SRSRA NEWSLETTER

For SRS Retiree Association Members

Ed Somers, Editor

Volume 46 September 2010

SRSRA Annual Meeting April 27, 2011

Mark Your Calendar

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CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

As this is my first opportunity to write to you as your new SRSRA Chairman, I would be negligent if I did not recognize the contributions of our immediate past two chairmen, Nick Kuehn and Dave Cowfer. They worked tirelessly on behalf of the retirees, despite troubling personal situations. They provided the foundation for protecting your pension and health benefits from the most recent threats from DOE and it is my responsibility to build on this foundation. Although they both will remain active on the SRSRA Board of Directors for the foreseeable future, we all owe them a debt of gratitude for what they accomplished.

As discussed at the SRSRA annual meeting, our primary focus continues to be the following:

Reverse the effects of DOE's new policy that allows pension fund levels to fall below 80% by ensuring that SRS budgets for FY 2011-2013 containing funding for deposits to the pension fund that will return the fund to an 80% level. The SRS pension fund is currently at 67%.

Continue to pursue an ad-hoc pension adjustment which the current 67% funding level does not permit.

Protect retiree health benefits which we are concerned may be modified by DOE on a complex wide basis.

Pursue an annual line item to cover funding for pension fund deposits and retiree health benefits thereby protecting them from the vagaries of site operating budgets.

We have long recognized that our chief "allies" in pursuing these objectives have and will be the CSRA congressional delegation. In order to further our relationship and reinforce our message to the delegation, Dave Cowfer (Chairman of the SRSRA Pension Protection Committee), Sid Curry (Chairman of the SRSRA Benefits Protection Committee) and I travelled to Capitol Hill on June 16-17, 2010 and met with the following:

SC Senator Jim DeMint and his staff

Georgia Senator Johnny Isakson and his staff

SC Representative Joe Wilson and his staff

Georgia Representative Paul Broun and his staff

The staffs of Georgia Senator Saxby Chambliss, SC Senator Lindsey Graham (we had met with the Senator in April) and SC Representatives James Clyburn and Gresham Barrett

Although we did not meet with Senator Graham on this trip, his staff volunteered that he would be glad to lead the CSRA delegation's efforts on our behalf to protect SRS retiree benefits. We therefore told each congressional office we visited that Senator Graham would be pleased to coordinate their efforts and asked that they contact his office. The Senators, Representatives and staffers that we met with were universally supportive of our efforts to protect SRS retiree benefits.

While in Washington, we also met with DOE's Director of Office of Management, Ms. Ingrid Kolb. Senator Graham's and Representative Barrett's congressional liaisons came to the meeting with us. We have had numerous frank and open discussions with Ms. Kolb in the past and this was the case during this meeting. Although we had a good "back and forth" discussion, she repeated the DOE "party line" that the action on the pension funding (reducing the 2010 pension fund payment by \$300+ million dollars and reducing pension funding to 67%) was intended to create jobs in South Carolina. Although she repeated DOE's commitment to the pension plan, she was non-committal on the future of retiree health benefits. Our meeting with Ms. Kolb did result in our finally receiving a response to our March 31, 2010 letter to DOE Secretary Chu.. The DOE response was signed by Dr. Ines Triay, DOE's Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management. The letter is generally non-responsive to our letter to Dr. Chu, but was preceded by a telephone call from Dr. Triay requesting that we address our concerns in a series of regular conference calls.

We subsequently met with Ms. Merle Sykes, Chief Business Officer of DOE's Office of Environmental Management, on September 15 in Aiken. Ms. Sykes recognizes that significant payments (\$783 million) must be made to the SRS pension fund in 2011-2013 to return it to a level of 80% of liabilities. DOE is looking at several ways to accomplish this funding. In addition, she said that the collection of complex-wide cost information on retiree health benefit costs does not presage a significant reduction in these benefits, but rather to obtain a better understanding of what the various sites do. Although her words were certainly reassuring, your SRSRA will continue to monitor these issues. The SRSRA contingent and Ms. Sykes agreed to hold regular meetings in Aiken and Washington.

Our efforts must continue to be focused on the congressional delegation. We are developing strategies to be implemented after Congress returns from their election day recess.

The Board of Directors and I appreciate your continued support.

David Zigelman, Chairman SRS Retiree Association

MESSAGE FROM REPRESENTATIVE JOE WILSON

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for the work you all have done and are currently undertaking. The legacy you are a part of is central to our country's nuclear heritage. In today's context of nuclear disarmament, it may be difficult for many to understand the importance of the "bomb plant," but when you look at the historical context of the Savannah River Site, its purpose is obvious. Adding to this, the site's technological and industrial development is important to the present and future generations of scientists and engineers, and continues to play a vital part in our national defense needs.

Going forward, with the groundwork you laid, the Site will be able to continue progress on environmental management, advancement on our country's future energy needs, and remain to be a safe and secure work environment.

Consequently, I believe we are obligated to honor the commitments made to you and make certain your pension and medical benefits are adequately and consistently maintained, as well as treated fairly. I am well aware of the Department of Energy's responsibility to those who have served our nation at the Savannah River Site. This is a priority for me and I will continue to work in this area.

Please be sure, as I work to advance the Savannah River Site's priorities in Congress, I will also monitor the Department of Energy and their obligations to all of you who have faithfully served our nation at the Site.

It is an honor to serve you and the Second Congressional District of South Carolina. Please do not ever hesitate to contact me about anything important to you or your family.

Sincerely,

Joe Wilson U.S. House of Representatives (SC-02)

SRSRA 2011 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Mark your calendars! The next annual meeting of the Savannah River Site Retiree Association has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, 2011 at the St. Angela Hall of Saint Mary's Church, 118 York St. in Aiken (same location as the 2010 meeting). According to Andy Cwalina, chairman of the annual meeting planning committee, the meeting date coincides with the US Congressional recess so that both our Georgia and South Carolina delegates have the best opportunity to attend. Andy's committee started the planning process by reviewing your comments from the previous meeting and making appropriate adjustments to the agenda. The goal is to have a concise program that provides essential information for all members. And, of course we will have the usual cadre of door prizes. If you have any comments for the 2011 meeting planning committee, or, if you would like to help with the meeting, contact Andy at annualmeeting@srsretirees.org.

MEMBERSHIP

Your membership in the SRS Retiree Association is critical to our success in protecting your benefits. <u>Please renew now</u> for 2011 and 2012, or join for the first time, using the form attached to this newsletter. The cost is only \$15.00 annually for a retiree (and no additional charge for a retired spouse), and \$5.00 for a surviving spouse. <u>Encourage your retired SRS friends to join as well.</u> Our membership for 2010 is currently at 957 retirees and survivors, which provides strength when discussing your issues with elected officials and the Savannah River Site. Although our membership is strong, there are still many retirees who have not joined. For 2010 we want to strengthen the effectiveness of the SRSRA even more through the continued commitment of current members, as well as adding new members. Please join now to help us look out for your interests!

To join SRSRA, please send your membership payment, along with an application form to SRS Retiree Association, PO Box 5686, Aiken, SC 29804. You can use the application provided at the end of this newsletter or access the form from our website at www.srsretirees.org and click on "Membership". You can also contact Kent Sullivan, Membership Chairman, at 803-279-9570 for assistance or questions.

With your support we can really have an impact in protecting our future pension and benefits!

SRSRA WEB SITE - John Church, SRSRA webmaster

In addition to the normal changes to the website following the Annual Meeting (Committee restructuring, officers, etc.), there are two significant additions to the web site. On the Medical Benefits page there is a section explaining how to use the new Caremark "prescription by mail" service.

There is also a new page, the SIP (Savings and Investment Plan), that provides access to four documents that relate to the change to the new SIP Record Keeper and Trustee that took place on August 2, 2010.

These four documents are pdf files that can be downloaded from the SRSRA website and which explain the new online access and other features and benefits of the new system.

The Website Committee has been augmented with the addition of two new members. With this additional help, a systematic examination of all pages of the website is underway to ensure validity of the links, information, etc. As a result, there have been some updates to the Jobs page, and more are expected in the near future.

The SRSRA web site includes a wealth of information of value and use to our retiree members. Most importantly, it includes the most recent contact information for benefits administrators at SRS and Blue Cross/Blue Shield. A new search engine feature makes finding documents much easier. Any suggestions on changes/additions to the web site should be sent via e-mail to: webmaster@srsretirees.org. An SRSRA Membership Form is also available on the web site.

NEWSLETTER MAILING

Questions and comments related to the Newsletter may be addressed to Ed Somers, Newsletter Editor, at edsomers@gforcecable.com.

A number of emails continue to be returned for incorrect addresses, recipient mailbox over quota, recipient not accepting mail from SRSRA, and several others indicating that our database needs some "tuning up". These "error messages" result in the newsletter being sent by hard copy at additional cost to the SRSRA. If you have an active email address, or have changed your address recently and are not receiving SRSRA communications by email, please contact membership@srsretirees.org. Our email program allows us to reach the vast majority of 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.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE - Joe Yanek

Looking to be a member of the Board or participating on one of the Board Committees? The first step is let the Board know of your interest. We have 30 seats on the board with 15 coming up for re-election every year. Also, during any given year we may have vacancies due to personal situations of individuals who are no longer able to participate. In those cases, the Board elects individuals to fill the vacancies until the next formal election at the Annual Meeting. In November of this year we will be starting the process to determine candidates for the board seats up for re-election in April 2011. If you're interested just send the board an email.

BOARD MEETING DATES, TIME AND LOCATION

The SRSRA Board of Directors meets at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at Cumberland Village off Hitchcock Parkway and Route 421. Any Retiree Association member may attend Board meetings and participate, but may not vote on Board issues. If you ever plan to attend a meeting, be sure to contact a BOD member to confirm that the meeting date and time has not changed. BOD meeting dates are listed on the website but are generally on the first Tuesday each month unless impacted by a holiday or special event.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Stan Smith, Treasurer

Phone: 803-641-0938; e-mail: srsretirees@srsretirees.org

This report covers the May 2010 through July 2010 period.

Opening Balance	\$48,977
Income	\$1,159
Expenditures	\$5,177
Closing Balance	\$45,959

The income shows receipts and \$284 interest from a matured CD. The major expense items were the three person trip to Washington to meet with our congressional members, printing costs of the last Newsletter, our website management and a variety of miscellaneous costs. The closing balance includes \$26,894 in CDs.

SRSRA MEDICAL INTERFACE COMMITTEE - Ellen Miller

What's becoming more commonplace when we go to our physicians' offices?

Are they paying any attention to why I have come to the office? More consideration seems to be spent on entering data into the computer than on the reason I've come to see the doctor.

Electronic Health Record implementation (EHR) has been dominating hospital and health professionals' focus in recent months. Why is this?

EHR's appear to be the direction of the medical future. Most hospital's and health professionals are converting to this process.

From "Electronic Health Records – Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia":

- "Advantages of EHR's: 1. Reduce health care costs
 - 2. Improve quality of patient care
 - 3. Provide data for research purposes
 - 4. Connect with other hospitals and health professionals, i.e. 2nd opinions"
- "Disadvantages of EHR's:
- 1. Upfront costs of installation of IT system for physicians
- 2. Increased time it takes to input data into system
- 3. Learning curve for physicians and office personnel thereby reducing office productivity
- 4. Privacy concerns"

From a July 15th Health and Human Resources Press Office Release:

"A final rule supporting "Meaningful Use" of Electronic Health Records has been announced. This rule identifies how health care professionals and hospitals can qualify for Medicare and Medicaid incentive payments if they adopt certified EHR technology and use it to achieve specified objectives."

"Adoption and meaningful use of EHR's will help provide hospitals and health professionals deliver better and more effective care and the benefits for patients and providers will grow over time."

As with all new processes come advantages and disadvantages. If health professionals and hospitals fail to convert to certified EHR systems they will lose financial incentive payments and they will be left behind in medical technology.

Annual Physicals

There had been some question about whether the Internal Medicine Partners of Augusta were still providing annual physicals for retirees.

The Medical Interface Committee made contact with the Internal Medicine Partners group and as of July 2010 it has been confirmed they are still honoring their commitment to provide annual physicals for our retirees for only the co-payment expense of \$20. The remaining cost is covered by the SRNS/BCBS medical plan.

Please be advised that as of 3/15/10 Internal Medicine Partners is no longer affiliated with University Hospital. As a result they are no longer in-network providers within BCBSSC. However, Internal Medicine Partners is an in-network provider with BCBS of Georgia and can submit their bills through BCBS of Georgia who will in turn transmit the bills to BCBSSC so that correct in-network payments can be applied.

Members who have had problems with correct payment of their annual physicals and other services provided during their annual physical since 3/15/10 should contact Internal Medicine Partners to have their bills resubmitted for corrected payment.

If you have any questions or issues, the Medical Interface Committee can be reached at medicalinterface@srsretirees.org or by mail at the SRSRA address shown on the top of each page of this newsletter.

SRS ACTIVITIES (INCLUDES DOE, SRNS AND SRR)

Savannah River Remediation awards more than \$21 million in contracts for infrastructure to accelerate SRS tank closures

The larger of the contracts were those to Bethesda, Maryland-based AREVA Federal Services LLC for \$4.8 million in services to implement, among other tasks, the Enhanced Chemical Cleaning (ECC) process in the Site's waste tanks. Energy Solutions Federal EPC Inc. of Columbia, Maryland, contracted to provide \$3.2 million in process improvements, including melter bubbler technology for the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF), the Site's waste vitrification facility.

More than 10 contract awards were made during July. SRR's Recovery Act Project Manager, Mark Schmitz, says the timing of the awards reflects the transition from the earlier design and planning activities started in the fall of 2009 when SRR commenced ARRA work to the actual construction and deployment under way now.

Contracts were also awarded to Curtiss Wright for the purchase of submersible blender pumps, valued at \$4.7 million, and \$1.7 million to Chicago Bridge and Iron for three large storage tanks that will improve waste process efficiency.

The July contract awards follow the more than \$40 million in goods and services purchased since last September by SRR from local area and small businesses with Recovery Act funding.

SRS is owned by DOE. The SRS Liquid Waste contract is managed by SRR and is composed of personnel from a team of companies led by URS with partners Bechtel National, CH2M Hill and Babcock & Wilcox. Critical subcontractors for the contract are AREVA, Energy Solutions and URS Safety Management Solutions.

Recycling Waste Benefits SRR Waste Tank Closure Process

Savannah River Remediation (SRR) is setting up a unique recycling program at the Savannah River Site (SRS) that could save taxpayers \$250 million.

By recycling water and chemicals used in cleaning radioactive waste tanks, the company is moving away from adding new waste water and chemicals into the system. In addition, recycling in this case means more flexibility in the tank farms because more tanks space is available.

After just over a year of operations, SRR has reused over 2.8 million gallons of waste water in its tank cleaning and waste removal processes, eliminating the need to add water and other chemicals in the process, which means there is less volume in the waste tanks to remove prior to operationally closing the tanks.

SRR Employees Record 1 Million Safe Work Hours

The milestone was reached in early August. A typical organization in the waste management and remediation business records an average of 5 injuries requiring days away from work in the span of one million hours worked.

A lost workday case is defined as any work-related injury or illness that results in days away from work. This milestone continues a long tradition by liquid waste employees operating and maintaining critical cleanup facilities and being recognized nationally as one of the safest projects in the DOE complex.

SRR Hires 39 Employees from EPA Sponsored Job Initiative

Thirty-nine residents of counties surrounding the Savannah River Site are now employees of Savannah River Remediation (SRR), thanks to the company's participation in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) sponsored Superfund Job Training Initiative. SRR President Jim French spoke during graduation ceremonies July 9 at Denmark Technical College in Barnwell, SC, where the employees successfully completed training that prepared them for the SRR jobs. The job training initiative was designed to provide access to employment opportunities to residents in counties surrounding the Savannah River Site. The employees were from Aiken, Allendale, Edgefield, Hampton and Orangeburg Counties in South Carolina and Richmond County in Georgia.

SRNS has again been awarded the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) "Star of Excellence."

In order to be recognized as a participant in the DOE VPP, a contractor must demonstrate

excellence in the following safety program areas: management leadership, employee involvement, worksite analysis, hazard prevention and control, and safety and health training.

"We are pleased to recognize Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, the SRS management and operating contractor, for its safety commitment and performance," said Jack Craig, Acting Manager, DOE's Savannah River Operations Office at SRS. "This was SRNS' first full scope VPP assessment and we thank them for their commitment to safety and their service to our nation. Congratulations to all SRNS employees."

The Star of Excellence award is given to those sites demonstrating excellence in safety performance (OSHA recordable rates at least 75 percent lower than industry standards) and excelling by performing outreach efforts to other sites.

New SRNL director to take helm in September

Terry A. Michalske, Ph.D., the former Sandia Laboratory Director of Energy and Security Systems, will become Director of the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) in mid-September. Dr. Michalske has more than 30 years of experience in the fields of energy science, solar energy, nanotechnology, and biomolecular analysis, principally for Sandia. In his last post

at Sandia, he focused on energy science and technology, systems modeling and optimization, and vulnerability and consequence management for major U.S. Department of Energy, Department of Homeland Security, and Department of Defense programs.

ARRA Funding Improves Drainage at Seepage Basin

Preventing the migrations of contamination from rainwater runoff at a closed seepage basin at the Savannah River Site can be as simple as a new concrete ditch and as complicated as making sure the runoff flows correctly.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is funding a \$1.8-million project that is paving the way to prevent rainwater intrusion at the SRS H Area Seepage Basins (H-4 Basin), the Site's largest closed basin.

The task is focused on one of four unlined basins that were constructed in the mid-1950s. For 33 years, the basins received wastewater containing low-level radioactive and hazardous constituents, including relatively high concentrations of tritium.

The basins were designed to allow the wastewater to percolate through the underlying soil, filtering and containing a majority of the contamination. Once the basins were closed in 1988, a multilayer clay cap was installed over each basin. Today, the post-closure care of the closed H-4 Basins is maintained in accordance with a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Permit. Recovery Act workers are pouring concrete in a 3,800-linear-foot ditch at the closed H-4 Basin and tying in the ditch surrounding the basin with the its existing geosynthetic cover to further prevent leaching of contaminates into the groundwater.

We receive letters from retirees trying to get proper Blue Cross/Blue Shield reimbursement for their medical bills. Most of the problems occur when the retiree/patient lives out-of-state (i.e., no longer in SC). If you have records of BC/BS service problems to share with SRSRA members, please **send a letter outlining your case to both:**

Ellen Miller, Medical Benefits Committee SRS Retiree Association P.0. Box 5686 Aiken, SC 29804

Kaye Bozeman, Major Service Representative I-20 at Alpine Road AV-100 Columbia, SC 29219

or e-mail your information to: **KAYE.BOZEMAN@bcbssc.com**, or Fax: 1-803-264-9353. You can also call Gari Howard, your BC/BS service representative, toll-free at (800) 868-2500, ext. 45805. As a last resort, you can call Kaye Bozeman at 800-288-2227, extension 44452 or 803-264-4452.

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 (long distance)
- ♦ service-center@srs.gov (e-mail contact for this new service)
- ♦ Internal Medicine Partners 706-792-5075 (Annual Physical Examinations)
- ♦ SRNS Savings Plan 866-288-3257 www.ibenefitcenter.com
- **♦ Westinghouse Corp. Pension** 800-581-4222
- ♦ Westinghouse Corp. SIP 800-581-3366 http://westinghouse.csplans.com
- 800-325-6596

 www.southcarolinablues.com

 Option 1 for Medical

 Option 2 for Dental

Blue Cross/Blue Shield of SC

Option 3 for Pre-Cert/Med Authorization

- **♦ Medicare Helpline** 800-633-4227
- ♦ Medicare Web Site www.medicare.gov
- ♦ Value Options (mental health & substance abuse assistance) 800-333-6557 (until 12/21/2010)
 Pre-Cert for Mental Health/Substance Abuse 800-868-1032....valid beginning 1/1/11

Savannah River Site Retiree Association Membership Application

I want to <u>RENEW</u> my members	hip in the SRS	SRA				
(and I am willing to serve on the Board of Directors)					Yes	No
I want to JOIN the SRSRA						
(and I am willing to serve on the Board of Directors)					Yes	No
My spouse is also retired from S	SRS and wants	to IOIN t	the SRSRA			
(and my retired SRS spouse is willing to serve on the Board of Directors)					Yes	No
I am the surviving spouse of an	SRS retiree ar	nd wish to	IOIN/RENEW	/ mv membersl	hin in the SR	SR A
(and I am willing to serve on the Board of Directors)					Yes	No
Annual Dues:						
<u>Current Year</u>		Next Year				
\$15 for Retiree		\$15 for Retiree				
\$0 for Retiree's Spouse (also retired fr	om SRS)	\$0	for Retiree's Spot	ise (also retired fro	om SRS)	
\$5 for Retiree's Surviving Spouse	\$5 for Retiree's Surviving Spouse			iving Spouse		
SRS RETIREE NAME						
SRS Retired or Surviving SPOUSE'S NAMI						
CITY	STATE	ZIP	TELEPHO	ONE		
SRS RETIREE RETIRED FROM: SRNS_	WSRC/SRR_	BSRI	BWXT-SRC	BNFL-SRC	OTHER	
SPOUSE RETIRED FROM SRS: SRNS	WSRC/SRR	BSRI	BWXT-SRC	BNFL-SRC	OTHER	
SRS RETIREE: DATE OF RETIREMENT_		E-MAIL AD	DRESS			
SRS RETIRED OR SURVIVOR SPOUSE:	DATE OF RETII	REMENT_		_E-MAIL ADDR	ESS	
Return to: SRS Retiree Association P. O. Box 5686 Aiken, SC 29804 Attn: Kent Sullivan, ME	MBERSHIP	CHAIRM	IAN			