



SRSRA NEWSLETTER

For SRS Retiree Association Members

Frank Campbell, Editor

Volume 23, No. 1, Jan 2020

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SRS Retiree Association Annual Meeting Notice

SRS Retiree Association Notice of 2019 Annual Membership Meeting

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, USC-AIKEN ETHERREDGE CENTER

Registration 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Meeting 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.

SRSRA Contact Information:

Web page – SRSretirees.org

Facebook – SRS Retirees

SRSRA Resource Center – phone (803) 508-7065 or toll free at (866) 845-1550 or email srsra@iscog.org

About this newsletter

The SRSRA Newsletter is published four times a year – January, April, July, and October. The Newsletter is sent to all dues paying SRSRA members. If we have your email address on file, you receive it first since the email version is much quicker to send than the printed version. If you are getting the printed version and would like to get the email version instead, please send us a note through the www.srsretirees.org web page with your current email address and we will update our records. Also, receiving it by email reduces our costs of printing and distributing this newsletter. If you are receiving the printed version, please consider contacting us and switching to an email subscription.

SRS Retiree Association, Inc.

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WEB PAGE: <http://srsretirees.org>

Letter from Dave Fauth, SRSRA Chair

I am extremely proud of the Resource Center staff, Lauren Feinman, Jeanne Szymanski, and our SRSRA volunteers! We conducted another highly successful 2020 Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Review and Enrollment helping over 560 retirees/spouses. Look for details on the savings in this newsletter.

If you are a Georgia retiree, I hope you took advantage of our “Meet and Greet” information day at St. Teresa of Avila in Grovetown. We will hold future information days in other areas where retirees live like Barnwell-Allendale-Bamberg and Aiken-Edgefield.

In 2020, we will be offering our monthly Aging into Medicare meetings on Tuesday and quarterly on Fridays to accommodate current employees. Class curriculum is designed to help retirees/spouses make the difficult decisions that Medicare presents.

We have also been utilizing our Facebook page to keep everyone current on our SRSRA activities and information of value to our membership. We now have 377 members in our Facebook group. This site is an inexpensive means to keep us all up-to-date on information that affects us and our families. Ask your family members or close friends to keep you abreast on our social media news. Let us know what information that you would like to see.

Our website, srsretirees.org, is another means to keep you all up to date. Many of you are using the “Join/renew”, “Donate”, and “Contact Us” options. The “Contact Us” button is an easy way to ask questions, give us updated contact information, and/or get assistance. There is another button that permits you to request a Resource Center appointment or more directed assistance.

We are also encouraged by the number of retirees who have recently renewed their memberships. A number have renewed using the website option. Our 2019 membership is higher than in past years. Thank you to Bob Malstrom and Ranny Saylor for their efforts. Make sure that your friends, neighbors, and former co-workers have joined. Point them to the website or have them call the Resource Center at (803) 508-7065 or toll free at (866) 845-1550 and request an application. Encourage them to join and take advantage of the services provided by the SRSRA. Remember our power as a lobbying organization is in our numbers and our united voice.

Dave Fauth

SRSRA Chair

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Benefits Protection Committee

John Veldman

SRS Retirees Association continues to advocate for a long overdue pension adjustment for our retirees. On March 18, SRSRA sent Mr., Stuart MacVean, President and CEO of SRNS, a formal request for a pension plan amendment based on the pension adjustment formula we have been advocating. On May 6, Mr. MacVean responded with a letter outlining the next steps that would be required before a potential submittal to DOE. These steps were completed and SRNS forwarded our pension adjustment request to DOE on June 20, 2019. SRSRA also was able to arrange for a letter of bi-partisan support from Reps. Clyburn, Wilson, Allen, and Hice.

SRSRA was recently verbally notified that our request was denied. A meeting on our pension adjustment request was subsequently held in an effort to understand the basis and nature of the rejection. The current funding status of the SRS pension plan was cited. The funding target attainment percentage of slightly over 80%, would not allow the cost of the pension adjustment to be amortized over seven years, requiring a large unbudgeted lump sum expenditure. There was no indication that an adjustment would be possible in the next several years, despite SRNS/SRR making very large annual contributions to the pension plan. SRSRA has requested a written response to our pension amendment request, which has not been received. SRSRA expressed concern over the fact that the pension fund status projections and the estimated cost of our pension adjustment request provided by SRNS/Buck Associates varied widely over less than a year.

Once we receive the formal letter from SRNS and an explanation of the changes in the pension plan numbers, SRSRA will formulate an approach to advocate for the much needed pension adjustment.

Thank You for Living United!

As another United Way campaign comes to a close, we would like to thank all of you who contributed this year. Through the efforts of organizations like ours, the United Way is able to provide continued support to member agencies that provide our community with critical human services to help our neighbors in need.

Thanks to your gift, our SRS Retiree Association was able to raise **\$23,220** for this year's United Way campaign. We are very proud to be able to make such a generous contribution to our community. Thank you for your participation.

Gas Card Winner

The first gas card winner for this issue is Benjamin T. Parrott. This lucky SRSRA member has won a \$50 gas card courtesy of the SRSEA and SRSRA. Call Bob Hottel at 803-648-7721 within 30 days to claim your gas card! Please verify your home address when you contact Bob.

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Annual Meeting Announcement

SRS Retiree Association Notice of 2019 Annual Membership Meeting

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, USC-AIKEN ETHERREDGE CENTER

Registration 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Meeting 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.

We listened to the membership and the format of the Annual Meeting will be a bit different this year. There will still be the displays in the Etherredge Center lobby by various organizations from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. You can visit with friends, munch on some snacks, and ask questions of organizations such as the SRSRA Resource Center, SRNS Benefits, BC/BS, Wage Works, and more.

The Annual Meeting will begin at 1:30 and will run until 3:00 with no intermission. The time spent on formal presentations will be reduced and the time spent on addressing your questions and concerns will be increased. And of course we will still give away all those gas cards - the most popular part of the program.

Please plan to join us on April 21. The meeting is open to all SRSRA members. If you are not already a member, you can join the SRSRA at the meeting location and then attend the meeting.

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SRSRA Meet and Greet in Grovetown

The first ever SRSRA meet and greet was held in Grovetown, GA on Nov. 6, 2019. About 100 area residents attended and received information about the Retiree Resource Center, SRS Human Resources, Social Security benefits, the SRS Heritage Museum, and the Georgia Department of Aging. Look for future “Meet and Greet” events in Barnwell-Allendale-Bamberg and Aiken-Edgefield.



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Retiree Resource Center Report

Laureen Riley Feinman, Manager

Our Retiree Resource Center conducted 573 Prescription Drug and Medicare Advantage Plan reviews this year, the most yet during the annual eight week open enrollment period over the past five years. These volunteers worked very hard to meet the increased demand, giving a substantial amount of their personal time. They are to be commended because we needed every one of them to deliver this important service this year.

Requests for reviews have doubled over the last five years and next year we will need even more volunteers to provide these services. Please consider volunteering for next fall. The training includes a half day at the USC computer lab working with the Medicare platform, two half-day group training sessions here at the Retiree Center, and the opportunity to shadow experienced volunteers until you feel comfortable to proceed on your own. The schedules are flexible. Please think of the contribution you would be making to help out your fellow retirees – our retirees really are very grateful and appreciative of this service. (Editor’s Note: The increase in requests for reviews and the changes to the Medicare platform has put a significant strain on SRSRA resources and our volunteers. The Board of Directors and the Resource Center Manager will investigate how we can better respond to the increased demand in preparation for next year’s sign up period.)

We really do have a terrific volunteer team, and I think you would enjoy working with us. Take the opportunity of speaking to our team members with questions you may have about serving. Over the past five years, our team has conducted 2,027 reviews and saved fellow retirees \$1.76 million in out-of-pocket prescription drug expenses. Many thanks to our volunteer team:

Bruce Cadotte
Sandy Carroll
Bob Croley
Mila Drutel
Dave Fauth
Annie Fields
Dick Frushour

Rick Geddes
Larry Hall
Bob Hottel
Nick Kuehn
Bob and Maria Malstrom
Ken Perrine
John Plodinec

Jack Roberts
Ranny Saylor
Don Stevenson
Tom Varallo
John Veldman
Marilyn Winn
David Zigelman

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Resource Center by phone at (803) 508-7065 or email us at srsra@lscog.org .

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SRSRA Retiree Resource Center				
Rx REVIEW ANNUAL ENROLLMENTS				
<i>Five Year Annual Review Comparison -- Out Of Pocket Savings</i>				
	# Reviews	Average Savings Per Changed Plan	% Reviews with Changes Resulting in Savings	\$ Savings
2019-20	574	\$817	85%	\$395,859
2018-19	452	\$1,000	68%	\$306,360
2017-18	382	\$1,261	64%	\$308,522
2016-17	339	\$1,866	69%	\$436,479
2015-16	280	\$1,595	70%	\$312,684
	2,027	Five Year Totals		\$1,759,904

Catastrophic Drug Benefit Claim funded by SRS due by February 28th, 2020

You should have received instructions from RightOpt and SRS regarding how you file an SRS Catastrophic Benefit Plan Claim for the 2019 Plan Year. If your Out-of-pocket Rx prescription drug expenses have reached the Catastrophic Level, as determined by the Rx or Medicare Advantage Insurer in their final December 2019 Statement they send to you, then you should file your claim before February 28th, 2020 at the latest. You will need your December 2019 Statement (all pages) from your Rx Plan Insurance Provider to verify that your out-of-pocket Rx expenses meet that requirement. You will also need a RightOpt/SRS special application to file with that insurance company 2019 statement. The form is one page and not difficult to do.

You can file your Catastrophic Drug Claim yourself, or you can ask us to file it on your behalf. If your claim is not filed with RightOpt by February 28th, 2020, you will be out of luck since that is their deadline. Call us if you have any questions and we will be glad to help you.

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Our Retiree Resource Center continues to provide services and we encourage you to call or email should you need an office appointment. We also encourage you to reach out to any fellow retirees who may need our services.

Best wishes for the New Year,

Laureen Riley Feinman

Retiree Resource Center Metrics Services Since Inception September 2014 to December 2019

4,520	Office Visits at Retiree Resource Center
2,838	Clients Served
85	Home Visits
7,843	Phone Contacts
58	Number of Monthly Aging in to Medicare Meetings
1,078	Number of Clients who have Attended those Meetings
\$2,520,907	WageWorks Claims Transmitted for Reimbursement by RRC
\$47,639	Catastrophic Drug Claims from RRC

Prescription Drug and Medicare Advantage Plan Reviews 2015 - 2019

2,026	Number of Medicare Plan Reviews conducted at RRC
\$1,753,473	Projected Out-of-pocket Savings to Retirees from RRC Reviews

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Benefits Contacts

- **SRS Benefits Service Center at the site(service for most HR and payroll questions):**
 - **803-725-7772 (local area SC and GA)**
 - **800-368-7333 (toll free)**
 - **service-center@srs.gov**
- **SRSRA Retiree Resource Center:**
 - **(803) 508-7065**
 - **srsra@lscog.org**
- **Westinghouse Corp. Pension** **800-581-4222**
- **RightOpt (MyMedicareAdvocate/GetInsured)** **877-591-8904; www.rightoptretiree.com/srs**
- **WageWorks** **877-924-3967; www.wageworks.com**
- **Medicare Helpline** **800-633-4227; www.medicare.gov**
- **Prudential Life Insurance** **844-494-4778 (Contributory and non-contributory life insurance)**
- **Blue Cross/Blue Shield of SC** **800-325-6596;**
 - **<http://www.southcarolinablues.com>**
 - **Option 1 for Medical**
 - **Option 2 for Dental**
 - **Option 3 for Pre-Cert/Med Authorization**
- **DuPont Retirees life insurance: 800.775.5955**
- **DuPont Retiree Medical with Via: <https://my.viabenefits.com/> 855-535-7140**
- **DuPont Retirees Contact Information for other benefits:**
<http://www.retiree.dupont.com/our-company/retirees/contact-us.html>

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In Memoriam

Note: SRSRA Board members obtain these names from local newspapers. This information cannot be obtained from site contractors. If you would like your deceased love one included, please send us their name via our website, email at srsra@lscog.org or leaving a message at (803)508-7065.

Charles "Chuck" Cook Jr, Martinez	Jesse S Cook, New Ellenton
Jim Cook, Aiken/Marion, NC	Clinton Cowart, Warrenton
James Ray Gibbons, Aiken	Paul W Harless, North Augusta
Terri Lynn Haynes, Aiken	Bobby Carter "Bob" Henderson, Barnwell
James Whitfield Gardner, Aiken	Dalton Collins Herron Jr, Blackville
Joyce Ann Huber, Williston	Joseph Lown, North Augusta
Aubrey Lynn, Warrenton	Sarah "Sally" Tucker Patterson, Aiken
Elaine Pearson, North Augusta	James "Leon" Peebles, Centerville/Wrens
Gene Porter, Williston	Joseph Harold Roberts, New Ellenton
William H Shiver Sr., North Augusta/Waynesboro	George Sykes, Aiken
Lonnie Terry Westbrook, Aiken	Brenda C. Whittington, Springfield
Victor Russell Woodman Jr, Blackville	Anton Worm, Aiken

Correction: Jerry W. (Bo) Kelly was listed in the October 2019 In Memoriam list.
The correct name is Jerry W. (Bo) Key. We apologize for the error.