

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with John Hooker

PERSON

Hooker, John, 1948-

Alternative Names: John Hooker;

Life Dates: November 25, 1948-

Place of Birth: Chicago, Illinois, USA

Work: Chicago, Illinois

Occupations: Energy Executive

Biographical Note

Senior vice president of Commonwealth Edison, John Timothy Hooker was born on November 25, 1948 in Chicago, Illinois. The son of Mississippi immigrants Arthur and Rosa Horton Hooker, Hooker grew up in Chicago's Lawndale community located on the West Side. He attended Theodore Hertz Elementary School, Hess Upper Grade Center and Farragut High School. At Hess Upper Grade Center, Hooker was inspired by civil rights activist Al Raby and teacher Warner Sanders. Graduating from Farragut High School in 1966, Hooker got married and was hired by Commonwealth Edison that same year. Starting in the company mailroom at ComEd, Hooker learned as much as possible about the company. Hooker rose to clerk typist, to time keeper, to material clerk, and by 1974, he was promoted to human relations representative. Then in 1976, Hooker began working in the marketing department where he was promoted to director of marketing for Bolingbrook, Illinois and the western suburbs in 1984. In 1987, he became the ComEd liaison to the late Chicago Mayor Harold Washington and City Hall. Hooker went on to earn his B.S. degree from Chicago State University in 1990 and helped found the Exelon African American Members Association (EAAMA). Hooker served as area manager for ComEd in the western Chicago suburbs and director of external affairs. Later, in 1995, Hooker was named director of governmental affairs and influenced the passage of the Illinois Consumer Choice Law of 1997. Hooker was promoted to vice president of property management for Exelon Energy Delivery, and in 2000, he became an officer of the company. In 2004, Hooker was appointed senior vice president of Commonwealth Edison.

A 1994 participant in Leadership Greater Chicago, Hooker serves on several boards including: the Chicago State University Foundation, Peoples Consumer Cooperative, the Safer Foundation, Junior Achievement and the African American Initiative. Hooker is a member of the American Association of Blacks in Energy. He is also a member of

Chicago University's Business Hall of Fame Committee and is involved in the Chicago Public School's Youth Motivation program.

Hooker lives in Chicago, Illinois with his wife, Kim. They have three adult children.

Hooker was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on February 22, 2008.

Related Entries

Chicago State University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Theodore Hertzel Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Hess Upper Grade Center [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Roosevelt University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

DePaul University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Farragut Career Academy Hs [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Commonwealth Edison [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Typist

Commonwealth Edison [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

city liaison

Sears Roebuck & Company [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Jet magazine [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1964 to ?]

Newspaper Delivery

Commonwealth Edison [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1966 to ?]

Mail Clerk

Commonwealth Edison [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1970 to 1974]

materials clerk

Commonwealth Edison [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1974 to 1976]

Human Resources

Commonwealth Edison [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1976 to ?]

Marketing

Commonwealth Edison [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1990 to 1994]

area manager

Commonwealth Edison [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1994 to ?]

Director of External Affairs

Commonwealth Edison [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1996 to ?]

Director of Government Affairs

Commonwealth Edison [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2000 to ?]

Senior Vice President

People's Consumer Co-Operative [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Boardmember

Safer Foundation [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Boardmember

Chicago State University [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Boardmember