

Southeastern RMG HCSC Event

Greenville, South Carolina –August 15-18, 2021

What we experienced on our Greenville, SC outing... we enjoyed great fellowship; renewed old friendships; acquired new relationships; had lots of fun and delicious food. You could say we had the ingredients that make up a great reunion. According to *Visit Greenville, SC* it is a place "where there is always something fun going on" and we found that to be true.

On Sunday night **President David Farmer and his wife Tina** welcomed everyone with a meet and greet. Then we enjoyed the Hilton's fine culinary with a served dinner. This was followed by a get together on the ninth-floor hospitality suite overlooking Greenville which was hosted by **Jane Brown and Lynne Smith**. All during the event they did a splendid job and provided us great refreshments in a safe environment with available masks and constant cleaning and disinfecting.

This year's event came with additional opportunities to overcome. We had to be vigilant with the new Delta variant Covid concerns; stormy weather that caused our golf outing to be rained out; an uninvited guest Hurricane Fred (at least the fringe of the tropical storm); a too close for comfort tornado warning that had our members chased into a ballroom at the Hilton. These events only brought our Penney family closer and gave us memories to share in the future.

The Southeastern HCSC was treated to Southern cuisine with excellent service and a wide variety of restaurants to enjoy. As is always the case for 'family' reunions it is the time reminiscing about shared experiences and stories... and some were sure to have been embellished. There were shared photos of children, grandchildren and often a cat or dog.

On Monday almost all of our members took the Greenville 'City Tour' and were impressed with the rich heritage, beauty and visitor friendliness of the downtown area. The downtown has been revitalized with a beautiful waterfall that had been used by its many fabric and yarn mills in years past. It was surrounded by beautiful flowers, trees lining the streets, with several unique retail stores, eating and craft bars offering a wide range of entertaining options. On the tour we enjoyed the following sights:

- A tour of the Swamp Rabbit Trail.
- The baseball field where Shoeless Joe Jackson played.
- A delicious luncheon at Soby's Restaurant.
- Countless historic buildings and factories.
- An art exhibit at Bob Jones University.

Our plans for day activities for Tuesday were pretty much thrown out the window as our planned BMW Tour was cancelled the Saturday before we arrived due to the uptick in covid. Additionally, our golf outing had to be cancelled due to remnants of Hurricane Fred producing storms in our area. As is the case with good leaders our officers developed an alternative plan that perhaps worked out even better from a socialization standpoint. All the golfers and many of the nongolfers went to Top Golf. **President**

Elect Bill Alcorn and his wife Patti turned a cancelled golf tournament into a great outing that was enjoyed by all that participated. Others had fun enjoying visiting some of the sites they had seen the day before on our City Tour.

The business meeting was held Tuesday afternoon where new officers were elected as follows:

President	Bill Alcorn
1st VP	Jane Brown
2nd VP	John Chapman
Sec/treas	Jim Strand
Foundation Rep	Ed Savold
National Rep	John Gresham

On Tuesday night we had a wonderful served meal followed by our 50-year pin presentations. This year's presentations were a little different than our past ones.

- A bound booklet that was produced by **Bill Watson** for the 50-year pin recipients. They were asked to participate by sending a current picture of themselves with an earlier picture of themselves along with a writeup about themselves. The booklet had those two pictures with the writeup. For the writeup they were asked to tell us whatever they would like for us to know about them, which made them quite varied.
- Bill also tested having a few 50-year participants and others that could not make the meeting due to health issues to join us via Zoom. A few of our Zoom connected members shared memories about working with our attendees. This added to our meeting bringing happiness and laughter to both sides of the screen. Everyone agreed that Zoom worked well and should be expanded in the future.
- The presenter of the 50-year pins was done by **Bob Cote**. Bob did an outstanding job of personalizing each presentation so that it was memorable and meaningful to each participant.
- After each 50-year pin recipient was presented by Bob their spouse came forward and was given a long stem rose. The recipient then told us about their spouse's contribution to their success. A major theme that many of our members mentioned was the many sacrifices that our spouses had made and job opportunities our spouse gave up on our many relocations... and the long hours we worked. This was usually followed by a very warm moment and moving testimony from their spouse on how much they mean to us.
- Hope you enjoy the pictures of our 50-year recipients.

This was our second time for having our meeting in Greenville, NC. The first time was on November 8, 1967, when **Frank Needham with Ted Lyons, Buck Buckanan, Wm. Jones Ellison, Hough Bowden and Elmer Scott** met in Greenville, SC to charter our Club which at the time was called the Dixie Group.

A special thanks to **my wife Tina** for her help in last year's covid cancelled Williamsburg event and then as we planned the Greenville trip. She is so supportive, keeps me focused and happy. During our meeting Tina and Susan Burns went out in a tornado warning to get construction paper for our banquet markers. Probably will never forget

when they told me they were not allowed to leave the store due to the tornado being very close to our location.

Thanks for all our friends who made our time in Greenville SC a sweet memory. Can't wait to see you in Huntsville, Al next year on May 1-4, 2022.

We had a memorable and Fun event. Bless you and as some of you know my saying... we are still feeling 'just peachy!'

David and Tina Farmer

















