Fuller and Pignone Elected Corporate Officers

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HARTSVILLE, S.C., Feb. 3 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- (NYSE: SON) Rodger D. Fuller (43), division vice president and general manager, Consumer Products Division, North America, and Marty F. Pignone (48), division vice president and general manager, Paper Division, North America, have been elected corporate officers, it was announced today by Harris E. DeLoach, Jr., president and chief executive officer.

(Logo: http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/19991006/SNCLOGO)

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Fuller heads the Company's rigid paper and plastic operations in North America and Sonoco Phoenix, the global metal closures business. He joined Sonoco in 1985 and has held a number of positions, including division vice president, Consumer Products Division - Europe; president - Sonoco Limited, Canada; and manufacturing manager, Consumer Products Division - North America.

Fuller was graduated from Berry College, Rome, Georgia, in 1983 with a BS degree in business administration and received an MBA from Emory University in 1985.

Pignone is responsible for the Company's North American paper operations. He joined Sonoco in 1997 as manager of productivity improvement and was subsequently promoted to director, manufacturing - Paper Division, before being named to his current position in 2000.

Pignone was graduated in 1978 from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, with a BS degree in mechanical engineering and received an MS degree in business administration from Stanford University in 1991. He previously held positions at General Electric Company and Kodak.

Sonoco, founded in 1899, is a $3.2 billion global manufacturer of industrial and consumer products and provider of packaging services, with more than 300 operations in 36 countries serving customers in 85 nations. Additional information about the Company is available at http://www.sonoco.com .

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