

# NEWSLETTER

For SRS Retiree Association Members

Pat Walker, Editor

February 2000, Vol.6

**\*\*REMEMBER \*\***

**THE ANNUAL MEETING**

**March 7, 2000 - 1:00 - 2:30 P.M.**

**Aiken Conference Center**

**215 The Alley, Aiken, SC**

**(Located in the Alley at the Rear of the Municipal Building - Map Enclosed)**

**Doors Open 12:30 P.M.**

**Election of SRSRA Members to the Board of Directors**

**Invited Guest Speaker: The Honorable Lindsey Graham,  
United States Congressman for the 3rd District, South Carolina**

**REMINDER**

**IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2000!**

**DUES:           \$15:00/YR. FOR RETIREE           \$5.00/YR. FOR SURVIVING SPOUSE**

**(See details on page 17 - last page)**

**INSIDE INSIGHT**

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Aiken Conference Center  
215 The Alley, Aiken, SC

(Located in the Alley at the Rear of the Municipal Building - Map Enclosed)

Agenda (Tentative)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
Doors Open (12:30 P.M.)	Pre-Meeting Socializing
Welcome and Introduction (1:00 PM.)	Chairman Harcourt (Butch) Bull , III
Recognition of Officers and Board Members	
Introduction of Guest Speaker	Mayor Fred Cavanaugh
Invited Guest Speaker	The Honorable Lindsey Graham United States Congressman for the 3rd District, South Carolina
Board of Directors Election	Chairman Harcourt (Butch) Bull, III
Collection of Ballots	Gus Griffin
Bylaw Revisions	R. G. (Jerry) Croom
Treasurer's Report	Allan (Al) A. Schmidt
1999 Year in Review	Chairman Harcourt (Butch) Bull, III
Vision of the Future	Vice-Chairman Sidney Curry
Closing Comments	Harcourt (Butch) Bull, III

**PROPOSED 2000 BOARD OF DIRECTORS BALLOT  
(2000 & 2001)**

There are 19 openings on the Board of Directors for 2000. Listed below, in alphabetical order, are the candidates that have been proposed by the Nominating Committee and who have agreed to serve as Board members. We ask for your enthusiastic support of these candidates when the vote is taken at the annual meeting. There is a slate of 25 candidates proposed at this time for election to the Board of Directors. Members in attendance will be asked to vote to fill 19 vacancies: fifteen of the candidates will be for a 2-year term, and four will be for a one-year term to fill the unexpired terms of BOD members who have resigned. Nominations may also be made from the floor of members in attendance who agree to serve.

In addition, if you would like to nominate someone who agrees to serve on the Board of Directors prior to the meeting, please contact Gus Griffin at 803-642-0303 no later than February 22, 2000.

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Richard (Dick) E. Barclay*   | <input type="checkbox"/> Billy W. Hyde               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joe D. Bickley               | <input type="checkbox"/> John L. Jones               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Robert (Bob) L. Bristol*     | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawrence (Bobby) E. Jones   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mattie J. Brown              | <input type="checkbox"/> John R. Kosko               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ralph C. Cavaliere           | <input type="checkbox"/> Harry E. Ledbetter          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dave Cowfer                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Robert (Bob) L. Malloy      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sidney (Sid) D. Curry*       | <input type="checkbox"/> Herbert (Herb) P. Olson     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baynard (Buck) D. Ellis, Jr. | <input type="checkbox"/> Stanley (Stan) E. Smith     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Raymond (Ray) R. Fleming     | <input type="checkbox"/> Robert (Bob) A. Stokes*     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michael (Mike) P. French*    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theodore (Ted) D. Timmerman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frank Givens                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dannie F. Walker*           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> George (Gus) A. Griffin*     | <input type="checkbox"/> Leo F. Zimmerman            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tom Hendrix                  | _____  |
| _____   | _____  |
| _____   | _____  |

\* Incumbents standing for re-election.

**About the Candidates.....**

***Richard E. (Dick) Barclay\*** resides in Aiken and retired from Westinghouse in 1993 with 24 years of service.*

***Joe D. Bickley** resides in North Augusta and retired in 1993 with 31 years of combined Du Pont and Westinghouse service.*

***Mattie J. Brown** resides in North Augusta and retired in 1996 with 31 years of combined Du Pont and Westinghouse service in Information Resources/Computer Systems Technology.*

***Robert (Bob) L. Bristol\*** resides in Aiken and retired in 1993 with 30 years of Westinghouse service.*

***Ralph C. Cavaliere** resides in Martinez and retired in 1996 with 22 years of Bechtel service, Bechtel Engineering Automation.*

***Dave Cowfer** resides in Aiken and retired in 1997 with 25 years of Westinghouse service, Reactor Engineering. Dave has been employed for the past 2 years with Bechtel Engineering.*

***Sidney (Sid) D. Curry\*** resides in Martinez and retired in 1995 with 34 years of combined Du Pont and Westinghouse service.*

***Baynard (Buck) D. Ellis, Jr.** resides in North Augusta and retired in 1996 with 31 years of combined Du Pont and Westinghouse service, Central Services Works Engineering.*

***Raymond (Ray) R. Fleming** resides in North Augusta and retired in 1996 with 31 years of combined Du Pont and Westinghouse service, Health Protection and SRTC.*

***Michael (Mike) P. French\*** resides in Aiken and retired in 1995 with 29 years of Westinghouse service.*

***Frank Givens** resides in North Augusta and retired in 1995 with 41 years of combined Du Pont and Westinghouse service, E&I, DC&S and Human Resources.*

***George (Gus) A. Griffin** resides in Aiken and retired in 1993 with 42 years of combined Du Pont and Westinghouse service.*

***Tom Hendrix** resides in North Augusta and retired in 1999 with 33 years of combined Du Pont and Westinghouse, SRTC.*

***Billy W. Hyde** resides in Aiken and retired in 1993 with 41 years of combined Du Pont and Westinghouse service, Environmental Science.*

***John L. Jones** resides in Aiken and retired in 1995 with 31 years of combined Du Pont and Westinghouse service, Reactor Works Engineering.*

*SRS Retiree Association, Inc.*

*P. O. Box 5686, Aiken, SC 29803*

*Phone: 803-279-5628 - Email: srsretirees@scescape.net*

*<http://www.scescape.net/~srsretirees>*

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*Lawrence (Bobby) E. Jones resides in North Augusta and retired in 1993 with 39 years of combined Du Pont and Westinghouse service.*

*John R. Kosko resides in Aiken and retired with 36 years of Westinghouse service, SRS Procurement.*

*Harry E. Ledbetter resides in Aiken and retired in 1995 with 43 years of combined Du Pont and Westinghouse service, SRTC and Waste Management Technology.*

*Robert (Bob) L. Malloy resides in Aiken and retired January 2000 with 37 years of Westinghouse service*

*Herbert (Herb) P. Olson resides in North Augusta and retired in 1995 with 40 years of combined Du Pont and Westinghouse service, Environmental Restoration.*

*Stanley (Stan) E. Smith resides in Aiken and retired in 1993 with 35 years of combined Du Pont and Westinghouse service, Central Services Works Engineering.*

*Robert (Bob) A. Stokes\* resides in Aiken and retired in 1996 with 30 years of Westinghouse service.*

*Theodore (Ted) D. Timmerman resides in Williston and retired in 1993 with 36 years of combined Du Pont and Westinghouse service.*

*Dannie F. Walker,\* resides in North Augusta and retired in 1995 with 16.5 years of combined Du Pont and Bechtel service.*

*Leo F. Zimmerman resides in Aiken and retired in 1993 with 32 years of combined Du Pont and Westinghouse service.*

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**1999 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**(as of January 1, 2000)**

Douglas Adkins	George (Gus) A. Griffin*
Shepard Archie	Donald M. Grogan**
Richard (Dick) E. Barclay*	Paul R. Katonak
Pierce F. Beck, Jr.	Henry O. Mitchell, Jr.**
Jane Boyles**	William (Bill) A. Quinn**
Robert L. Bristol*	Gorman C. Ridgely**
Harcourt (Butch) Bull, Chairman	Raymond P. Sabol**
Fred B. Cavanaugh, Jr.	Allan (Al) A. Schmidt, Treasurer**
Paul L. Cook	Billy R. Scruggs
Gerald R. Croom, Secretary	Robert A. Stokes*
Sidney (Sid) D. Curry, Vice-Chairman*	Dannie E. Walker*
Michael (Mike) P. French*	Patricia (Pat) C. Walker
Thomas (Tom) W. Greene**	Rebecca (Becky) S. Wegner

\* Incumbents standing for re-election.

\*\* Members who do not wish to run for re-election.

**1999 RESIGNATIONS FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

David (Dave) D. Felak	Ann Mancuso
Dean Findley	Marcia H. Scaggs

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## **Bylaw Revisions**

The Charter and Bylaws Committee is proposing the following bylaw revisions for consideration at the annual meeting. After 2 1/2 years of operation, the Board recognizes the need for these changes. The Board of Directors reviewed these changes and recommend they be approved by the membership.

**1. To establish a second vice chair officer position.**

The objective of this revision is to reduce the workload of the chair and vice chair and to provide additional leadership experience to a second person. Duties of this position would be defined by the chair.

**2. To enable the Board of Directors to fill Board of Director vacancies as they occur to serve until the next annual meeting.**

The ability to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors was overlooked when the original bylaws were written.

**3. To prohibit the association from endorsing a political candidate for office or to permit campaign speeches at association meetings.**

This amendment will eliminate personal politics from interfering with objectives of the organization.

**4. To establish an associate membership for persons who wish to join the association. The dues would be the same as for regular members. Associate members are not eligible to vote or to be on the Board of Directors, and membership is subject to approval of the Executive Committee.**

The subject of membership eligibility comes up repeatedly and has consumed hours of the Board of Directors time. This will permit Du Pont retirees and others to support our causes.

**5. To permit the Board of Directors to revoke membership for cause by a two-third vote of the entire Board.**

This will permit the Board to revoke the membership of someone who commits an act that warrants removal from the Board.

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## RECENTLY APPOINTED BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

The Board of Directors has elected the following officers:

**Harcourt (Butch) Bull, III, Chairman.**

Butch resides in Edgefield and retired from WSRC in August 1993 with 35 years of combined Du Pont and Westinghouse service in SRTC and DWPF.

**Sidney (Sid) D. Curry, Vice Chairman.**

Sid resides in Martinez and retired in 1995 with 34 years of combined Du Pont and Westinghouse service.

**R. G. (Jerry) Croom, Secretary.**

Jerry resides in North Augusta and retired in 1995 with 38 years of combined Du Pont and Westinghouse service in Methods & Standards, Production and Finance.

**Allan (Al) Schmidt, Treasurer.**

Al resides in Aiken and retired in 1995 with 25 years of combined Du Pont and Westinghouse service, assigned to Waste Solidification when he retired.

The following members of the Board of Directors have been elected to the Executive Committee:

Harcourt (Butch) Bull, III  
R. G. (Jerry) Croom  
Sidney (Sid) D. Curry  
Allan (Al) Schmidt  
Doug Adkins  
P. F. Beck  
Fred Cavanaugh

Mike French  
Paul Katonak  
Raymond (Ray) Sabol  
Billy R. Scruggs  
Patricia (Pat) Walker  
Becky Wegner

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### Adjustment to Pensions (COLAs)

The SRSRA continues to aggressively pursue the establishment of periodic adjustments to pensions for SRS retirees. As you recall, the SRSRA had taken our concern to the South Carolina and Georgia Congressional Delegations. We strongly outlined our case in a series of factual presentations in meetings in Columbia with Congressman Spence, in Augusta with Congressman Norwood and Senator Cleland, in Aiken with Congressman Graham and in Washington, DC, with Senators Hollings and Thurmond. We received, as we reported, an excellent response from every member of the delegation and since September have been working to hopefully bring this issue to a successful conclusion.

The last discussion we have had on this issue was with Congressman Graham, who stated in a meeting in North Augusta last October that work was in progress in finalizing the details of a strategy with the other members of

the Congressional Delegations to achieve the SRSRA position. The SRSRA had scheduled a meeting with Congressman Graham in January to further discuss the initiative, but unfortunately the meeting was cancelled because of his illness. We are on his schedule for a meeting in February. The SRSRA intends to follow this issue closely and provide support to the Delegations to insure that retiree pension adjustments are achieved.

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### **University Hospital Agrees to Perform Retiree Physicals**

The SRSRA and University Hospital of Augusta, Georgia, have finalized an understanding for University Hospital to perform annual physicals for retirees and their covered dependents based upon BC/BS-SC reimbursement guidelines. The attached letter from University Hospital confirms their commitment to perform these physicals for SRS retirees. The following is the general guidelines for these annual physicals:

- To schedule an annual physical, contact University Hospital 706-792-5075.
- Identify yourself as a WSRC/BSRI retiree covered by the Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BC/BS) Insurance Plan with WSRC.
- Then schedule your physical at a mutually agreed upon time with the hospital. You may wish to schedule a physical for your dependents that are covered by your BC/BS insurance at the same time.
- Included with this newsletter is a map which shows the location of the University Hospital facility where the physical will be performed.
- The total physical will be performed at the one location, including routine tests.
- At the time of the physical, you will be responsible for your copay (\$10 or \$20), and University Hospital will bill BC/BS for the balance of the cost.
- The physical will be generally comparable to those that were performed at SRS, depending on your medical condition and history. We have advised University Hospital that any hearing test is not reimbursable if billed separately. However, a hearing test may be performed if believed to be medically necessary.
- If you wish to have the results of your physical forwarded to another medical provider, this should be identified to University Hospital.
- University Hospital will contact you to schedule future annual physicals based upon your interest. It is suggested that you discuss the scheduling of future physicals prior to leaving the University Hospital facility.
- If you have any questions regarding the annual physical with University Hospital, call 706-792-5075.

The SRSRA considers this arrangement with University Hospital a significant step in providing a viable alternative to the cancelled Site physicals. We wish to emphasize again that this arrangement with University is not intended to disturb any current patient/physician relationship and was primarily pursued for those retirees who do not have a personal physician who does annual physicals or for those who would prefer to have someone schedule their annual physical and remind them of it.

The SRSRA has had several meetings with Aiken Regional Hospital; however, as of this time, an understanding has not been finalized with Aiken Regional regarding annual physicals.

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**SRSRA Clarification Alert**  
**(Glaucoma Screening)**

In the September 1999 edition of the SRSRA Newsletter, page 6, glaucoma screening was identified as a procedure approved for reimbursement as part of the retiree physical.

Based upon recent discussions with WSRC and Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the following clarification is made regarding glaucoma screening:

If performed in a physician's office as part of the annual preventive exam (at which time other procedures are performed, such as: blood pressure checked, etc.), glaucoma screening is included as part of the preventive exam charge and not billed separately. If the retiree or covered dependent believes that he/she is experiencing difficulties such as floaters, flashes, blurred vision, difficulty seeing at night, etc., an examination may be reimbursed provided that the doctor provided a diagnosis for the condition. Normal copay (\$10/\$20) applies.

Glaucoma screening is currently not reimbursable under the WSRC medical plan with BC/BS if performed as part of a routine vision screening for which a diagnostic is not provided.

The SRSRA has reconfirmed with WSRC and BC/BS that the chest X-ray and the pulmonary function tests are reimbursable as part of the annual physical, subject to the normal copay and the overall \$225 reimbursement maximum.

WSRC has agreed to explore the feasibility of reimbursement for preventive glaucoma screening (Tonometry) without a diagnosis in the future. The Association apologizes for any inconvenience that the clarification of this issue may have caused any member.

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**Retiree Benefit Statement**

February 2000 is the month in which retirees should expect to receive their special Retiree Benefit Statement from WSRC Benefits. This statement is the direct result of comments received from SRSRA members at one of our membership meetings with WSRC Benefits Representatives.

For the first time, retirees will have a record of the amount of WSRC/BSRI life insurance they have during their retirement years. The WSRC/BSRI insurance plans provide that Non-Contributory life insurance is reduced through 11 annual reductions, beginning at age 65 through age 75, so that the amount of insurance will have been reduced to one-fourth (1/4) of the retiree's normal annual earnings (NAE), after which no further reductions in benefits will occur. Contributory life insurance will be reduced in a like manner so that the retiree's benefit will be reduced, after 11 annual reductions, to one-half (1/2) of the retiree's NAE. Again, no further reductions in this benefit will occur after these 11 reductions have been made. In the past, WSRC has made the calculations for those reductions only when necessary to answer specific needs and did not have on file what the retiree's insurance benefit would be over the years of their retirement. Reminder - Non-Contributory life insurance over \$50,000 is imputed income which is taxable income.

In addition to the life insurance benefits, the statement will include other information that is important to the retiree's understanding of their benefits. Retirees are urged to keep this statement in a safe place that will be accessible for future reference. WSRC intends to issue this benefit statement only one time since the information generally should not change from year to year.

The SRSRA wishes to acknowledge the effort that was required to prepare the Retiree Benefit Statement and to express our appreciation to those involved in this effort.

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### **Errors in Requested Changes to BC/BS Coverage**

Two retirees reported that changes they requested during the recent signup to their BC/BS Health Insurance coverage were not made. It took several calls to the Site to get their errors corrected. Although the telephone enrollment system gave a confirmation, the changes did not show up in the system. If this happened to you, call the Benefits Section (803-952-9542 or 803-952-9549 or toll-free long distance 1-800-368-7333).

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### **Aiken Area Physicians Withdraw from Insurance Network**

In a dispute over the level of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of South Carolina (BC/BS-SC) reimbursements, approximately 40 of 105 Aiken area physicians have chosen not to participate in the BC/BS-SC Network (the Medical Insurance Carrier for WSRC/BSRI). Other Aiken area medical providers could withdraw by giving 90 days notice to BC/BS-SC. This dispute has caused concern among retirees, as well as active employees, because in a number of cases, it may be necessary for Aiken patients to use an Augusta provider to obtain network level reimbursement for medical care.

In an effort to better understand the positions involved in this dispute, at the invitation of the SRSRA Board of Directors, presentations were made at recent Board of Directors meetings by representatives of both WSRC and an Aiken medical provider. Based upon these presentations and other information such as the attached E-mail that was sent to active employees on January 26, 2000, by WSRC Benefits, the following observations are noted:

- **Background Information.** Aiken medical providers want a higher reimbursement for their services than BC/BS-SC currently provides.
  - ◇ BC/BS-SC is the medical insurance carrier for a number of other employers in the Aiken area; i.e., Bridgestone, Firestone, Advanced Glass Fiber Yarns, Owens Corning, Proctor & Gamble, Federal Employees Program, etc.
  - ◇ As a result of a recent DOE Inspector General Review, it will be very difficult for WSRC to agree to reimburse at a higher level than other Aiken companies covered by the BC/BS contract.

- **Medical Providers**

- ◇ Want to be reimbursed at rates similar to those paid to Augusta physicians for the same services.
- ◇ Aiken physicians say that they have a higher cost of medical practice because of unreimbursed indigent care and lower South Carolina Medicaid rates as opposed to Augusta area physicians and University Hospital which receives financial help from the city of Augusta and the State of Georgia for indigent medical care.
- ◇ Physicians claim that the BC/BS-SC fee schedule is below Medicaid reimbursement for some procedures.
- ◇ Some physicians suggest that a way to solve this dispute would be for SRS to get a different health insurance plan, such as the Physicians' Care Network (PCN), which is the South Carolina Medical Association's health plan. It was stated by a medical provider that PCN would allow physicians to be professionals who care for all patients, insured and uninsured.

The attached E-mail and prior correspondence dated 12/16/99 from WSRC (mailed to retirees) addresses the Site's position on many of these issues. The SRSRA urges all parties to this issue to resolve it as quickly as possible to eliminate the anxiety and inconvenience that it causes SRSRA members in the Aiken area.

Some other observations:

- The acknowledgment in the attached E-mail, that the BC/BS-SC reimbursement is below Medicare and Medicaid, in some cases, leads credibility to some of the physicians claims (although in not as many cases as the physicians claim). At the same time that BC/BS-SC claim that their reimbursement is approximately 24 percent higher than Medicare on average should be considered only after getting a clear definition of what "on average" means in this context.
- Based upon the 80/20 cost split stated in Mr. Greenquist's E-mail, this would indicate that those who pay premiums for health insurance will share in absorbing a portion of any higher reimbursement to Aiken doctors through increased premiums in the future.
- After listening to the positions of the various parties on this issue, it appears that each is trying to present their position in the best possible light, and while this happens, those who depend on this medical coverage suffer.
- It has been confirmed that BC/BS-SC met with the Board of Directors of the Physicians Health Organization (PHO) of Aiken on February 2. The results of that meeting are unknown at this time.

In a separate health insurance related topic, a WSRC representative has indicated that if prescription drugs are added to Medicare with premiums that it is planned to carve out the prescription drugs program in the same way as medical costs reimbursed under Part B of Medicare are currently carved out under the WSRC Medical Insurance reimbursements.

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## **DOE FORMER WORKERS MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE STUDY**

SRSRA has been asked by the administrators of the Beryllium Study and SRS Production Workers' Health Project to solicit SRSRA members' participation in the former workers projects listed below. SRSRA feels that this is a worthwhile effort and encourages you to participate.

### **Beryllium Study**

Ed Kahal is employed at SRS in the Industrial Hygiene organization. He is working on a Beryllium study as a specific sub-part of the larger DOE Former Workers Medical Surveillance Study.

Mr. Kahal has asked that we contact the members of our SRS Retiree Association to solicit their participation. If you believe that you may have worked with beryllium in your former employment with any DOE contractor, you are urged get in touch with Mr. Kahal at 803-952-9932 and fill out the enclosed questionnaire.

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### **SRS Production Workers' Health Project**

A health examination project is beginning for SRS retirees. The project will provide medical examinations for former workers, with special attention to those workers who may have had hazardous exposures and resulting health problems. The program will offer a confidential medical examination, discussion of work and medical history with a physician, and further testing where appropriate. Following the examination, participants will be provided with the results of their screening examination, and program personnel will be available to answer participants questions. This program is separate from the annual physical provided for under your BC/BS health insurance.

As an SRS retiree, you can elect to participate by completing a brief survey and consent form. Afterward, the program may contact you to ask more about your health, as well as your SRS work experience. A medical examination will be made available to those who meet eligibility requirements related to hazardous exposure and resulting health problems. Eligibility for additional study will be determined by your responses to questions about your health and work history.

Enclosed is a letter offering more details about the program and a questionnaire. If you would like to participate, simply complete the questionnaire and return it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. You will be contacted following receipt of the questionnaire. If you have questions, you can contact the program office toll-free at 1-888-286-2588.

The examination project is administered jointly by the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston and the University of South Carolina Medical School in Columbia. It is funded by the Department of Energy.

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## **Supplemental Pension Question**

As reported in previous issues of the newsletter, a number of retirees have raised questions as to why they receive a 1099R for a portion of their pension and a W-2 form for the supplemental portion of their pension.

In response to numerous SRSRA inquiries, WSRC has orally advised that the supplemental pension income reported on W-2's is considered deferred income from the year of retirement. WSRC has acknowledged that this issue may be more complicated than originally thought, and they are actively researching this issue. Hopefully, WSRC will get back to you with further guidance on this issue in the near future. However, it is recommended that you consult your own tax professional on this subject.

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## **SRS ACTIVITIES**

### **Morrison Knudsen's Government Services Group Picks Aiken for Headquarters**

In January, Morrison Knudsen's Government Services Group (the Corporate parent of Westinghouse Savannah River Company) announced it had decided to locate its corporate headquarters in downtown Aiken. The Headquarters is proposed to be located in a new building on Newberry Street where the vacant Mark Twain Theater and the Whittle Building now stand. Current plans call for the site to be shared with the Aiken Community Playhouse.

Government Services Group (GSG) major divisions include Westinghouse Savannah River Company and Safety Management Solutions in South Carolina, Westinghouse Oak Ridge in Tennessee, Westinghouse Anniston in Alabama, the Waste Isolation Division in New Mexico, Westinghouse Rocky Flats contract in Colorado, the Electro-Mechanical Division in Pennsylvania and West Valley Nuclear Services Division in New York. Ambrose Schwallie is President and Chief Executive Officer of GSG.

### **DOE Selects SRS for New Plutonium Facilities**

Earlier this month, the Site received some excellent, long-awaited news from DOE Headquarters about new facilities/programs scheduled to come to SRS. On January 4, 2000, Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson signed a Record of Decision, which identifies SRS as the location for building three key plutonium facilities. Some 50 metric tons of weapons grade plutonium had previously been identified as excess to the current needs of Defense Programs. DOE's strategy for disposing of this surplus plutonium involves converting up to 33 metric tons into mixed oxide (MOX) fuel, which will then be irradiated in six existing commercial nuclear reactors. The remaining approximately 17 metric tons will be immobilized in ceramic material surrounded by vitrified high level waste.

The three planned facilities are:

1. A Pit Disassembly and Conversion Facility, which will disassemble the plutonium pits from old weapons and convert the resulting metal into an oxide powder of acceptable quality to the commercial nuclear utilities.

2. A MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility, which will utilize the plutonium oxide produced in the first facility to produce MOX fuel and fuel assemblies. DOE has selected a team headed up by Duke E&S to design, construct, and operate this facility.
3. An Immobilization Facility to blend and immobilize plutonium oxide with ceramic material.

DOE has estimated the total cost at around \$1.32 billion to design and build the new facilities and an additional \$1.5 billion to operate and ultimately dismantle them around 2020. Construction on these facilities is expected to peak in 2003.

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### **Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of the Savannah River Site**

Year 2000 is the year that the CSRA will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of SRS. For several months, a committee of community leaders from throughout the CSRA has been planning a yearlong celebration of this momentous anniversary of SRS. The celebration will consist of a number of events throughout the year. This year marks 50 years since President Harry Truman asked E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company, Inc. to design, build and operate this plant. It is also the 50th Anniversary of the start of construction.

The committee is chaired by John Granaghan, former SRS Plant Manager, and includes representatives from the Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA); local museums; Chambers of Commerce from Aiken, North Augusta, and Augusta; the SRS Retiree Association (SRSRA); the South Carolina Historical Society; former residents of Ellenton, Dunbarton, and Myers Mill; Fort Discovery; the Department of Energy; WSRC and SREL. A common thread of all these activities will be the ongoing visible support of communities in the CSRA for the continued operation of SRS in a safe and responsible manner in the 21st century. Mike French is the SRSRA representative on the committee.

The committee is initiating area-wide events to commemorate the anniversary, encouraging community-sponsored events, and soliciting funds for the events. To date, close to \$100 thousand has been received or pledged. Other activities of the committee include providing speakers for civic organizations and schools, publicizing the events, as well as publishing a yearlong calendar of events.

The major events that are planned include:

#### ***February***

*Aiken County Museum displays 50th Anniversary Exhibit*

*Dedication of the expanded Ruth Patrick Center*

#### ***May***

*Technical Symposium of major technical events at SRS, which will be sponsored by CNTA, the American Nuclear Society, and the Health Physics Society*

*A musical play entitled, "They don't live there anymore," that describes the evacuation of land that became SRP.*

*SRS Retiree Association, Inc.*

*P. O. Box 5686, Aiken, SC 29803*

*Phone: 803-279-5628 - Email: srsretirees@scescape.net*

*<http://www.scescape.net/~srsretirees>*

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***June***

*Reunions of the former residents of Ellenton, Dunbarton, and Meyers Mill*

***September***

*Public tours of SRS*

*SRS tours for employees' families*

***October***

*Student essay contests in area mid-high and high schools in conjunction with the USCA Lecture Series*

*South Carolina Historical Society Symposium*

***November***

*USCA concert with the Aiken - Augusta Symphony*

*Community-wide celebration, invited dignitaries, Teller Lecture*

*Arts Competition: Legacy of the 50th Anniversary*

This hopefully will be a tremendous year for current and former employees, retirees and their families, together with everyone in the CSRA and other interested parties.

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**\*\*\* REMINDER \*\*\***

**IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2000!**

**ELIGIBILITY:**

- If you retired from WSRC or BSRI and are eligible to receive a pension, you are eligible to join SRSRA.
- Or, If you retired from Du Pont and worked for BSRI or WSRC long enough to be eligible to receive even \$1.00 monthly or any other benefit, you are eligible to join SRSRA.
- Or, if you worked for WSRC or BSRI long enough to receive a pension or benefit but opted to take a cash settlement instead, you are also eligible to join the SRSRA.

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM BELOW AND RETURN WITH YOUR \$15.00/5.00 CHECK FOR YOUR 2000 MEMBERSHIP DUES**

**Please complete, detach and return to address listed.**

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

**Annual Dues for Year 2000:**  
**Retiree - \$15.00**  
**Surviving Spouse - \$5.00**

**WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

\_\_\_ Yes, I want to renew my membership in SRSRA.

\_\_\_ Yes, I want to join as a new member in the SRSRA.

\_\_\_ Yes, I want to join/renew membership in SRSRA. I am the spouse of deceased retiree (Name) \_\_\_\_\_.

Are you interested in serving on the SRSRA Board of Directors? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

TO UPDATE OUR RECORDS, PLEASE FILL IN ALL THE BLANKS.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Retired from BSRI \_\_\_ WSRC \_\_\_ Date of Retirement \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address (if available) \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTIONS: CALL GUS GRIFFIN (803) 642-0303**