

Retiree Times

1st Quarter 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy 2024! 2023 was a better year for most of us. We're starting to gather together more; we're traveling more frequently; we're just out and about more often. That was evident at our Annual Luncheon on 12/5/23. 223 of us gathered at Marina Village to Celebrate Joy. The venue was incredible; the view of the marina was beautiful; the weather was perfect; and the best part was seeing our former colleagues! Your Board and Event Committee did a fabulous job putting this together. I'd like to thank Joyce Kelly and her committee and the Board for all the hard work that makes this event the one we come back to every year. As we look forward to 2024, we are planning our second picnic at Admiral Baker Picnic Park in April. **SAVE THE DATE – April 17th** More information to come!

A survey will be sent in the next few weeks to see what other events our members would like as well as feedback on our 2023 events. We will need help and will be soliciting volunteers to help plan and coordinate future events. We'll let you know how to sign up, once we know what everyone would like. We hope you'll volunteer and attend! In the meantime, stay dry, stay warm, stay safe and stay healthy!

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For current information on activities, events and notices check the SDGE Alumni web site

<http://sdgealumniassoc.org> or

Facebook SDG&E Alumni Association page

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

Your President,
Samm McDonald



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INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW...

The Board of Directors does an annual survey of the membership to determine what types of support and activities they would like to have us offer in the upcoming year and to see how you felt about last year. It is that time again for us to query you all! A survey will be sent out in the next few weeks to ask specific questions about:

- **Holiday luncheon**
 - Did you attend? What did you like about it? What would you like to see done differently?
 - If you didn't attend, what you entice you to come this year?
- **Spring picnic**
 - Did you attend? What did you like about it? What would you like to see done differently?
 - If you didn't attend, what would entice you to come this year?
- **Local gatherings**
 - Would you like lunches or happy hours arranged in restaurants near your location (north county, south bay, east county, central)?

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LOCAL LEADERS CELEBRATE THE REMOVAL OF OVERHEAD POWER LINES IN NORTH PARK

12/06/2023

\$54M per year is spent to bury overhead wires to improve community aesthetics, safety and reliability

NORTH PARK, SAN DIEGO, December 6, 2023 – Today City of San Diego leaders and representatives from SDG&E gathered in North Park to celebrate the removal of overhead power lines in that community.

“The undergrounding in North Park will improve public safety and aesthetics, as well as the overall reliability and resilience of our critical utility systems,” said Councilmember Whitburn, San Diego City Council, District 3, “I appreciate the partnership between City staff and SDG&E to make this happen in our community.”

The city and SDG&E are collaborating to bury approximately 15 miles of overhead wire underground citywide each year.

“We are proud to partner with the city to accelerate the undergrounding of our utilities for the benefit of the families and businesses we collectively serve,” SDG&E Director of Design and project Management Erika Schimmel-Guiles said. “We have more work to do and look forward to our continued partnership with the city.”

During the celebration at the corner of Howard Avenue and Illinois Street, attendees watched as one of the last standing poles in the area was safely brought down by an SDG&E crew. While the celebration marked a milestone in North Park, the city and SDG&E continue to make progress in other neighborhoods.

According to the city, approximately \$54 million per year is spent each year to convert overhead power and communication lines. Undergrounding of wires helps improve the look of local communities and can also help reduce power outages, as one of the causes of outages is vehicles crashing into electrical equipment. These funds are dedicated exclusively for undergrounding and may not be used by the city for other purposes.

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LOCAL LEADERS CELEBRATE THE REMOVAL OF OVERHEAD POWER LINES IN NORTH PARK, *continued*

Removing overhead utility lines is no small task. It requires extensive coordination and planning with multiple entities, residents and homeowners. In some cases, a utility pole must be left up to provide other services such as cable/internet, even though power lines may have been removed and placed underground, or vice versa. The primary objective is to safely underground utilities to improve community aesthetics interruption of service for residents and businesses. Other considerations, such as the location of electric substations, water pipes, trees and other street improvements, often need to be addressed before utilities can be placed underground.

Municipal undergrounding initiatives are funded by a variety of sources.

City of San Diego residents pay a surcharge on their SDG&E bill to support accelerated undergrounding. Each month, residential customers within the City of San Diego pay on average \$5-\$8 on their SDG&E bill to support accelerated undergrounding. Those funds are passed on to the City, and the City then reimburses SDG&E for design and construction costs to underground utility lines in accordance with the City's prioritization schedule, as approved by the San Diego City Council.

SDG&E is committed to supporting undergrounding efforts throughout its service area where feasible. About 60 percent of SDG&E's distribution system is underground. Some parts of the region, due to topography or other issues, create design challenges which make undergrounding expensive and infeasible.

A FEW "SENIOR" SNICKERS

Which underwear brand do seniors love best?
It Depends.

Old age makes us great multitaskers. Why, I can sneeze and pee at the same time!

One benefit of old age is that your secrets are always safe with your friends ... because they can't remember them!

Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind getting older, then it really doesn't matter.

How is the moon like dentures?
Both come out at night.

Now that I've gotten older, everything's finally starting to click for me. My knees, my back, my neck ...

I called the incontinence hotline recently. They asked if I could hold.

What's the secret to having a smoking hot body as a senior?
Cremation.

What is a prize old people can win for aging?
Atrophy.

INQUIRING MINDS,

continued from page 2

- **Larger gatherings**
 - Padres games
 - Del Mar racetrack
 - Etc
- **Group Volunteer activities**
 - Charity walks
 - Food bank
 - Beach/bay/parks clean up
 - Other
- **Assist the Board on committees**
 - Areas of interest
 - Research
 - Member outreach
 - Other ideas

You will receive a link to take the survey via email, Facebook or in the next edition of the Retiree Times.

It won't take much of your time but will be extremely helpful for the Board to ensure we are doing the things that you, our members, would like in 2024.



SDG&E EMPLOYEES SPREAD CHEER ACROSS SAN DIEGO

01/16/2024

In a span of six weeks during the holiday season, 762 Team SDG&E volunteers supported 47 organizations through the SDGivE employee-led volunteer program. Employees gave 2,500 hours to projects across our region. While a grant went to a nonprofit organization along with every volunteer project, our employees' positive attitudes and willingness to make a difference in the lives of those in need shined the brightest. Projects included providing aid to those facing food or housing insecurity, supporting underserved children and youth, beautifying public areas, promoting STEM education and so much more.

As we celebrate the end of SDGivE, here are a few projects led by our departments and Employee Resource Groups (ERGs).

• Our Customer Programs department normally focuses on providing customers with energy assistance programs. But this year for SDGivE, the team partnered with Feeding San Diego to provide support for those facing food insecurity. Volunteers cleaned and packed 13,680 pounds of apples, 1,800 pounds of kiwi and 5,600 pounds of potatoes for various programs like the School Pantry Program that serves local San Diegans experiencing hunger.

• To encourage more teenagers to spend time outdoors and get creative, the Customer Care department hosted multiple distribution booths at the Jackie Robinson YMCA for its Teen Holiday Give Back event. More than 60 volunteers donated toys, clothing, art supplies, bikes and sports equipment that teens were able to take home and enjoy.

• Our Black Employee Business Resource Group (BEBRG) and our Hispanic/Latinx ERG, VOZ participated in toy and food distribution drives to support foster children and underserved families in the South Bay. BEBRG members helped Promises2Kids prepare for their Give From Your Heart Holiday Drive. Volunteers sorted and distributed toys for foster children in diverse, underserved and low-income families who might not receive something special during the holidays. VOZ members including SDG&E Vice President of Land and Environmental Services Estela de Llanos and SDG&E Chief Commercial Officer Miguel Romero, were thrilled to bring families joy and relief at the Chicano Federation's Holiday Distribution event. Volunteers distributed 1,000 toys and much-needed items such as food, gift cards, blankets and diapers.

DITCH THE PRESSURE, EMBRACE THE FLOW: SETTING INTENTIONS INSTEAD OF RESOLUTIONS FOR 2024

The New Year twinkles with the promise of fresh starts and sparkling possibilities. But for many, it also brings a familiar pressure: the pressure of resolutions. Rigid goals that often crumble under the weight of daily life, leaving us feeling frustrated and defeated. This year, what if we dared to dream differently? What if we swapped out the “must-dos” for “will-bes”? Enter the transformative power of intentions. Resolutions are often rigid goals, burdened with the weight of “should” and “must.” They can feel like a ticking time bomb, promising failure if not achieved by February. Intentions, on the other hand, are whispers of the heart, guiding principles that infuse your life with purpose. They’re not about checking boxes or achieving milestones, but about cultivating a way of being.

Here’s how setting intentions for 2024 can transform your New Year:

1.From Striving to Thriving: Intentions shift the focus from external accomplishments to internal growth. Instead of “lose 10 pounds,” we might set an intention to “nourish my body with kindness and movement.” This shift in perspective fosters self-compassion and celebrates small, daily wins.

2.Flexibility over Rigidity: Life is rarely linear, and intentions embrace this. They allow you to adjust and adapt as circumstances change, without the crushing disappointment of a broken resolution. “Deepen my connection with nature” can be explored through hikes when it’s sunny, meditation by a window when it’s raining, all while honoring your intention.

3.From Scarcity to Abundance: Intentions tap into the power of positive affirmation. Instead of focusing on what we lack (“get organized”), we set intentions for what we want to cultivate (“embrace flow and clarity”). This shift in mindset fosters a sense of abundance and possibility.

4.Process over Outcome: Intentions are about the journey, not the destination. They invite us to savor the present moment and celebrate the small steps along the way. “Embrace creativity” can be explored through daily doodling, impromptu dance sessions, or simply noticing the beauty around us.

SDG&E EMPLOYEES SPREAD CHEER ACROSS SAN DIEGO, continued

•Our Veterans Advancing Leading and Optimizing Results (VALOR) ERG supports our employees who are transitioning to a post-military career. This year, VALOR partnered with Support the Enlisted Project (STEP) for their Warehouse Warriors program. VALOR members and SDG&E Vice President of Risk Management and Compliance Michael Schneider prepared STEP’s warehouse for STEP’s holiday distribution event. Volunteers sorted canned and dry foods that benefited 400 families of junior active-duty enlisted members and veterans.

What an impactful season of SDGivE! Thank you to our Team SDG&E volunteers for all their efforts not only during this season but throughout the year.



SDG&E ALUMNI TRANSITIONS

Listing of Retirees and Deceased since 1st quarter 2024 edition of the Retiree Times

A complete list of retirees and deceased members can be found on the SDG&E alumni website: [Retired and Deceased Alumni | SDGE-Alumni-Assoc \(sdgealumniassoc.org\)](#)

Recent Retirees

Susan Burchardt Jan 2024
Karen Gorton Jan 2024
Leslie Harpenau Nov 2023
Joel Scott Hill Jan 2024

Deceased

Kimberly Cresencia	Dec 2023
Michael T Golden	Jan 2024
William Howard	Oct 2023
Jeanie Marshall	Dec 2023
Joseph Giammarino	Jan 2024
Patricia Mills	Jan 2024
Doyle N Ross	Nov 2023
Phil Seiter	Feb 2024
Dewayne P Tannheimer	Oct 2023
Victor E Viets	Aug 2023



*There are some who bring a light so great to the world
that even after they have gone the light remains*

2024 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON...A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!



Joyce Kelly
checkin' her list



Group shot of section of the
banquet room



Lydia Bently, Susie Sides, Lupe
Palmer, Sherri Meyerholtz



Neil Freymiller, Maria and
Steve Boulter



Sue Weinmeister, Sally Chew,
Jim Teeter and Linda Atkins



Joyce Kelly and Jim Teeter
rolling the raffle tickets



Group shot of section of the banquet room



Jane Valentine, Frank
Ault and Margot Kyd



Shaina Gross and
Samm McDonald



Anne Stice

2024 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON...A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!



Glenda and Dan Milsap



Beach Cities Alums



Bonnie Bailey, Jim Tucker,
John Mitchell



Bobby Ruiz and T Cortado



Ken Clay and JP Koval



Maria and Brett Peterson,
Becky Levine



Frank Ault leading the Pledge of Allegiance



Gabriella and Mario Vitale, Ron and Judy Gregorich and
"Merry Minglers" in the background



Gail Bennett and
Linda Linderman

2024 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON...A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!



Jim Tripoli giving the Invocation



Karen Beckett, Felicia and Scott Gray



Applauding a lucky raffle recipient



Ken Clay overseeing the raffle prizes



Cindy Martin



Mardy VanVranken



Vicki Wirthlin, Lydia Bentley, Susie Sides, Dan LaMar, Margot Kyd, Jim Ticker and Bertha Leech

2024 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON...A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!



Lots of time to catch up with friends



Terry Farrelly and Mike Sable

Many thanks to...

SDG&E Alumni Board and Holiday Luncheon Committee

- Gloria Bowker
- Ken Clay
- Jerry Crouch
- Joyce Kelly
- Bruce Heilbrunn
- Sammantha McDonald
- Alice Myers
- Jim Teeter
- Brienn Woods

Raffle Ticket Sellers

- Kathy Aldrich
- Irene Batch
- Sue Eubanks

Our honored guests and speakers

- Frank Ault
- Neil Freymiller
- Dave Guebert
- Kendall Helm
- Kazeem Omidiji
- Jim Tripoli

Hostesses

- Fran Hartsell
- Vee Pitt
- Sue Weinmeister

Photographers

- Lydia Bentley
- Cheri McRoberts
- Dan LaMar

To see more pictures from the luncheon go to our webpage

[SDG&E Alumni Association | Facebook](#)