

# SDG&E Retiree Times

## February 2017

### President's Message



We had a wonderful turnout for our Annual Alumni Association Luncheon on December 6! Thanks to all of you who were able to make it. The food was delicious; the opportunity drawing was fabulous; and renewing old friendships was the best! Special thanks to Joyce Kelly and her committee for planning the event and to Dan LaMar for stepping in to emcee again. Mark your calendars for our 2017 luncheon; it will be held on Tuesday, December 5, at the Scottish Rite Event Center. We welcome your input on what we can do to make this event better for you. What went right? What went wrong? What would you do differently? And, aside from the Annual Luncheon, are there any other events that we could coordinate for our retirees? My email address is on the bottom of this newsletter. Please send me your ideas!

Your President,  
Samm McDonald

### SDG&E Unveils World's Largest Lithium Ion Battery Storage Facility

*New facility, built in partnership with AES Energy Storage, will enhance regional energy reliability while maximizing renewable energy use*

SAN DIEGO, Feb. 24, 2017 – Today, SDG&E is showcasing the world's largest lithium-ion battery energy storage facility in partnership with AES Energy Storage, which will enhance regional energy reliability while maximizing renewable energy use. The 30 megawatt (MW) energy storage facility is capable of storing up to 120 megawatt hours of energy, the energy equivalent of serving 20,000 customers for four hours.

Last year, the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) directed Southern California investor-owned electric utilities to fast-track additional energy storage options to enhance regional energy reliability. In response, SDG&E expedited ongoing negotiations and contracted with AES Energy Storage to build two projects for a total of 37.5 MW of lithium ion battery energy storage. In addition to

the 30 MW facility built in Escondido, Calif., a smaller 7.5 MW installation was built in El Cajon.

"San Diego County is a community of leadership and innovation, so it is only fitting that this community should receive the benefit of this unique project," said Scott Drury, SDG&E's president. "For more than a decade, we have been at the forefront to deliver results consistent with state and local clean energy and carbon emission goals. These projects affirm our commitment to deliver clean energy to customers and to provide a more reliable power supply to our electric grid when it is most needed."

The 400,000 batteries, similar to those in electric vehicles, were installed in nearly 20,000 modules and placed in 24 containers. The batteries will act like a sponge, soaking up and storing energy when it is abundant – when the sun is shining, the wind is blowing and energy use is low – and releasing it when energy resources are in high demand. This will provide reliable energy when customers need it most, and maximize the use of renewable resources such as solar and wind.

"SDG&E is a leader in providing clean, reliable power to their customers, and we're honored that they chose Advancion energy storage to serve their needs," said John Zahurancik, AES Energy Storage president. "These two projects, including the world's largest advanced energy storage site, are the latest proof of energy storage's capacity to scale up and solve our most pressing grid issues in a short period."

Energy storage is playing a key role in SDG&E's commitment to delivering clean, safe and reliable energy. By 2030, the company expects to develop or interconnect more than 330 MWs of energy storage on the system. These projects can help support the delivery of more renewables to customers and help strengthen SDG&E's record as the most reliable utility in the West.

SDG&E is an innovative San Diego-based energy company that provides safe, reliable, clean energy to better the lives of the people it serves in San Diego and southern Orange counties. More than 4,100 employees work to provide the

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### **Alumni Association Web Site**

Visit our web site at:  
**[www.sdgealumniassoc.org](http://www.sdgealumniassoc.org)**  
and our Facebook page at  
**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/408831429206094/>**

### **SDG&E Alumni Association 2017 Board**

President	Samm McDonald	858-229-9671
Vice-President	Sue Weinmeister	619-283-3273
Secretary	Cindy Young	858-541-2247
Treasurer	Ken Clay	619-820-2057

Directors at Large: Gloria Bowker, Jerry Crouch, Sally Chew, Joyce Kelly, Irene Krepak, Alice Myers, Charlyne Oslin-Smith, Vee Pitt, Jim Teeter  
SDG&E Corporate Advisor: Gabe Gutierrez

cleanest and most reliable energy in the West. The company has been recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for leadership in addressing climate change, was the first to meet California's goal of delivering 33 percent of energy from renewable sources, has fueled the adoption of electric vehicles and energy efficiency through unique customer programs, and supports more than 600 non-profit partners. SDG&E is a subsidiary of Sempra Energy (NYSE: SRE), a Fortune 500 energy services holding company based in San Diego. For more information visit [SDGNews.com](http://SDGNews.com) or connect with SDG&E on Twitter (@SDGE), Instagram (@SDGE) and Facebook.

### **SDG&E Leads US in Undergrounding Power Lines**

*Innovation and collaboration key to undergrounding more than 10,000 miles of power lines (from [www.sdgenews.com](http://www.sdgenews.com))*

Every day, the employees of SDG&E are hard at work to ensure everyone—including families, healthcare providers, schools and local businesses—have the energy they need, because when the power goes off, it impacts our customers.



One way SDG&E works to improve electric reliability is by working with cities and customers to underground power lines. Placing power lines underground reduces the risk of outages caused by car accidents, high winds during storms and other adverse factors, while improving neighborhood views. The ultimate goal of this effort is to make the electrical system more reliable for our customers.

This drive to be a leader in reliability has led the company to underground more power lines than any investor-owned utility (IOU) in California. Today, SDG&E has more than 10,000 miles of underground distribution lines, which represents more than 60 percent of the system. SDG&E's undergrounding percentage is three times the national average.

### *An Innovative Approach to Undergrounding in the City of San Diego*

In 2003, the City of San Diego approved an innovative program to fund the undergrounding of power lines in

city neighborhoods by 2050. The goal of the surcharge is to underground as much of the city as possible by 2050. Since the program's inception, SDG&E has removed more than 5,000 power poles and undergrounded more than 200 miles of lines under the city's direction. Today, approximately 75 percent of power lines in the City of San Diego are underground.

This year, the city will assist in both the design and construction in at least two new underground projects. Click [here](#) to find out if your area is scheduled for undergrounding and to learn more about the Utilities Undergrounding Program or contact [undergrounding@sandiego.gov](mailto:undergrounding@sandiego.gov).

### **SDG&E Invention Spotlitged as One of San Diego's Most Innovative New Products**

November 8, 2016. Inspired by the growing demand for private solar, SDG&E invented the Renewable Meter Adapter, a device that helps make private solar safer, faster and more affordable for many SDG&E customers. The innovation, which was first introduced in August of 2015, has helped private solar customers collectively save more than \$5 million on the costs to go solar.



The Renewable Meter Adapter was invented to overcome a growing obstacle on the pathway to private solar—electrical panel upgrades. Typically, homes built before 1995—or nearly three quarters of American homes—require electric panel upgrades before connecting private solar. These upgrades, which can cost up to \$10,000, often include construction to walls, stucco and landscaping, introducing additional delays and permitting requirements.

Now, the Renewable Meter Adapter device can be purchased from SDG&E for \$1,326 and installed within 30 minutes, completing work that would have previously taken days and required additional electrical inspections and additional trips to the home by SDG&E. Check out [Connect's](#) spotlight on some of Cleantech's best and brightest innovations that are finalists in the Most Innovative New Product awards.

**Retired and Deceased Retirees**

For a full list of retired and deceased retirees, see our web archive, <http://www.sdgealumniassoc.org/id7.html>.

**Deceased in 2016**

John C Balint-Jan	David L Nickler-Feb
Betty Beckett-Apr	Edward D Peralto-Mar
Jane Coleman-Oct	David F Persing-Apr
Wally Dibb-May	Ed Price-Sep
Bryan J "BJ" Emry-Oct	Riley E Ramsey-Feb
Robert W Fox-Feb	James F Russell-Apr
Donald L Goodman-Oct	Louis Albert Smith-May
David E Hopkins-Mar	Martha Smith-Jun
Vernon H Jenson-Apr	Robert V Stein-Nov
John Gus Lekos-Jan	Lynn Marie Timony-Jan
John Lutes-Apr	Eugene Alvin Wich-Nov
James C Marek-Nov	Bob Wininger-Aug
Frank Marsman-Feb	

**Deceased in 2017**

Nenoa "Nona" Hoerger -Jan	Richard A Kliskey-Jan
Bob Hope-Feb	Kathy Rogallo -Jan
William Austin Jones-Jan	William "Rusty" Walker-Jan

**Retired in 2016**

Due to the large number of retirees in December 2016, please refer to the list of 2016 retirees on our web page at <http://www.sdgealumniassoc.org/id55.html>.

**Retired in 2017**

Tim Curtis-May	Gary Price-Mar
Dan Alvarez-Mar	Paul Santy-Jan
Scott DeBry-Jan	Irene Sarenana-Apr
Ernest Ferro-Feb	Joey Valdivia-Jan
Mike Friedberg-Jan	Fuzzy Youngkrantz-Jan
Mike Manry-Apr	

**Alumni Interviews**

This is the fourteenth in our series of Alumni Interviews in *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](mailto:samm@samm-mcdonald.com). Visit our website, where past issues of the eNewsletter and *Retiree Times* are archived; or sign up for the eNewsletter.

**Cheri McRoberts**

By Samm McDonald  
Cheri McRoberts began her career with SDG&E in 1970 where she worked in the Credit department in the El Cajon office. She also worked as a call-in customer service representative in El Cajon before moving to the Call

Center in San Diego as a full time employee in 1985. Shortly thereafter she joined the Center City office as a Customer Service Analyst for three years followed by positions in various offices as Rate Advisor, Billing Specialist and Marketing Customer Account Coordinator. In 1997 she moved to Sempra Energy Solutions as a Sr. Energy Information Consultant. She returned to SDG&E in 2001 as a Senior Account Executive and retired in 2012 as an Account Executive Segment Supervisor.



Cheri and her husband Bob love to travel and she enjoys cruising with another retired SDG&E couple, Muffy and Jack Richards. They recently vacationed in Aruba and are planning a cruise this April to the Western Caribbean. She also enjoys visiting four of her grandkids in the Bay area; her other three grandkids live all over the US

(North Carolina, Hawaii & Arizona).

She says the best thing about her retirement is not having to set her alarm every day; only when she wants! Her retirement philosophy is to enjoy every day to the fullest; and spread those chores throughout the week, not just on the week-end.

Gary Price

Cheri's fondest memories about SDG&E include the times when team work was promoted. She really enjoyed planning and participating in events like Office Olympics, "Fuzzy" Youngkrantz and more which promoted teams and management working together.

When asked what she could do now that she couldn't do when she was working, she said she has more time to do fun things like taking golf and piano lessons. She also ran a half marathon and did not finish in last place!

Cheri said that her retirement calendar is very full and that she has to make sure she reviews it every day, not only to be sure she doesn't miss an important activity but also to know what day of the week it is!

**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 MyRetirement Information line at 866-491-3316 or visit <https://www.benefitsweb.com/sempra.html>.

Remember to update your e-mail address, too! On our website see <http://www.sdgealumniassoc.org/id37.html>.

### Employee Discount Cards

If you move and forget this, it will cost you money. I know first-hand! It's enough when you forget to do something right, like filling out an employee discount card when you move. It's quite another when a service provider can't shake hands with current employees. So if you encounter the same problem I did, there's a work-around. If you call the SDG&E Call Center at 800-411-SDGE, they tell you that active employees get an employee discount from their timekeeper. Retirees don't have a timekeeper, so we are supposed to call the Retiree Service Center (RSC) at 866-491-3316 to obtain an employee discount card. Unfortunately, when you call the RSC, they refer you back to the SDG&E Call Center, who—you guessed it—refers you to the SDG&E Retiree Service Center. The work-around? Go to our website FAQ page and download a copy of the form with instructions where to return. See the FAQ page at <http://sdgealumniassoc.org/id45.html>. Right now

might be a good time to check your latest SDG&E bill to make sure you are still receiving your discount.

### 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](mailto:amollyputz@san.rr.com). We need your help! SDG&E cannot provide us this info.

### E-Newsletter

If you gave us your e-mail address, you're also receiving occasional electronic newsletter updates. If you haven't but would like to receive them, go to our website at [www.sdgealumniassoc.org](http://www.sdgealumniassoc.org) and click on the Directory link (E-mail Address Update page) and fill in the online form.

### Holiday Luncheon

Pictures from prior years are posted on our SDG&E Alumni Association Facebook page. We have no pictures from the 2016 Holiday luncheon, so we're looking for a volunteer for next year's event. Please contact committee chair Joyce Kelly at [JoyceAKelly@cox.net](mailto:JoyceAKelly@cox.net). The 2017 luncheon has been set for Tuesday, December 5 at the Scottish Rite Event Center. Hope to see you there!

----- ✂ ----- **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](http://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 Gabe Gutierrez at [ggutierrez2@semprautilities.com](mailto:ggutierrez2@semprautilities.com) or mail the form to SDG&E Alumni Assn, c/o Gabe Gutierrez, HQ08S2, P O Box 129831, San Diego CA 92112-0750. 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): \_\_\_