

INTERVIEW WITH ANN STICE

By Samm McDonald

This issue's interview features Ann Stice, who worked for SDG&E and Sempra from 1978 – 2015. Annie worked in many different departments over her career and said many nice things about the people she worked with.

SM: Give us a brief history of your work history.

AS: I was hired in 1978 as a part time Customer Service Representative. I worked in the call center (aka Fish Bowl) in the Electric Building, as a CSR, a Lead CSR, and then as a trainer for new Call Center employees. I left in fall, 1981, after my 2nd child was born. I returned in 1982, taking a number of part time jobs throughout the Customer Services Division. In 1994, I returned full time, again as a CSR, next in marketing and on to the CISCO project. I moved back to the Call Center, transferred to Sempra on the My Info Project and then back into SoCalGas/SDGE as an integrated Call Center manager. My last position was as a Project Manager in the Customer Service Project Management Office until my retirement date of February 1, 2016.

I want to shout out and thank all the managers and directors who gave me opportunities to develop new skills. And to Margie Day: Special thanks for hiring me, for letting me work on CISCO project, and CS Project Management Office.

SM: Tell us a bit about what you have done since you've retired

AS: I took a 5-week trip to Europe in July and August, 2016; 2 weeks in and around Paris, 12 days in Italy, and 12 in Spain. In 2017, I plan to spend another 3-4 weeks in a villa in Florence and in Barcelona, Bilbao, and San Sebastian, Spain, with perhaps 3-4 days in Monterosso, a small town in the Cinque Terre region of Italy. This last is important because there's ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO except lie on the beach and float in the Mediterranean.

SM: How about time with your kids and grandkids?

AS: I have my 12 year old grandson, Eden, with me after school daily. And I fly to Oakland every 4-5 weeks to spend time with Ramona, my 3-year-old granddaughter. In passing, I give my adult children, Tim and Amy, a hug and a kiss, as well as their special spouses. I'm also lucky enough to spend a lot of time with my 90-year-old mom, and we take a lot of short road trips, most often to Pismo Beach/Central Coast and Oakland. My nephew co-owns a small restaurant there, and we love to eat.



Annie's grandkids, Eden and Ramona

SM: What's the best thing about retirement for you?

AS: Travelling whenever and wherever I want and spending more time with my kids and grandkids.

SM: What's your retirement philosophy?

AS: God Bless SDG&E and Sempra.

SM: What is your fondest memory about working at SDG&E?

AS: Isn't it the people? I feel that every retiree misses the people but not the work. Ken and Lora, Paul, Nancy, Connie, Margie, and Jane, all say it's the people. I don't miss the work.

SM: What do you do now that you couldn't do while you were working?

AS: More exercise. I added twice weekly

Reformer Pilates and thrice weekly water fitness to my workout regimen. I haven't felt this fit in YEARS and YEARS.

SM: I've heard from other's that it is harder to get on a retiree's schedule, now that you are no longer working. Is it true for you?

AS: That's very true. But that's because my schedule is filled with activities that involve my friends.

SM: Is there anything else you'd like to add?

AS: I'd like to add here that I NEVER, EVER had a bad supervisor or manager or director. I was blessed to work with a terrific and SMART group of employees in every organization!