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SANTEE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS

Mary Grace McGee, *Editor*
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FIND US ON



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Thirty years of dedication



I HOPE EVERYONE enjoyed a Merry Christmas and 2020 is starting off well for all of you.

Back by popular demand is the employee interview! This month, I have the pleasure of featuring our Distribution Engineering Project Manager, Ken Mason.

Ken grew up in Greeleyville and graduated from Manning Christian School. He has been married to Anna (formerly Anna Drose) for 28 years, and the two of them have two children. Their son, Jay, is 26 and works at Nan Ya. Their daughter, Mary Anna, is 24 and works in the Take One/Make One program with the SCDNR. Ken loves to hunt (mostly deer and wild hogs). He also loves striper fishing and has recently been turned on to catching redbfish.

Shortly after graduating from high school and enrolling at Williamsburg Tech, Ken expressed interest in going to work at SEC. However, Ken has an August birthday and the manager told him he could not start until he turned 18. Therefore, in 1984—on his 18th birthday!—Ken started working for SEC.

He started off in Data Processing—using some of SEC’s first computers ever—to produce our monthly bills. After a few short years, we convinced Ken to feature his skills in the Engineering Department.

Ken began with field mapping. His

responsibilities have grown to cover all of the major engineering projects that SEC needs—major line conversions, subdivision design, etc. Ken directs a great deal of the work of SEC’s contract construction crews. If there is a non-standard project that requires a high level of “thinking outside of the box,” Ken is on it!

When I asked what Ken likes best about his job, he was quick to point out that he has had the opportunity to watch our system grow *a lot* over the years. He particularly enjoys his relationship with the Sumter Utilities crews that build under his guidance.

GETTING TO KNOW US



Ken Mason
 Distribution Engineering
 Project Manager

“I really enjoy working with the contractors,” he says. “It’s hard to believe a crew can rebuild miles of power lines in a single job without having to have anyone’s power off.”

I asked him what the toughest part of his job was. “Joint use is very frustrating,” he replied, referring to cable and telephone companies attaching to SEC poles. “It’s

difficult dealing with a company that can cause code violations on your poles when you don’t have control over their installers.”

What would he want everyone reading this column to know? “I work with the staking engineers and I help them. We all operate from the same policies. I cannot help you lower the contribution-in-aid costs they quoted you.”

There you have it, folks! Ken has been a big part of SEC’s growth over 30+ years—but don’t ask him to cut you a deal on that line you need built to your hunting club!

Have a great month everyone.

ROBERT G. ARDIS III
 President and Chief Executive Officer

THE SANTEE SCENE

January

20 All SEC offices closed for MLK Day.

February

6 Blood Drive, 1–6 p.m. SEC Conference Center, Kingstree, (843) 355-0599.

7 Youth Tour applications due.