



SRSRA NEWSLETTER

For SRS Retiree Association Members Gene Dixon, Editor Volume 28, No. 1 January 2025

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SRSRA Contact Information:

SRS Retiree Association, Inc. P. O. Box 5686, Aiken, SC 29804 Phone Message Line: 803-226-0070
e-mail: SRSRA@srsretirees.org or use the “Contact Us” button on the website.



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



Like us on Facebook: SRS Retirees

About the SRS Retiree Association (SRSRA)

The Association was founded in 1998, this is our 26th year of supporting SRS retirees. The 2024 membership total was 1,999 members, an all-time high. We have members in 28 states and 218 cities, most members (91.9%) are from Georgia or South Carolina, 54.7% from Aiken County with 35.2% from Aiken. Membership (\$25 annually) is available to anyone retired under the previous Westinghouse Savannah River Company – Bechtel Savannah River Incorporated retirement plan or in the successor plan, currently called the Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC Multiple Employer Pension Plan. This includes retirees from WSRC, BSRI, WSMS, BNFL, URS, SRNS, SRR, SRMC and BSRA.

Annual dues are from January 1 through December 31 and can be paid anytime. Dues can be paid for up to three years – current year plus the next two. Retiree membership is \$25 and Surviving Spouse \$5. All members’ spouses (SRS retiree or not) can join for \$0.

The easiest way to pay dues is online. Go to our website – srsretirees.org – there is a Join or Renew Membership button near the bottom of the page. It lets you complete an electronic form and takes you to our PayPal account to make a payment. If you do not have a PayPal account, there is a paper copy form there you can complete and mail to us, if that is your preferred method.

We need volunteers to serve on the Board and/or perform services at the Resource Center to continue operations through our 27th year. Please encourage all retirees to join the Association, especially those that use the Resource Center services.



United Way Campaign

Through the SRSRA, ~\$17,000 was donated to the United Way campaign. Thank you for your donations and for all the ways SRS retirees support our communities.

2025 Annual Meeting

The SRS Retiree Association Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2025. The meeting will be held at the USCA-Etherredge Center, Aiken SC. Questions for the Annual meeting must be submitted prior to the meeting. Questions for the meeting can be submitted through the SRSRA's webpage: <https://srsretirees.org/contacts/>.

All visitors to the USCA campus must comply with campus policies. It is your responsibility to know, and abide by, any federal or state laws relative to firearms and weapons (knives, etc.). Possession of firearms and weapons is unlawful on the USCA campus. Please review the campus requirements found here: <https://usca.edu/campus-safety/legal-notice/laws-concerning-weapons-on-campus>.

Additionally, USCA campus policy prohibits pets from campus due to health and safety liabilities. Service animals registered and approved by the USCA Office/Department of Disability Services are exempted. You must bring proof of campus registration and campus approval with you if accompanied by a service animal. Any person found to have an unauthorized animal on campus will be required to remove the animal.

Gas Card Winner

The first gas card winner for this issue is Robert Peacock. This SRSRA member has won a \$50 gas card courtesy of the SRSEA and SRSRA. Please text or call Bob Hottel (803 221-4248) or email (abhottel@bellsouth.net) within 30 days to claim your gas card! Please verify your home address when you contact Bob.



Contacting Congressional Representatives

The SRSRA encourages all retirees to express their retiree related concerns to their congressional representatives. The first step in communicating with your legislators is to find out which elected officials are yours.

You can identify your Senators and find their specific office address on the Senate website at <https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>. Similarly, you can identify your U.S. Representatives by your address and zip code and get their specific office address on the House web page at <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>.

When you draft your letter to your elected official, be sure to include your phone number and your address (email, if you have one). Depending on your issue, you may be contacted by a member of the official's staff for more information on the topic.

It is important to explain why you are contacting them. For SRS retirees a reason for contacting could be as simple as "...a cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) for the pensioners of the contractors for the Department of Energy at the Savannah River Site in Aiken, SC." or, an increase in the benefits stipend.

When you write, be sure to ask what your representatives plan to do about your issue. As you write consider including a reference to the SRSRA as it may help us help you and the SRSRA in future discussions with the elected official, the DOE, and the contractors responsible for our benefits. You might consider sending a copy to the SRSRA (address on the front page).

In Memoriam: Oct – Dec 2024

SRSRA Board members obtain these names from local newspapers. If you would like your deceased loved one included, please send us their name via our website, email at SRSRA@srsretirees.org or leave a message at (803)508-7065.



Lydia Polatty Bates	Graniteville	Ernest Ray Martin	Jackson
Allison Ergle Berry	Edgefield	Betty Jewel Hardy Collins McElhaney	Williston
Evelyn Buckner Bland	Aiken	Joseph W Messick	Aiken
Allen Keith Bunch	Bamberg	Charles R Pair	Augusta
Cynthia Gleaton Callahan	Williston	Trent Pardue	Lexington
Donald Louis Choat	Martinez	Joy Mock Parry	Aiken
Theron Stanley Collins	Barnwell	Charles A "Pat" Patterson	Beech Island
Fred Danforth	New Ellenton	Homer Marshall Prater	Barnwell
Walter Daniel Dunaway, Jr	Williston	Teresa Cowan Quarries	Graniteville
Phillip William Frederick, Sr	Florence	Crawford Wayne Roof	Graniteville
Tony Gordon Friar	Edgefield	Wallace "Wally" Seigler	Salley
Jon Randolph Dials	(Feb 2024)	Joseph E "Joe" Smith	Aiken
William Bright Griffin	Aiken	Jay Rodger Taylor	Hilton Head
Clyde Joseph Hall	Aiken	Joseph Henry Templeton	Blackville
Luther "Larry" Hamm	Aiken	Harold Barry Tompkins	Aiken
Bobby Hanberry	Bamberg	Betty Ann Woolbridge Trotter	Williston
William Jacob Harper Jr	N. Augusta	James Edward Trottie	Hephzibah
Mildred Goss Key	New Ellenton	Darrell Douglas Walker	Aiken
Dolores Berberich Krenta	Aiken	James Robert Watts (Aug 2024)	Aiken
Malcolm "Buddy" Kyle, Jr	Aiken	Michael Clinton Whittle	Aiken
William Clay Lancaster, Jr	Tignall, GA		

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SRS History Preservation

The USC Gregg-Graniteville Library seeks your help in preserving the SRS important and rich history. Donations of newspapers, government publications, brochures, letters, photos, and small artifacts are invaluable in helping us tell the story of SRS and its impact on our community.



Gregg-Graniteville Library
University of South Carolina Aiken



Your contributions can help future generations understand and appreciate the legacy of SRS. We'd love to hear from you if you have items to donate or want to learn more. Thank you for helping us keep history alive!

For more information or to schedule a donation, contact Lisa Ennis (803) 641 3460 or email at Lisa.Ennis@usca.edu.

SRSRA Retiree Resource Center

Laureen Riley Feinman, Manager & SHIP Counselor

The Resource Center is sponsored and managed by the Association's Board. The primary funding source is from members' dues payments and donations. Assistance is provided to retirees transitioning into Medicare, Medicare issues, Open Enrollment, stipend reimbursements, etc. The Resource Center has two part-time employees but most of the support is provided by retirees who volunteer their time. This year the Resource Center assisted 940 retirees/spouses with only 48.0% supporting this effort by paying membership dues. We encourage all retirees to join the Association, especially those that use the Resource Center services. The easiest way is join online. Go to the website – srsretirees.org – there is a Membership Button near the bottom of the page.

Additional volunteers are urgently needed to continue the support provided by the Resource Center. Please volunteer now so you can train with experienced personnel.

Important items for SRS retirees:

1. **If you changed plans during open enrollment**, make it a priority to verify that your new Medicare Supplement Insurance and Medicare Rx Drug Insurance, or your Medicare Advantage Plan Insurance policy, is actively in force as of January 1, 2025. Proof of 2025 coverage may be in the form of a 1) letter from the new insurance carrier or broker, 2) new plan membership card, 3) confirmation of coverage email with your new membership number, or 4) website detailed verification through VIA or the insurance carrier.

Why should this be a priority? SRMC offered a Humana Guaranteed Issue Medicare Supplement Plan for their retirees if they enrolled through VIA for 2025. Some retirees have not received confirmation of that coverage even though they submitted their application for this one-time offer for a Humana Medicare Supplement Plan with no medical underwriting required. If you made this change and have not received a confirmation of your new coverage showing an effective date of January 1, 2025, and showing the Plan type you applied for (such as Plan F, Plan G etc.), or if you have received an application denial from Humana, or if you received a confirmation for a High Deductible Medicare Supplement Plan when you applied for a regular Medicare Supplement Plan, you need to take action immediately. The SRMC VIA website does not have all the new 2025 enrollment information posted for everyone yet, which is why you should make it a priority to check your confirmation letters and emails. SRMC is aware and focused on this problem. If you have experienced any issue or have not received evidence of your new 2025 insurance coverage, please contact SRMC Stephen Barry at 803-645-0845. You can also contact Mr. Barry by email, stephen.barry@srs.gov. A call would be more expedient.

2. Are you paying close attention to your **prescription drug expenses** now that the Medicare Catastrophic Limit has decreased to \$2,000 annually? Some retirees choose to use drug discount cards like Good Rx, or store plans like Kroger's, to control their costs of certain medications. Now that the Medicare Catastrophic Limit has decreased to \$2,000, it will often be less expensive to purchase your medications through your Rx or Medicare Advantage prescription drug plan if you have high drug expenses since your annual total will be over the threshold sooner.
3. Please be on the lookout for information from Transamerica regarding a limited opportunity under the **Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC Multiple Employer Pension Plan and Trust** (the "Pension Plan"). This election applies to certain groups of retired SRS employees who vested in the pension plan and terminated their employment before retirement age. For more information, call Transamerica at 888-976-8196.
4. Did you receive your **SRNS or SRMC stipend** allocation in January? Are your claims set up to automatically reimburse your checking account which is the fastest and least complicated process? If you need help, you can call HealthEquity at 877-924-3967 (SRNS) or VIA at 800-848-1831 (SRMC), or our SRSRA Retiree Resource Center message line at 803-226-0070 and you'll be helped you with your questions.

Resource Center Activities

Special thanks to our Annual Rx Plan Reviewers in the office and who work remotely: Sandy Carroll, Dave Fauth, Dick Frushour, Rick Geddes, Nick Kuehn, John Plodinec, Jack Roberts, Don Stevenson, John Veldman, David Zigelman and Annie Fields. Great volunteers!

We also were able to add links on the SRSRA website for retirees to make in-person appointments and download forms. Thanks also to Henry Lucius, Ranny Saylor, and Chris Solum. Chris spearheaded development of the online appointment feature.

SRSRA Retiree Resource Center Total Retirees' Out-of-Pocket Savings to Date: \$9 Million Medicare PDP Annual Rx Reviews Component
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Review Year	Plan Year	# of Reviews	Savings (\$000's)
2015	2016	280	313
2016	2017	339	435
2017	2018	382	310
2018	2019	452	304
2019	2020	573	363
2020	2021	628	497
2021	2022	545	398
2022	2023	468	603
2023	2024	413	466
2024	2025	315	299
Ten Year Savings Total		4,395	\$3,988

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