

Retiree Times

October 2019 – Special Holiday Edition



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's Fall...or the second summer as it is often in San Diego. Except for the Fire Season and the potential hot weather, I love this time of year. The light is slanted due to the position of the sun; the produce is different at the grocery store; the plants are changing as they shed their leaves and move into hibernation. We don't have much in the changing colors of Fall like they do in other parts of our country but there is much to celebrate during this season of shedding the old and preparing for the

new. I am so looking forward to seeing all of you at our Holiday Luncheon on December 10 at the Scottish Rite Event Center in Mission Valley! The doors will open at 10:30; the buffet lunch will begin at 11:30. Although we cannot reserve tables, we strongly suggest that if you have a group that wants to sit together, one of you should arrive at 10:30 to reserve a table and place some signage so your group will know where to gather. This is such a great time for all of us to come together and renew old friendships.

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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/>



See you on 12/10!

Your President,
Samm McDonald



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Visit our website at:
www.sdgealumniassoc.org
and our Facebook page at:
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SDG&E Alumni Association 2019 Board

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Join us for the SDG&E Alumni Association 78th Annual Holiday Luncheon

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Check-in and Reception – 10:30 a.m.

Buffet Lunch – 11:30 a.m.

Scottish Rite Event Center

1895 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego, CA

There will be a lunch buffet (honey baked ham, roast turkey, and all the fixins) and an opportunity drawing.

Tickets are \$12.00 per person

If you plan to attend the luncheon, please submit your payment no later than November 20th by one of the methods below. If you have questions please email Ken Clay at kiclav@cox.net or call 619-820-2057

You may make your payment with a debit or credit card, or Paypal. Just go to www.sdgealumniassoc.org and click on **Holiday Luncheon**.

Under pay online below, select the number of attendees from the dropdown menu. Then enter your name(s) for the nametags and click Buy Now. If you want to pay with PayPal, login and complete the payment. If you want to pay with a credit or debit card, complete the payment information under PayPal Guest Checkout and click Pay Now. If you prefer to submit your payment by mail, please complete and return the mail-in form (sent as a separate attachment in the email) along with your check payable to

SDG&E Alumni Association to:

Ken Clay

10533 Ironwood Ave

Santee, CA 92071-1202

No refunds will be given after November 20th.



Additional information about the luncheon

- The Scottish Rite Event Center is at 1895 Camino del Rio South, between Hwy 163 to the west and I-805 to the east. Parking is free.
- If you have a group that wants to sit together, just be sure someone in the group arrives early to reserve the appropriate number of seats.
- We will call for the approval of the 2020 Officers and Board of Directors during the meeting portion of the luncheon.
- This years luncheon has a patriotic theme. If you are a veteran of our armed forces we would like to recognize you during the lunch. If you would like to be designated as a veteran, go to <http://sdgealumniassoc.org> select veterans from the left-hand column then when the new page opens click on **veteran update status form**.
- We will have a collection box for the San Diego food bank. Bring non-perishable food items or diapers. We will have a special raffle drawing for those who participate in donating.
- We will be demonstrating the new SDG&E Alumni website prototype. (See article on page 4)
- BE KIND buttons will be available for those who wish to spread the word (See article page 3)



Other ways to spread kindness

In preparation for the interview with Ron I was curious to see what other resources are available to reinforce the Be Kind message. Here are a few things that might be of interest.

- One billion acts of kindness – a website where you can post an act of kindness you have done, and read about others. <https://kindness1billion.org/>
- Random acts of kindness – become a RAKTIVIST <https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/>
- <https://www.naturalbeachliving.com/acts-of-kindness/>
- <https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/kindness-ideas>
- <https://www.bradaronson.com/acts-of-kindness/>

“ Kindness can become its own motive. We are made kind by being kind. ”

– Eric Hoffer

Kindness is Contagious! – Retiree Spotlight

In our last Retiree Times (Aug/Sep) Samm McDonald wrote about kindness in her President’s Message. We received several comments about how much it resonated with our members but one alumnus in particular wrote to tell us about how he is trying to spread kindness with his “kindness crusade”. We’d like to share his story in our Retiree Spotlight... meet Ron Newell.



Q: How long ago did you retire? A: I retired in 1994.

Q: What did you do at SDG&E: A: I was an internal auditor.

Q: How did you get started on your kindness crusade?

A. After I retired and my wife passed away I started volunteering, first by helping Father Joe Carroll serve food at his kitchen on Sundays with our congregation from Beth Israel (for 22 years) and then also as a San Diego Police Department RSVP volunteer, which I did for 17 years. In January 2018 I attended an event where there were oval shaped button pins on the table with the words “BE KIND”. If we would wear them we were invited to take them. Being upset with how our society has become I took two, one for each of my jackets. I was hoping people would approach me and seeing it might they become kinder. What I did not expect was that people would stop me to say they like or love my button. I decided that if people were interested I would share my message with others, so I found out where to order more of the BE KIND buttons. I ordered 100. Then when I was stopped by someone who liked my button I would ask them if they would wear one. If they said yes I gave them a button. I went through the first 100 in a month. I started ordering 500 to get a better price break; I’m on my third batch! I have people actually ordering them from me so they can spread kindness in their world, and actually it is happening around the world. My niece lives in Australia and she took some to distribute after a visit here, a friend’s daughter goes to college in South Carolina who took them when she went back, and another friend in Canada shared them over a Thanksgiving meal with family and friends who then took them back to their hometowns. I want to bring them to the SDG&E Alumni Holiday luncheon to share.

Q: How has sharing the buttons changed your life?

A. I find that I treat others more respectfully and kind. Like waiting to let another driver in from a shopping center driveway or unloading a grocery cart with heavy items for a customer behind me. [Continued on next page.](#)

Kindness, continued

Q. What else would you like to do to share your message of “Be kind”?

A. I would love to share this with leaders at SDG&E. If employees were to wear a button while working with customers it could really make a difference in how the company is viewed. I have also thought about contacting the school districts to see if they might be interested in doing something for students.

Q. Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

A. I think that Ellen DeGeneres has such a great message when she ends her show each day. She says “Be kind to one another”. I think that is really what it’s about. I never used to watch her show but now I watch it everyday!

We would like to thank Ron for sharing his story about how he is dedicated to making the world a kinder place, one person at a time. We look forward to having Ron attend the Holiday luncheon and sharing his buttons with all of us!

JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT

Our next SDG&E Alumni social event has been scheduled and it is going to be such fun! We have chartered one of the **Old Town Trolley’s Holiday Lights and Sights Tours for December 17th at 6:00 p.m. Cost is \$20pp and guests are welcome.** Space is limited to 35 per trolley so reserve your seat soon. If we get enough response to reserve a second trolley we may be able to if one is still available. We have set up a payment link called **Holiday Lights and Sights tour** on our www.sdgealumniassoc.org. Click on Entertainment and Rec. (Follow the instructions outlined in the Holiday Luncheon invitation on page 2 for how to complete the payment. If paying by check, there is not a mail in form, just include the names of attendees along with your check.) Payments will be refunded in the event of cancellation. Reservations are first come first served.

Seasons Greetings! Hop on board our Holiday Lights and Sights Trolley. Guests of all ages celebrate in the sights, songs and traditions of the holiday season.

Join in sing-a-long caroling with our conductors, share fun holiday facts, history and traditions and see the festive Christmas lights of Old Town San Diego, the Embarcadero, Balboa Park, Coronado and more. For details go to: <https://www.trolleytours.com/san-diego/christmas-holiday-tour>

New website and “look” coming in 2020

Your SDG&E Alumni Association has had an active web site since some time prior to 2011 with information such as an archive of *Retiree Times* issues, lists of newly retired and deceased employees, information on upcoming activities and events, and answers to FAQ.

The platform we have used for the past 10 years has grown old and our service provider has not grown with the times. Pages have become difficult to update and the display on smart phones is not supported by our old vendor. Neither are secure (https:) web pages. We are preparing a new web site that will be introduced after our Holiday Luncheon. Some of the features you will appreciate are easy search capabilities, pages designed for smart phones when a smart phone browser is detected, and some quicker page accesses. The web site domain will not change so you will see no change in the way you access the web site, just improved readability. We hope you will enjoy the new and improved look coming soon.

