



SRSRA NEWSLETTER

For SRS Retiree Association Members

Gene Dixon, Editor

Volume 25, No. 4 October 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

SRSRA Mission

The mission of the SRS Retiree Association is to work to advocate for the maintenance of retiree pension and medical benefits in current dollars, provide assistance and support of the greater SRS retiree population, ensure that the retiree benefits and needs are visible to the broader community, and support current and future missions of the SRS.

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 you are getting the printed version please consider changing to the email version to save the Association postage. To switch, send us a note through the web page www.srsretirees.org, with your current email address and we will update our records. This saves on your Association’s costs of printing and distributing this newsletter.

SRS Retiree Association, Inc.

Message Line: (803)508-7065; e-mail: SRSRA@LSCOG.ORG Website: <https://srsretirees.org>

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.

SRSRA Membership



Anyone who has been employed at or in direct association with the Savannah River Site for at least five years and who has since retired from that employment and their spouses are eligible. All spouses of retiree members, whether or not they are SRS retirees themselves, are eligible for membership in the SRSRA.

Annual dues for the Association are \$25. For surviving spouses of retirees, annual dues are \$5. Dues may be paid up to 3 years (current plus 2 future years). If you know of someone retiring, encourage them to join us by completing the membership form at <https://www.srsretirees.org/membership/>. We have strength in numbers.

Annual Meeting Scheduled

The SRS Retiree Association Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2023 and will be held at the USCA-Etherredge Center, Aiken SC. Our foremost concern will be for everyone's safety during the Annual Meeting.

If you have already submitted a question for the Annual Meeting Q&A session, we 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, the SRSRA Resource Center through our email address at the top of this page or <https://srsretirees.org/contacts/>.

SRSRA United Way Campaign

SRSRA has mailed pledge forms for donations to the United Way. You should have received yours by now, but if you did not, a copy is in this newsletter. Your SRSRA gets good publicity from the local media for our generous contribution. Publicity helps with our ongoing work to support your retiree benefits.



It is your choice, when deciding to donate to the United Way, whether to make that donation individually, through SRS, through the SRS Retiree Association, or some other arrangement. If you decide to contribute by check, make the check payable to the United Way of Aiken County. They will forward your contribution as you designate on the enclosed form (last page).

Please join with your fellow retirees in giving through the Association.

Gas Card Winner



The first gas card winner for this issue is Leroy J. Buncomb, Jr.

This lucky SRSRA member has won a \$50 gas card courtesy of the SRSEA and SRSRA. Contact Bob Hottel by email, abhottel@bellsouth.net, or by cell phone 803-221-74248 within 30 days to claim your gas card! Please verify your home address when you contact Bob. And give him a thank you for organizing the gas card give away.

Board Activities

Benefits Protection Committee

Many retirees have wanted to know what the SRSRA has been doing to get them a much needed pension adjustment. On Sept. 9, 2022, SRSRA started the process by making a formal request for a pension adjustment to Stuart MacVean, President, and Chief Executive Officer of SRNS, which manages the Savannah River Site defined benefit pension plan. This request is for a 9% cost of living adjustment (COLA), starting on 10/01/2023, for current retirees who retired before Jan. 1, 2019. The request also asks that the pension amendment request be paired with necessary budget submittals, and/or revisions to cover required ERISA contributions to the SRNS plan.

In response to the SRSRA pension COLA request, Mr. MacVean responded with a letter dated Sept. 27, 2022. Mr. MacVean noted that our request requires both a cost estimate and review by the Savings and Pension Administrative Committee (Committee). SRNS has asked the Plan Actuary for an estimated cost of our requested COLA. When that is received, it will be forwarded to the Committee for review and a recommendation. If it is approved by the Committee, it would next be submitted to the Department of Energy for review and approval for any increased costs to be reimbursable. The earliest it could be considered is the FY2024 budget.

In the past, DOE has not been willing to approve requests for pension amendment COLA's anywhere across the DOE Complex. The only way this will be approved is through support by our legislative delegation for the budget appropriations that cover the increased cost. SRSRA will have to work hard to develop this support if the requested pension COLA is to become a reality.

SRSRA Resource Center Committee

Issues involving this year's MOA funding agreement with the LSCOG are also front and center. The main issue concerns LSCOG wording inserted into this year's agreement requiring SRSRA Resource Center SHIP certified volunteers to provide counseling services to not just SRS retirees but to the area's general Medicare eligible population. Obviously, this is not something we can obligate our SRSRA volunteers to do. We are currently working on coming to some sort of understanding with the LSCOG.

August 2022 Metrics from your SRSRA Resource Center. Yes, we make a difference.

Clients:82

Home Visits: 0

Orientation/Training:19

Office visits:3

Email Correspondence:5

Client assist hours: 82

Phone Contacts:95

Process Time: 10 hours

Claims Processed: \$45,606

SRS Retirees Facebook page:

Check us out! Great sharing and information can be found 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.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1628555790551114>



Gas Card Winner



The second gas card winner for this issue is Guilford Kyle Corley.

This lucky SRSRA member has won a \$50 gas card courtesy of the SRSEA and SRSRA. Contact Bob Hottel by email, abhottel@bellsouth.net, or by cell phone 803-221-74248 within 30 days to claim your gas card! Please verify your home address when you contact Bob. And give him a thank you for organizing the gas card give away.

SRSRA SRSRA Resource Center Report

	Summary of Important Costs for 2023	
	2022 (this year)	2023 (next year)
Monthly plan premium*	\$22.70	\$40
Out-of-pocket maximum (your premium may be higher or less than this amount. See Section 1 for details.)	\$500	\$500
Part D prescription drug coverage (see Section 1.3 for details.)	Deductible: \$480 Copayment/Coinsurance during the Initial Coverage Stage: For a 30-day supply from a retail pharmacy with preferred cost-sharing: • Drug Tier 1: \$1 • Drug Tier 2: \$4 • Drug Tier 3: 17% • Drug Tier 4: 37% • Drug Tier 5: 25% For a 30-day supply from a retail pharmacy with standard cost-sharing: • Drug Tier 1: \$10 • Drug Tier 2: \$20 • Drug Tier 3: 20% • Drug Tier 4: 48% • Drug Tier 5: 25%	Deductible: \$505 Copayment/Coinsurance during the Initial Coverage Stage: For a 30-day supply from a retail pharmacy with preferred cost-sharing: • Drug Tier 1: \$1 • Drug Tier 2: \$2 • Drug Tier 3: 17% • Drug Tier 4: 46% • Drug Tier 5: 25% For a 30-day supply from a retail pharmacy with standard cost-sharing: • Drug Tier 1: \$10 • Drug Tier 2: \$20 • Drug Tier 3: 20% • Drug Tier 4: 46% • Drug Tier 5: 25%

YES, We make a Difference

REALITY CHECK FROM SRS RETIREE
 Currently In the Humana Walmart R Plan for 2022
 An increase of 76%

Annual Rx Plan Reviews are Your Best Way to Control R Costs

We are getting ready for this year's Open Enrollment. Planning and face-to-face scheduling activities have begun. Email and mail reviews are also available.

Last year, the SRSRA Resource Center performed 545 drug plan reviews. Over 70% of the time, retirees needed to change their plan or pharmacy network to save money.

We have been doing this for seven years, and with over 3,199 reviews we see the same pattern. The drug plan changes for the new year, and the retiree keeps the current plan, thinking it is staying the same, when actually, the retiree's total out-of-pocket costs are increasing.

Your Plan Can Affect Your SRS Catastrophic Drug Benefit

If you have specific medications that are very expensive, and your new plan does not cover them through their plan formulary, or you purchase drugs outside of your new plan (like thru GoodRx, or your local supermarket R plan) those drug costs are not counted towards the threshold for the Medicare

Catastrophic Level. That expense is not eligible for any potential SRS Catastrophic Drug Plan benefit reimbursement to you.

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

IMPORTANT! Watch for Your Application Forms in the Mail Soon!

- **The deadline for us to receive your application is Monday, October 31st.**
- **Open enrollment dates for the SRSRA Resource Center are Oct. 18th through Dec. 6th.**
- **You can email, US mail, or leave applications in our building drop-box at 2748 Wagener Rd.** The mail address is SRSRA Resource Center, LSCOG Building, PO Box 850 Aiken SC 29802
- **We have a limited number of in-person office appointments available** and would like to save those times for people who really need them – we serve others by phone and email. Office appointments require proof of vaccination plus at least one booster and wearing a mask; our volunteers requested this for in-person contacts.
- **If you have not received your application forms by October 17th:** forms have also been emailed to members and others can call the RRC Message line (803-508-7065), drop off a request in our Dropbox outside, or email us (srsra@LSCOG.org) with your full mailing address or your email address.
- **Your projected total OOP (Out-Of-Pocket) cost is calculated on the Medicare website** comparing all Rx plans available in your area with your specific medications and pharmacy information. *If you already have a Medicare R Username and password, please provide it. You can expect that Medicare.gov will send you an email that we have accessed your account.*

Do Your Own Medicare R Review Online

We have a well-illustrated, large font, detailed screen-by-screen instructions to help you do your own R Medicare Advantage review yourself online with Medicare.gov. Just email or call us.

Communicating with Us

SRSRA Resource Center Telephone Message Line Number: 803-508-7065 Please be sure to use our message line number whenever you call us. Do not use the call back feature if you have missed our call because it takes you to a general number for the LSCOG organization.

Please answer the phone if you have submitted your information to us for review. Your call back will probably be coming from a volunteer working at home, and you will not recognize their phone number.

EMAIL Important! SRSRA@LSCOG.ORG

If you email us and submit scanned documents, be sure to include your full name, address, and phone so we can identify you. Email is the easiest and quickest way for us to contact you.

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS

- **Switching to Medicare Advantage Plans can work well for certain situations**, but you must be comfortable with the plan's restrictions, understand what's NOT covered, and know that changing back to a Medicare Supplement Plan with a separate R plan can be difficult. Be aware that the barriers for a retiree to be able to return to a Medicare Supplement Plan and a Medicare Part D Plan can be substantial.
- **You can check with RightOpt** as they are proficient at securing your network information. RightOpt does not write every MAP offered in your zip code, but often they do have a good selection. **We also have a few volunteers and a local broker** well-versed in SRS HRA requirements and provider networks. You can choose to do Medicare Advantage Plan reviews yourself on-line with [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov).

Gas Card Winner



The third gas card winner for this issue is James A. Bell.

This lucky SRSRA member has won a \$50 gas card courtesy of the SRSEA and SRSRA. Contact Bob Hottel by email, abhottel@bellsouth.net, or by cell phone 803-221-74248 within 30 days to claim your gas card! Please verify your home address when you contact Bob. And give him a thank you for organizing the gas card give away.

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 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

In Memoriam: July – September 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.

Burgess Medley "Med" Allen	Aiken	Rodney Marvin Bolen	Beech Island
Richard R. "Sonny" Broadway Jr	Barnwell	Danny Elton Byars	Windsor
Charles Daley	Hartselle AL	Steven Eugene Derochie	Aiken
Thomas John Felak	N. Augusta	David A. "Drew" Foreman Jr	Jackson
John Robert "Robby" Foster	Aiken	Gary Hayes	New Elleton
Giles Cooper Johnson	Warrenville	Alvin Willis Josey	Augusta
John Daniel Magruder	Aiken	Virginia Padgett	Clarks Hill
Maxanne A."Mickie" Seitter	Aiken	Mark Harris Smith Jr	Aiken
Donald R. "Don" Strosnider	Goose Creek	Tony Kneece Towne Sr	Barnwell
Edward Joseph "Ed" Velky	N. Augusta	Milton W. "Milt" Villemain	N. Augusta
Bruce Arnold Wilson	Aiken	Joseph L. "Joe" Womack	Aiken
Winston Wayne Adams	Augusta	Laura Piston Kirkpatrick	Aiken
Judy Towne McClary	Denmark		



SRSRA United Way Pledge Option

Dear SRSRA Member,

A United Way pledge form is attached which provides an opportunity for members to **contribute directly to local United Way agencies of their choice** versus participating in the traditional SRS United Way campaign.

United Way of Aiken County has agreed to collect these contributions from SRS retirees directly and distribute them to the local UW agencies specified by the contributor on the pledge form. **Payroll deduction is not available if your donation is through the SRSRA United Way Campaign. All other means of contributing to United Way (monthly bank draft, check, credit card, and quarterly, semi-annual, or annual billing) can be accommodated via the SRSRA Pledge Form.**

If you wish to use this option, please complete the pledge form and mail it along with your contribution by check or credit card to:

United Way of Aiken County, Inc.
235 Barnwell Avenue NW
PO Box 699
Aiken, SC 29802-0699

Please contact the SRSRA at unitedway@srsretirees.org or 803-649-6250 if you have any questions. We are in full support of the United Way and hope that you will support them through your contributions.

Sincerely,

Your SRSRA Board of Directors

SRS RETIREE ASSOCIATION PLEDGE FORM
Invest in your community...

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
I would like to receive United Way newsletters by e-mail. Email address: _____
Please select your method of payment. Please note payroll deduction is not available through the Retiree Association.

Draft my bank account: \$ _____ per month (please include voided check)
(A minimum pledge of \$25 per month is required. Draft will occur on the 15th of every month unless the 15th falls on a weekend in which case the draft would take place the Friday before. The first draft will occur on January 15th and the last will occur on December 15th.)
Signature: _____ Date: _____

Check #: _____ is enclosed in the amount of \$ _____
(Please make checks payable to United Way of Aiken County.)

Charge my credit card in the amount of \$ _____
 VISA DISCOVER Card #: _____
 MASTERCARD AMEX Expiration Date: ____/____
Security Code (3 digit code listed on the back): _____
Signature: _____

Bill me for \$ _____
(\$100.00 minimum pledge for direct billing)
 Quarterly
 Semi-Annually
 Annually in the month of _____

Please select where you want your money to go.
(\$20.00 minimum pledge for designations)

United Way of Aiken County
 United Way of Allendale County (Partnered with Barnwell County)
 Bamberg County
 United Way of Barnwell County (Partnered with Allendale County)
 United Way of Colleton County
 United Way of the CSRA (Richmond, Columbia, Burke, and Lincoln Counties)
 United Way of Edgefield County
 Hampton County (Partnered with Colleton County)
 United Way of McDuffie and Warren Counties
 United Way of the Midlands (Richland, Lexington, Colleton, Edisto, Fairfield, Newberry and Orangeburg Counties)
 United Way of Screven County
 Special Designation: _____

MAIL THIS FORM TO:
United Way of Aiken County, Inc.
235 Barnwell Avenue, NW • Post Office Box 699 • Aiken, SC
29802-0699 • Phone: (803) 648-8331 • Fax: (803) 641-2887

LEADERSHIP GIVING
A gift of \$500 or more qualifies me as a Leadership Giver with special recognition. Please list my/our name(s) as follows:

 I would like my name and address forwarded to my designated United Way.