

NEWSLETTER

For SRS Retiree Association Members

Pat Walker, Editor

February 2001, Vol.8

****REMEMBER ****

THE ANNUAL MEETING

March 13, 2001 - 1:00 - 3:00 P.M.

Aiken Conference Center

215 The Alley, Aiken, SC

(Located in the Alley at the Rear of the Municipal Building)

Doors Open 12:30 P.M.

Election of SRSRA Members to the Board of Directors

Guest Speaker: Ambrose Schwallie, President, Washington Group

REMINDER

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2001!

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

(See details on last page)

INSIDE INSIGHT

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Federal Tax Exemption Received

A pleasant surprise arrived in the Mail August 19, 2000. It was a notice from the Internal Revenue Service that SRSRA was exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(a) (5) of the Internal Revenue code. The application was first made on November 8, 1998. It was a difficult road, but we made it. The organization is also exempt from filing Form 990. That form is titled Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax. The application for a charity status for a bulk mailing permit has been made to the US Postal Service.

Benefits Contacts

WSRC benefits contacts are as follows:

◇ **Life, Health, Dental**

Kathy Hutto (803) 952-9551
Becky Proveaux (803) 952-9550
Diane Thorsell (803) 952-9546

◇ **Pension**

John Felkel (803) 952-9545
Viola Best (803) 952-9553

◇ **Service Center** 1-800-360-2747

◇ **Blue Cross/Blue Shield of SC** 1-800-325-6596

Option 1 for Medical
Option 2 for Dental
Option 3 for Pre-Cert/Med Authorization

◇ **Value Options** (mental health & substance abuse assistance) 1-800-333-6557

◇ **BAC (Westinghouse Corporate Pension)** 1-800-581-4222

Revised: October 8, 2000

Health Plan Information

WSRC Benefits administrations would like to inform you of the following item relating to the WSRC/BSRI Health Choice Plans:

Health Choice Plan Discount Programs Available

The claim administrators for the WSRC Team's Health Choice Plans have established several discount programs that are available to all employees who participate in WSRC's Health Care Program. These discounts include health-related products and services normally not reimbursed by the WSRC Health Choice Plans.

The health care claim administrators are:

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina (Prime, Standard, and Basic Medical & Prime and Standard Dental)
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia (Blue Choice HMO)
- EyeMed Vision Care (WSRC Vision Plan)

In most cases, to receive the discounted rate, simply present your member ID card to any participating provider. There are no claims forms or paperwork to submit. However, you will need to pay for services at the time of your visit. Many of these discounts apply to services or products that are associated with emerging technologies or are in a highly competitive market, which causes prices to fluctuate. The current discount programs are:

- **Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Carolina(BCBS-SC)-Medical & Dental Plans**

- ◇ Members may be able to receive discounts on LASIK services, including a vision exam, pre-operative care, the surgery itself and post-operative care for one year. The cost for members will be \$799 per eye. The services are provided by TruVision, an organization that works with experienced ophthalmologists. Members can call 1-877-571-2020 toll free to find a participating provider near them to schedule appointments. Currently the network is very limited and the nearest provider is in Columbia, SC.
- ◇ Members can order all types of contact lenses at discounted prices from TruVision. Pricing information or ordering can be done online at www.truvisioninc.com or by calling 1-877-571-2020. Prices start at \$16.90 per box and include contact lenses from all major manufacturers.
- ◇ Members and their immediate families can save up to 25 percent on all Beltone hearing aids. The list of Beltone Hearing Aid Centers can be found on the internet at www.bcbssc.com. Once at the website, click on "Members," and then "Health & Wellness Partners."
- ◇ Vision One Eyecare Program is a free discount program included with your Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina coverage. You and your family can take advantage of immediate savings on all your eyecare--including eye exams, frames, lenses and even contacts. Savings range from 25 percent to 67 percent. There are more than 2,000 locations nationwide that honor Vision One. Participating outlets are frequently found in Sears, Montgomery Ward, and J.C. Penney stores. Other discounts cannot be combined with this program. For more information on Vision One, visit the website at www.colemanagedvision.com, or call 1-800-424-1155 weekdays, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The plan code is 20219.
- ◇ BCBS-SC has developed a network of complementary and alternative healthcare providers called Natural Blue. The Natural Blue healthcare providers include credentialed acupuncturists, massage therapists, and fitness clubs at reduced rates. You can learn more from the Natural Blue website, which can be found at www.bcbssc.com under "Members," then "Health & Wellness Partners."
- ◇ To locate a provider you can visit www.healthyroads.com, or call 1-877-327-2746. You will pay the member rate directly to the provider, and there is no additional paperwork to complete. Additionally, you have the opportunity to purchase discounted health products such as vitamins, herbal supplements, books, tapes, and other products through the website www.healthyroads.com, or by calling 1-888-BUY-HEALTHY (1-888-289-4325).

- **BlueCross BlueShield Healthcare Plan of Georgia (BlueChoice HMO)**

The BlueCross BlueShield Healthcare Plan of Georgia (Blue Choice HMO) has included a detailed explanation of the various discount programs and participating providers in the August 2000 Provider Directory and Member Guide and on their website www.bcbs-ga.com. To receive the discounted rate,

simply present your member ID card to any participating provider. You will need to pay for services at the time of your visit. There are no claims forms or paperwork. The following is a summary of the programs:

- ◇ Members can receive discounts on eye exams and eye wear at participating independent optometrists and LensCrafter locations. Savings may be up to 30 percent off the regular retail price. This offer cannot be combined with other promotional offers.
- ◇ Members can receive discount rates at participating complementary/alternative medicine practitioners. The complementary/alternative medicine practitioners include Acupuncture, Therapeutic Massage, and Mind-Body Techniques. Participating providers can be found in the Provider Directory.
- ◇ Members can receive discounts on classes provided by the Better Birth Foundation. The classes include Childbirth Preparation, Breastfeeding, Infant Safety CPR, Motherlore and Refresher for Second-time Parents.
- ◇ Members can receive savings on memberships at health clubs in Augusta and throughout Georgia.

- **EyeMed Vision Care/WSRC Vision Plan**

- ◇ Members will receive a 15 percent savings off the retail price of LASIK and PRK procedures performed at U.S. Laser Network centers. For more information on the location of a provider near you and the procedure for receiving the discount call 1-877-552-7376 or visit www.eyemedvc.com/members/lasersrg.htm.

WSRC's Disclaimer: This information is being communicated to you to provide additional health-related sources for services and items that are offered by health related vendors that are not covered under the WSRC/BSRI Health Care plans. This communication is not an endorsement of any vendor or its products, nor is it a guarantee of price.

WSRC Medical Plan Enhancements

Two enhancements to the WSRC Prime and Standard medical plans administered by Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina will be implemented effective January 1, 2001, as follows:

- 1) In support of the importance of regular check-ups, WSRC is increasing the annual limit from \$225 to \$250 for routine adult physical exams performed in a network doctor's office. Under this benefit, a covered individual between the ages of 19 and 39 can have a routine exam once every two years and annually beginning at age 40. The annual limit listed on pages 12, 27, and 29 of the Medical Care Section of the Benefits Handbook has been modified accordingly. (**see note that follows concerning physical exams)
- 2) The benefit of using network providers will now include Chiropractic treatment. In the past, the WSRC/BSRI Medical Plan paid 80 percent of Reasonable and Customary(R&C) for chiropractic treatment once the overall Plan deductible was met. Effective January 1, 2001, the medical plan will pay 90 percent of the BCBS-SC negotiated rate, and the overall plan deductible is not applicable if you use a

network provider. This means that you will pay only 10 percent of a negotiated rate instead of 20 percent of the R&C rate. You may still use an out-of-network provider, but your coverage will remain at 80 percent of R&C after the deductible has been met. The \$750 annual chiropractic maximum benefit will also still apply. The Chiropractic treatment section on page 12 of the Medical Care Section of the Benefits Handbook has been modified accordingly. A listing of the network Chiropractic providers in the immediate area can be located on Shrine under the Human Resource Home Page then "Benefits" then "Current Medical Communications." Providers are also listed on the BCBS-SC web site, www.bcbssc.com, or you can call 1-800-325-6596.

Current BCBS-SC Network Chiropractic Providers in the immediate area:

Aiken, SC: Hammond Beyer, Kim DC Jordan, Julie A, DC
Stewart, Brent D, DC Stewart, Shane DC Solomon, Jane P, DC
Hopkins, Andrew D, DC Kyles, Antony H, DC

Edgefield, SC: Smith, Walton A, DC

Martinez, GA: Jablonski, Eric A, DC Webb, Kathryn A, DC

Barnwell, SC: Shealy, Martin L, DC

Bamberg, SC: Beauboef, Alton J, DC

Estate Planning Seminar Scheduled for May 1, 2001

As a service to SRSRA members, a seminar on estate planning has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 1, 2001, at the Knights of Columbus in Aiken. The seminar will run from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon. Significant changes have recently been made in the rules for withdrawing IRA and 401K funds. The format will include, who should do estate planning and how to select one of the many organizations wanting to help you, wills (material and health), long term health care and settling estates. Additional details will be provided as soon as plans are finalized.

The SRSRA does not recommend any of the seminar participants and will not be responsible for any contractual arrangement made between members and those organizations.

Annual Meeting to Feature BC-BS & Medicare Seminar

A new feature has been added to this year's annual meeting. We are holding a seminar on health care insurance. Bill Quinn will start the seminar with an explanation of our arrangement with University Hospital (**see note on Internal Medicine Partners) for annual physical for retirees and dependents.

Ms. Judy Merrott, Blue Cross-Blue Shield's manager for SRS' health insurance contract, will speak on our SRSRA Newsletter, February 2001, Vol. 8

health insurance plan and its operation. She will outline what can be covered in an annual physical. She will also explain what BC/BS coverage exists for retirees on Medicare when they have medical expenses outside the United States. Members, spouses and guests may bring their favorite question and she will answer them.

Ms. Barbara Saul from the South Carolina's Medicare Office will give a 10-15 minute talk on Medicare, then answer questions. An explanation will be given on the coordination of claim between BC/BS and Medicare. In the recent past, you have read in various publications of different options available to Medicare recipients. She will tell you what options are available to SC and GA Medicare recipients.

**** Note on Off-Site Physical Exams:** The Internal Medicine Partners at 3121 Peach Orchard Road, Suite 201, Augusta, GA, will provide a one stop physical examination for SRS Retirees and spouses as part of your retirement medical benefits coverage. The checkup includes a comprehensive physical examination, blood work, cholesterol levels, urine analysis, electrocardiogram, hemocult (stool for blood), chest x-ray if requested (in conjunction with Prompt Care at the same location), PSA if requested in men, and pap smears if requested in women. [From Bob Stokes: I have personally used this facility for the past two years and found them efficient and well coordinated in the physical exam process. An extremely efficient and competent staff has been very helpful during the exam and timely at reminding me of my need for the annual physical. The blood work results as well as the doctors review of the blood and urine analysis is provided the next day by a telephone call from the doctor and all the information is copied to you and your family physician if requested. I recommend them highly for your next physical.] Contact them at 706-792-5075.

Operations Recreation Association (ORA)

At the request of the ORA, an SRSRA board member has been appointed to serve on the ORA Board of Directors. The director chosen to serve for a three-year term, which began on January 1, 2001, is Paul Katonak. Paul will attend monthly ORA board meetings at SRS and will work toward improving methods for:

1. Making retirees aware of current ORA activities,
2. Obtaining tickets, reservations and other ORA products without having to travel to SRS, and
3. Incorporating new activities of interest to retirees into the ORA program.

All retirees with e-mail capabilities should send a note to Ben.Bumau@SRS.GOV and request to be added to the ORA activities bulletin which is distributed via e-mail approximately once per week. This bulletin provides a comprehensive up-to-date list of current activities being offered to employees and retirees. In addition, the ORA has a web site www.ifx.net/~ORA which provides information on a variety of subjects relating to the organization.

Ben Bumau, the Executive Director of the ORA, will be available at the SRSRA annual meeting to answer questions and provide retirees with an opportunity to obtain replacement ORA cards. Ben can be contacted at SRS at 725-1664.

SRSRA members may also contact Paul Katonak at 803-649-9457 or e-mail him at katonak@msn.com, if they have any comments or suggestions relating to the ORA.

SRS ACTIVITIES

Fiftieth Anniversary Celebrations of the Savannah River Site

As most of you are aware, 2000 was the year that we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of SRS. Site officials partnered with a broad-based citizens committee, including an SRSRA member, hosted a successful, year-long anniversary celebration. Events at SRS and in local communities paid tribute to the families that originally lived on plant property and were relocated, as well as the patriotic men and women who have made possible the Site's safe operations and successful missions. Events occurred virtually every month including "Family Days" in September where current employees and retirees with their families were able to tour numerous Site facilities. The finale of the celebrations happened throughout the day on November 28th.- the official anniversary date of the plant. Activities started with a Celebration kickoff, with speakers including the Governors of South Carolina and Georgia plus senior DOE and SRS officials. A large anniversary monument was unveiled by Congressman Lindsey Graham, DOE Under Secretary Gen.Gordon, and DOE/SR Manager Greg Rudy near the Ellenton Marker on Hwy. 125. By the way, it is now legal to stop and "visit" the two markers at the side of the highway. Evening events took place in Augusta, including a press conference with then DOE Secretary Bill Richardson, followed by a great fireworks display along the Historic Riverwalk. The final event was the CNTA's Annual Edward Teller Lecture which was an impressive presentation given by Dr. Harold Agnew in front of an audience of over 800 people. As many of you know, Dr. Agnew participated in the Manhattan Project during WW-2 - he actually flew with the 509th Bombardment Group as a member of the scientific team on the first nuclear weapon strike against Hiroshima, Japan - and is a former Director of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory.

Areas of Good News at the Site

There have been several recent areas of good news at the Site in the last few months. Without doubt, the most significant one was the announcement in early January that DOE had exercised its option and awarded a contract extension to the WSRC Team, which will continue operating SRS at least until September, 2006. The extension is retroactive to October 1, 2000, so it includes the final year of the current contract. The contract extension is worth some \$8.4 billion with Environmental Management Programs being funded at an annual cost of approximately \$1.1 billion and some \$340 million per year to cover National Nuclear Security Administration activities. These are the Site's two main missions. To a large extent, this contract is based on performance incentives , and is focused on delivering products that are most important to the customer's missions.

WSRC President Joe Buggy indicated that this decision is welcomed news. " This is a clear indication that DOE

Management respects and appreciates the work employees have done in safely operating the Site.”

There are three recent noteworthy stories regarding the recent performance of the Site’s Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF), which safely immobilizes high-level liquid radioactive waste in an environmentally acceptable, durable glass form. Early last December, DWPF poured its 1000th canister of waste since radioactive operations began in 1996. It has now poured approximately one-sixth of the canisters projected to be poured during the lifetime of the facility. It is expected to take 20 – 25 years to turn the entire inventory of high-level waste into glass. Secondly, on New Year’s Day, DWPF poured its four millionth pound of radioactive waste. No where else in the world has this quantity been achieved from one facility, marking a significant milestone in stabilizing the waste.

About 34 million gallons of high-level wastes are now stored in 49 underground tanks at the Site. Currently, DWPF is processing the highly radioactive sludge portion of the waste in the tanks. About 900,000 gallons of sludge has been vitrified to date. The third DWPF related story is that in January, for the first time in 13 years, sludge was transferred from F to H Tank Farm to provide feed for DWPF. Nearly 462 thousand gallons of sludge was safely moved from Tank 8 in F-Area, and pumped via the 2 mile inter area line to Tank 40 in H – Area. This material will be prepared as part of the next sludge batch that will provide feed to DWPF.

Another success story is the expedited cleanup in a major environmental restoration program. In mid-January, the A/M Area achieved a major milestone, surpassing the four-billion gallon mark in groundwater cleanup. Four billion gallons poured on a football field would make a column of water a mile and three quarters high! The main problem in the A/M area is contamination from chlorinated industrial solvents used in years of reactor materials manufacturing. After use, these solvents used to be put in earthen basins, a practice no longer considered acceptable. The primary treatment technology being used is air stripping, commonly referred to as pump and treat. New, more efficient removal technologies are being introduced where appropriate.

Work has continued on the development of the proposed new Salt Processing Facility (SPF), which will replace the failed In-Tank Precipitation Facility. The new plant is scheduled to come on line in the 2010-2011 time frame and will treat about 30 million gallons of the highly radioactive liquid salt waste now stored in dozens of underground tanks at SRS. A broad based R&D Program has been underway for some time to evaluate three technologies which have the potential to replace that used in ITP. This R&D activity is being undertaken at SRS, other sites in the DOE Complex, as well at universities and some commercial facilities. Sufficient data will be obtained so that the preferred technology can be selected this coming June. Efforts are also underway to select a new contractor to design, build, start-up, and potentially operate the new facility. Recognizing that some cost estimates have gone as high as \$1 billion for what will be a complex new facility, only a very limited number of companies will be qualified and experienced to handle such an effort. DOE plans to issue the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the new facility this coming July, with the selection of the New Contractor in January 2002.

Cost Of Living Allowance

Members of the SRSRA have been meeting and working with Congressman Lindsey Graham’s office to support the Congressman’s efforts to secure a Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) increase to the SRS retirees’ pensions. We expect Congressman Graham or his Chief of Staff, Richard Perry to attend the SRSRA Annual meeting and provide a firsthand update concerning progress on this important issue.

SRSRA Annual Meeting
March 13, 2001 - 1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Aiken Conference Center
215 The Alley, Aiken, SC
(Located in the Alley at the Rear of the Municipal Building)

AGENDA

<u>Item</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
12:30 P.M. Doors Open	Pre-Meeting Socializing
1:00 P.M. Welcome and Introduction	Chairman Harcourt (Butch) Bull , III
Introduction of Keynote Speaker	Mayor Fred Cavanaugh
Keynote Speaker	Ambrose Schwallie, President Washington Group
Chairman's Remarks	Chairman Harcourt (Butch) Bull, III
Treasurer's Report	Harry Ledbetter
Cost of Living Adjustment	Richard Perry, Chief of Staff For Congressman Lindsey Graham
Board of Directors Election	Chairman Harcourt (Butch) Bull, III
2:00 P.M. 10-Minute Break	
2:10 P.M. Introduction of Seminar Speakers	Chairman Harcourt (Butch) Bull, III
Blue Cross-Blue Shield Manager for SRS Health Insurance	Mrs. Judy Merrott
South Carolina Medicare Office	Mrs. Barbara Saul
3:00 P.M. Adjournment	

ELECTION TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Members to serve on the SRSRA Board of Directors will be elected at the annual meeting. Our By-laws state that the Board of Directors shall consist of not less than twenty and not more than thirty members. Presently there are thirty serving. The sixteen names listed below are presented by the Nominations Committee. Fifteen are to be elected for a full two-year term. One will be elected to a one-year term to fill the vacancy left by a resignation. The one receiving the fewest votes will serve the one-year term. Nominations may also be made from the membership at large.

SRSRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEES

Candidate	Org./Job from Which Retired	Company	Years Service
Joe D. Bickley	Equipment Engineering	WSRC	31
Arthur E. Blanchard	Project Engineering and Construction	WSRC	34
Mattie J. Brown	Computer Systems Technician	WSRC	31
Fred B. Cavannaugh, Jr.	Computer Security	WSRC	37
R. Gerald Croom	Finance Department	WSRC	38
George Duke	Quality and Productivity Engineering	WSRC	32
Frank L. Givens	Human Resources	WSRC	42
Diane B. Grant	Human Resources	WSRC	26
Thomas W. Greene	General Services	WSRC	36
Donald M. Grogan	Central Services Works Engineering	WSRC	35
Paul R. Katonak	Computer and Telecommunications	WSRC	37
Nicholas H. Kuehn	Savannah River Technology Center	WSRC	26
Raymond G. Perks	Project Management	WSRC	27
William A. Quinn	Human Resources	WSRC	35
Raymond P. Sabol	Reactor Restart	WSRC	40
Charles E. Seitter	Environmental Restoration	WSRC	28

MEMBERSHIP

The SRSRA now has over 740 members.

Check our WEBSITE: <http://www.duesouth.net/~srsretirees>

All Board members are WSRC/BSRI Retirees and our objective is to support the Retirees interests by maintaining and preserving our current benefits. We need a strong voice to represent the Retirees. The number of members is very important when representatives of the SRSRA meet with SRS and DOE Management, Congressional Delegations and the Media, to discuss and resolve Retiree issues. Please encourage fellow retirees to join the organization. Paid members will receive a membership card and periodic newsletters.

REMINDER: IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2001!

PLEASE COMPLETE THE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM BELOW AND RETURN WITH YOUR CHECK FOR YOUR 2001 MEMBERSHIP DUES.

Return to: **SRS Retiree Association**
P. O. Box 5686
Aiken, S.C. 29804

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

- Yes, I want to renew my membership in SRSRA
 Yes, I want to join as a new member in SRSRA.
 Yes, I want to renew my membership in SRSRA. I am the spouse of deceased Retiree
[Name of deceased retiree] _____

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

Annual Dues:

<u>Year 2001</u>	<u>Year 2001 and 2002</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 for Retiree	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30 for Retiree
<input type="checkbox"/> \$5 for Surviving Spouse	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 for Surviving Spouse

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE _____

RETIRED FROM WSRC _____ BSRI _____ DATE OF RETIREMENT _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS [IF AVAILABLE] _____

MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS: CALL DICK BARCLAY [803 641 10291]