

NEWSLETTER

For SRS Retiree Association Members

Bob Stokes, Editor

July 2001 Vol. 9

****REMEMBER ****
Membership Survey (page 10)

REMINDER

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2001!

DUES: \$15:00/YR. FOR RETIREE \$5.00/YR. FOR SURVIVING SPOUSE

(See details on page 9)

INSIDE INSIGHT

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Fourth Annual Membership Meeting

The fourth annual SRS Retirees Association membership meeting was held on March 13th. Over two hundred SRSRA members filled the Aiken Community Center.

Aiken Mayor Fred Cavanaugh introduced the featured speaker, Mr. Ambrose Schwallie, President of the Washington Group Government Operations. Mr. Schwallie recognized several retirees with whom he has been closely associated since coming to SRS. He explained how the Washington Group got into the current financial difficulties. He then reviewed the organizational structure and functions of the different groups making up the Washington Group.

Paul Katonak updated members on the ORA. He outlined the current ORA program which is available to retirees. Information on a continuing basis is available on ORA's web site.

Outgoing Chairman, Butch Bull, gave an update on the SRSRA and outlined the Association's mission statement and objectives.

Chairman Butch Bull introduced the current Board of Directors. Nine current directors are retiring from the Board and seven are seeking reelection. All nominees for election to the board were introduced. Nominations from the floor were opened for the Board of Directors. There being none, the nominations were closed. The full slate of candidates presented by the nominating committee were elected unanimously.

Fred Cavanaugh introduced Richard Perry, Chief of Staff for Congressman Lindsey Graham. Mr. Perry read portions of and discussed a letter from Congressman Graham explaining the status of the pension increase project for SRS retirees. The discussion was not optimistic that anything would be done anytime soon. (see Graham to Stokes letter page 8) Several members voiced their concern over the lack of progress since last year's very optimistic outlook for a pension adjustment for SRS retirees. Other members asked what could the SRSRA membership do to help get the project re-energized and moving in a positive direction.

Medical Insurance Seminar at Annual Meeting

A new feature at this year's membership meeting was a seminar on our Blue Cross-Blue Shield and Medicare health insurance plans that followed the business meeting.

Bill Quinn started with a short description of the arrangement that SRSRA has made with University Hospital to conduct annual physicals for retirees and dependents as well as active employees. Several members reported that their experience with utilizing University Hospital for physical examinations had been excellent. All retirees were urged to get wellness examinations.

Judy Merriott from Blue Cross-Blue Shield outlined what can be included in an annual physical. She told how Blue Cross-Blue Shield covers those under Medicare when one is outside the United States as well as other items of interest. Several members had questions about their specific problems and received answers or a promise of a prompt personal answer after the meeting.

Barbara Saul from Medicare discussed what options are available to SC and GA Medicare recipients. She also answered specific questions that members asked.

Pension Adjustment Update

The SRSRA Pension Adjustment Committee has continued to work with Congressman Lindsey Graham since the Annual Meeting to bring renewed focus to the pension increase initiative. The Committee was encouraged to hear about the recent developments at Oak Ridge that culminated in an Ad Hoc pension adjustment for Oak Ridge retirees. The current SRS budgeting problems will have a direct effect on SRSRA achieving an adjustment to retiree pensions. It appears, at this time, that the SRS budget problems are on the way to being resolved. The Committee is planning another meeting with Lindsey Graham for a progress update on this important pension issue.

SRS Former Production Worker Health Project Update

Since November 1999, the SRS Former Production Worker Health Project has been providing medical evaluations to former SRS workers. The Project has focused on former workers who are at significant risk for health problems due to exposures to radioactive material and other hazardous substances during their employment at the SRS. Researchers from the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston and the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in Columbia are managing the Project.

Currently the Project is completing the second year of medical evaluations and has made much progress since its start in 1999. Over 5000 former workers have been contacted about the project and 725 medical evaluations have been completed. Work-related abnormalities detected from our medical evaluations include radiographic abnormalities consistent with pneumoconiosis, lung function abnormalities suggestive of work-related pulmonary disease, hearing loss, and beryllium sensitivity indicated by positive beryllium lymphocyte proliferation tests.

Additional information is available on the Project website at www.srsformerworkers.org or by calling the Project's toll free number 888-286-2588.

ORA Cellular Telephone Program

The ORA has contracted with SunCom corporate sales to provide ORA members the opportunity to obtain cell phone service at a discount from published consumer rates. This discount program is also available to current SunCom subscribers who are ORA members.

A copy of the information which was provided to SRS employees on this SunCom agreement is included with this newsletter. In addition, arrangements have been made for **Shannon Miller, our SunCom corporate contact**, to attend the July 10 Retirees Association Board of Directors meeting to discuss the program, answer questions and provide application information to interested retirees at approximately 11:00 AM. The meeting will be held at the Aiken Knights of Columbus meeting hall. All SRS Retirees Assn. members are invited to attend

Replacement ORA cards, which are required to participate in the SunCom program, will be available at the meeting for \$2.00 each. They may also be obtained by sending your name and address along with \$2.00 to the ORA office at 373 Boyd Pond Road, Aiken, S.C. 29803.

Further information may be obtained by calling Paul Katonak, the SRS Retirees Association ORA representative, at 649-9457.

Estate Planning Seminar Re-Scheduled

Three Estate Planning Talks Scheduled

As a service to SRSRA members, arrangements have been made for representatives from three major financial organizations to speak at the July 10th, August 7th and September 4th Board of Directors meetings. They will provide a list of topics they can give at future seminars and address one subject for about thirty minutes.

For July 10th, **Chuck Smith with Edwards Jones** will explain the effect of recent rule changes on IRA and SIP Plans distribution planning.

For August 7th, **Mike Herrington with CUNA and the SRP Credit Union** will speak on the many components of estate planning.

For September 4th, **Tony Gallo with Merrill Lynch**, will talk on keeping your retirement and estate planning updated.

These talks will be held at the Knights of Columbus in Aiken starting at 10:00 AM. Based upon the feedback from these meetings we will try to determine the interest of members in seminars on these and other topic.

The SRSRA does not recommend any of the seminar participants and will not be responsible for any contractual arrangement made between members and those organizations.

SRS ACTIVITIES

High Level Waste Storage Tank Leaks

SRS officials must determine where best to put 250,000 gallons of high level radioactive waste after workers discovered three more leaks in mid June in an underground HLW storage tank. Five days earlier, workers had found a minute leak that has let out about a cupful of waste from the same tank - Tank 5 - a carbon steel tank in the site's F-Area. Using a robotic "wallcrawler" mounted with a video camera, workers found the additional leaks on June 19th on the opposite side of the 750,000 gallon tank. The leaked materials never posed a threat to employees or the environment. The tank sits over an annulus pan, somewhat like a saucer under a coffee cup, which is designed to catch any leakage. Tank 5 has been in use since the early 1950's and before these leaks occurred, it had contained some 350,000 gallons of waste. Per a new DOE directive, it must now be drained to below the level of the lowest leak, leaving the tank less than 15% full. A new policy prompted by a small leak in Tank 6 earlier this year now requires tanks to be inspected before and after waste transfers. The 250,000 gallons to be pumped out of Tank 5 must be redistributed into other tanks at the Site, and officials are currently determining which are the best to use. It should be recognized that the site already has somewhat of a shortage of space for this type of waste. SRS stores about 34 million gallons of high level radioactive waste in 49 underground tanks. Eleven of these tanks have leaked in previous years.

Areas of Good News at the Site

SAFETY

On May 23, WSRC Operations employees set a new company safety record by completing 225 days and over 13,559,593 hours without an employee losing time as a result of a workplace injury or illness. This achievement represents the longest string of safe days since WSRC came to SRS in 1989.

LABORATORY HONORED FOR SATELLITE WORK

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has honored SRTC for its work on the Multispectral Thermal Imager Satellite which was launched about a year ago and is a key NNSA research satellite project. SRTC's "understanding of what these measurements mean" is a major contribution to the program, according to NNSA.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

Five SRS employees have received 2001 Community Service Awards from the WSRC Team. Bill Dixon, Jr. was honored for his work with Barnwell athletic activities; Nancy Knowles for her work with the Leader Dogs for the Blind program; Jim Luhring for his service to the Boy Scouts of America; Peggy Pollock for her service to the Aiken County HELP LINE; and Gwen Watts for her involvement with the Computer Literacy Program at local churches. Congratulations to each and thanks for your service to the community.

Benefits Contacts *(please note or file the changes to SRS site phone contacts)*

WSRC benefits contacts are as follows:

◇ **Life, Health, Dental**

Kathy Hutto (803) 725-9545
Becky Proveaux (803) 725-0526
Diane Thorsell (803) 725-1572

◇ **Blue Cross/Blue Shield of SC**

1-800-325-6596
Option 1 for Medical
Option 2 for Dental
Option 3 for Pre-Cert/Med Authorization

◇ **Pension**

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

◇ **Value Options** (mental health & substance abuse assistance) 1-800-333-6557

◇ **Service Center**

1-800-360-2747

◇ **BAC (Westinghouse Corporate Pension)**

1-800-581-4222

SRSRA OFFICERS and BOARD of DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

C. David Cowfer <i>Chairman</i>	P. Michael French <i>1st Vice Chairman</i>
	Robert A. Stokes <i>2nd Vice Chairman</i>
	Sidney D. Curry <i>Secretary</i>
	Harry E. Ledbetter <i>Treasurer</i>

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Joe D. Bickley
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C. David Cowfer
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Sidney D. Curry
George Duke
Raymond R. Fleming
P. Michael French
Frank L. Givens
Diane B. Grant
Thomas W. Greene
Donald M. Grogan
Tom Hendrix

John L. Jones
Lawrence E. Jones
Paul R. Katonak
John R. Kosko
Nicholas H. Kuehn, III
Harry E. Ledbetter
Herbert P. Olson
Raymond G. Perks
William A. Quinn
Raymond P. Sabol
Charles E. Seitter
Stanley E. Smith
Robert A. Stokes
Theodore D. Timmerman

Volunteer Opportunities

The SRSRA has been contacted by various groups looking for volunteer help for their service organizations. If you have found your retirement less than “fulfilling” or “filling but not rewarding enough” here are some opportunities you may want to consider. There are many other worthwhile charities and volunteer organizations in the area that would welcome your support but these are just two that you might consider. Project Vision is a once a year event that occurs in September and is associated with the local United Way. Southern Care is a private organization and is new to this area. SRSRA does not recommend either of these but we do suggest that you investigate them and decide for yourself if you would care to help them in their service to the community.

PROJECT VISION

Dear SRS Retiree:

In 1994 Project VISION began with only 200 volunteers to address specific housing needs of citizens in Aiken County. It is a collaborative effort in the community, which involves a focused one-day volunteer initiative. Today, Project VISION has grown with over 1,200 volunteers coming together to help our neighbors in need.

Local citizens volunteer their time to help with home repairs for people who are unable to complete themselves due to poor health, financial inability, or physical limitation. Typical jobs include clearing yard debris, building wheel chair ramps, installing smoke detectors, replacing roofs or even building a playground for a low-income childcare center. This year, 76 jobs have been identified, and the list expected to grow to over 100.

2001 Project VISION Day will be held on Friday, September 21, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., at assigned job sites. Individual and team volunteers are needed. Volunteers are assigned to jobs based on their experience, skills and community needs.

To register, visit the Aiken County United Way Web page at <http://www.uwaiken.org>. Follow the directions to the Project VISION page, or go directly to the Project VISION Day signup sheet by going to <http://www.uwaiken.org/vision/pvd.html>. Please remember to identify yourself as a SRS Retiree in the blank asking for a company name. If you are joining a team of volunteers, please provide the team's name.

If you do not have access to the Internet, please call me at (work) (803) 208-6667, Monday thru Thursday, 5:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., or (home) (706) 827-2932. **Every volunteer must register no later than July 31.**

We look forward to having you help us serve the community on Project VISION Day.

Jack Witters
2001 Employees United Way Committee
Project VISION Day Coordinator

SOUTHERN CARE

SouthernCare is a leading provider of Hospice care in the southeast. They have just opened an office in Aiken, which serves the terminally ill patients in the surrounding counties of the Aiken area.

They would like SRSRA members to join their team of volunteers. Ginny Brewer is the point of contact for the Aiken Office. Working together, the SouthernCare hospice staff and the volunteers will assist dying patients and their families deal with the hardships of these troubling times.

If you would like to join the SouthernCare Volunteer Program or find out more about the program, please contact:

Ginny Brewer, RN, Southern Care Community Relations Manager, Aiken
at 803-643-9888 or toll free at 1-888-260-1376

LINDSEY GRAHAM
3D DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
EDUCATION AND THE
WORKFORCE COMMITTEE
1429 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202-225-5301

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4003

June 6, 2001

DISTRICT OFFICES:
P.O. Box 4128
315 S. McDuffie Street
Anderson, SC 29622
(864) 224-7401
129 FEDERAL BUILDING
120 MAIN STREET
GREENWOOD, SC 29646
(864) 223-9251
5 FEDERAL BUILDING
211 YORK STREET, NE
AIKEN, SC 29801
(803) 649-5571

Mr. Robert Stokes
1137 Bellreive Drive
Aiken, South Carolina 29803

Dear Bob,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the SRS Retirees Association's attempts to get a cost of living adjustment for its members. I appreciate you sharing your views about the need for a COLA and the comparisons you offer to the situation at Oak Ridge.

After receiving feedback from the COLA working group and others on the Buck Associates report, I have sent a letter to Joe Buggy asking him to review the SRS Retirees Association's (SRSSA) proposal for a COLA. Given the lack of resources dedicated by the Department of Energy to the Savannah River Site in its most recent budget proposal, I know we face an uphill battle. My highest priority related to spending in the community has always been and will continue to be to keep the cleanup moving forward, but I continue to urge Westinghouse Savannah River Company to give strong consideration to providing a COLA.

While I appreciate the comparisons to the Oak Ridge proposal, the two situations are different. As I see them, the similarities include the requirement that both the contractor and the Department of Energy (DOE) approve the plan. This is consistent with my view that this is a decision that Westinghouse Savannah River must make.

You allege that the original SRSRA plan has been overlooked, that is not the case. All parties involved looked at that proposal. It was by far the simplest answer to the problem because it required Westinghouse to provide the COLA. My involvement in this issue was heightened when it became clear to the COLA working group and others in the SRSRA that Westinghouse was not of its own volition going to propose a COLA increase. That's when we began thinking about other ways to fund the increase. About that time, we also began to get word that we didn't have the congressional support to do a SRS COLA nor a DOE wide COLA. That was also the time that we began to hear that the Department was considering cuts to the EM budget at SRS. When Richard Perry, my chief of staff, came to speak to you, he was honest with you about the current environment budget and the possibility of getting the COLA through.

I continue to encourage Westinghouse move forward with a COLA for the retirees. Hopefully, when matters of the Site's budget for FY 2002 and the issues related to their parent company's solvency are resolved, they will look at this issue more fully.

I will continue to work on your behalf on this issue. If you have further comments or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or Richard to discuss them.

Sincerely,



Lindsey O. Graham
Member of Congress

MEMBERSHIP (Check our WEBSITE: <http://www.duesouth.net/~srsretirees>)

MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS: CALL Ray Perks [803 642 8654]

All Board members are WSRC/BSRI Retirees and our objective is to support the Retirees interests by maintaining and preserving our current benefits. We need a strong voice to represent the Retirees. The number of members is very important when representatives of the SRSRA meet with SRS and DOE Management, Congressional Delegations and the Media, to discuss and resolve Retiree issues. Please encourage fellow retirees to join the organization. Paid members will receive a membership card and periodic newsletters.

REMINDER: IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2001! PLEASE COMPLETE THE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM BELOW AND RETURN WITH YOUR CHECK FOR YOUR 2001 MEMBERSHIP DUES.

BE SURE TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY FORM ON PAGE 10

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY PAID YOUR DUES, PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY AND RETURN IT. REMIND OTHER RETIREES TO CONTACT RAY PERKS (TEL. 803-642-8654) TO GET ON THE MEMBERSHIP LIST FOR SRSRA.

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

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

- Yes, I want to renew my membership in SRSRA
- Yes, I want to join as a new member in SRSRA.
- Yes, I want to renew my membership in SRSRA. I am the spouse of deceased Retiree
[Name of deceased retiree] _____

Are you interested in serving on the SRSRA Board of Directors? Yes No

Annual Dues:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <u>Year 2001</u> | <u>Year 2001 and 2002</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 for Retiree | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 for Retiree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 for Surviving Spouse | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 for Surviving Spouse |

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE _____

RETIRED FROM WSRC _____ BSRI _____ DATE OF RETIREMENT _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS [IF AVAILABLE] _____



SRS RETIREE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

The SRS Retiree Association in partnership with the ORA wishes to determine the extra curricular activities you have an interest in and would support if offered to the general membership.

Below are listed some of the activities. Please check those of interest and return the completed survey to the address listed below.

Lectures

- Financial
- Estate Planning
- Long Term Care
- Other _____

Tours/Trips

- Day Trips
- Overnight Trips
- Historic Trips
- Outlet Shopping Trips

Outdoor Activities

- Picnic
- Golf Tournament

Indoor Activities

- Dinner/Dance
- Ladies Luncheon

Suggestions: _____

Please mail your response to:

Raymond Perks
SRS Retiree Association
P.O. Box 5686
Aiken, SC 29804-5686

Note: Dues payment may be included in the same envelope

SRS Retiree Association, Inc.

P. O. Box 5686, Aiken, SC 29803

Phone: 803-641-1056 - Email: srsretirees@scescape.net

<http://www.duesouth.net/~srsretirees>
