



SRSRA NEWSLETTER

For SRS Retiree Association Members

Frank Campbell, Editor

Volume 24, No. 3, July 2021

Contents

Letter from Dave Fauth, SRSRA Chair	2	SRSRA Membership.....	4
SRSRA Annual Meeting	3	Retiree Resource Center Report.....	5
United Way Campaign	3	Benefits Contacts	8
Benefits Protection Committee	4	In Memoriam: July 2021	9

SRSRA Contact Information:

SRS Retiree Association, Inc. P. O. Box 5686, Aiken, SC 29804

Phone Message Line: 803-508-7065; e-mail: srsretirees@srsretirees.org

SRSRA Resource Center: Phone Message Line: 803-508-7065; email SRSRA@LSCOG.ORG



Web Page: <http://srsretirees.org>



Like us on Facebook: SRS Retirees

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.

Message Line: (803)508-7065; e-mail: srsretirees@srsretirees.org

Website: <https://srsretirees.org>

Letter from Dave Fauth, SRSRA Chair

Fellow Retirees,

I hope you have circled September 14 on your calendar and plan to attend our annual meeting. This meeting will give everyone a great opportunity to catch up with friends and co-workers and to hear the latest news about our benefits. DOE will brief us on the site operational plans. SRNS and SRR management have been invited and will be available to answer general questions. Other organizations that administer our benefits will also be there. We expect our Congressional delegates to be represented also. We will be soliciting your questions for the Q&A session following the business meeting and we will be awarding gas cards to help compensate many of you for the recent gas price increases we have experienced. Masks will be optional for those of you who have medical issues preventing vaccination or that prefer the added safety they provide.

I am excited to announce that the Resource Center is now open to those needing face-to-face help. We open our offices with the requirement that our volunteers must be able operate in a safe environment so we are requiring vaccination documentation for onsite appointments. Assistance will continue to be offered by phone or internet to those would need to travel a distance or who are not vaccinated.

Many of you have indicated an interest in helping at the Resource Center and we hope to be able to use your time and efforts. Please contact us if you wish to help us. We anticipate a great need for volunteers again this fall when we enter the Medicare Open Enrollment period for 2022 Prescription Drug Plans.

Our Facebook group, SRS Retirees, now has 1,119 members. Consider joining if you are active on Facebook. The SRSRA website, www.SRSRetirees.org, is also available to you for contacting the Board and getting assistance.

Sincerely,

Dave Fauth

SRS Retiree Association, Inc.

Message Line: (803)508-7065; e-mail: srsretirees@srsretirees.org

Website: <https://srsretirees.org>

SRSRA Annual Meeting

The SRSRA Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, September 14 at the USC Aiken Etherredge Center. As in past years, representatives from groups such as BC/BS, SRNS Employee Relations, Wage Works/Health Equity, and others will be available in the lobby starting at 11:00 AM, and the business meeting will start at 1:30 PM. Due to the COVID pandemic, the last Annual Meeting was held in April of 2019. The SRSRA Board felt that it was important to have an Annual Meeting as soon as COVID restrictions allowed rather than wait until April of 2022. As of now, masks will be recommended for the unvaccinated and social distancing is recommended as practical (these restrictions will likely be relaxed by September). Plan to attend to see old friends, hear the latest about what is going on at the site, and get questions answered about your retiree benefits.

The Annual Meeting format will be different this year. The meeting will last about an hour and a half with no intermission. There will be fewer presentations and an expanded Question & Answer session. Here's the ways you can submit a question to be considered for the Q&A session:

- * Submit a "comment" on the SRSRA Facebook page.
- * Submit a question on the website using the button provided.
- * Submit a question in writing to the SRSRA address provided in this newsletter.
- * Submit a question when you arrive at the September 14 Annual Meeting.

We hope to see you there!

United Way Campaign

SRS employees have a long history of participating in the United Way Campaign and members of our Retiree Association proudly carry on that tradition. The SRSRA United Way campaign kicks off August 27th marking this our organization's 22nd year of support. We again offer members the opportunity to contribute directly to the United Way through our SRS Retiree Association. If you live in South Carolina or Georgia, watch for pledge forms arriving in your mail soon!

Gas Card Winner

The first gas card winner for this issue is Michael E. Smith. 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.

SRS Retiree Association, Inc.

Message Line: (803)508-7065; e-mail: srsretirees@srsretirees.org

Website: <https://srsretirees.org>

Benefits Protection Committee

John Veldman

A dialogue has been opened with SRS Benefits Management on the adequacy of the Retiree Health Care Stipend for 2022. SRSRA presented a comprehensive document it developed on “Trends in Individual Medical Costs vs. the HRA Stipend for SRS Retirees” that indicates that retiree medical costs have risen sharply in the five years since the last stipend increase, and that these cost increases are having a serious impact on SRS retirees living on a fixed pension and very modest Social Security COLA’s. Site Benefits Management shared a May 2021 study it requested from Buck Associates, a human resources consultant, on Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) alternatives. This study included cost data and a DOE Contractor Benchmark Study including eleven sites. The study indicates that the current SRS HRA stipend is in the top quartile and is more than competitive at this time. SRSRA is studying the Buck data with a special emphasis on out-of-pocket cost estimates and emphasizing that benefits comparisons should be conducted on the total retiree compensation package, including pension plus HRA stipend, not comparing individual benefits separately. The dialogue will continue.

SRSRA Membership

Do you have a friend or relative who retired from SRS but has not joined the Retiree Association? Anyone who has been employed at or in direct association with the Savannah River Site (or the Savannah River Plant/Savannah River Laboratory as it was previously known) for at least five years and who has since retired from that employment and their spouses are eligible.

All spouses of retiree members, whether SRS retirees themselves or not, are now eligible for membership in the SRSRA.

Annual dues for the Association are \$25. There is no charge for retirees who are spouses of members whether or not they are also SRS retirees. For surviving spouses of retirees, annual dues are \$5. Dues may be paid up to 3 years (current plus 2 future years). To join, go to <https://www.srsretirees.org/membership/>.

Gas Card Winner

The second gas card winner for this issue is Gwendolyn Nealous. 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.

SRS Retiree Association, Inc.

Message Line: (803)508-7065; e-mail: srsretirees@srsretirees.org

Website: <https://srsretirees.org>

Retiree Resource Center Report

Lauren Riley Feinman, Manager

Message Line: 803-508-7065 Email: SRSRA@LSCOG.ORG Web Page: <http://srsretirees.org>

Street Address and Mail Dropbox: LSCOG Building, 2748 Wagener Road, Aiken SC 29801

Retiree Resource Center Metrics Since Inception

September 2014 – June 30, 2021

4,664 Office Visits at Retiree Center

3,350 Clients Served

9,920 Phone Contacts

1,155 Email Contacts

\$3.2 Million HealthEquity/WageWorks Claims transmitted by RRC

2,654 Number of Medicare Rx Plan Reviews conducted over Six Years

\$2.3 Million Projected Retiree out-of-pocket savings from Reviews over Six years

SRS Retiree Association, Inc.

Message Line: (803)508-7065; e-mail: srsretirees@srsretirees.org

Website: <https://srsretirees.org>

Our Client In-Person Office Meetings Have Resumed

We are very pleased to be taking appointments for you and your family to come back into our offices now! For us to minimize our own and others' health risks, volunteers and clients must be fully vaccinated at this point in time. Our retirees and anyone who accompanies them for an office visit will need to bring their vaccination certificates with them. At a later point that probably won't be necessary, but it is for now. If you do not have your vaccination, we will be glad to continue to help you over the telephone or internet. Thank you for your cooperation.

Here are our first retirees coming back to the LSCOG offices for face-to-face meetings with Don Stevenson, our most active SRSRA volunteer and prolific HealthEquity/WageWorks claims transmitter.



Don Stevenson, SRSRA RRC Volunteer

SRS Retiree Stan Godwin and his wife Jan Godwin

Last fall we were not able to offer on-site meetings for the Annual Prescription Drug Review from October 15th to December 7th. We plan to be able to offer the Rx Reviews in person this fall. We will be scheduling SRSRA members first so you may want to be sure your dues are current. Please remember, if you are planning to have us work with you in person, you and your spouse or friend will need to be fully vaccinated.

SRS Retiree Association, Inc.

Message Line: (803)508-7065; e-mail: srsretirees@srsretirees.org

Website: <https://srsretirees.org>

We have continued our Age-In-Training Meetings off-site throughout the pandemic, and we are now back at the Retiree Resource Center at the LSCOG on 2748 Wagener Road, Aiken. It's important to call or email early to register because the headcount is limited. Our next meetings will be held on July 13th and August 10th.

The Aiken Social Security Office, like other locations, remains closed to all but very urgent appointments set up by you calling the Medicare 800 number. No re-opening date is available yet.

The Site still has many employees working remotely. If you call their Service Center, please be prepared to leave a message and a remote employee will return your call later.

Blue Cross Settlement

In October 2020, BlueCross BlueShield South Carolina was part of a class action settlement in a case brought by BlueCross BlueShield subscribers related to licensing agreements within the BlueCross and BlueShield System. BlueCross BlueShield SC did not agree to the claims made by the plaintiffs in the case, but they did agree to provide monetary payments to eligible individuals and groups and to make some operational changes across the BlueCross and BlueShield system.

Find out if you will be buying a Lexus with your settlement! Probably not, but you can see – it's easy to file your claim. Here's the info:

The settlement website is www.bcbssettlement.com

The toll-free settlement hotline is **1-888-681-1142**

The email address is info@BCBSsettlement.com

SRS Retiree Association, Inc.

Message Line: (803)508-7065; e-mail: srsretirees@srsretirees.org

Website: <https://srsretirees.org>

Benefits Contacts

✚ **SRS Benefits Service Center at the Site:** (HR, payroll, and benefits questions. Currently no live answer; the SRS message line allows you to leave a message requesting a return call.)

803-725-7772 (local area SC and GA) 800-368-7333 (toll free) service-center@srs.gov

✚ **SRSRA Retiree Resource Center:** 803-508-7065 Message Line SRSRA@lscog.org

✚ **Transamerica Pension and 401K:** 866-288-3257 www.transamerica.com/portal/srsretire/

✚ **RightOpt** (MyMedicareAdvocate/GetInsured) 877-591-8904 www.rightoptretiree.com/srs

✚ **HealthEquity** (WageWorks) 877-924-3967 www.participant.wageworks.com

✚ **Medicare Helpline** 800-633-4227 www.medicare.gov

✚ **Prudential Life Insurance** 844-494-4778 (Company Control Number/Access Code = 51945)
www.prudential.com/mybenefits

✚ **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:** 866-322-2864 <https://my.viabenefits.com/>

✚ **Corteva Agriscience** for other DuPont Benefits: 800-775-5955

✚ **DuPont Retirees Contact Information** for other benefits:

<http://www.retiree.dupont.com/our-company/retirees/contact-us.html>

✚ **Social Security** 800-772-1213 <http://www.ssa.gov>

Aiken office: 866-275-8271

Augusta office: 877-616-2523

(Offices are currently closed so telephone or internet access only)

Gas Card Winner

The third gas card winner for this issue is Theresa G. Brock. 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.

In Memoriam: July 2021

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

Douglas Allan Berry,	North Augusta	Minnie Holloway Bishop,	Jackson
Franklin Everett Carter,	Barnwell	Ward Mason Clark,	North Augusta
James Marion Crow Sr.,	Aiken	Michael McCahan Downes,	Augusta
Joanne Rodgers Friar,	Aiken	Theodore Franklin Hunt,	Williston
Donnie Ray Johnson,	Aiken	Henry Watson Matthews,	Appling
Walter H Pennington,	Graniteville	Leonard Ray Rauton,	Ridge Spring
James Albert Reynolds	Raleigh, NC	Leo H Sain,	Oak Ridge, TN
William Patrick Spears,	Aiken	Joseph Arthur Stutts,	North Augusta
Monroe Willard Walcher,	Aiken	Joseph Weber,	Aiken
Joseph Arthur Wright Jr.,	North Augusta		

Save the Date



SRSRA Annual Meeting

Tuesday, September 14

USCA Etherredge Center

11:00 AM Registration and representatives from Blue Cross/Blue Shield, SRNS Employee Relations, Wage Works/Health Equity, and others will be available in the lobby

1:30 PM Business Meeting

All dues paying members of the SRSRA and their spouses or caregivers are welcome!