

# SRSRA NEWSLETTER

For SRS Retiree Association Members

Bob & Pat Stokes, Editors

Volume 22 August 2004

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES

(We're at 634 and climbing!)

### Current Members Asked to Recruit SRS Retirees for SRSRA

(At the end of this Newsletter, see a list of recent retirees who are not yet SRS members)

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#### CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

The SRSRA Board has had a busy Summer. Activities for the month of July included meetings with Congressman Barrett and his staff and Senator Graham's Staff. Three of your Executive Committee members attended an outing for Community Leaders sponsored by senior DOE and WSRC SRS Managers. In addition, meetings were held with the SRS High Level Waste (HLW) Department. Vice Chair Mike French attended a reception for Senator Graham and got valuable one-on-one time with the Senator on your behalf. What this all means is that your Retiree Association has become one of the most highly visible organizations in the Community. We enjoy a unique and independent role as Site experts who can speak with experience on Site issues. We are on record in Senator Graham's Senate handout in which he documents letters received in support of his Defense Bill amendment to resolve Waste Incidental Reprocessing (WIR) issues that will stop High Level Waste processing. This is a show stopper issue, and we will be asking you to send letters to specific Congressional delegation folks who are not acting in the CSRA's best interest. The Office of Manpower and Budget (OMB) will not allow DOE to continue waste cleanup until the WIR definition is resolved. Regardless of what you read in the newspapers, this amendment or definition does not change anything HLW planned to do or has done in the past. Two tanks have been emptied, cleaned, and closed at SRS. This WIR issue evolved in high court litigation in the states of Idaho and Washington. The antinuclear folks in those states have the upper hand, and the opposition in Congress is supporting unreasonable cleanup

demands including complete decontamination and removal of the tanks. These demands will unnecessarily expose radiation workers to high levels of contamination and cause risks to people in neighboring communities for no value-added benefit. This is because the tank farms will always be a high radiation area even with over 99 percent of the waste and radioactivity removed from the tanks. Some news reports would have you believe that no waste is removed and concrete is added to seal the tank. Your BOD is well informed on the WIR issue, Ms Ginger Dickert, SRS Deputy Manager, Liquid Waste Disposition, gave us an excellent presentation that she also presented to several Congressional Staffers. Unfortunately, opposition--including our lame-duck Senator Hollings--will vote against solving this SRS HLW problem. If funds are withheld from the FY-05 SRS budget pending resolution of this issue, it could have devastating consequences to both employment at the Site as well as to local communities. In the meantime, important high level waste processing is on hold at SRS; not being able to process extends the storage of the waste and that presents an even bigger threat to the CSRA. (See articles on Yucca Mountain and meeting with Senator Graham's Staff that appear later in this Newsletter.)

Issues with Medical benefits continue, look for more interaction via e-mail. Currently, for those of us on Medicare, Blue Cross/Blue Shield is comparing their allowed payment to Medicare's and they pay only if the BC/BS allowed amount is more than Medicare's. The problem here is that Medicare does not cover preventive care and they reject coverage – understand that BC/BS automatically rejects (no human involvement) any rejected fees from Medicare so you must challenge any BC/BS rejection. One other significant BC/BS issue for Medicare folks, BC/BS does not use the set network limit for covered procedures essentially placing retirees responsible for any charges by providers. Your BOD intends to resolve this issue with SRS Benefits. Mr. Pedde has agreed to provide us a Benefits interface to resolve these issues.

Good news on the membership drive! Bob Stokes has succeeded in ballooning our membership to over 600 by a major search of our database and mailing dues reminders to members who had drifted away over time. We will set up a billing reminder system to better help you track dues status. Kudos to Bob for a great effort. Now if each of you will recruit a retiree or two, we will exceed the 1,000 barrier. This should not be a problem since we have a pool of approximately 3,000 to draw from. **Remember** numbers will bring results, as you see above, we currently enjoy a lot of visibility in the Community and Congress. Go get a member or two, and we will be in a much stronger position to maintain and improve our benefits. The volume of our voice increases in direction proportion to our number of members!

Dave Cowfer, Chairman  
Savannah River Site Retiree Association

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## **SRSRA 2005 ANNUAL MEETING**

**PLAN AHEAD:** The 2005 annual meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday March 29, 2005 at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts Playhouse** on Newberry Street in Aiken. The agenda will be developed early in 2005, and you will be alerted to the final details in the February 2005 Newsletter. Those of you on e-mail can expect some early notices about the annual meeting as well.

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## **MEETING WITH SENATOR GRAHAM'S WASHINGTON STAFF (7/26/04)**

We met with Messrs Aleix Jarvis (Legislative Director), Kevin Bishop (Communications Director), and our favorite local Staffer, Rene Ann Tewkesbury. Chairman Dave Cowfer and Vice Chair Mike French were invited along with other Community organizations' representatives including Mayor Fred Cavanaugh. Congressman Joe Wilson's office was also represented.

In his opening statement Aleix Jarvis asked for patience as the News Media often misleads the public. For example, Senator Graham was reported as being against the Modern Pit Facility (MPF); that could not be further from the truth. The Senator strongly supports SRS. His position regarding MPF is consistent with Congressional demands for supporting information from cognizant departments such as DOE, the Department of Defense, and the Department of State. Funding and budget issues in both the Senate and the House are a mix of politics among the States. Some people in regions outlying the CSRA in both South Carolina and Georgia do not support the Site. Antinuclear organizations are extremely well organized and constantly active in knocking the Site. They clearly want the Site to close down. SRS Retirees can help by writing letters to the editor of newspapers in all local and outlying areas. It will help even more if retirees living in those areas write letters. Kevin Bishop, Senator Graham's Communications Director, will help provide information and interfacing with newspaper editorial boards. Call your BOD if you will send letters to your local paper. Watch for letters and news releases that are obviously in error; we can help most by correcting misstatements and distortion of facts that often occurs.

Aleix Jarvis identified 5 key items:

1. MOX – the Mixed Oxide Facility is fully funded. The State Department must resolve a liability issue with Russia before funding can be released. Senator Graham is working to resolve this issue by proposing legislation de-coupling the American and Russian programs.
2. Modern Pit Facility – Department issues – other significant political issues
3. SRS National Lab – Need sustaining activity and a new sponsor other than Environmental Management (EM)
4. Waste Incidental Reprocessing (WIR) - Senator Graham pulled a major political victory in gaining approval of his Defense Bill Amendment resolving the WIR issue for South Carolina. SRSRA played a role in the victory, but more help is needed in Senate/House resolution of the Bill and Amendment. Senator Graham says stopping waste processing is backing up progress and is not an acceptable action.
5. Stop South Carolina receipt of additional plutonium without disposition path for it.

WIR was an amazing political victory for Senator Graham. Mr. Kevin Bishop showed his book on CSRA Community Support for the WIR Amendment including the SRSRA letter. The book was handed out to all Congressional members who were "on-the-fence" pertaining to the WIR issue.

Antinuclear organizations throughout the Southeast are bashing Senator Graham with the help of local newspapers (Columbia [The State], Charlotte, Raleigh, Atlanta, Savannah, etc.) Look for future action – we

need SRS retirees to write letters to the editor and participate in a Speakers Bureau to be formed by SRS (Keith Wood). The Senator's office acknowledged the SRS retiree key role in this campaign. We will contact retirees living in the outlying areas and send letters to the editor from our area as independent experts. The Senator is limited in defense of the Site. We are urged to talk about good things from the Site; e.g., they develop and provide devices to locate weapons of mass destruction, they participated in 9-11 recovery operations, they are a leader in hydrogen technology, they meet or exceed project milestones, etc.

In summary, it was a good meeting with excellent SRSRA visibility and a good contact base established. Look for more in this area. Mr. Alex Jarvis, with support from Senator Graham, has agreed to set up a meeting for some members of your Board to visit the local Congressional delegation in November.

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### **MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN BARRETT (7/19/04)**

Congressman Barrett and his key Washington-based Staff met with your Chairman along with representatives of other community organizations seeking input on issues at SRS and in the CSRA. We now have an open door access to the Congressman. The meeting was arranged by the Congressman's office, and it was a great success. Congressman Barrett has worked very hard to develop good relationships with key Congressional Leaders. SRSRA can help maintain those relationships. Those same leaders support SRS in many ways: new missions; the recent National Laboratory status; MOX and WIR issues; and pending budget considerations. Retiree letters on issues that are written to both Congress and local news media can and do help. The Congressman reports that newspapers in outlying areas do not support the Modern Pit Facility and some other key missions at SRS. The SRS retirees will be asked to write letters to the editor of papers in South Carolina and Georgia. It is important for the SRS retirees living in the upstate and Savannah, Atlanta, Charlotte, etc. to write to their local papers in support of SRS. We will provide draft letters for those of you who intend to write; contact us and we will respond. We plan to write an introductory letter to House Energy and Water Committee Chairman Hobson thanking him for his support on key missions at SRS. You ask us why we would thank Congressman Hobson of Ohio when the media reports him against MPF and holding MOX funding? These projects are held up pending required action by DOE and other Departments. MOX will be fully funded once DOE and the State Department resolve a liability issue with Russia.

Congressman Barrett plans to conduct frequent meetings with community leaders including the SRS retirees. At the close of the meeting, your Chairman made a commitment to respond to any request for support and participate in future meetings. We also advised Congressman Barrett that we would be contacting him regarding the Medicare Prescription Drug Bill; our second pension adjustment (increase); and continuation of all retiree benefits at the same level in the future.

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## YUCCA MOUNTAIN OR SOUTH CAROLINA: LONG-TERM STORAGE SITE FOR NUCLEAR WASTE?

Senator John Kerry (D-Massachusetts) says he opposed opening Yucca Mountain as the long-term repository for nuclear waste. Kerry's position puts him at odds with the entire South Carolina delegation which voted unanimously in 2002 to open Yucca Mountain.

South Carolina is home to an estimated 37 million gallons of liquid waste at the Savannah River Site and also growing stockpiles of spent nuclear fuel stored at commercial nuclear power plants in the state. The nuclear waste is slated to be moved from South Carolina to Yucca Mountain for long-term storage.

John Kerry wants to abandon Yucca Mountain forcing continued storage of those millions of gallons of nuclear waste in South Carolina. His position is simply unacceptable for those of us in the CSRA and all SRS retirees who understand the years of planning and waste processing that was geared to the ultimate waste storage at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. Yucca Mountain was chosen as a national repository for nuclear waste over twenty years ago and Congress ratified the decision in 2002.

From an environmental and national security perspective, it is imperative we have a central repository to store our nuclear waste. Outside experts and Congress have looked at this problem for years and Yucca Mountain, Nevada was chosen as the appropriate location.

Kerry's action would destroy over two decades of work on a national repository to provide secure, long-term storage of nuclear waste materials. It would also waste nearly a billion dollars of taxpayer money, that was contributed by nuclear utilities, and used for early work on the Yucca Mountain repository.

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## MEMBERSHIP

The current membership totals 634 members. That total represents the largest active membership in the SRSRA's history. The number helps us continue to be the largest registered retiree organization in South Carolina. **Thanks to all the members and remember that the MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES!** Do your part and ask your SRS retiree friends and neighbors to join the SRSRA. Their membership will amplify our efforts to maintain and preserve our benefits while supporting site programs.

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## NEWSLETTER MAILING

We are continuing to use the internet e-mail to reach over half of our members. We added a new option with the last Newsletter. The May Newsletter was converted to Adobe pdf format and installed as a link through the SRS Retiree Association web page. That enabled many more internet savvy members to access the Newsletter directly without receiving a lengthy e-mail attachment. This Newsletter is also being handled in that same way since that will make it possible for those members with e-mail addresses that do not allow long attachments to access the Newsletter at their convenience from the link. **If you have an e-mail address and you did not**

receive this Newsletter, or a link to it, over the internet, please respond to Bob Stokes at [robert40@bellsouth.net](mailto:robert40@bellsouth.net) and give us your correct e-mail address for future use. If your e-mail address has changed or does change in the future, be sure to advise us so that we can update our files and keep you abreast of the activities of the SRSRA.

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## YEARLY PHYSICALS FOR RETIREES IN THE CSRA

Just a note to remind all local area (CSRA) retirees that yearly physicals can be arranged through Internal Medicine Partners at 3121 Peach Orchard Road, Augusta, GA. (Tel: 706-792-5075) The phone number is also included regularly in the benefits contacts list. **You should retain the contacts list for future reference.** The cost for the service is your co-pay amount, with BC/BS paying the rest. **You should not receive any additional charges for a routine physical.**

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## SRS HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACTIVITY

SRS retirees are invited to participate in identifying and preserving historic artifacts at the Site.

Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness is spearheading an effort to create an SRS Heritage Center that will contain space for a museum, classrooms, meeting room, library, and artifact storage. The Department of Energy recently signed a Programmatic Agreement (PA) supporting this concept.

The PA includes a provision to send artifact selection teams into facilities that are threatened with imminent destruction by ongoing D&D activities. The teams will be responsible for identifying and tagging artifacts (reports, photographs, models, hardware, etc.) that are historically significant because of technical contributions to cold war activities, environmental concerns, and sociological impact. Tagged artifacts will be collected and stored for possible use in the Heritage Center. Each team will include a cold war historian under contract to WSRC, and DOE and WSRC representatives. The team will also include one or more retirees with experience in each of the specific facilities. Each inspection will take about one day or less, and badges will be provided.

We are compiling a list of retirees who would be willing to participate in this historic preservation activity. Our first need will be later this year for individuals with expertise and knowledge in one or more F-Area facilities; e.g. A-Line expertise. D&D of A-Line is scheduled to begin in March 2005, and other 221-F facilities will follow, with most surplus SRS facilities being destroyed during the next few years. It is therefore imperative that we get a head start in identifying historic artifacts to be saved, with appropriate ones potentially being displayed in the Heritage Center Museum.

**If you would like to help, please contact Mike French at [jomif14@aol.com](mailto:jomif14@aol.com) , or send a letter to the SRSRA address at the top of this Newsletter - with your name, phone number, building(s) expertise, and approximate dates of service in the building(s).**

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## **SRS ACTIVITIES**

### **Ceremonial Ground Breaking of the new Center for Hydrogen Research**

On August 2, Sen. Lindsey Graham, Rep. Gresham Barrett, and local dignitaries including WSRC President Bob Pedde participated in the ceremonial ground breaking of the new \$9.2 million Center for Hydrogen Research located at the Savannah River Research Campus. Approximately 50 of the top SRS researchers currently working on the hydrogen project, which is seen as the new frontier in energy technology, will move into the new building in just over a year to begin a new era in cooperation with industries and universities. Sen. Graham indicated that, if the country doesn't diversify its energy grid, we will never be free. He also praised Aiken County Council for taking the leap of faith required to build the lab, which will be leased for hydrogen research by WSRC, universities, and other corporate partners. It is also hoped that the new lab, together with all the potential spin-offs it could generate, could help offset jobs being lost at SRS as a result of accelerated cleanup and D&D of old facilities.

### **SRS Construction Sets a New Safety Record**

At the close of business on May 19, SRS Construction surpassed the Site's record for the greatest number of Construction man-hours worked without a lost-workday injury or illness. Construction forces worked 13,893,000 safe hours, beating the old mark of 13,890,367 safe hours set on July 8, 1998. A typical construction site in the US would experience one lost time injury every 83,000 hours. One has to go back 6 years to June of 1998, to find the last lost-workday case. A lost-workday case is referred to as a "Days Away" injury, or a case in which a person could not have performed any work because of work-related injury or illness. This is a wonderful accomplishment for SRS Construction and we extend our congratulations to the "Team". WSRC also continues to retain STAR status, the highest award in DOE's Voluntary Protection Program for safety excellence.

Unfortunately, after this record was set, a man who was a vendor to a subcontractor was fatally injured on Site. We send our condolences to his family. WSRC and DOE are currently investigating the accident. From a statistical standpoint, because he was a vendor – not a subcontractor or site employee – his death is not an OSHA-recordable statistic for SRS.

### **SRS Engineers Craft Robot to Disarm Explosive Devices**

Two prototype bomb disposal robots developed at SRNL are being deployed for military use in Iraq. The Mobile Platform for Explosive De-arming (MoPED) was developed under the direction and funding of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). The combat support branch of DTRA provides combat support to the military services. SRNL developed the MoPED to provide the military with a low cost robotic apparatus for use by US Army Explosive Ordinance Disposal bomb technicians. The MoPED is designed to disable or disarm Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) in Iraq and other military theaters.

The robot was designed to DTRA specifications based on feedback provided by Explosive Ordinance Disposal bomb technicians recently deployed to Iraq. The robotic device is powered by a military HUMVEE and can deploy several different disarming tools provided by the military. MoPED is designed to deal with a variety of explosive devices. Its job is to render explosive devices safe, while protecting our soldiers and Iraqi citizens. Successful use of the MoPED is expected to save numerous lives. The on-board video cameras allow the

operator to drive the robot up to the suspected IED and examine it without placing personnel in range of the explosive charge. The operator console includes video monitoring, drive control, and de-arming device activation. The operator can visually examine the IED and target the vulnerable locations for aiming and firing the disarmer. Following disarming, the operator may use the robot to inspect the IED to verify that it has been made safe before personnel walk up to the device.

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## **ENERGY EMPLOYEES COMPENSATION PROGRAM STATUS**

The following information on the status of the EEOICP Program was provided by Dr. James N. Kirr, Site Manager of the Energy Employees Compensation Center in North Augusta. The Dept. of Labor administers the program for DOE as NIOSH is responsible for the dose reconstruction part of the program. Employees, or their survivors, whose claims are approved may receive a lump-sum payment up to \$150,000 and medical benefits for the covered illness.

Effective July 8, 2004, a total of 4,391 claims have been filed by SRS employees and/or their survivors. Of these, 267 have "final decision" approvals to date and 1,866 were denied, with the remainder still being evaluated. Thus far, compensation claims have been paid to 205 people for a total of \$24.75 million. Dr. Kirr pointed out that the process has been speeded up dramatically in recent months, in part because of numerous complaints. Hopefully, processing of claims will continue to improve in the future. The \$24.75 million payout through July compares with a number of just over \$10.5 million that Dr. Kirr reported at our last Annual Meeting on March 9, 2004!! It should be remembered that currently there is no termination date for submitting claims.

**If you have any questions regarding this program, we suggest that you contact the Resource Center in North Augusta. Phone numbers are (803)-279-2728 or Toll Free: 1-800-666-4606. The e-mail address is [srs.center@eh.doe.gov](mailto:srs.center@eh.doe.gov). We find Dr. Kirr and his staff are very knowledgeable about the program. They are, as well, sympathetic and helpful.**

**Additional information about the program can be obtained on the internet at:  
[www.dol.gov/esa/regs/compliance/owcp/eoicp/Statistics/sc.htm](http://www.dol.gov/esa/regs/compliance/owcp/eoicp/Statistics/sc.htm)**

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## **TREASURER'S REPORT** - Stan Smith, Treasurer

June 30, 2004 marked the close of our 2003-2004 fiscal year. Below is a financial summary for that period:

Beginning balance (July 1, 2003)	\$12,654.22
Receipts (July 1, 2003-June 30, 2004)	\$8,485.00
Expenditures (July 1, 2003-June 30, 2004)	\$4,526.92
Balance (June 30, 2004)	\$16,612.30

All income was from membership dues and the major expenditures were for postage, printing and costs associated with the annual meeting.

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## NOTICE OF BOARD MEETING LOCATION CHANGE

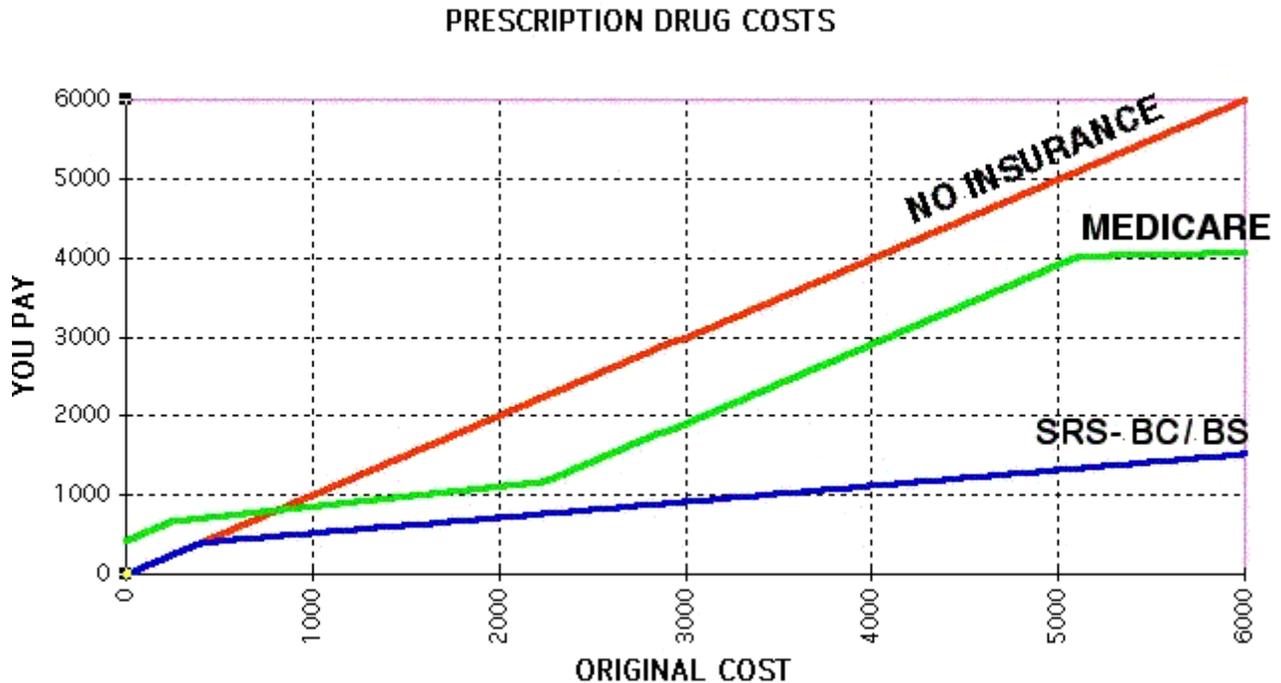
The SRSRA Board of Directors is now meeting in the Conference Room of the Hampton Inn on Whiskey Road/Route 19 South, near the Aiken Mall. Meeting dates for the remainder of the year are: September 14; October 5; November 9; and December 7. Association members may attend and participate. Be sure to contact a BOD member to confirm the date if you plan to attend.

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## MEDICAL BENEFITS ISSUES

### **Prescription Drug Costs**

At the Annual Meeting the graph below was presented by SRSRA to illustrate the added cost SRS retirees would experience under the planned 2006 Medicare Prescription Drug Program. If you receive a hard copy of this Newsletter, you will not see the color graph lines; but the picture below is easy enough to follow. Even in black and white it still shows considerable additional end cost would fall to the SRS retiree if forced into the Medicare program. We have been assured by Mr. Bob Pedde, WSRC President, that the BC/BS benefits available to SRS retirees for prescription drug cost will not be changed. This graph does not reflect on the current prescription drug **CARD** being sponsored by Medicare through many companies. But, those card programs do not provide any better cost reduction for prescription drugs than is already available to SRS retirees under the current BC/BS pricing agreements with your drug providers.



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## **BC/BS SERVICE CONCERNS**

We have many letters from retirees trying to get proper Blue Cross/Blue Shield reimbursement for their medical bills. Many of the problems occur when the retiree/patient lives out-of-state (i.e., no longer in SC). If you have records of BC/BS service problems to share with SRSRA members, please send a letter outlining your case to:

Send to:

**John Church, Medical Benefits  
Committee  
SRS Retiree Association  
P. O. Box 5686  
Aiken, SC 29804**

and to:

**Judy A. Martin, Manager and Service Representative  
Major Group Marketing AX-330  
BC/BS of South Carolina I-20 at Alpine Road  
Columbia, SC 29219**

or e-mail your information at:

**[Judy.A.Martin@bcbsc.com](mailto:Judy.A.Martin@bcbsc.com)**

or fax: 1-803-736-2851.

as a last resort call her at: 1-800-288-2227 x42205

## **Out-of-Country Medical Issue**

In a response to a question from a SRSRA member concerning medical treatment received out-of-the USA, SRSRA received an answer from BC/BS: Medicare does not provide any benefits for services outside the USA. Your WSRC benefits would be primary. We do have a network outside the USA in various countries. You can access it through our SouthCarolinaBlues.com web site. Look under the hospital/doctor finder and select the worldwide. Then follow the prompts from there. There is a lot of information on the web site including a printable claim form. All claims go through the BlueCard Worldwide Service Center. For medications, members would need to make their purchase at their expense and then file the claim.

There are problems with purchasing prescriptions outside the USA and having it mailed to you here. It may be against the law in some cases. Congress has talked about legislation to allow for that. Those opposed to this source say there is no quality check, such as our FDA, to control the quality of the medications being distributed there. Some believe that only generics are offered from out-of-country sources. If you are willing to take a generic, why don't you make your purchases here in the USA where you know what you are buying has some kind of controls to ensure your safety?

BC/BS has brochures on how to access your benefits outside the USA. Contact Judy Martin (see above) if you would like to receive these brochures. SRSRA will also make them available over the internet as Adobe pdf files. If you are on the internet, just let us know you are interested.

## **Consumer Protection Information**

Comment from John Church, Medical Benefits Chairman: A statement that I just noticed on a BC/BS solicitation to my wife.

Under "consumer Protection Information" it says:

"You do not need more than one Medicare supplement policy."

So basically, an SRS retiree who has to pay premiums for BC/BS coverage needs to compare the coverage you get from your WSRC policy vs. what you could get for the same money elsewhere.

You also need to check to see if you can get back onto SRS-WSRC retiree medical coverage if you change your mind and decide the new policy is not as good as the WSRC coverage.

An answer to that question has not been found in the WSRC medical benefits booklets. **Therefore do not make any change in coverage unless you do know the answer, or until SRSRA has had time to research the issue with WSRC representatives.**

We frequently have had requests for information and advice about supplementary policies for health coverage. While it is our present belief that the SRS retiree health coverage (BC/BS) meets those needs, we would be very interested in receiving information and analysis from members who believe otherwise. In particular, we would like to hear from those who have studied the problem and have decided to purchase such supplemental insurance. We would like to know your experience with this coverage. Please include specific names of companies, and information detailing your experiences with their coverage.

We believe that our collective knowledge is one of our greatest strengths as an organization. Your contribution of your experiences, analysis, and expenses in this regard will help all of us make better choices.

One thing that grabs all of us after we go on Medicare as our primary provider is the realization that Medicare frequently pays less than BC/BS would have paid if BC/BS were still our primary provider. Further, the doctor's and hospital's fees, even if they are a network provider, are no longer bound by the BC/BS limit. The net effect is that once on Medicare, we find that our BC/BS coverage pays little else but prescription drugs.

We are collecting data to document specific examples and when we have done so will arrange a meeting with WSRC Benefits to try to arrange a more equitable solution to this problem.

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### My "Medical" Condition

Thought I'd let my doctor check me,  
'Cause I didn't feel quite right. . .  
All those aches and pains annoyed  
me  
And I couldn't sleep at night.

He could find no real disorder  
But he wouldn't let it rest.  
What with Medicare and Blue Cross,  
We would do a couple tests.

To the hospital he sent me  
Though I didn't feel that bad.  
He arranged for them to give me

Every test that could be had.

I was fluoroscoped and cystoscoped,  
My aging frame displayed.  
Stripped, on an ice cold table,  
While my gizzards were x-rayed.

I was checked for worms and  
parasites,  
For fungus and the crud,  
While they pierced me with long  
needles  
Taking samples of my blood.

Doctors came to check me over,  
Probed and pushed and poked  
around,  
And to make sure I was living  
They then wired me for sound.

They have finally concluded,  
Their results have filled a page.  
What I have will someday kill me;  
My affliction is

**OLD AGE! (is this your medical  
condition, too?)**

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## BENEFITS CONTACTS

**People Support Service Center (a one-stop service for most HR and payroll activities and questions).**

- ◆ **803-725-7772 (local area SC and GA)**
- ◆ **800-368-7333 (long distance)**
- ◆ [service-center@srs.gov](mailto:service-center@srs.gov) (e-mail contact for this new service)

◇ **Life, Health, Dental**

Becky Proveaux PS Svc. Ctr. #  
Rosalee Bennett PS Svc. Ctr. #  
Greg Murray 803-725-0531  
Cindy McClintock 803-725-7004

◇ **Pension**

John Felkel 803-725-7722  
Viola Best 803-725-1900

◇ **Internal Medicine Partners** 706-792-5075  
(Annual Physical Examinations)

◇ **Metropolitan Life** 800-360-2747  
(WSRC/BSRI SIP Funds Program)

◇ **Blue Cross/Blue Shield of SC**

1-800-325-6596  
[www.southcarolinablues.com](http://www.southcarolinablues.com)  
Option 1 for Medical  
Option 2 for Dental  
Option 3 for Pre-Cert/Med Authorization

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

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

◇ **Safety Eyeglass Office**  
Tom Cuny 803-725-337

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Carolina Medical Review (CMR) is the Quality Improvement Organization for South Carolina's Medicare program. They have a variety of useful information available either at their web site <http://www.MRNC.org> or by calling the national 24-hour customer service number **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**. There is a QIO in every state, and that listing is at: <http://www.medqic.org/content/qio/qio.jsp?pageID=4>

Members on the Internet can also visit <http://www.medicare.gov>. If members have a state-specific question, the customer service representative at that number should be able to refer members to the state-specific Medicare number. (**The one for South Carolina is 1-800-583-2236.**) This may be a useful starting contact to resolve Medicare issues if the regular Medicare office of your state is not providing satisfactory service.

For further information, contact:

Andrea Fuller, Outreach Specialist  
Carolina Medical Review  
250 Berryhill Road, Suite 101  
Columbia, SC 29210

Telephone: 800-922-3089 (Toll Free); local 803-731-8225; Fax: 803-731-8687  
e-mail: [afuller@SCQIO.sdps.org](mailto:afuller@SCQIO.sdps.org)

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### **RETIREES TO BE CONTACTED FOR SRSRA MEMBERSHIP**

Gerald Bach	Joye Glaze	Bhagwan Joshi	Rozzie Ott
Dorothy Barnes	Michael Glover	Priscilla Langford	George Owens
Brenda Bell	Delores Green	Mary Livingston	Charles Pair
Royce Boone Jr.	Rhonda Green	Jim Manahan	Carmen Provenzano
Gisle Bryant	Lana Griffin	Wallace McCluggage	Teresa Quarles
Calvin Carr	Marcia Hall	D.C. Miller	Rick Seiersen
Vonda Clerc	Gloria Hansen	Gary Miller	Paul Shearer
Thomas Crisman	Monte Hawkins	Samuel Moody	Jim F. Smith
Brent Daugherty	Daniel Hayward	Kathy Moore	Donald Swindler
Bobby Dunbar	Cubby Heath	Charles Morgan	May Thompkins
Patricia Edey	Ron Hinds	William Morgan	William Tucker
Overn Epps	Rita Hitchler	Gary Mullis	Raam Vichare
James Fallaw	Gerald Huff, Sr.	David Norred	Steven Walling
Willie Frazier, Jr.	Laura Ivey	Frank O'Brien	Alfred West
Samuel Ford	Emily Johnson	Arthur Odom	Oleen Witter

### **LATEST (MAY/JUNE 2004) RETIREEES TO BE CONTACTED FOR SRSRA MEMBERSHIP**

Frederick Anderson	Dora Cook	Douglas E. Holley	Joe Perrin
Joyce Attucks	James Cooper	Beatrice J. Holmes	Evan Pontoo
Jose Bernabe, Jr.	Johnny Crim, Sr.	Ed Landry	Linda Reese
Rebecca Bevins	Duck Drake	Bob Lewis	Charles Roach
Clifford Boasso	Dick Emerson	Fred Lewis	Neta Rutland
Ronald Bolin	Charles Eugene Feltman	Halkard Mackey, Jr.	Charlie Saunders
Tolly Bolling, Jr.	Rooney Floyd	John Maloney	Robert Scott
Linda Boone	Keever Folk	William Mattocks, Jr.	Steven Smith
John Bowers	Ezeikel Foreman	Danny McGee	Dave Varn
Eileen Boynton	James Crosby Fuller	Sharon McMahan	Susan Vought
Nancy Brit	James F. Gleaton	Vincent Minardi	Shirley Washington
Fred Bryant	Alan D. Gregory	Leroy Nimmons	Terry Westbrook
Lewis Buggs	James W. Guthrie	Daniel O'Connell	J. J. White, Jr.
William Burns	Mary L. Hammonds	Donna Owens	Tommy White
Dave Clarke	Bob Henderson	Sez Ozden	Jimmie Williams, Jr.
Roland Collins	Doris J. Hoffman	Ronnie Peeler	Gary Young

**If you know any of these retirees or any other non-SRSRA member retirees, please ask them to join and support the SRSRA. You can also provide us with their U.S. postal address (an e-mail address is also good) and we will send a membership application to them. Dues are only \$15.00 per year. For 2004 retirees, the 2004 dues are zero. All they need to do is sign up! If you need a membership form, call Bob Stokes at 803-649-3362 or e-mail him at [robert40@bellsouth.net](mailto:robert40@bellsouth.net).**

**An SRSRA membership application is on the back of this page for those of you receiving the newsletter in hard copy format. You may copy it or give this copy to your friend to apply for membership in the retiree organization. We appreciate your efforts to broaden the reach of the SRSRA. Thank you for your help!**

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## Savannah River Site Retiree Association Membership Application

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

RETIRED FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ (WSRC, BSRI, BWXT-SRC, BNFL-SRC, or OTHER SRS)

RETIREE'S DATE OF RETIREMENT \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

### ANNUAL DUES:

#### Year 2004

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 for Retiree

\_\_\_\_\_ \$0 for Retiree's Spouse (also retired from SRS)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$5 for Retiree's Surviving Spouse

#### Year 2005

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 for Retiree

\_\_\_\_\_ \$0 for Retiree's Spouse (also retired from SRS)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$5 for Retiree's Surviving Spouse

### SRS RETIREE OR SURVIVING SPOUSE OF RETIREE

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to **RENEW** my membership in the SRSRA.

(...and I am willing to serve on the Board of Directors. \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to **JOIN** the SRS Retiree Association.

(...and I am willing serve on the Board of Directors. \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am the **surviving spouse** of an SRS retiree and wish to join / renew my membership in the SRSRA.

### SRS RETIRED SPOUSE

\_\_\_\_\_ My **SRS retired spouse** wants to **JOIN** the SRSRA.

(...and my retired SRS spouse is willing serve on the SRSRA BOD. \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

RETIRED FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ (WSRC, BSRI, BWXT-SRC, BNFL-SRC, or OTHER SRS)

DATE OF RETIREMENT \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Attn: Membership Chairman**