

It is Time To Renew Chamber Membership

BY SUSANNE D. SARTELLE, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
South Brunswick Islands Chamber Of Commerce

*"A good thing to remember
And a better thing to do,
Is to work with the construction gang
And not the wrecking crew."*

The chamber of commerce is the construction gang. We are working every day for a better South Brunswick Islands and for a better business community. There are always a few members of the wrecking crew around, but as we build the construction gang, we make more progress and the noise of the wrecking crew fades.

It is time for area businesses to renew membership. By all businesses investing their fair share in the chamber, we can better serve our members and our community through continuing programs. There are also programs and projects for which only the foundations have been laid. They need building.

Last year, at this time, we had some 350 chamber members. Presently, our membership numbers more than 425. We're on the grow, and we're accomplishing important tasks because the businesses in the chamber are willing to work together.

What does the chamber do? Programs include everything from retail shopping promotions to lobbying for new and better highway, to the Oyster Festival, to Business after Hours, the list goes on. Too, the foundation has been poured for membership programs as well as education. They need building, and perhaps some of our programs need remodeling.

As a chamber member, you join forces with hundreds of other business men and women for a united voice representing our area. You build a better community, and you build business. Be a part of the construction gang.



SARTELLE

NRC Poses \$87,500 Fine For Plant Errors

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission proposes to fine CP&L \$87,500 for three alleged violations of NRC requirements at the utility's Brunswick nuclear plant near Southport, citing concerns for recurring personnel performance problems.

The enforcement action is based on three events that occurred in March.

In a letter informing Carolina Power & Light of the penalty, Stewart D. Ebnetter, NRC regional administrator in Atlanta, said that the violations are individually of low safety impact.

However, despite CP&L's improvement efforts, he said the incidents "represent a continuing human performance problem that is of serious concern to the NRC."

He noted that such problems at the Brunswick plant have required NRC enforcement action several times during the past year, most recently in January, when a \$50,000 civil penalty was levied for failure to follow procedures during an instrument calibration test, causing an automatic shutdown.

Ebnetter said the NRC recognizes that CP&L has obtained "tangible results" in some areas from improvement actions it has initiated. Also, he said the agency realizes that persistent human performance problems take time to correct.

But he said the NRC remains concerned that management at the plant has not been able to correct the root cause of recurring personnel performance problems.

Russell B. Starkey Jr., Brunswick

Nuclear Project vice president, said company actions to support employee efforts to avoid potential human errors include counseling programs, increased training programs and increased management oversight.

"Although we have already seen tangible results of these efforts, such improvement programs take time to show their full effects," he said, "and our employees are committed to continued improvement."

The specific events that prompted the latest proposed fine are as follows:

■ On March 15, technicians calibrating a pressure monitoring device failed to complete and properly document the procedure;

■ On March 26 and 27, workers performed repair work on an emergen-

cy diesel generator without having a written, approved procedure for the work. This, according to the NRC, resulted in significant damage to the generator and required shut down of both units at the plant.

■ On March 30, while working on another diesel generator, two employees opened the wrong circuit breaker, de-energizing some electrical control devices at the plant.

Both CP&L and the NRC said control room operators immediately recognized the problem and restored power.

CP&L has 30 days in which to either pay the civil penalty or to protest it. If a protest is denied, the company may ask for a hearing.

According to a company news release, CP&L has not decided whether it will contest the civil penalty.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

One Of 50 Best In United States Overall

The Parson's Table, in Little River, S.C., was selected as one of the top 50 best overall restaurants in the United States for 1991.

The awards were presented April 23 at the first annual Best of the Best Five Star Diamond Award Banquet, held at Stouffer's River-view Plaza Hotel in Mobile, Ala.

Selection was made by a panel of more than 200 experts, each with more than 20 years of experience each in the restaurant industry. The panelists are either "a famous chef, owner of a famous restaurant, food critic or newspaper restaurant reviewer," said John L. Thomas, chairman of the board.

The 1992 banquet will be held at Merv Griffin's Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif., next February 4.

The Parson's Table is located in a structure that formerly housed Little River United Methodist Church.

Focus On Start-Up

Basic steps involved in starting a business will be detailed in a "how-to" seminar offered Thursday, June 27, by the Brunswick Community College Small Business Center in conjunction with SCORE.

SCORE is the acronym for Service Corps of Retired Executives.

Business counselors from SCORE will moderate the session, which will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on BCC's main campus north of Supply.

The seminar is developed around a videotape produced by Inc. magazine.

A \$10 charge will cover a workbook and other materials. Checks or

money orders should be made payable to and mailed to SCORE, 152 North Front St., Wilmington, N.C. 28401. Pre-registration is required.

For more information contact BCC at 754-6900, 457-6329 or 343-0203 Monday through Thursday.

Caron Joins BEMC

James R. Caron has joined Brunswick Electric Membership Corp. as manager of office services and data processing.

The Escanaba, Mich., native has worked in the rural electric industry since 1977, holding the positions of accountant, office manager and general manager. Most recently he was employed as Data Processing Cooperative, St. Peters, Mo., where he was involved in all aspects of designing and supporting billing, cost and general accounting computer programs for rural electric cooperatives.

He has a bachelor of science degree in accounting from Northern Michigan University, Marquette, Mich.

Seminar's On Business

Operating A Business is the topic of a free seminar by Rachel Dodge Tuesday, June 18, from 6:30 p.m. to

8 p.m. in the ALS Building at Brunswick Community College north of Supply.

The seminar will cover essentials for the small business owner such as start-up, tax implications and the

legal environment of a business.

Enrollment is limited and pre-registration is encouraged. To sign up call the BCC Small Business Center, sponsor, at 754-6961, 457-6329 or 343-0203.

Substation BEMC's Largest, First Built By Co-op Crews

A new 25-megawatt substation at Brick Landing will be the largest operated by Brunswick Electric Membership Corp. and the first built "in house" by BEMC employees, according to Lewis Shaw, system engineer.

The utility cooperative will hold a "going-on-line" ribbon cutting ceremony for the public at 11 a.m. Friday at the substation, which is located on N.C. 179 near the Sassapan Creek bridge.

The new distribution system will pick up load at the east end of Ocean Isle Beach, Brick Landing and Shalotte Point and alleviate some of the load in the vicinity of Shallotte, specifically in the Brierwood Estates area.

Built at a cost of approximately \$750,000, it is intended to accommodate the existing and future growth

in the area, Shaw said, while also it will increase reliability of service.

"It helps us in case we have an incident like yesterday (a localized power outage). We can isolate the outage and feed from another area," he said Friday. "It gives us more flexibility, more capacity and more areas to supply from."

The next largest of BEMC's 21 other stations in Brunswick and Columbus counties is rated at 20 megawatts.

"The new substation will have a final cost of nearly \$750,000 for labor and materials, said Shaw, comparable to what it would have cost to hire the job done by outsiders.

"With the knowledge and experience they've gained, hopefully we will get better and more efficient and will be able to do it at a lesser cost."

Dosher Offers Support Groups

Therapy programs and support groups are available at Doshier Memorial Hospital in Southport for individuals who have severe disabilities as a result of serious head injury or stroke.

Aphasia, the loss of ability to understand and use language, is a typical disorder that occurs in older persons as a result of stroke, said Beth Conrad, a speech and language pathologist. An increasing number of young people who have sustained head injuries in motoring and sporting accidents also have the disorder. Total recovery of communication

skills may not be possible, but therapy and treatment can lead to significant progress, she said.

Information on the Head Injury Support Group or Stroke Club at the hospital is available from Mrs. Conrad at 919-457-5271, Ext. 375.



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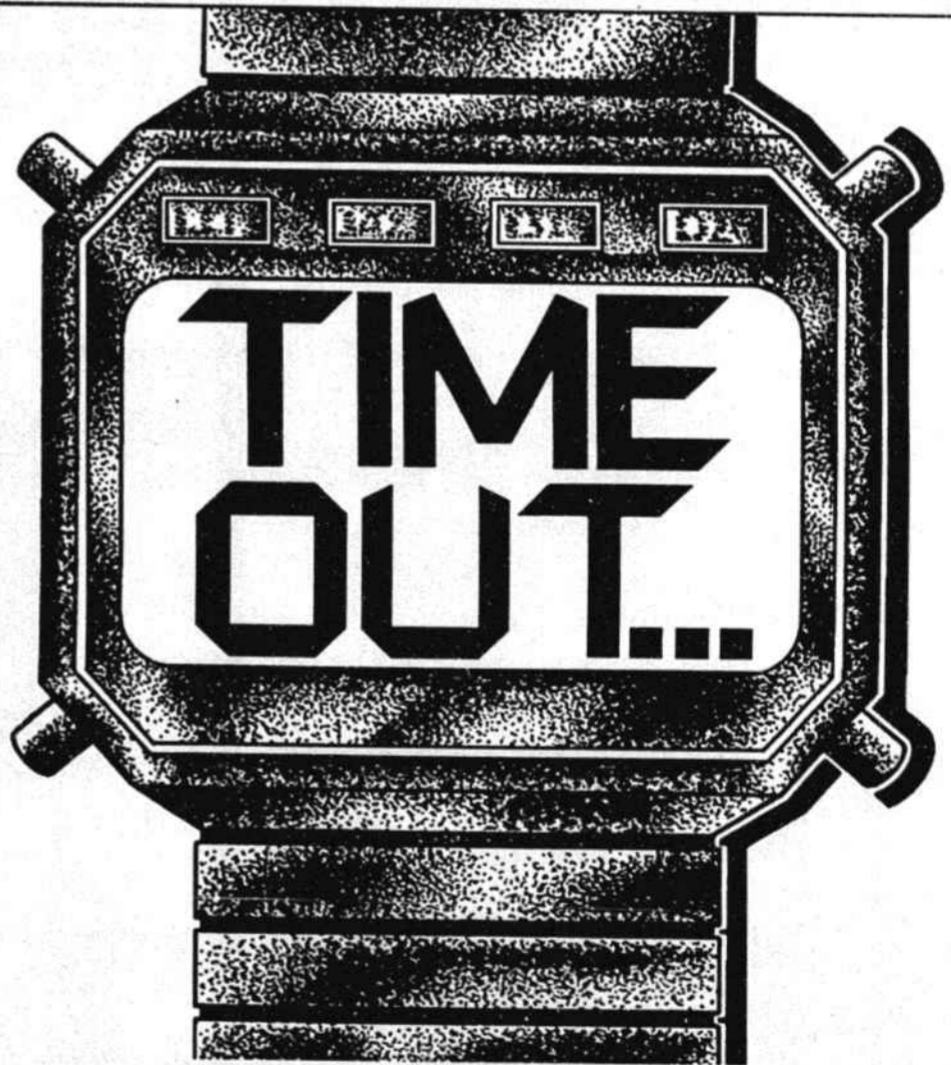
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