

SDG&E Retiree Times

January/February 2019 pg 1



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was great to see old friends and co-workers at our luncheon in December! Over 300 people attended, most decked out in the best Christmas attire. You can see some of the photos in this issue.....and on our Facebook page.

And, speaking of holidays, Valentine's Day will be here soon. There are several stories on how Valentine's Day got started. Valentine's Day is named after Saint Valentine, a Catholic priest who lived in Rome in the 3rd Century. There are many stories about St. Valentine and over time these stories grew into the legend we know today. At the time of Valentine's life, many Romans were converting to Christianity, but the Emperor Claudius II was a pagan and created strict laws about what Christians were allowed to do. Claudius believed that Roman soldiers should be completely devoted to Rome and therefore passed a law preventing them from marrying. St. Valentine began to marry these soldiers in secret Christian ceremonies and this was the beginning of his reputation for believing in the importance of love. Eventually Valentine was found out and jailed for his crimes against Claudius. While imprisoned, Valentine cared for his fellow prisoners and also his jailor's blind daughter. Legend has it that Valentine cured the girl's blindness and that his final act before being executed was to write her a love message signed 'from your Valentine'. Valentine was executed on February 14 in the year 270.

It wasn't until more than 200 years later that February 14 was proclaimed St. Valentine's Day. By this time Rome had become Christian and the Catholic Church was determined to stamp out any remaining paganism. A pagan fertility ritual was held in February each year and the Pope abolished this festival and proclaimed February 14 Saint Valentine's Day, thus establishing this feast day on the Catholic Calendar of Saints.

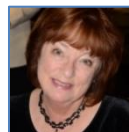
The poet Chaucer in the Middle Ages was the first to link St. Valentine with romantic love. This was the beginning of the tradition of courtly love, a ritual of expressing love and admiration, usually in secret. This custom spread throughout Europe and stories grew about a High Court of Love where female judges would rule on issues related to love on February 14 each year. Historians believe that these meetings were in fact gatherings where people read love poetry and played games of flirtation.

The practice of sending love messages developed into people sending special cards expressing their affection. These cards were beautiful creations handmade by the sender and individually designed to show how much they loved the recipient. Cards would usually contain sentimental verse, proclaiming the beauty of the receiver and how much they were loved.

Saint Valentine's cards were decorated with pictures of cupid, hearts and flowers and trimmed with lace and ribbon. These images are still used today to symbolize love and are recognized all over the world.

(source: rosesonly.com.au)

Hope you get to spend Valentine's Day with the people you love. Happy Valentine's Day from your Alumni Association Board!



Your President,
Samm McDonald

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Visit our website at:
www.sdgealumniassoc.org
and our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/408831429206094/>

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2018 annual meeting and holiday luncheon was a huge success!

The 2018 Alumni Luncheon was a day of celebrating with friends and former co-workers. There were about 300 members in attendance and it was a time to catch up and reconnect. Good comments and thanks were made by our guests. Many thanks to our speakers, Tom Page, Jim Tripoli, and Neil Freymiller. We also thank Laura Welty from the SDG&E Outreach team, who provided the 350 pens to help complete the “Alumni Interest survey”, and Cheri McRoberts for being the photographer. We also appreciate those who completed the survey. We will publish the results in an upcoming issue of the Retiree Times.

This year we offered electronic payment for the luncheon and had a great response. We hope this new feature made it easier to sign up and pay for it.

The 2019 Slate of Officers and Board Members were presented and elected during the meeting portion of lunch. They are listed on the first page of the newsletter.

Holiday luncheon fun



More pictures are posted on our Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/408831429206094>

SDG&E - A Look Back at 2018

With 2019 just starting out, it's time to take a moment to look back at 2018. We are very grateful for the ongoing collaboration with local organizations – in particular public safety agencies – to avert any major wildfires this past year.

Our community's safety is our No. 1 priority.

Our commitment to becoming America's cleanest, safest and most reliable energy company for the customers we are privileged to serve remains as strong as ever. It's the driving force for everything we accomplished in 2018 and plan to accomplish in 2019.

Here is a look back at our top ten milestones in 2018.

1. [Receiving the Edison Electric Institute's \(EEI's\) 2018 Edison Award](#)

EEI bestowed SDG&E with the electric power industry's most prestigious honor for enhancing wildfire preparedness and power grid resiliency to better protect our community. The last time we were honored with the Edison Award was in 1941, 77 years ago.

2. Greening Our Energy Supplies

Today, around 45 percent of the energy we deliver to customers is renewable and comes mostly from solar and wind power. There are no coal contracts providing power to our local grid. We have invested to upgrade our infrastructure so it can better accommodate the fluctuating nature of renewable energy, without destabilizing the power grid.

3. [Continuing to Drive Toward a Clean Transportation Future](#)

As part of our Power Your Drive program, we have built and energized about 2,000 electric vehicle (EV) chargers to date at workplaces, apartments and condominiums. We have also started construction on chargers at the Port of San Diego and San Diego Airport as part of our SB 350 Priority Review Projects.

In addition, we have EV infrastructure programs pending before the California Public Utilities Commission. If approved, we would build chargers for up to 3,000 medium-duty and heavy-duty vehicles and equipment, including school buses, public transit buses, trucks, and forklifts; and install chargers at parks, state beaches and educational institutions.



Be Scam Alert: Spike Seen in Scammers Targeting SDG&E Customers

There have been numerous scams reported by SDG&E customers. Here is a list that SDG&E has provided describing various types and how to recognize and respond to them.

- Phone scams
- Imposters at your door
- Scams Involving Cryptocurrencies and Prepaid cards
- Caller ID-spoofing
- Text message and mobile app scams

Click here for the full article
<http://www.sdgenews.com/article/be-scam-alert-spike-seen-scammers-targeting-sdge-customers>

SDG&E - A Look Back at 2018, continued

4. Garnering National Reliability Award

PA Consulting honored SDG&E with the National Reliability Award for superior performance among utilities in America. To be named the most reliable utility means electricity is available when customers need it, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year with fewer interruptions than what most utility customers experience throughout the country. The typical SDG&E customer experiences only one outage every two years.

SDG&E also received the "Regional Reliability Award" for the Western Region for the 13th consecutive year, and the "Outstanding Technology and Innovation" award for the second year in a row for using innovative technology to improve electric service.

5. Keeping Watch Over Our Region with SkyMaverick

Contracted by SDG&E to be stationed here year-round to protect our community, the Aircrane – SkyMaverick – made 275 water drops in 2018, totaling 248,621 gallons, to douse flames that could have morphed into serious wildfires.

6. Energy Storage

Major proposals have been developed (pending approval by the California Public Utilities Commission) to expand energy storage capacity to improve power grid reliability, integrate more renewables and enhance emergency preparedness. Under one proposal, we would add energy storage to support public sector facilities that provide safety, security and emergency services during power outages. A second proposal calls for building five new lithium-ion battery storage facilities. These proposals would strengthen the power grid with a total of up to 250 MWs of energy storage, in addition to the 83.6 MW of storage already in operation.

7. Responding to Customer Concerns

We filed a request with the California Public Utilities Commission to eliminate the state-mandated high usage charge, which impacted more than 105,000 customers this past summer. Eliminating the charge for high energy users would minimize bill spikes during months when energy usage is high.



Want more SDG&E updates?

In each issue we feature one or two articles from the SDG&E news site. To keep up with more of what's happening at SDG&E go to <http://www.sdgenews.com/>

SDG&E - A Look Back at 2018, continued

8. Advancing STEM Education

Nearly [20,000 students in 135 schools](#) in our region engaged in 286 projects centered around science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). These projects were made possible by our Donors Choose initiative, whereby we provided matching funds to more than 200 teachers to implement everything from computer programming to LEGO engineering in their classroom.

9. SDGEGiving

Throughout the year, more than 500 of our employees volunteered their time for various local organizations and events— ranging from Coastal Clean Up Day and Facelift City Heights to giving talks as STEM role models and serving meals to families with critically ill children staying at the Ronald McDonald House. In addition, our corporate and employee philanthropic giving touched more than 450 nonprofit organizations in our region.

10. Upgrading Infrastructure at Mobile Home Parks

We have upgraded natural gas and electric infrastructure at more than 3,300 mobile homes in 30 parks. Antiquated master meters (which served entire parks) were replaced with new individually metered utility systems. This made it possible for residents to access [money saving programs](#) that they didn't qualify for previously due to a lack of an individual SDG&E meter.

In 2019, we will continue to be guided by our commitment to deliver clean, safe and reliable energy to our customers. Be on the lookout for more EV charging infrastructure, battery storage, and other innovative projects.



Keep Warm This Winter and Save Money

Don't get caught out in the cold. The near-freezing temperatures we are experiencing this week does not have to translate into higher heating bills. Residents typically use three to seven times more natural gas for space and water heating during the winter months. While natural gas is the most affordable way to heat our homes, there are simple steps you can take to reduce heating costs. To reduce your natural gas use, you can take simple steps, like setting your thermostat to 68 degrees when home and 55 degrees when not home.

Other helpful tips include:

Washing clothes with cold water

Taking shorter hot showers

Washing clothes with cold water

Reducing the temperature on water heaters (The recommended setting is 120°F);

Dressing warmer

Keeping windows and doors closed when the heater is on; and

Running only full loads of dishes and clothes

Using low-flow shower heads

Reverse the direction of your ceiling fan blades from counterclockwise to clockwise, so they help to push warm air down from the ceiling toward the floor. Click [here](#) for more ways to save energy and money.

Free tax preparation for Seniors

[AARP Foundation Tax-Aide](#)

offers free tax preparation help to anyone and if you're 50 and older, and can't afford a tax preparation service, we were made especially for you. We understand that retirement or other life changes may mean your taxes are a little more complicated now. With the help of our team of IRS-certified volunteers we make it easy for you.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide has more than 5,000 locations in neighborhood libraries, malls, banks, community centers and senior centers. There's no fee and no sales pitch for other services and AARP membership is not required.

[Find a Tax-Aide location near you.](#)

Get Tax Help

[Important documents to bring to your AARP Foundation Tax-Aide appointment](#)

Please note: The SDG&E Alumni Association is not endorsing AARP. This is being provided as information that our members may find useful.

Social Security Changes Coming in 2019

(U.S. News – October 15, 2018)

Retirees will get bigger checks and some workers will face higher taxes.

Social Security recipients will get 2.8 percent bigger checks in 2019. The program will also be adjusted in several other important ways next year that could affect the payments you receive or how much you pay into the system. Get ready for these [Social Security](#) changes coming in 2019.

Larger Social Security payments. The 2.8 percent cost-of-living adjustment is the largest since 2012. The average Social Security benefit for retired workers is expected to climb by \$39 to \$1,461 per month as a result of this change. Married couples where both spouses receive benefits will see an estimated \$67 increase to an average payment of \$2,448 per month in 2019. "This increase will show up first in the January payment," says William Reichenstein, a Baylor University professor emeritus and principal at Social Security Solutions, Inc. Those with an older full retirement age also have less opportunity to [increase their Social Security payments](#) via delayed claiming. Social Security payments are adjusted each year to keep pace with inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers. "By law, it's equal to the inflation rate, making Social Security payments inflation-proof," says Andy Landis, author of "Social Security: The Inside Story". "That means the payment should have the same buying power in year 30 of your retirement as it had in year one." Retirees received a 2 percent boost in payments in 2018. Previous benefit increases have ranged from zero in 2010, 2011 and 2016 to 14.3 percent in 1980.

A higher Social Security tax cap. The maximum amount of earnings subject to [Social Security tax](#) will increase by \$4,500 to \$132,900 in 2019. Workers pay 6.2 percent of their earnings into the Social Security system until their income exceeds the taxable maximum. "Higher paid folks will see the tax applied to more of their earnings," Landis says. "In 2019, the 6.2 percent Social Security taxable ceiling rises from \$128,400 to \$132,900, potentially increasing your tax burden by \$279." Those who earn more than \$132,900 in 2019 will notice a bump in their paychecks once their earnings have surpassed the taxable maximum and they no longer have Social Security tax withheld from their salary.

Healthy Exercise and Diet Plans for Seniors

Source: [verywellfit](#), Nov 11, 2018

Lose Weight and Improve Your Health at Any Age

It's never too late to get healthy and improve your quality of life. For some older adults, this means losing weight. But what is the best diet plan for seniors? And how do you start an exercise program if you've never been active?

Weight Loss Plans for Seniors

As an older adult, there are special considerations to take into account if you want to lose weight. Your lifestyle may have changed over the past several years, you may be living alone and you may have medical issues to consider. Your first step should be to discuss your weight loss goals with your physician.

The best diet for seniors is not always the diet program that is most popular or that is recommended for dieters in other age groups. It's important for seniors to maintain muscle mass, to find an eating plan that provides proper nutrition, and that does not interfere with medications or the management of your medical conditions.

For the complete article, click on link:

<https://www.verywellfit.com/healthy-weight-loss-for-seniors-3496384>

Social Security Changes Coming in 2019, continued

An older full retirement age. People who will turn 62 in 2019 will need to wait until an [older retirement age](#) than existing Social Security beneficiaries in order to claim their full retirement benefit. The full retirement age for those born in 1957 is 66 and six months, up from 66 and four months for people born in 1956, 66 and two months for those with a birth year of 1955 and 66 for everyone born between 1943 and 1954. The full retirement age will further increase in 2-month increments over the next two years until it reaches age 67 for everyone born in 1960 or later.

Workers who claim Social Security before their full retirement age receive [reduced payments](#). "They can still file as early as age 62, but the reduction for taking benefits prior to full retirement age is greater," says Jim Blair, a former Social Security administrator and lead consultant at Premier Social Security Consulting in Cincinnati, Ohio. Those with an older full retirement age also have less opportunity to [increase their Social Security payments](#) via delayed claiming.

Bigger earnings limits. Social Security beneficiaries who continue to work will be able to earn \$600 more in 2019 before part of their Social Security benefit is temporarily withheld. Social Security recipients age 65 and younger can earn up to \$17,640 in 2019 before a benefit dollar is withheld for every \$2 earned above the limit. In the year you turn your full retirement age the earnings limit climbs to \$46,920, up \$1,560 from 2018, and the penalty declines to \$1 withheld for every \$3 in excess earnings. Once you turn your full retirement age there is no penalty for working and collecting Social Security benefits at the same time and your benefit is recalculated to give you credit for your continued earnings and any benefits that were withheld in the past.

Electronic COLA notices. Retirees will be able to view their Social Security cost-of-living adjustment notices online beginning in December 2018. The COLA notices will be posted in the message center of [my Social Security accounts](#). These personalized COLA notices contain the benefit amount retirees will receive for the next calendar year. Online notices won't be provided to representative payees, people with a foreign mailing address and beneficiaries who pay higher Medicare premiums due to their income. COLA notices for 2019 will also be mailed, but beneficiaries will be able to opt out of paper statements in future years.

SDG&E ALUMNI TRANSITIONS – 2018/2019 (Since Oct issue)

Deceased

2018

Fredrick Barker - Oct
 Bruce Bowie - Nov
 Glenwood "Glen" Burgess - Nov
 Jim Christy - Dec
 Gerald "Jerry" Dinsmore - Sep
 Ruben Alfonso "Al" Figueroa - Nov
 Teresa Hamernick - Sep
 Lester Newton Hinkle - Oct
 Marcos Jimenez - Nov
 Benjamin Johnson - Jun
 Ronald "Ronnie" King - Oct
 Reid Kourbelas - Nov
 Donald LaBarge - Sep
 Henry "Rick" Valdez - Oct
 Donald Waller - Nov
 L D "Dennis" Weinmeister - Nov
 Richard Wilson - Nov

2019

Ed Davis - Jan
 Anita Forster – Jan
 Barbara Tuhey - Jan

Retired

2018

Robb Anderson - Nov
 Eileen Araiza - Dec
 Patti Baren-Saenz
 William Belt - Dec
 Karen Benedict - Sep
 Ronald Brunton - Oct
 James Carroll - Sep
 Bernice Cochran - Sep
 Thomas Davenport - Sep
 Maureen Doherty - Sep
 Jim Erickson - Sep
 Anne Estrada - Sep
 Samuel Felix - Sep
 Rafael Garcia - Nov
 Jeffrey Grant - Sep
 Mohammad Hadi - Sep
 Enrique Hernandez - Sep
 Charles Kinman - Sep

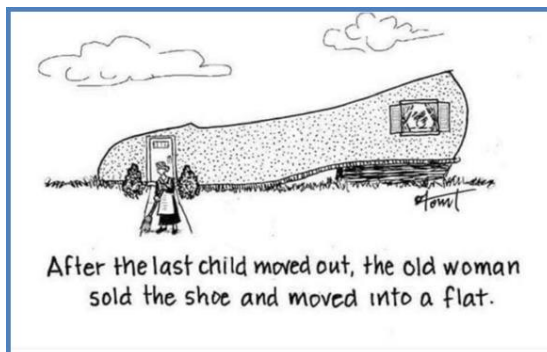
Retired, cont.

2018

Cynthia Lacy - Sep
 Marge Lim - Sep
 Michael Logan - Sep
 Lorie Mariano - Sep
 Corey McClelland - Sep
 Steven Mikovits - Sep
 Lawrence Mulvaney - Sep
 Jeffrey Nichols - Sep
 Randall Nickolei - Sep
 Russell Orrell - Sep
 Elizabeth Pascal - Sep
 Karen Purnu - Sep
 Luis Quinones - Dec
 Craig Riker - Oct
 Madeline Rodoni - Sep
 Robert Salini - Sep
 Carlos Sanchez - Dec
 Arkady Shumsky - Sep
 Doug Sigler - Sep
 Richard Smith - Dec
 Dan Stoneman - Dec
 Jerry Sugerman - Sep
 Vincent Tabirara - Sep
 Dennis Taylor - Dec
 James Toombs - Sep
 Thomas Walko - Sep
 Joseph Wergers - Sep
 Christine West - Dec

2019

Lisa Barnett - Jan



For a full list of retired and deceased retirees, see our web archive, <http://sdgealumniassoc.org/id7.html>
 If you have any information regarding a newly retired or deceased SDG&E Alumni member, please contact Alice Meyers at 858-278-3803 or amolputz@san.rr.com
 We need your help! SDG&E cannot provide us this information.

JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT

18 things you didn't know you could do in San Diego – here's some fun ones! Go to the article here for the full list and all of the details.

<https://www.buzzfeed.com/localadventurer/you-stay-classy-san-diego>

1. Treat yo' self to a flight of ice cream.
2. Invest in artwork by Dr. Seuss.
3. Go on a safari.
4. Discover dinosaurs in the desert.
5. Spend an afternoon at the [Cat Café](#).
6. Take a tour of the [Taylor Guitars Factory](#).
7. Feed a grizzly bear.
8. Explore secret sea caves.
9. Conquer your fears on a suspension bridge.
10. Have fresh sea urchin at a farmer's market.
12. Visit a bridge that doubles as a musical instrument.

For current information on activities, events and notices check the SDGE Alumni website <http://sdgealumniassoc.org/> or Facebook SDG&E Alumni Association page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/408831429206094/>