



# SRSRA NEWSLETTER

For SRS Retiree Association Members

Gene Dixon, Editor

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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](mailto:SRSRA@srsretirees.org) or use the “Contact Us” button on the website.



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



Like us on Facebook: SRS Retirees

## Special Thanks

Volunteers to perform 2025 R Reviews include: John Plodinec, Rick Geddes, Dave Fauth, Don Stevenson, Sandy Carroll, David Zigelman, Dick Frushour, Jack Roberts, John Veldman, Ken Perrine, and the key volunteers who support the R Review operation: Larry Hall, Ranny Saylor, Cassandra Dean and Henry Lucius.

## 2026 SRSRA Annual Meeting

Make plans now, the 2026 SRSRA Annual Meeting will be held April 21,2026. The location will change to the Millbrook Baptist Church “Kid City”. The new location reflects a significant savings in annual meeting costs.

## Gas Card Winner

The first gas card winner for this issue is William T Li. 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.



## Help Legislators Focus on Retirees

Legislators need to hear from their constituents—retired voters like you and me. Here are some tips to help ensure your message successfully reaches your representative.

1. Using tips 4-9 below, spend some time and effort drafting your message. The SRSRA Board suggests focusing on a pension adjustment. However, apply the tips to any issue of importance to you.
2. Find your legislator at <https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member>. Enter your zip or street address as required and you will see a map and a list of legislators (sidebar):
3. Click on contact and supply your information. This is required to ensure you are not a bot and the legislator's office will validate you are in their district. Answer the questions and complete the box “Please write your message” You’ll have 10,000 words max to make you point.
4. Start with thanking them for their time and attention.
5. State your purpose clearly and succinctly. As an example point out the need for the Congress to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to combat rising inflation.
6. Personalize your message with stories or examples of how the increase will affect you, your family, or your community. Some points you can reference—but make them personal—include:
  - SRS retirees have not received a pension adjustment in twenty-five years. This reflects a 77% loss in spending power.
  - The political fanfare you hear consistently is that the government values your services during the cold war. You would like to see pension adjustments that reflect the fanfare.
  - Retirees across the weapons complex have received adjustments over the last 25 years. SRS retirees have not.
  - SRS retirees play a significant role in their local economies with financial participation, social engagement, and community service. Tell them what you are doing.
7. Be polite and respectful by maintaining a courteous, professional tone throughout your post.
8. Ask for a response that shows their commitment to a pension adjustment.
9. Avoid righteous indignation. Again, be polite. And be informative. Avoid offering trite expression such as “...as a citizen and taxpayer”. Make a point to the effect that you are asking “...for their support in including a cost-of-living adjustment in the biennium budget.
10. Focus on key points. Try to use common terms and language. The text box has a limit, write accordingly.
11. Close your post by briefly recapping your main points and encouraging specific action(s) in the form of a request. Your request should be clear, concise, and specific. Offer to speak with the legislator by repeating your phone number.



## Aging into Training

Sign-up for Aging Into Medicare training through the SRSRA website: <https://srsretirees.org/resource-center-aim-scheduler-r0/>."

## Gas Card Winner

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## In Memoriam: April – June 2025

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](mailto:SRSRA@srsretirees.org) or leave a message at (803)508-7065.



|                                   |              |                                  |              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Arthur Earl Ayer Jr               | Olar         | William Herbert "Herb" Martin    | Aiken        |
| Robert "Bob" Bean Jr              | Aiken        | Gregory E McFeely                | Augusta      |
| Morris Harvey "Jack" Bowles       | Aiken        | Linda Boynton Moss               | Aiken        |
| Arthur Laverne "Vern" Boyer       | Williston    | Richard Lindahl "Dick" Postles   | Aiken        |
| Thomas Carl "Tommy" Davis         | Augusta      | Harry Bruce Schultz              | Aiken        |
| Joseph Alexander "Joe" Gentilucci | Aiken        | Wallace Broward Sumner           | Graniteville |
| Bishop David E Heyward            | Garrett      | Elizabeth Ashley Thacker         | Augusta      |
| Janis G Jennings                  | Graniteville | Martha Diane Williams Williamson | Blackville   |
| E Michael "Mike" Kelley           | Graniteville | Edward Dewitt Zorn               | Barnwell     |
| James William "Billy" Laurey      | Aiken        |                                  |              |

## 2026 Medicare Rx

Reminder: Medicare Open Enrollment begins October 15 and ends December 07, 2025

### Highlights:

- Medicare.gov website requires two-factor authentication
- Many Rx plans are ending or merging.
- Rx plan premiums are changing.
- A \$2,100 out-of-pocket cap will help, but only if you comply with drug purchase guidelines
- Maximum plan deductibles have increased from \$590 to \$615 for 2026

**Controlling your Rx costs.** Annual Part D Prescription Drug Plan reviews are the most effective method for controlling Rx costs. If your 2026 Rx Plan does not cover your specific drugs and dosage, your cost of those drugs will not be counted towards the \$2,100 Medicare Rx out-of-pocket catastrophic limit. Also, purchases from pharmacies outside your plan's network will not be counted. Some plans are even designated as Preferred and if you don't use those, the plan can charge more for your drugs if you use other pharmacies. Here are some steps you can take:

- Make sure your prescriptions are covered in your 2026 plan's drug formulary list.
- Make sure you get those drugs through a pharmacy in the Plan's preferred network.
- Retirees with high drug expenses need to be aware of the impact of using discount R cards and programs which could cost less for a particular drug purchase but then it will take you longer to get to the \$2,100 catastrophic limit—for no cost—on covered medications.
- Many R Plan and Medicare Advantage Plan features and premiums will change in January 2026 due to Medicare regulation changes. Fewer R plans are being offered in 2026 so your Plan may be discontinued. Watch for notices. Compare your drug plans for 2026.
- The new Medicare Prescription Payment Plan (MPPP) spreads costs more evenly throughout the Plan Year (MPPP). This option will NOT reduce your overall expense, but can prevent large beginning-of-year cash outlays before deductibles are met for some retirees. Election is voluntary and no extra cost. It can be complicated to manage because prescription payments are made to the R insurance company rather than your pharmacy and can differ monthly.

If you would like the SRSRA Resource Center to prepare your 2026 Part D R review, request an in-person office R review, make an appointment, preferably online. Do this ASAP because reviews are limited. Application deadline is November 20<sup>th</sup> or until appointment slots are filled. To

- Schedule a Resource Center review appointment: <https://srsretirees.org/resource-center-r1/resource-center-medicare-partd-rx-review/>
- Select your preferred appointment slots and enroll in the slot day and time you choose. You can also cancel an appointment and reschedule online. You will receive an automatic email confirmation with appointment info, including driving directions and a list of information you will need to bring with you.
- Please note that if you are making an appointment for both you and your spouse, you will need two consecutive slots in the same office.
- If you are unable to communicate electronically, you can call the SRSRA.

It is possible to review your own R plans online at medicare.gov. Alternatively, you can call LIG/Gallagher Solutions (855.622.0681) for SRNS Retirees or call VIA Benefits (800.848.1831) for SRMC. They can be helpful with Medicare Advantage Plans for determining whether your doctors are in a network and answering questions about non-medical benefits. You are not required to enroll in R plans through LIG and VIA to receive your SRNS or SRMC stipend, but their brokers can be helpful with Medicare Advantage Plan comparisons. The Resource Center does not compare Medicare Advantage Plans.

### **SRMC Retiree Benefit Changes for 2026:**

- SRMC has negotiated with Humana to allow for any SRMC Humana Medicare Advantage Plan participant to enroll, or re-enroll, in a Humana Medicare Medigap policy, guaranteed issue.
- SRMC also allows any SRMC Medicare Supplement Plan or Medicare Advantage Plan participants to elect a different plan through ViaBenefits or an outside broker and still receive their HRA funding for 2026.
- SRMC will have Humana and VIA benefits onsite for questions again in November. Watch for a date notice.
- SRMC does not require you to have VIA benefits enroll you in your Medicare R Plan. You can have the SRSRA Resource Center or your own broker or carrier review and enroll you. You can also enroll yourself using medicare.gov

To support your decision making process, SRMC will be hosting the annual retiree meetings at [1070 Silver Bluff Road, Aiken, SC 29803](https://srsretirees.org) on:

**Tuesday, October 21, 2025**

- 10 am Eastern time
- 1 pm Eastern time

**Wednesday, October 22, 2025**

- 10 am Eastern time
- 1 pm Eastern time

Each meeting will last approximately an hour. No pre-registration is required. Representatives from both Via Benefits and Humana will be in attendance to provide additional information and answer questions.

## Changes to Accessing to Health Equity and Medicare.gov

HE Passkey implementation has been delayed until early 2026. However, Health Equity (HE) two factor authentication (TFA) has not been delayed. Retirees without internet or smartphone texting access, or those having problems using telephone automated answering systems must plan now. If you already have a phone number and an email address on your HE account you may already have TFA. If your email and texting number info is not current, or you can't access your account, you need to call HE Customer Service for help to access your account at 1-877-924-3967.

If you are a new Medicare enrollee (Medicare.gov), you will now need to be able to receive a confirmation text and put that number into the prompt when accessing the Medicare website. This means you will have to provide Medicare with your telephone number, and you must have a telephone able to accept text notices. An alternative is receiving the confirmation text through your email address which you must then access within ten minutes. Medicare has not released a date when the TFA will be required for retirees previously enrolled.

If you don't have an email or a phone which is able to accept a texted PIN number, you might check with a family member, neighbor, or friend to help you secure an email address and to be with you to access your account. You can call the SRS Retiree Resource Center or make an appointment for assistance.

## Gas Card Winner

The third gas card winner for this issue is Thomas F Divecchia. 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 (abhattel@bellsouth.net) within 30 days to claim your gas card! Please verify your home address when you contact Bob.



## Site Contract Rebid

The SRSRA Board was recently notified that the DOE National Nuclear Security Administration is rebidding the Savannah River Site Management and Operating. The letter to potential offerors is shown below. At this time, the Board has no information regarding the impact on retiree benefits.



**Department of Energy  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Washington D.C. 20585**

September 11, 2025

**ANNOUNCEMENT TO POTENTIAL OFFERORS**

**Status of Savannah River Site Management and Operating Request for Proposals**

NNSA appreciates all potential offerors' patience as NNSA has prepared to release the upcoming request for proposals (RFP) for the management and operation of the Savannah River Site (SRS).

One of the largest projects at SRS is the design, construction, and eventual operation of the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF). Currently, the design- and construction-related scope of the SRPPF project are performed under the SRS M&O contractor's construction management subcontract (CM Subcontract).

In an effort to facilitate a more competitive environment in the upcoming acquisition, NNSA is attempting, through its existing SRS M&O contractor, to ensure that the CM Subcontract incorporates terms conducive to a seamless transition and more equal playing field.

Given the timelines before NNSA, it intends to resolve these matters no later than September 26, 2025. If NNSA is unable to resolve the issues by this date, offerors should anticipate that NNSA may seek alternative solutions for the design and construction of the SRPPF. Offerors should expect issuance of the RFP during the first quarter of FY2026.

All information, including updates, pertaining to the SRS M&O contract competition will be posted on the NNSA SRS competition website at: [Savannah River Site Management and Operating \(M&O\) Contract Competition | Department of Energy](#). Interested parties should continue to monitor the NNSA SRS competition website for updates.