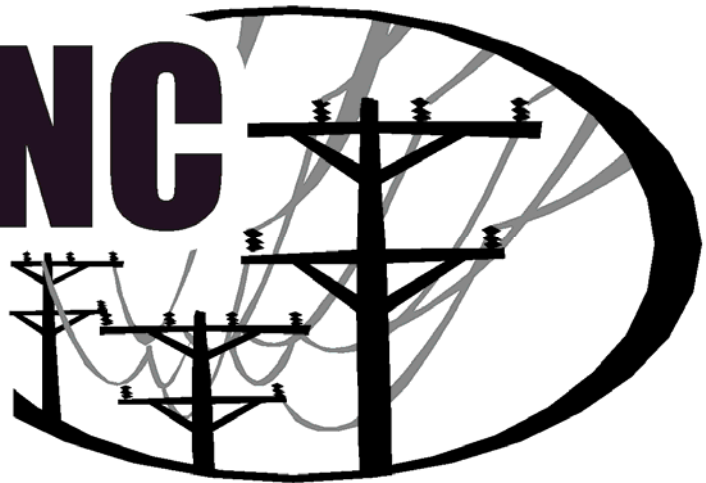


# SCS/SNC OUTSIDE



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Volume 30, September - October 2018 No. 5

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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

Our next meeting will be on September 11. I remember where I was on 9/11, almost 17 years ago. I'm sure you do, too. It was a turning point in our history and a day we will never forget. Our parents felt that way about December 7, 1941, when Pearl Harbor was devastated by a surprise attack. Over 2,000 Americans died that day, but it helped plunge us into World War II where an estimated 400,000 or more Americans died.

Similarly, September 11 launched our war on terror sending military troops into combat in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. Your family may have been directly impacted as our children and grandchildren responded to the call to pursue our attackers and fight terrorism around the world. Maybe you were called up by the Guard or Reserves. The first casualty in our response to the 9/11 attacks was an Alabamian — CIA officer Johnny "Mike" Spann — an Auburn graduate, native of Winston County, and former Marine.

So, where were you on September 11, 2001? Like many of you, I was at my desk in Inverness, many miles from New York City, the Pentagon or Pennsylvania. I got a voice mail message from my sister to get to a TV. Something about the trade towers. I ignored it and kept working. One of my co-

workers said a plane has hit one of the towers. When I got to the elevator to go down to the cafeteria, another employee stepped off and said, "It just collapsed!" with a stunned look

I'll never forget. What in the world was happening? Were we being attacked right here in America? With all our defenses, we never dreamed that could happen.

As the day went on, we learned that we were being attacked by terrorists using our own airliners. As the week went on, we kept waiting for the other shoe to drop as we began to realize how vulnerable we really were to an attacker that put no value on his own life. What about all the ships and trucks and planes bringing goods into our cities? Were they safe or loaded with bombs?

Thankfully, it's been almost 17 years and there have been no attacks like we experienced on 9/11. Many, we are told, have been detected and thwarted. Some have succeeded, like at the Boston Marathon, but casualties have been relatively few and the attackers have been caught. We live in a far safer America, but one that will never be the same. We have given up freedoms to gain security. What a difference one day can make.

At our next meeting, we will hear a personal account of how that day affected a former employee at SCS. Please don't miss it.

**Jim Blackmon**

Got a computer? Visit the SCS Retiree website  
[www.scsretirees.com](http://www.scsretirees.com)

**SCS OUTSIDE**  
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**SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER SCS/SNC MEMBERS' BIRTHDAY LIST**

**September**

1 Bobby West  
1 James O. Welch  
2 Keith Tenney  
3 Linda Chastain  
3 Paul B. Pollan  
4 John M. Giddens  
4 Carol Newton  
6 Charlotte Snellgrove  
6 Larry Weaver  
7 Mary Burgess  
7 John L. Gwin  
8 Jeane Rayburn  
9 Rebecca Farris  
10 Wayne Carr  
10 Gisela Hancock  
11 Gene Kachelhofer  
11 Bob Patrick  
11 Bill Ponder  
11 Alice Smith  
12 Virginia Bidy  
12 Fred Ehrensperger  
12 John Hall  
12 Raymond Herrin  
12 Rick Kaster  
12 Donald Sims  
13 Ginger Coker  
13 Betsy Kopecky  
13 Grady Luster  
13 Carol Yeager  
15 Janice Hovey  
15 Doug Maxwell  
15 Tom Mueller  
15 Johnny G. Noyes  
17 Juanita Leonard  
17 Martha Price  
17 Sarah Tackett  
17 Charles Yates  
18 Byron Rex Yance  
19 John Schmith  
22 Jamie Anderson

**September Birthdays (Cont'd)**

22 Sharon Kay Venez  
23 Kathy Jones  
24 Paula Ackley  
24 Francieta Lewis  
24 Mary Varagona  
25 Ron Cheeley  
26 Liz Winter  
27 Frank Harris  
27 Terry Mitchell  
27 Robert Oedamer  
28 Bill Thurman  
29 Mark Orr  
29 Max Warren Phillips  
29 Gerald Prince  
30 Subhash Datta  
30 Jerry Hall  
30 Mac Sumrall, Jr.

**October**

1 Bill Hanks, Jr.  
2 Bonita Burford  
2 Tricia Logan  
2 Mary Alice Thurman  
3 Carol Alldredge  
3 Donald Moore  
4 Donald Riendeau  
5 Patricia Hollis  
6 Glenda Beason  
6 Bobby Goodwin  
7 Eldridge Cook  
7 Mark H. Lovett  
7 Mary Weaver  
9 Luverne Blackwood  
9 Don Franks  
9 Billy Ray Thornton  
10 Teresa McCrillis  
11 Rebecca Franklin  
12 Michael Ray Dickinson  
12 Cathy Eidson  
12 Regina Troulias

**SCS OUTSIDE**  
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**October Birthdays (Cont'd)**

13 Gayle Price  
13 Sherry Rana  
13 Andy Sheppard  
14 Brenda Hall  
14 Diane Milton  
14 Rhonda Talmadge  
14 Yolanda Wilkins  
16 Robert Dunn  
16 Frank Studinka  
16 Ivette Williams  
18 John R. Carter  
18 Billie Ewing  
18 James Ludwig  
18 Kevin Mark Patton  
19 Bonnie Russell  
20 Rhonda Cook  
21 Robert E. Elliott  
21 Dianne Murray  
22 Ernestine Craig  
22 Jane Salter  
23 Hal Miner  
24 Don Burdeshaw  
26 James Blackmon  
26 Mindy Long  
26 Ken Turnage  
26 Jeffery White  
27 Pat Cofield  
27 Robin Cox  
27 Donna Johnson  
27 John J. Mitchell  
27 Patti Price  
27 Pam Stringfellow  
28 Tinya Wetzel  
30 John Weeks Box  
30 Howard Mahan  
30 Jeanne Otts  
30 Stan Riley  
31 Cheryl Maxwell

**John W. Jones**, age 88, from Gadsden, Al., passed away April 24, 2018 in Gadsden. He was a member of our organization and retired from Southern Nuclear in 1992.

**Bernie Rogers Matthews**, of Montgomery, Alabama, passed away on July 13, 2018. Bernie is survived by his wife, Deborah Smith Matthews; son, John Matthews; sister, Nita Schillaci (Al); brother, Glen Matthews (Jackie); special niece, Allison Baxley (David); great nephew, Brooks Baxley; special nephew, Eric Wilson (Alyssa); great nephew, Alec Wilson and many other nieces and nephews.

**Gerald E. Neyman**, 80, of Birmingham and Highlands, N.C., passed away on August 9, 2018. He is survived by his wife, Joan, children Greg Neyman and Kimberly Simpson, two stepchildren, nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents, Leona and Maurice, and brother.

**Jack Allen Redd**, age 74, passed away on Tuesday, July 3, 2018. Jack was predeceased by his parents, James Cecil and Evelyn Redd, and his brother Robert Redd. Survivors include Jack's wife, Nancy Mott Redd; two daughters, Amy Redd Bell (David) and Laurie Redd Shows (Stephen); six grandchildren, Jackson Shows, Luke Shows, Elliotte Bell, Elizabeth Shows, Harper Bell, and Brooks Bell; three brothers, Cecil Redd, Tom Redd, and Bernie Redd; one sister, Wanda Redd Mount; and dozens of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

**Anthony Joseph Topazi**, age 68, passed away at home on July 6, 2018. Anthony is survived by his wife of 45 years, Patsy; sons, Michael Topazi and Chris Topazi (Debbie). Also, four grandchildren – Evelyn, Anthony, Mary and Thomas; his sister Joye McBee (Tom) and brother Gerald Topazi (Shelby).

**OBITUARIES**

**James Rowe Crane**, age 79, passed away on July 5, 2018, at his home in Hoover, AL. James is survived by his wife of 59 years, Jeanette; sons, Jimmy (Karen), Casey, and Philip; nine grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and twin brother, Charles Crane.

**FROM FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

**Note from Jeanette Crane:**

"SCS Retirees: Thank you for your kindness and thoughtfulness. The gift to our church will go into the Congregational Care & Counseling Fund."

**SCS OUTSIDE**  
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**MEMBER CARE**

If you know of any member who is sick or has a death in his or her family that you would like to share, please contact Patsy Evans at (205) 991-7900.

We also like to hear good news.

**IMPORTANT – TIME-SENSITIVE  
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!!!**

It is time to submit nominations for the 2019 SCS/SNC Retiree officers and Board of Directors members. If you or any member that you know would like to serve as vice president, treasurer, secretary, or as a Board of Directors member, please submit your nomination by Friday, September 7 to **Rick Graham at (205) 807-1890 or dricharlo@gmail.com.**

**SEPTEMBER MEETING DETAILS:**

On Tuesday September 11 at 1:00 p.m., we meet again at the Energy Center, the new SCS/SNC offices at the Colonnade. Address is 3535 Colonnade Parkway, Birmingham AL 35242. We are meeting in North Tower, 6th floor, Room 600.

Please allow ample time to find parking and sign in at the North Tower. At this time, the cafeteria will not be open yet, so you may wish to eat at the nearby restaurants of the Colonnade. The Alabama Power Company (APCO) Credit Union HAS relocated to the first floor of the North Tower.

Our September 11 program features George Marling, Senior Consultant in Southern Company Benefits. We are delighted to have George back with us to provide a high-level overview of the benefits program and take questions from the audience. This talk is customary before we sign up for benefits this fall and is a great way to have face-to-face discussion of any changes. (see last page of newsletter for benefits list.)

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**Retiree Lifestyle Segment:**

As our meeting falls on the 17th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, Luella Brown, retired CIO Coastal Region of Southern Company, will be kicking off our meeting with a timely talk on the personal experiences on that fateful day. Luella's son was in the military in the Pentagon when the attacks occurred. Her story of the many events around that cataclysmic day is compelling and inspirational.

Where were you when the world stopped turning? Many of us were at work on September 11, 2001 when the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center began and news began to filter in. When we learned that the Pentagon was also attacked, we realized that this was a full-scale battle. Luella's memories of that day would qualify as any parent's worst nightmare—her son was in the military and assigned to the Pentagon the day of the attacks. The many events preceding and on that actual day are a story of faith and grace, on the most evil day in modern times.



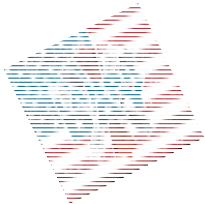
Luella Brown is the retired Chief Information Officer for the Coastal Region of Southern Company, which was comprised of Gulf & Mississippi Power and Southern Company Services. She's held various leadership positions in Information Technology at Southern Company Services with 39 years of service. She holds a BA degree from Mercer University in Organizational Leadership. She is a recipient of the Turknett Leadership Award for Executive Management, The Inclusive Workplace Award and the Women of Color All Star Award for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. She is an ordained minister and currently serves as the Assistant Pastor at Joy of Faith Christian Ministries, where she oversees the Women and Praise Ministries. She also serves in the Christian Counseling ministry at Joy of Faith. She is married to Marvin Brown and they are the proud parents of 4 children and 9 grandchildren. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, watching college sports and teaching on the End Times.

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Do you know the latest information about retiree benefits from Southern Company? George Marling, Sr. will provide a 15-minute high-level overview on the benefits programs and then open it up for questions from the audience. Actual costs of insurance are not yet available but will be published during enrollment period. The good news is that changes are minimal this year.

George Marling currently works in Southern Company Benefits as a Sr. Consultant. Marling joined Southern Company in 2000 as a recruiter for Southern Company Generation and Alabama Power. In 2001, he assumed the role of HR Business Consultant for Engineering and Construction Services. In 2005, he assumed the same role supporting Competitive Generation, Southern Power and Generation Finance. Marling earned a bachelor's degree from Atlanta Christian College in Human Resource Management. Originally from Eaton, Ohio, George and his wife Brandi currently live in Calera, Alabama. They have 5 children Drew, Hannah, Olivia, Ben and Maggie. George enjoys hunting and fishing and college sports.



### **Labor Day Facts**

- The first celebrated US Labor Day was on Tuesday, September 5, 1882 in New York City, planned by the Central Labor Union.
- 10,000 workers marched from City Hall all the way to 42nd Street and then met with their

families in Wendel's Elm Park for a picnic, concert, and speeches.

- Canada is said to have originated the idea of hosting a day honoring the labor movement. In 1872, they held a "Nine-Hour Movement" to show support for striking workers.
- There is disagreement about who proposed Labor Day as a holiday. Some say it was Peter J. McGuire, who was the cofounder of the American Federation of Labor. Others believe that it was Matthew Maguire, a machinist.
- Oregon was the first state to celebrate Labor Day as a legal holiday in 1887.
- The decision to make Labor Day the first Monday of September was approved on June 28, 1894.
- Labor Day started as a part of the labor union movement, to recognize the contributions of men and women in the US workforce, but modernly is seen as a chance to celebrate the last weekend of summer.
- Americans worked 12-hour days seven days a week during the 19th century!
- The Adamson Act was passed on September 3, 1916 to establish an eight-hour work day.
- Historians say the expression "no white after Labor Day" comes from when the upper class would return from their summer vacations and stow away their lightweight, white summer clothes as they returned to school and work.
- There is still a Labor Day parade in New York City, which takes place throughout the 20 blocks north of the 1882 labor march.



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### **History Behind Halloween**

- Halloween celebrates the Christian holiday of All Hallows Eve (followed by All Saints Day on



## **Humor – The Best Medicine!**

### **Church Bloopers**

- November 1). But the Christian holiday is likely rooted in the Celtic holiday, Samhein, or a number of other pre-Christian harvest festivals.
- In Great Britain, Jack-O-Lanterns are traditionally made from turnips. The Halloween custom came to America through Irish immigrants, and since turnips weren't cheap state-side, Americans used pumpkins. Today, pumpkins are used worldwide, to the disappointment of turnip farmers everywhere.
  - The Jack-O-Lantern tradition comes from another Celtic tale. Jack tricked the Devil into paying for his drink, so the Devil gave Jack a hellish ember. But crafty Jack placed the ember safely into a turnip, which he carved and carried with him to scare away any future hellish encounters.
  - Pumpkin carving in bulk is a popular Guinness World Record. The proud Halloween enthusiasts of Highwood, Illinois took the record in 2011 with 30,919 simultaneously lit Jack-O-Lanterns.
  - Trick or Treating has a short history. In 19th century Scotland and Ireland, there is some record of children travelling door-to-door praying for souls or performing for money or cakes on All Hallows Eve. The tradition is a short step from the medieval practice of souling, in which beggars went door to door on October 31 to pray for souls in return for food.
  - Sugar rationing in Europe and America from WWI and WWII kept kids off candy until the late 1940s. Radio programs at the time joked that children would have to explain to adults what trick or treating was, and many adult groups opposed the practice as it encouraged extortion and begging.
  - A 1951 *Peanuts* comic strip can be credited with the popular spread of trick or treating as we know it nationwide. So, dress up as Snoopy if you want to be historically accurate.
  - Oh, and candy-makers are pretty happy about the fact that Halloween is a \$6 billion industry.

- Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Methodist. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.
- On a church bulletin during the minister's illness: GOD IS GOOD; Dr. Hargreaves is better.
- Applications are now being accepted for 2-year-old nursery workers.
- The pastor will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, "Break Forth Into Joy."
- Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Nelson's sermons.
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Belzer, the son of Reverend and Mrs. Julius Belzer.
- Don't let worry kill you off – let the church help.
- Let us join David and Lisa in the celebration of their wedding and bring their happiness to a conclusion.
- Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 to 8:30p.m. Please use the back door.
- The audience is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession.
- The choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.
- Women's Luncheon: Each member bring a sandwich. Polly Phillips will give the medication.
- Announcement in the church bulletin for a National PRAYER & FASTING conference: "*The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer conference includes meals.*"
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

## Benefits Reference List

### Southern Company Benefits Center ..... Telephone: 1-888-435-7563

Log on to: <http://digital.alight.com/southernco>

- Pension plan • Life insurance • Accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) insurance
- Annual enrollment • Other: Address changes, beneficiary changes, tax withholding forms, direct deposit changes and death reporting.

To protect your privacy and to verify you are a Southern Company retiree, you will be asked for (1) the last four digits of your Social Security number; (2) your date of birth; and (3) your password in order to speak to a Hewitt representative. Representatives are available Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Central Time.

Hewitt user name (website only) \_\_\_\_\_  
Hewitt password \_\_\_\_\_

### Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama ..... Telephone: 1-800-232-3973

Log on to: [www.bcbsal.org](http://www.bcbsal.org)

Medical plan – Verify coverage, claims questions and replacement ID card.

### VIVA Health ..... Telephone: 1-877-320-7504

Log on to: [www.vivahealth.com/apco](http://www.vivahealth.com/apco)

Medical plan – Verify coverage, claims questions and replacement ID card.

### CVS/Caremark ..... Telephone: 1-800-843-5670

Log on to: [www.caremark.com](http://www.caremark.com)

Prescription drug plan – Verify coverage, mail-order prescriptions and replacement ID card.

### Delta Dental ..... Telephone: 1-866-823-4616

Log on to: [www.deltadentalins.com/southernco](http://www.deltadentalins.com/southernco)

Dental plan – Verify coverage, claims questions and replacement ID card.

### Expanded coverage for preventative vaccinations ..... Telephone: 1-800-843-5670

Retirees, employees, and dependents covered by the company's medical plan can now receive standard preventative vaccinations at no cost, including shingles and Tdap (whooping cough). Vaccinations can be received at either a doctor's office with your medical ID card or at a pharmacy in the CVS/Caremark network with your prescription ID Card.

Please call your doctor's office or pharmacy in advance to confirm vaccine availability, age limitations, if a prescription is required and if an appointment is needed. For more information, contact your medical insurance carrier or CVS/Caremark at 1-800-843-5670.

### Merrill Lynch ..... Telephone: 1-800-369-9890

Log on to: [www.benefits.ml.com](http://www.benefits.ml.com)

Employee Savings Plan

### Computershare – Shareowner Services ..... Telephone: 1-800-554-7626

Southern Company stockholder information.

### Alabama Power website

Log on to: [AlabamaPower.com](http://AlabamaPower.com)

For company news, be sure to check Alabama Power's website daily. It's all at your fingertips: Pay your bill online, report an outage, learn energy-saving tips and get "the latest buzz" through Facebook and Twitter.

### APCO Employees Credit Union ..... Telephone: 1-800-249-2726 -or- 205-226-6800

Log on to: [www.apcocu.org](http://www.apcocu.org)

Financial services available to retirees and employees, including direct deposit.

**SCS OUTSIDE**  
*September-October 2018*

**2018 Leadership**

**Officers**

President: Jim Blackmon - 205-980-9852 Vice  
Vice-President: Teresa McCrillis- 912-293-4247  
Treasurer: Fred Ehrensperger - 205-655-2725  
Secretary: Peggy Burdeshaw - 205-608-9636

**Directors**

John Brandt - 205-956-0502  
Walt Dean - 205-879-5775  
Jack Goertz - 205-991-7766  
Jim Gordy - 205-290-2186  
Dennis Read - 205-879-6617  
John McCoy (Ex-Officio) 205-285-4843

**Committee Chairs**

Arrangements: Doris Hardy - 205-426-2435  
Audit: OPEN  
Fellowship: Donna Johnson -205-979-1136  
Jackie Imbusch - 205-991-8472  
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: Amy Houston –  
[bchgrayton@aol.com](mailto:bchgrayton@aol.com)  
Website: Cary Campbell - 205-641-9137



**SCS OUTSIDE**  
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**SCS/SNC RETIREES**  
**P.O. BOX 2625**  
**BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202**

**MEETING DETAILS:**

**When:** September 11, 2018

**Where:** SCS/SNC Offices at the Colonnade  
3535 Colonnade Parkway  
Birmingham AL 35242

**Time:** 1:00 p.m.