Ehrensperger (Auditor), Rick Rice (Vice President), Jim Ripple (President), Ken McElroy (Ex-Officio and Fellowship Chair), Ray Kinsaul (Board Member), Ed Davidson (Board Member), and Cary Campbell (Website)**

**Not Pictured: Jim Gordy (Secretary); Board Members: Greg Allison, Nick Santoro, Trudy Strain, and Karen Troncalli; Committee Chairs: Mary Romano and Sharon Venz (Arrangements); Patsy Evans (Member Care); Rick Graham (Membership); Charlotte Graham (Newsletter); and Beverly Lisenby (Programs)**

## Recipients of 2025 Charity Awards

At our November 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Luncheon, \$1,500 donations were made to four charitable organizations. Beginning in 2013, donations have been made to organizations nominated by members, and since then, almost \$40,000 has been donated to thirty-four different organizations. The four organizations are covered below (pictures of representatives who received the checks are pictured on page 7 of this newsletter). All are 501(c)(3) non-profits and all depend financially on grants and individual/corporate contributions. The website of each organization is included should one wish to make a donation (including an automobile(s) to Hearts of Wheels).



**Hearts of Wheels** is an organization on a mission to help eradicate the life progressions of our economically disadvantaged and at-risk youth through their Workforce Transportation Support Program (WTSP) and driver's training support. They do this by providing donated cars to disadvantaged, less fortunate youth who meet certain qualifications ([www.heartsofwheels.org](http://www.heartsofwheels.org)).



Hope Inspired Ministries (HIM) was founded in Montgomery, Alabama in January of 2012, to serve unemployed individuals by preparing and equipping them to obtain, maintain, and excel at employment. Results from the original program demonstrated that even the most marginalized men and women of a community can become self-supporting, productive citizens. HIM then replicated the original Montgomery model in Birmingham in 2017, and in Lowndes County in 2020 to make three community sites,



First Light, Inc.'s mission is to offer those experiencing homelessness stable emergency shelter, access to housing programs, and the resources for them to achieve their full potential. At First Light, we are dedicated to providing a safe and supportive environment for homeless women and their children. We strive to meet the immediate needs of our guests while helping them build a foundation for long-term stability.



Urban Hope Leadership Initiative is a Christian leadership formation program for college graduates based in Fairfield, AL. Our mission is to equip young men to live seamless lives of faith in vocation, community, discipleship, and service.

## **RETIREE SPOTLIGHTS**



**Submitted by: Jim Blackman**

SNC retiree, Jim Blackmon, his brother Ken Blackmon and friends, Phil Anderson and Ken Friday recently completed playing the entire Robert Trent Jones Trail in just over 6 months. AWESOME!!!



### **How Many Courses Are in The Robert Trent Jones Trail?**

The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail consists of a total of 26 stunning courses. These courses are spread across 11 different locations, offering golf enthusiasts a wide range of options to choose from. Whether you are in the northern or southern region, or even on the east or west side, accessing the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail is convenient and straightforward. Here is a breakdown of the number of courses available in each location:

- |                             |                                   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Hampton Cove – 54 holes  | 7. Cambrian Ridge – 36 holes      |
| 2. Silver Lakes – 36 holes  | 8. Grand National – 54 holes      |
| 3. Ross Bridge – 18 holes   | 9. Lakewood Golf Club – 36 holes  |
| 4. Oxmoor Valley – 54 holes | 10. Magnolia Grove – 54 holes     |
| 5. Highland Oaks – 54 holes | 11. Lakewood Golf Club – 36 holes |
| 6. Capitol Hill – 54 holes  |                                   |

**RETIREE SPOTLIGHTS – Cont'd**



**Submitted by: Shannon Sampson**

The SE Division Energizers held its 4th quarter meeting on Dec 4. At this meeting monetary donations were made to nine charities in our service area. In addition, attending members brought adult diapers and wipes that were presented to SARCOA, an agency that supplies the needs of the elderly and disabled.

A total of thirty-four boxes of diapers and twenty-nine packs of wipes were collected just in time to help SARCOA fill wish lists for their annual Santa for Seniors project.





*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!*



**SCS OUTSIDE**  
*January - February 2026*



**ALABAMA ENERGIZERS TRIPS FOR 2026**

**DISCOVER SOUTHERN ITALY – WITH AN OPTIONAL ROME EXTENSION**  
**September 18 – October 1, 2026**

You will experience breathtaking scenery, historic cities, centuries-old hilltop villages, and iconic cuisine with local guides!

**Highlights** – Palermo, Monreale, Agrigento’s Valley of the Temples, Piazza Armerina, Giardini Naxos, Taormina, Strait of Messina, Winery Tour and Tasting, Matera, Sorrento, Positano, Pompeii

For more information, visit <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1360159>



**Discover Spotlight on New York City Holiday**  
**December 5 – 9, 2026**

**Highlights** - Kick off the 2026 Holidays in New York City – Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall with the Rockettes, Wall Street, Statue of Loiverty, Ellis Island, 9/11 Museum, Greenwich Village, Central Park, and an included Broadway Show.

For more information, visit <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1360161>



**Holland and Belgium Springtime River Cruise**  
**April 2027**

“Historically, this tour sells out immediately upon release by Collette! To ensure you are on the list, make your reservation today with a \$100 deposit per person to hold your spot! The trip has not been released yet but I have asked for an April 2027 date. Upon release of this trip, the remaining deposit and insurance will be due. If you choose not to proceed at that point, your \$100 will refunded. “

Contact Jane Lewis with Energizers Travel at [energizerstravel@gmail.com](mailto:energizerstravel@gmail.com) to save your spot on this popular tour,

**Any questions or to be added to future email distributions of new travel opportunities, please send your contact information to Jane Lewis: at [energizerstravel@gmail.com](mailto:energizerstravel@gmail.com)**

## DATES TO REMEMBER IN JANUARY

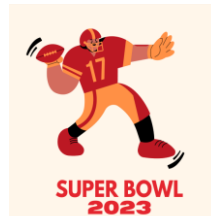
In the United States, there are two major holidays celebrated in January: **New Year's Day (January 1, 2025)** and **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (January 19, 2026)**, Both are federal holidays as decreed by Congress, which means that banks and many businesses will be closed, including federally run departments 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.



## DATES TO REMEMBER IN FEBRUARY



- **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 8 – Superbowl Sunday** – For all you football fans, Super Bowl LX 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 16 – President's Day and Washington's Birthday** - Presidents Day is also called Washington's Birthday as a celebration of the nation's first President.



**AND NOW FOR A LITTLE HUMOR**

- ✚ Only in America ...do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.
- ✚ Only in America .....do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke.
- ✚ Only in America .....do banks leave vault doors open and then chain the pens to the counters.
- ✚ Only in America .....do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage.
- ✚ Only in America .....do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight.
- ✚ Only in America .....do they have drive-up ATM machines with Braille lettering.

**EVER WONDER....**

- ✚ Why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?
- ✚ Why can't women put on mascara with their mouth closed?
- ✚ Why don't you ever see the headline 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?
- ✚ Why is 'abbreviated' such a long word?
- ✚ Why is it that doctors call what they do 'practice'?
- ✚ Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavor, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?
- ✚ Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?
- ✚ Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?
- ✚ Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?
- ✚ Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?
- ✚ You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?!
- ✚ Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?
- ✚ Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?
- ✚ If con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?
- ✚ If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport, the terminal?

**Hope this made you smile a little bit!!**



*Laughter – the BEST Medicine!!!*



**I NEVER CALLED YOU STUPID, BUT WHEN I ASKED YOU TO SPELL "ORANGE" AND YOU ASKED ME THE FRUIT OR COLOR IT KINDA CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD.**

**Husband: The nerve of that doctor. Saying I'm so old that he referred me to an archaeologist.**

**Wife: Audiologist, dear. You can't hear.**



**According to the squirrel riding a unicycle in my kitchen, I may have taken too much sleep medication...**





## And More Laughter

I took a long, hard  
look at myself this  
morning.

I won't be doing that  
again.



The first bottle of Coca-Cola from 1894 contained around 3.5 grams of cocaine.

Explains why our parents and grandparents could walk to and from school uphill in the snow, barefoot.

Not to brag, but I just went into another room and actually remembered why I went in there.

It was the bathroom, but still....



**SCS OUTSIDE**  
*January - February 2026*

**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](mailto: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](mailto:dricharlo@gmail.com)**

**2025 Leadership**

**Officers**

President:	Jim Ripple	205-516-8810
Vice-President:	Rick Rice	205-266-6517
Secretary:	Jim Gordy	205-290-2186
Treasurer:	Dave Lisenby	205-603-9220

**Directors**

Ken McElroy (ex-officio)	205-907-6011
Greg Allison	205-915-1850
Ed Davidson	205-209-1359
Ray Kinsaul	205-907-1477
Trudy Strain	205-854-1278
Karen Troncalli	205-253-0308
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:	Rick Graham	205-807-1890
Newsletter:	Charlotte Graham	205-440-7935

Nominating:	Vacant	
Programs:	Beverly Lisenby	205-701-4589
Website:	Cary Campbell	205-641-9137

**E-mail: [socosncretirees@gmail.com](mailto:socosncretirees@gmail.com)**