



SRSRA NEWSLETTER

For SRS Retiree Association Members Bruce Cadotte, Editor Volume 21, No. 1, March 2018
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SRS Retiree Association Notice of 2018 Annual Membership Meeting

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, USC-AIKEN ETHERREDGE CENTER
Registration 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Meeting 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.

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2018 ANNUAL MEETING

Each year the Board of Directors of the Savannah River Site Retiree Association (SRSRA) holds an annual meeting to discuss the financial, political and overall outlook for retired Site employees. This year’s meeting will be held on April 17, 2018 at the Etherredge Center on the University of South Carolina Aiken campus. Member registration will begin at 11 a.m. and the meeting will start promptly at 1:30 p.m. It is expected to conclude at about 4 p.m.

Guests invited to this year’s meeting include management from the Department of Energy-SR, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions and Savannah River Remediation, politicians from South Carolina and Georgia, and various organizations who provide important services to the Site retirees. Those service organizations will set up tables and be available to provide information about their services to retirees. Their tables will be open from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. to discuss various issues one-on-one (See p. 2). *Be sure to register before the break to be eligible for door prizes.*

The Etherredge Center is located on the University of South Carolina Aiken campus. Information about how to find the center and where to park can be found at www.srsretirees.org . The center’s address is: 471 University Parkway, Aiken, SC 29801 (803-641-3327). Attendees are encouraged to carpool with one or two others because school will be in session and the four parking lots are expected to be in high demand.

Any questions about the meeting can be addressed to Dick Frushour (803-648-8126), e-mail rsfrush@bellsouth.net.

DRAFT AGENDA

Call to Order

SRSRA Chair

State of SRSRA

- Communications and Relationships
- Retiree Health Care Plan Review
- Pension Adjustment Proposal
- Treasurer's Report
- Resource Center Update (Laureen Feinman)

Remarks by DOE-SR

DOE-SR

Presentation by SRNS, SRR Management

SRNS, SRR

Break (15 Minutes)

Questions and Answers

SRSRA Chair

General Business

- Approval of the 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Bylaws Changes
- Board of Directors Elections

Door Prize Drawings*

(*NOTE: MUST REGISTER BEFORE THE BREAK TO BE ELIGIBLE, AND MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN.)

Adjournment

Organizations Available During Registration

The following organizations were expected to have people available for discussion during meeting registration.

- *SRNS People Support Service Center*
- *SRS Retiree Association Resource Center*
- *RightOpt*
- *WageWorks*
- *Oak Ridge/ORISE Health Studies Administration*
- *Social Security Administration*
- *SRS Employee Association*
- *United Way of Aiken County*
- *Lower Savannah Council of Governments*
- *Blue Cross/Blue Shield of South Carolina*
- *Family Y of Aiken County*
- *Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness*
- *Energy Employee Compensation Resource Center*
- *SRS Heritage Foundation*
- *Project Lifesaver*

SRSRA Regrets Credit Card Payments Cannot Be Accepted at Annual Meeting

Although some members would like to pay their dues at the annual meeting by credit card, SRSRA is not able to accommodate credit card payments at this time. Both cash and check are fine. SRSRA hopes to be able to accept credit cards at future meetings. If this changes by the meeting date, so much the better!

Congratulations to John Walter Cantwell, winner of 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 him.

Board Member Slate Proposed for Approval

New nominees for the SRSRA Board for either one- or two-year terms (consult the ballot you will receive at the annual meeting) are Pam Amendola, Jeff Barnes, Frank Campbell, Tommy Caldwell, Mike Cutshall, Art Osborne, Mike Rucker, Rhonda Whitley and Bobbie Williams.

Incumbent directors who are standing for re-election for additional time are Russ Beckmeyer, Paula Brown, Jennifer Garvin, Kathy Grant, Harvey Kinder, Ron Malanowski, Bob Malstrom, William Osteen and John Veldman.

Current directors who are serving terms that expire next year are Phil Croll, Bernice DeLoach, Dave Fauth, Dick Frushour, Bob Hottel, John Lindsay, Joe Ortaldo, Ranny Saylor, Deb Shedrow, Don Stevenson, Jim Tisaranni and Dave Zigelman.

Directors whose term will expire on April 17 are Allen Blancett, Bruce Cadotte, Gail Jernigan, John Plodinec and Tom Varallo. Tom French, who served as chair through last year's annual meeting, resigned in 2017 to take a position on the SRS Citizens Advisory Board.

Revised Bylaws to be Presented to Members

As mentioned in the December newsletter, a couple of revisions to the bylaws are proposed to simplify the operation of the association. The detailed revisions are available for those interested and will be detailed at the meeting. The entire bylaws are available on the SRSRA website, www.srsretirees.org.

The Board of Directors presents, for any comment, the following bylaw changes for our organization in 2018 in order to:

1. Simplify the process of securing members of the Board of Directors
2. Remove the necessity for a vote by the Members in amending the Bylaws

Following is the language proposed for the bylaws in question:

ARTICLE IV -- Board of Directors

Section 2, Composition. The Board of Directors of the SRSRA Corporation shall consist of not less than twenty (20) nor more than thirty (30) voting members. Directors are encouraged to serve two-year terms (or until the date of the second Regular Member Meeting after their election by the membership) and are eligible for re-election. The terms of existing or proposed Directors may be adjusted to one year with their consent and must then be communicated to the membership and authorized by the process described in Article III of these bylaws. Terms should be staggered, with the goal of electing one-half of the board for the coming year.

Directors shall be elected from among the SRSRA Corporation members.

The Board of Directors may appoint board members to fill vacancies that occur during the year to serve until the next annual SRSRA Regular Member Meeting.

BACKGROUND *Maintaining a 30-member Board of Directors for a volunteer organization of retirees is sometimes difficult. Although the Board of Directors has been able to stay near the effective membership complement of 30, it has become increasingly difficult to attract and hold qualified working members, and the requirement to stagger the terms is clarified in order to give more flexibility in the process. Note that the above process referred to in Article III is the notification of the annual meeting.*

Article VIII -- Adoption and Amendment

Amendments to these Bylaws may be adopted by a majority vote of the Board of Directors and communicated to the membership by the process described in Article III of these bylaws.

BACKGROUND *The original bylaws of this organization were established based upon the standard format and content for such documents, and until a proper board of directors was established, the membership was the correct body to approve them. Experience suggests that the general membership has little concern about the details of the bylaws, and the maturation of the organization enables the Board of Directors to effectively manage the bylaws, communicating any changes to the membership. The membership will be informed of changes, but will not be asked to authorize those changes by vote. Changes may, of course, be challenged and a vote requested.*

Note that although this change is not as prescribed in Robert's Rules, (Article XI, 67 & 68) both Robert's Rules (Introduction, footnote 1) and our bylaws (Article III, Section 6) allow departures from Roberts Rules when those departures are specified within our bylaws.

Minutes of the April 2017 Annual Meeting

(These minutes, in expanded form, were circulated in the June 2017 newsletter. Members may refer to that newsletter for additional details if desired.)

Call to Order and Opening Remarks – Tom French, Chair, SRSRA

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. Congressional delegation staffers were thanked for attending.

State of the SRSRA – Tom French, Chair, SRSRA

The SRSRA was founded in September 1997. The organization, therefore, is in its twentieth year. One of our founding directors, Mike French, passed away this year. Ed Leibfarth, a previous director and Annual Meeting organizer, passed away this year as well.



The SRSRA Board of Directors (BOD) has worked with DOE-SR, SRNS, SRR, and our delegation to achieve major improvements in retiree benefits. Among these improvements are: 1) an increase in our insurance stipend prorated by age; 2) catastrophic drug coverage; and 3) initiation of two studies on our pension increase request and complex-wide pension funding being conducted by the Congressional Research Service (Library of Congress) at the request of Rep. Wilson's office on our behalf. Our special thanks go to all those who worked with us on these efforts.

Our thanks also go to our major financial supporters this past year, including the SRS Employee Association, the Lower Savannah Council of Governments, SRNS, SRR, and special donations from individual SRSRA members. These supporters, along with our association dues, have provided us with some funding consistency.

In 2016, the SRSRA Resource Center (RC) assisted 1,182 clients through 862 office visits and ten home visits for a total of 1,538 client hours. A total of \$430,146 worth of claims were processed. In addition, reviews of prescription drug plans resulted in \$486,551 in savings for our clients.

The SRSRA increased its civic involvement this past year. We raised \$21,000 for the United Way and actively supported the SRS Museum, the Annual SRS Safety Meeting, and the SRS Citizens Advisory Board (CAB). We are developing a partnership with the Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA).

The SRSRA 2017 Year-End financial summary was presented along with the proposed 2018 budget. The financial summary included the following:

	FY17 Actual	FY18 Proposed
Income	\$90,600	\$91,400
Expenses	\$76,080	\$83,950

We are on a more sustainable financial path.

SRS Presentations

Program and project updates were presented by representatives of DOE-Savannah River, SRNS, and SRR. A break followed the presentations.

Questions and Answers – Tom French, Chair, SRSRA

Following the break, submitted questions were answered. [*Ed. Note: A summary of the most pertinent questions and answers follow.*]

- *Are there plans to replace WageWorks with a medical credit card?*
There are no plans for a medical credit card. We will bring the suggestion up at our quarterly meeting with DOE and the contractors.
- *What is the status of the pension plan COLA adjustment request?*
That study will be performed after the DOE-wide pension study has been completed. [*Ed. Note: No completion date has been set as of press time.*]
- *What is the anticipated award date for the Liquid Waste contract?*
The award date is currently scheduled for April. [*Ed. note: The Government Accountability Office upheld one of the protests to the award of the contract; DOE's action was pending at press time.*]
- *Is the stipend subject to federal and state income taxes?*

No, it is not subject to income taxes.

- *Are automatic stipend payments possible from WageWorks?*

Certain plans support this option. It is between the insurance companies and RightOpt. An agreement has to be in place for automatic payments. We have a list of companies that include this option. Call the Resource Center for this information.

- *Is it necessary to submit reimbursement information to WageWorks every year?*

If you have premium changes, there is no way for WageWorks to know about them otherwise, except if you are using automatic reimbursement. [Ed. Note: This cannot be done with Medicare Part B payments, as one questioner asked; those must be resubmitted every year. All that is required for Medicare Part B reimbursement, however, is a copy of your benefit statement from the Social Security Administration.]

- *What is the largest catastrophic drug plan reimbursement?*

The largest reimbursement to date is ~\$8,000. We will try to get a summary.

[Ed. Note: It was impractical to answer several of the submitted questions at the meeting; those were answered in the June newsletter.]

General Business – Tom French, Chair, SRSRA

- The minutes of the 2016 SRSRA Annual Meeting were approved.
- The proposed changes to the Bylaws were approved. They include the following:
 - Expand the membership requirement to be more inclusive.
 - Reduce the quorum requirement to members present and voting at the Annual Meeting.
 - Correct the misleading terminology regarding the quorum requirement at Board of Directors meetings.
- The slate of proposed Board of Directors candidates was approved. Apart from incumbents who were scheduled to serve until 2018 and 2019, the newly elected directors for a one-year term were Russ Beckmeyer, Allen Blancett, Pete Grady, William Osteen, Pat Pinkard (since resigned) and John Veldman. Directors elected for two-year terms were John Miller (since resigned) and Ranny Saylor.
-

Door Prize Drawings – John Plodinec, Past Chair, SRSRA

The following fifteen names were randomly selected to receive \$100 gas cards funded by the SRSEA and SRSRA: Bob Fallaw, James Tarpley, Ted Bondor, Walter Glover, Minnie Maddox, William Li, Joe McCrosson, Lettie Jackson, Patrick Pride, Daniel Wilson, Jerry Martin, Jim Marra, Robert Bero, Bob Croley, and Mozelle McBryde.

Adjournment – Tom French, Chair, SRSRA

The meeting was adjourned at about 3:30 p.m. The gas card winners received their cards. Save the date for the next SRSRA Annual Meeting on April 17, 2018!

NEWS FROM THE SRSRA RESOURCE CENTER.....

By Lauren Feinman

The volunteers at the SRSRA Resource Center completed a very successful year in December. They provided 1,305 hours to help 976 retirees with their insurance enrollment and claim submittal issues. The Center processed over \$450,000 in claims and helped select drug prescription plans that saved retirees more than \$300,000.

As we enter 2018, several issues have developed with RightOpt that possibly require your immediate attention. First is the Automatic Premium Reimbursement (APR) that you may have signed up for with RightOpt for automatic reimbursement of your insurance premium payments. There have been glitches where RightOpt has failed to instruct WageWorks to make these payments to you for particular months or for all months.

We have also encountered several instances where the retiree purchased Medicare Medigap/Advantage plans through RightOpt (as required), only to find that the required data file was not sent to WageWorks resulting in the inability to establish an online WageWorks account or the absence of your health reimbursement account stipend being deposited to your name, or both. We strongly recommend that you log onto your WageWorks online account, if you have one, and verify that your account has had the appropriate stipend amount(s) deposited for 2017 and 2018. In addition, if you are expecting reimbursements via the APR Program, verify that you have received the expected reimbursements.

If you have any questions and/or problems, please contact the Resource Center at 803-508-7065 immediately; we will be glad to assist you.

United Way Total Tops \$23K, Sets Record

Members donating to United Way campaigns through the SRSRA contributed a total of \$23,030 for the 2017 campaign, a record for the Association. For further details about donating to the United Way contact (for example) the United Way of Aiken County, Inc., P.O. Box 699, Aiken, SC 29802-0699.

Dave Fauth, SRSRA Chair, presented the check for the donation to Ellen Luton, United Way publicist (on left in the picture) and Sharon Rodgers, United Way of Aiken County chair.



Budney to Succeed Jack Craig as Manager of DOE-SR.

Jim Owendoff, principal deputy assistant secretary of DOE, recently announced the appointment of Michael Budney to succeed Jack Craig as manager of DOE-SR.

“Mike has demonstrated leadership in a variety of roles in the U.S. Navy, the Department of Defense, DOE, and the private sector,” Owendoff said.

“Mike is a retired captain from the U.S. Navy with 29 years of service. In his major command, he spent two years as commanding officer of the *USS Emory S. Land*, a U.S. Navy submarine tender. He also served two and a half years as commanding officer of the *USS Pennsylvania* (SSBN 735B). His final military assignment was as Deputy Director of the Nuclear Command and Control System Support Staff, performing oversight duties of all aspects of the national nuclear command and control system for the Commander of U.S. Strategic Command.

“Most recently, Mike was Director of the Office of Business Operations in the DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy,” he said. “Mike’s experience in leading and managing complex organizations will assist EM in continuing to carry out its important missions at Savannah River. I know he will maintain the high standards and continue the momentum that Jack has overseen at Savannah River.”

Prudential Asks Retirees about Converting Group Life

Retirees with non-contributory group life insurance from SRNS may have received a letter or letters from Prudential Life Insurance about converting amounts of group life to an individual life policy. The amount of noncontributory life decreases to 25 percent of the employee’s coverage amount between ages 65 and 75; the Prudential letters notify retirees that they have the opportunity to convert some or all of the amount of that annual decrease (since Prudential began managing that insurance program) to an individual policy—with the payment of premiums, of course. Call Prudential at 877-701-4778 for further information.

Contractors Support Resource Center

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions recently granted \$10,000 to support the operations of the SRSRA Resource Center. Savannah River Remediation similarly donated \$2,500.

In the accompanying picture, SRSRA Chair Dave Fauth accepts the check from SRR President and Project Manager Tom Foster.



Secretary Perry Visits SRS, Breaks Ground for SDU

[Energy Secretary Rick Perry](#) joined SRS officials Feb. 1 to break ground on [EM](#)'s second 32.8-million-gallon liquid waste disposal unit during his first visit to the site.

"We are pleased that Secretary Perry could be here to commemorate this occasion with us today," DOE-Savannah River Manager Jack Craig said. "The Saltstone Disposal Units (SDUs) are an important part of our cleanup mission and underscore the Department of Energy's continued commitment to furthering progress on the closure of the high-level waste tanks at SRS."

SDUs are permanent disposal units for low-activity waste grout produced from the solidification of decontaminated non-hazardous salt waste at SRS. The groundbreaking was for SDU 7, the second of seven mega-units planned to store the remaining tank waste. EM approved the concept of replicating the mega-volume design for all remaining SDUs at SRS.

Newsletter Information

Questions and comments related to this newsletter may be addressed to **Bruce Cadotte, newsletter editor, at newsletter@srsretirees.org, or Newsletter, SRS Retiree Association, P.O. Box. 5686, Aiken, SC 29804.**

If you have a new e-mail address, or have changed your address recently and are not receiving SRSRA communications by e-mail, please contact newsletter@srsretirees.org. Our e-mail program allows us to reach members more quickly with news. Other pluses are quicker distribution of the newsletter and less cost of copying and mailing hard copies. Thanks to all of you who are receiving your newsletter by e-mail.

Congratulations to Lucien Papouchado, winner of 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 him.

BENEFITS CONTACTS

- **Benefits Service Center (a one-stop service for most HR and payroll activities and questions):**
 - 803-725-7772 (local area SC and GA)
 - 800-368-7333 (toll free)
 - service-center@srs.gov (e-mail contact for this service)
- **SRS Retiree Resource Center:**
 - (803) 508-7065
 - (866) 845-1550 (toll free)
 - **Internet:** srsra@lscog.org
- ◆ **Westinghouse Corp. Pension** 800-581-4222
- ◆ **RightOpt/My Medicare Advocate** 877-591-8904; www.rightoptretiree.com/srs
- ◆ **WageWorks** 877-924-3967; www.wageworks.com
- ◆ **Medicare Helpline** 800-633-4227

- ◆ **Medicare website:** www.medicare.gov
- ◆ **Prudential Life Insurance** 844-494-4778 (Contributory and non-contributory life insurance)
- ◆ **Blue Cross/Blue Shield of SC** 800-325-6596;
www.southcarolinablues.com
Option 1 for Medical
Option 2 for Dental
Option 3 for Pre-Cert/Med Authorization

Congratulations to Stephen D. Bright, winner of 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 him.

In Memoriam

(Since December 2017)

James Albert Anderegg Jr.
Ned Eugene Bibler
Harcourt Bull III
David Hilton Ecklund
James Earl Heath Jr.
George Looney
Elmer Emanuel Shealy
James Emmett Walls

David E. Beam
Homer A. Boring
John Victor Denero
Fred M. Harter
Mark Steve Jones
William Ryans
Carl Logan Sossman III
Jim Walton

Interested in serving on the SRSRA Board of Directors?
Please e-mail Tom Varallo, Nomination Chairman, at tomvarallo@gmail.com

Savannah River Site Retiree Association Membership Form

Annual Dues

Annual dues for the Association are \$25/year for a retiree (there is no charge for retirees who are spouses of members). For surviving spouses of retirees, annual dues are \$5.

- _____ As a retiree, I want to **JOIN/RENEW** my membership in the SRSRA (\$25). Retirement date from SRS: _____
- _____ I am the **SPOUSE** of a member and also an SRS retiree and I want to **JOIN** the SRSRA (no charge). Retirement date from SRS: _____
- _____ I am the **SURVIVING SPOUSE** of an SRS retiree and want to **JOIN/RENEW** my membership in the SRSRA (\$5).
- _____ I am willing to **SERVE** on the SRSRA Board of Directors.
- _____ I am interested in **VOLUNTEERING** at the SRSRA Retiree Resource Center.
- _____ In addition to my dues, I want to make **AN ADDITIONAL GIFT** to the SRSRA Resource Center ____ or the SRS Heritage Foundation ____ (latter is tax deductible):
_____ \$25 _____ \$10 _____ \$15 _____ Other amount \$_____

The Resource Center is staffed by volunteers, but your dues do not cover all of its costs.

Member's Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

Providing your e-mail address allows SRSRA to send important communications to you electronically.

Mail this form (and your check) to:
SRS Retiree Association
P. O. Box 5686
Aiken, SC 29804
Attention: Membership Chair