

SDG&E Retiree Times

March 2015

President's Message



I heard that the 2014 Alumni Association Annual Holiday Luncheon was THE event to attend last year! Thanks go to Holiday Luncheon Chair Joyce Kelly and her committee for an outstanding event. And thanks to Dan LaMar for jumping in at the last minute as emcee!

Our luncheon is a time to see old (not meant in the most literal way) friends and colleagues and renew friendships. We are in the early stages of planning for our next one on December 9, moving back to the Scottish Rite Temple (Event Center) in Mission Valley. Mark your calendars! If you have any ideas for change at the luncheon, please send Joyce (joyceakelly@cox.net) or me (samm@samm-mcdonald.com) an email or call me at 858.492.1200. This is YOUR organization and we welcome any ideas that you have about how to make it better for you! And, we'd like to create some other opportunities to get us all together in the future ... Bingo in the afternoon? A casual picnic in the park? A morning at the movies? Let us know!

Your President, Samm McDonald

Emergency Preparedness for Seniors

The Importance of a Personal Support Network

The American Red Cross recommends that senior citizens create a personal support network made up of several individuals who will check in on you in an emergency, to ensure your wellness and to give assistance if needed. This network can consist of friends, roommates, family members, relatives, personal attendants, co-workers and neighbors. Ideally, a minimum of three people can be identified at each location where you regularly spend time, for example at work, home, school or volunteer site.

There are seven important items to discuss and implement with a personal support network:

1. Make arrangements, prior to an emergency, for your support network to immediately check on you after a disaster and, if needed, offer assistance.

2. Exchange important keys.
3. Show them where you keep emergency supplies.
4. Share copies of your relevant emergency documents, evacuation plans and emergency health information card.
5. Agree on and practice methods for contacting each other in an emergency. Do not count on the telephones working.
6. You and your personal support network should always notify each other when you are going out of town and when you will return.
7. The relationship should be mutual. You have a lot to contribute! Learn about each other's needs and how to help each other in an emergency. You might take responsibility for food supplies and preparation, organizing neighborhood watch meetings and interpreting, among other things.

Want to know what else you can do to better care for your loved ones as they get older? View the Red Cross site at www.preparesandiego.org, or download the Disaster Preparedness guide from our Alumni Association Links web page so you all can prepare for emergencies.



Update on New HQ

By Sammantha McDonald

Construction is well underway on the new Sempra Energy headquarters in the East Village neighborhood of San Diego. Employees will move into the LEED Gold building at 488 8th Avenue between June 26 and July 6. Then the contents of 101 Ash Street will be liquidated, with the current lease coming to an end on July 17. "HQ New!" incorporates the latest in efficiency technology and sustainable materials, and will include three times as much meeting room space, increased onsite parking, and solar panels. Open collaboration and community space on the south side of each work floor overlooks Petco Park. Here's a link to a web cam view, facing west - <http://www.earthcam.net/projects/sempraenergy/>.

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Alumni Association Web Site
For updates between "Retiree Times" mailings or to read about volunteer opportunities go to our web site at:
www.sdgealumniassoc.org

SDG&E Alumni Association 2014 Board

President	Samm McDonald	858-229-9671
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Spring into Energy Savings and Safety

Spring time means home and yard improvement projects. Get your home inside and out ready for the season with these helpful tips.

Inside the home

Discovering how and what is using energy in your home is the first step to understanding where your biggest energy-saving opportunities lie. Take SDG&E's energy survey and get a customized report with energy-saving recommendations.

- Simply log into sdge.com/myaccount.
- Click on the "My Energy" tab
- Click on My Energy Survey.



For more information and a step-by-step guide, visit http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m16740732_sdarc_senior_disaster_booklet.pdf.

Outside the Home

Planning to plant a tree or install a fence or deck? WAIT! Here's what you need to know first. Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job requires a call – even small projects like planting trees and shrubs. Gas pipelines can be located anywhere – under streets, sidewalks and, yes, even in your yard. Damaging a pipeline can cause a dangerous break or leak, can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and can result in injury or expense.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Calling 811 before every digging job gets your underground utility lines marked for free and helps prevent undesired consequences. For more information about staying safe visit

<http://www.sdge.com/safety/gas-safety/dial-811-you-dig>.

SDG&E Kicks Off \$1 Million Charitable Giving Campaign to Inspire Future Leaders

Funding will benefit programs for local, underserved K-12 students

On Feb. 12, SDG&E kicked off its 5th annual Inspiring Future Leaders initiative (<http://www.sdge.com/community/inspiring>) during a luncheon at San Diego's new downtown library. The \$1 million charitable giving campaign provides grants to local non-profit organizations that focus on developing youth leaders through mentoring; leadership and character development; college and workforce preparation; and, science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs for underserved K-12 students.

Through a competitive request-for-proposal process, the initiative will award grants up to \$25,000 for individual organizations and \$50,000 for collaborative projects to selected non-profits. Organizations have until March 19 to apply; SDG&E anticipates making grant awards in April.

California's Rate Modernization Is Underway

Hundreds of thousands of San Diegans currently pay more than they should for electricity because California's energy rate model is broken. Recognizing the need for comprehensive electric rate reform to minimize the burden of high electricity bills on San Diego families, a diverse group of community leaders and citizens has joined together to form the Fix My Energy Bill Coalition (www.fixmyenergybill.com).

SDG&E's Rate Reform proposal is currently before the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). On March 17, the City of San Diego is going to vote on whether or not they are going to formally oppose the SDG&E Rate Reform Proposal. If you are a SDG&E customer in tiers 3 and 4, you are encouraged to weigh in and help ensure the San Diego City Council understands that for many of our customers, it isn't a reality to simply conserve enough. Many of our customers live in eastern portions of our region where summer temperatures necessitate the use of air conditioning, pushing them into the upper tiers and leading them to pay increasingly higher bills.

If you live in the city of San Diego, you can show your support of SDG&E's proposal by attending the March 17 City Council meeting or by contacting your councilperson.

Retired and Deceased Retirees

See <http://www.sdgealumniassoc.org/id7.html>.

Deceased in 2014

Arthur W Colburn-Aug

Sylvia B Meza-Oct

Jane G Comerford-Aug
 James R Cooley-Oct
 Robert F Edwards-Nov
 William H Fitch-Oct
 Gary R Gebhardt-Jan
 Ed Goodwin-Dec
 David L Hopkins-Nov
 Theodore V Kasitz-Nov
 Anthony Klopper-Dec
 Darwin K Leonard-Oct
 Brian H Mayo-Nov

Valma Mosby-Nov
 Cecil Pierce, Jr-Dec
 James D Renshaw-Oct
 James E Robinson-Dec
 John E Sewell-Oct
 Gordon H Simmons-Dec
 Ivan J Swartz-Nov
 Leon W Tittle-Aug
 Nathaniel N Wallace-Nov
 Donald C Williamson-Dec
 Dorothy L Woodgate-Dec

Deceased in 2015

Jim Freund-Feb
 J R Gowen-Jan
 Roger W Lutes-Jan

Mary Means-Mar
 Ralph L Meyer-Jan
 Oscar B Reano-Jan

Retired in 2014

Teresa Acuna-Aug
 Hope Anderson-Dec
 John Covey-Aug
 Robert W Fox-May
 Victor R Gonzales-Dec
 Lavern E Griffin-Nov 2003
 Doug Hendericks-Dec
 Michael Jackson-Jul
 Jack Keane
 Dan LaMar-Aug
 Jackie McHugh-Dec

Ken Penyak-Dec
 Thomas Pete Peterson-Aug
 Joe Rowley-Jun
 Ronald Smith-Aug
 Johnny Soto-Dec
 Gerald Tilton-Mar 2007
 Nancy Tilton-Aug
 Lynn Trexel-Jun
 Jeff Woodard-Dec
 Dave Wysocki-Dec

Retired in 2015

Yvonne Hicks-Mar
 Joel Pointon-Apr

Lou Roubitchek-Jan

Alumni Interviews

This is the sixth in our series of Alumni Interviews in the *Retiree Times*. If you have ideas for people to interview or would like us to ask other questions, please email Samm McDonald at samm@samm-mcdonald.com. Visit our website, where past issues of the eNewsletter and *Retiree Times* are archived; or sign up for the eNewsletter.

Chuck Wright



Charles (Chuck) B Wright was hired as a Field Assistant in September 1965, assigned to Southern Operating District (SOD) in Otay. He was promoted to Lineman in 1969 and worked as a Relief Electric

Troubleman, Overhead and Underground Working Foreman at SOD and then moved to Dells (Metro) after SOD closed.

Chuck worked as Construction Methods Foreman, Senior Line Foreman, Field Services Supervisor, Underground Electric Supervisor, Project Coordinator and retired as Electric Distribution Operations Manager.

After retiring on January 1, 2001, he played golf 5-7 days per week and did part-time maintenance at Steele Canyon golf course. After 14 months, Jorge DaSilva gave him a job in Construction Services, developing safety and training programs for contractor crews. He also conducted frequent field visits to ensure compliance with these standards. Chuck worked there for another three years and finally retired for good ... or so he thought.

He moved back to his home town in Rockmart, Georgia in 2005, and in 2007 he became the interim manager at his country club in Cedartown, GA where he worked for two years.

Two amazing things have happened to Chuck since moving back to Rockmart. First, he had a good friend when he was in the Navy in 1959 and they had lost contact after his friend got out of the service and returned to his home town of Miami, FL in 1961. Chuck spent many hours over 47 years trying to find him. He finally found him in Rockmart just after he moved back. He was building the local Walmart store and was pictured on the front page of the weekly newspaper! The two friends are happily reunited.

Secondly, and most important: he was standing outside the principal's office (who's not surprised at this?) at the beginning of his sophomore year in high school and he saw the prettiest girl ever. Her name was Shelba Ann Statham and Chuck was instantly in love. His middle sister was born a few weeks later and he talked his Mom into naming her Shelba Ann.

Shelba Ann Statham and Chuck began dating a year after he moved back to Rockmart and after three years, they married. Chuck says she is still the prettiest lady, inside and out.

Chuck and Shelba Ann have two rental homes and they have an acre lot so he works harder today than he probably ever did ... but in much shorter spurts!

His son Greg and youngest daughter Courtney are still in San Diego and Chuck and Shelba Ann visit San Diego fairly often. Greg is an electrician with Fuller Electric and

Courtney is the Special Education Administrator with Oceanside School District. His oldest daughter, Denise, is in Seaside, Oregon and has a business there. He’s been blessed with three grand girls and one grand boy!

Chuck says the best thing about retirement is that he can set his own schedule (except for doctors) and do whatever he wants to do ... unless something breaks! But, most things he can fix and he knows how to call the plumber!

“For me, there is no such thing as retirement, I have to stay busy. If I’m out of projects I find something to do for others less fortunate. That is so gratifying,” says Wright. “Most of the male members of my family play guitar and sing old gospel and cow jazz songs. My cousin and I play and sing each month for three nursing/assisted living homes.”

Chuck has many fond memories of SDG&E but his favorite was when a very good friend misplaced his company car! But his memories of all the wonderful friends he made over 35 years cause him many teary eyes when he thinks back. “SDGE was all I ever really knew and I know there was no better place for this boy to spend his life’s work.”

Living in the town where he grew up gives Chuck pause for good memories, too. High school football is big in

Rockmart and he’s always likely to run into someone who remembers when he played. He’ll always take time out of his busy day to make time for his friends. “Give me five minute’s notice and I’ll meet ya! 15 minutes later I will have shown you my whole town!”

See interviews at <http://sdgealumniassoc.org/id16.html>.

Reminders

Update your address!

Please notify the Retiree Service Center when you move. This is the address Sempra uses to notify you of any changes and also where this Newsletter is mailed. Contact the My Retirement Information line at 866-491-3316 or visit MyRetirement at <https://www.benefitsweb.com/sempra.html>.

Retired and Deceased Employees

If you have any information regarding a newly retired or deceased SDG&E Alumni Member, please contact Alice Myers at 858-278-3803 or amollyputz@san.rr.com. We need your help! SDG&E cannot provide us this info.

Annual Holiday Luncheon

The annual holiday luncheon will be held Wednesday, December 9, 2015 at the Scottish Rite Event Center.

-----✂----- **DIRECTORY-Sign up here** -----✂-----

If you are already listed in the SDG&E Alumni Association directory, there is no need to submit your information again, unless it has changed. Your information will continue to be included in future editions of the directory. If you need to update your information in the directory or would like to be added to the directory, please provide the information requested below–or enter the information at our website (Directory tab) at www.sdgealumniassoc.org. Please check one of the categories below to indicate membership status. Eligible members are:

- 1 ___ SDG&E Retiree
- 2 ___ SDG&E Employee with at least 25 years of service on 12/31/97
- 3 ___ Former SDG&E employee 55+ years of age (if not SDG&E retired, will receive newsletters only if checked)
- 4 ___ Spouse of deceased member

You may e-mail your information to Penney Newell at pnewell@semprautilities.com or mail the form to SDG&E Alumni Assn, c/o Penney Newell, 101 Ash Street, HQ10B, San Diego CA 92101. Current laws prohibit SDG&E from providing any personal information.

Name (please print): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

Phone (include area code): _____ Cell: _____

E-Mail: _____ Year Hired: _____ Year Retired: _____ Month Retd: _____

Veteran Status (optional, circle one): Merchant Marine, USAF, US Army, USCG, US Navy, USMC, Other: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Electronic directory OK? (Y/N): ___ Electronic newsletters OK? (Y/N): ___ OK to share your info with SDG&E? (Y/N): ___