



SRSRA NEWSLETTER

For SRS Retiree Association Members Frank Campbell, Editor Volume 25, No. 2, April 2022

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SRSRA Contact Information:

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

Phone Message Line: 803-508-7065; e-mail: **SRSRA@LSCOG.ORG**

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



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



Like us on Facebook: SRS Retirees

About this newsletter

The SRSRA Newsletter is published four times a year – January, April, July, and October. The Newsletter is sent to all dues paying SRSRA members. If we have your email address on file, you receive it first since the email version is much quicker to send than the printed version. If you are getting the printed version and would like to get the email version instead, please send us a note through the www.srsretirees.org web page with your current email address and we will update our records. Also, receiving it by email reduces our costs of printing and distributing this newsletter. If you are receiving the printed version, please consider contacting us and switching to an email subscription.

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SRSRA Membership

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

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

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

Annual Meeting Postponed

The SRS Retiree Association Annual Meeting scheduled for April 19, 2022, is postponed. The SRSRA Board keeps hoping that the COVID situation will calm down, but it has not yet. We must decide when we will have the Annual Meeting about 2 months ahead of the meeting to allow for proper notification to the Etherredge Center, vendors, speakers, and attendees. Our foremost concern continues to be to keep everyone safe at the Annual Meeting. The SRSRA Board will continue to monitor the COVID situation closely and arrange an Annual Meeting as soon as practical.

If you have submitted a question for the Annual Meeting Q&A session, we will keep those on file. The website and Facebook will continue to be available to submit questions for the next Annual Meeting. In the meantime, you can contact the SRSRA or the Retiree Resource Center through our email address at the top of this page.

Did you know?

Previous editions of this newsletter are posted on the Retiree Association website at srsretirees.org. Select the Newsletters tab. All newsletters are there except for the current issue, which is only available to current paid SRSRA members.

Gas Card Winner

The first gas card winner for this issue is George M. Brodie. This lucky SRSRA member has won a \$50 gas card courtesy of the SRSEA and SRSRA. Call Bob Hottel at 803-648-7721 within 30 days to claim your gas card! Please verify your home address when you contact Bob.

SRSRA Newsletter April 2022

FBI Warning

A message from Renee Walsh, an FBI Agent assigned to the Savannah River Site as a liaison:

Visiting fbi.gov/nevernight is a good resource about how those who no longer have security clearances need to be cautious. I want to stress that we are not only worried about classified information being targeted, but non-public information as well.

China and other foreign governments are using professional networking social media sites to target people with U.S. government security clearances. Foreign intelligence services may use fake profiles, seemingly benign requests, the promise of lucrative payouts, and other tactics to try to gain non-public and classified information for their benefit. The FBI urges everyone—**especially those who hold (or have held) security clearances**—to be cautious when approached by individuals online regarding career opportunities.

What Are the Signs You Are Being Targeted?

- **It's too good to be true:** Be suspicious of jobs offering remote or flexible work and a disproportionately high salary for the role advertised.
- **Flattery:** Your contact may overly praise or focus on your skills and experience or refer to you as a "high-end" candidate (especially if your government affiliation is known).
- **Scarcity:** There may be an emphasis on so-called limited, one-off, or exclusive opportunities.
- **Lack of depth/detail:** There may be a lack of any visible or verifiable company information available online and/or the role itself lacks tangible details.
- **Urgency:** Your contact might be overly responsive to messages and may attempt to rush you off the networking platform onto another communication method.
- **Imbalance:** There may be a disproportionate focus on the company you are being recruited for rather than the company validating you as a possible candidate.

What Should You Do?

- Review your account settings on social and professional networks to control the information that is publicly available, especially relating to security clearances.
- Only form contacts online with people you know or after you have verified as legitimate in another way.
- Notify your security officer of any contact from companies or individuals you are suspicious of.
- If you are a former U.S. government clearance holder, [contact your nearest FBI office](#) to report malicious targeting on professional networking social media sites or submit a tip online at tips.fbi.gov.

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The Nevernight Connection

This film, inspired by the case of former CIA officer Ken Mallory, details the fictional account of a former U.S. Intelligence Community official who was targeted by China on a professional networking site and recruited to over classified information before being arrested. Through this film, the FBI and the National Counterintelligence and Security Center seeks to raise awareness of the issue and help individuals in the private sector, academic and research communities, and other U.S. government agencies guard against this threat. Visit fbi.gov/nevernight for more information.

COVID-19 Booster Shots

In case you missed it, Medicare just announced:

“If you or a loved one are 50 or older, or are moderately or severely immunocompromised, you can get an additional Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 booster shot at no cost to you.

The CDC recommends an additional booster shot for certain individuals to increase protection from severe disease from COVID-19. People over the age of 50, or who are **moderately or severely immunocompromised**, can get an additional booster of Pfizer or Moderna 4 months after their last dose. This is especially important for those 65 and older who are at higher risk from severe disease and most likely to benefit from getting an additional booster.

Remember: Medicare covers the COVID-19 vaccine, including booster shots, at no cost to you. “

SRS Retirees Facebook page:

There have been some good discussions lately on the SRSRetirees Facebook page. All SRS retirees who are on Facebook are welcome to join the page, ask questions, and participate in the discussions. Search for the group name SRS Retirees and join your fellow retirees in that group.

Gas Card Winner

The second gas card winner for this issue is Henry Lucius, III. This lucky SRSRA member has won a \$50 gas card courtesy of the SRSEA and SRSRA. Call Bob Hottel at 803-648-7721 within 30 days to claim your gas card! Please verify your home address when you contact Bob.

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SRSRA Retiree Resource Center Report

Lauren Riley Feinman, Manager

April 2022

Our Volunteers Keep on Working! **Special Appreciation to Don Stevenson**

Our Own Million Dollar Man!



Don Stevenson, SHIP Counselor Volunteer Extraordinaire

***He has transmitted WageWorks/HealthEquity Retiree Claims to Date:
\$ 1,084,137***

Securing reimbursements for our SRS retiree medical claims is Don's particular expertise. He doggedly investigates, compiles, and transmits documentation for successful reimbursements and stipend allocation problems. He knows how to successfully resubmit denied claims.

Do you have claims that have been denied and you have given up? Not sure of how to best manage your account? Contact us -- we can help you.

Our Retirees Continue to Recognize that Annual Rx Plan Reviews are the Best Way to Control Rx Costs – Our 2022 Rx Plan Performance

Our volunteers continue to do a really terrific job helping retirees evaluate their Prescription Drug Plans each year. As you can see from the metrics below, the Retiree Resource Center has saved our retirees and their spouses nearly \$2.7 in their out-of-pocket prescription drug and premium expenses, based upon their specific drugs, their plans and pharmacies used, over the past 7 years. The number of plans needing to be changed still runs high – between 64% and 80% of the Rx plans we have evaluated have changed their coverage premiums, copays, drugs covered in their pharmacies, and drug stores in their networks enough so that the retiree needs to change their plan the following year to save money. The average savings per plan changed was a little over \$1,000 per plan this year.

Our retirees want this important service. It is much more difficult to deliver and guarantee coverage of your specific prescriptions by telephone and email – for our retirees and for our volunteers. We hope next fall we can resume the in-office review option.

**SRSRA RETIREE RESOURCE CENTER
Retiree Rx Reviews - Out-of-Pocket Savings
2016 - 2022 Plan Years**

Rx Reviews for Upcoming Plan Years	Number of Reviews Conducted by Volunteers	Weighted Average Savings per Changed Plan	% of Reviews Resulting in Savings	Amount of Annual Retiree Out-of-Pocket Savings
2021 for 2022	545	\$ 1,096	70%	\$ 416,400
2020 for 2021	628	\$ 999	80%	\$ 499,704
2019 for 2020	573	\$ 839	82%	\$ 389,428
2018 for 2019	452	\$ 1,000	68%	\$ 306,360
2017 for 2018	382	\$ 1,261	64%	\$ 308,522
2016 for 2017	339	\$ 1,866	69%	\$ 436,479
2015 for 2016	280	\$ 1,595	70%	\$ 312,684
7 Year Totals	3,199	\$ 1,147	73%	\$ 2,669,577

SRSRA Retiree Resource Center Metrics Since Inception September 2014 – March 2022

4,875 Office Visits at SRSRA Retiree Resource Center

3,679 Clients Served

11,325 Phone Contacts 1,523 Email Contacts

\$3.5 Million *HealthEquity/WageWorks* Claims transmitted by RRC

3,199 Number of Medicare Rx Plan Reviews conducted over Seven Years

Availability of Your 2021 SRS Catastrophic Drug Claim filed in 2022 (For those of you who filed for these claims with RightOpt/Buck by February 28, 2022)

The Catastrophic Drug Funding should be posted to your HealthEquity (WageWorks) Account as of 3/31/2022 and the deposit will be labeled **CAT Drug**. You can then submit your Cat Drug expenses to be reimbursed, or you can save the CAT amount for other eligible medical expenses.

Also, very important to remember for the SRS Catastrophic Drug benefit – If you have specific medications that are very expensive, and your new plan does not cover them in their plan formulary, or you purchase drugs outside of your new plan (like thru *GoodRx*, or your supermarket Rx plan) their cost is not counted towards the threshold for the Medicare Catastrophic Level so that expense is not eligible for any SRS Catastrophic Drug Plan benefit reimbursement to you.

What is the fastest, easiest and most reliable way for me to be reimbursed for my medical claims from the SRS Retiree Medical HRA Plan administered by HealthEquity (formerly WageWorks)?

1. Use APR (Automatic Premium Reimbursement).

- You pay your premiums to the insurance carriers in this program automatically each month from your bank account or credit card. You never worry about forgetting to mail a check or the check being lost. Best protection for avoiding insurance cancellation.
- When your insurance carrier confirms your payment, *RightOpt* notifies *HealthEquity*, and they reimburse you promptly and automatically each month.
- Set up Automatic Direct Deposit for your reimbursement payments because (1) payments are processed much quicker than *HealthEquity* check mailing the check to you (2) Checks are not lost. Uncashed checks can sometimes become unrecoverable.

2. Use Direct Deposit

- Faster and most reliable

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How does my disability status affect my Medicare status?

Be sure you understand how Medicare and your SRS benefits impact your benefits, your spouse's benefits, or your disabled child's benefits before and after you turn 65. The SRS Benefits Service Center, your Social Security Office, and our counselors can help you understand your choices and time deadlines.

Communicating with Us at the SRSRA Resource Center

TELEPHONE 803-508-7065 *Message Line*

EMAIL SRSRA@LSCOG.ORG

You are welcome to email us and submit scanned documents for our review. Be sure to include your full name, address and phone so we can identify you.

DROP OFF MAILBOX FOR MATERIALS at 2748 Wagener Rd, LSCOG Building, Aiken SC

We have a large secure DROP OFF MAILBOX in front of our office building which is checked frequently. You can drop your paperwork into this box 24 hours a day. Please address your envelope to the SRSRA Retiree Resource Center and be sure your name is included.

US POSTAL SERVICE

SRSRA Retiree Resource Center, LSCOG Building, 2748 Wagener Road, Aiken SC 29801

Monthly Age-In Training for Retirees Newly Eligible for Medicare

Our volunteers conduct a very popular three-hour course reviewing critical Medicare and SRS Stipend information for retirees and spouses aging into Medicare at age 65 or upon retirement.

The next two meetings will be held at the Lessie Price Senior and Youth Center, 841 Edgefield Avenue: **Tuesday, April 12th** (completely booked), and **Friday, May 13th** (still has seats open).

The June session will be on **Wednesday, June 15th** at the Aiken Municipal Building 214 Park Avenue, and still has vacant seats.

Please call or email the Retiree Resource Center to register or with any questions. Bringing a spouse or friend is helpful. Remember the spaces are limited during these times. We look forward to seeing you and helping you successfully navigate this important part of the retirement process.

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Other Benefit Contact Information

- ✚ **SRS Benefits Service Center at the Site:** HR, payroll and benefits questions. Currently no live answer; the SRS Message Line will take your information for a return call.
803-725-7772 (local area SC and GA) 800-368-7333 (toll free) service-center@srs.gov
- ✚ **SRSRA Retiree Resource Center:** 803-508-7065 Message Line srsra@Lscog.org
- ✚ **Transamerica Pension and 401K:** 866-288-3257 www.transamerica.com/portal/srsretire/
- ✚ **RightOpt** (MyMedicareAdvocate/GetInsured) 877-591-8904 www.rightoptretiree.com/srs
- ✚ **HealthEquity** (WageWorks) 877-924-3967: www.participant.wageworks.com
- ✚ **Medicare Helpline** 800-633-422: www.medicare.gov
- ✚ **Prudential Life Insurance** 844-494-4778: (Company Control Number/Access Code = 51945)
www.prudential.com/mybenefits
- ✚ **Blue Cross/Blue Shield of SC:** 800-325-6596: <http://www.southcarolinablues.com>
Option 1 for Medical, Option 2 for Dental, Option 3 for Pre-Cert/Med Authorization
- ✚ **DuPont Retirees Life Insurance:** 800-775-5955
- ✚ **DuPont Retiree Medical with Via:** 866-322-2864: <https://my.viabenefits.com/>
- ✚ **Corteva Agriscience** for other DuPont Benefits: 800-775-5955
- ✚ **DuPont Retirees Contact Information** for other benefits:
<http://www.retiree.dupont.com/our-company/retirees/contact-us.html>
- ✚ **Social Security** 800-772-1213 <http://www.ssa.gov> Aiken: 866-275-8271

Gas Card Winner

The third gas card winner for this issue is Stephen E. Day. This lucky SRSRA member has won a \$50 gas card courtesy of the SRSEA and SRSRA. Call Bob Hottel at 803-648-7721 within 30 days to claim your gas card! Please verify your home address when you contact Bob.

In Memoriam: January – March 2022

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

Joe Major Alexander	Aiken	Wayne Thurmond Grubb	Barnwell
Ollie Clifton "OC" Ashley, Jr	Aiken	Bernard Hawkins	North Augusta
Claude William Beck, Jr	Jackson	James Willis "Sonny" Holmes	Aiken
Michael Blackmon	Windsor	Harry Paul Horner	North Augusta
James Arthur Bodden	Holly Springs, GA	William Allen Johnson, Sr	Williston
Jeffrey Mark Bollibon	Aiken	Welda Hall Jones	North Augusta
Sherri Bonner	Aiken	Troy William Kneece	Olar
Joyce Catherine Braun	Aiken	William H "Bud" Lariscy, Sr	Augusta
Laura Clemenzi Cameron	Augusta	Ibria Blackwood "Buster" Lawrimore	Lexington
Vijaya Chander	Martinez	Woodrow Lupton	Aiken
Naomi Hyler Collie	Aiken	Gene Paul Maddux	Aiken
Ted Danforth	Aiken	Craig Brian Mauldin	Augusta
William Dearman	Aiken	Douglas Lee McLane	Aiken
Clyde Eli DeHart	Jackson	Patsy Kay Nix	Aiken
William Edwards, Jr	Martin	William Herman Paul, Jr	North Augusta
Larry O'Neal "Neal" Eubanks	North Augusta	William Lee Poe	Aiken
William Faucett	North Augusta	Ralph Henry Poling	Grovetown
Kevin Charles Fischer	Aiken	Tony Sealy	Graniteville
Donald Roy Geckeler	North Augusta	Charles Edward Sessions	Aiken
Samuel Turner Goforth	Winston-Salem, NC	Sara Ramsey "Sallie" Poston Sikes	New Ellenton
Thomas Wendell Greene	North Augusta	Joseph Frank Verant	Warrenville
George Allen "Gus" Griffin	Augusta	Rheta Black Woodard	Barnwell
Spencer Pierce Grotheer, Jr	Aiken		