

# SRSRA NEWSLETTER

For SRS Retiree Association Members

Bruce Cadotte, Editor

Volume 57, June 2014

## A Successful Annual Meeting, April 15, 2014

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letter from Past SRSRA Chair	1	Contact Information for Services and Benefits	13
Town Hall Meeting Announcement	1	Newsletter Contact	13
Letter from New SRSRA Chair	2	Board Service Contact	14
Officers and Board Members for 2014	2	SRSRA Membership Trend Charts	15
Summary of 2014 Annual Meeting	3	Gas Card Awards	Various
Questions from Retirees	8	SRS Retiree Association Application	16

### Letter from Past Chair, John Plodinec

Dear Member:

In my last letter, I quoted Bob Dylan's "the times they are a-changing." Let me take this opportunity to announce one more very important change - at the Board of Directors meeting this month, I handed over the reins to John Veldman. John brings the enthusiasm of a "younger man" (ahem!) to the Chair, and is the ideal person to lead us forward.

As most of you know, John has been leading the group working toward a pension adjustment for the past year. The group has developed a pension adjustment proposal that focuses on the needs of the old, the poor and the sick among us. John now has the job of trying to make it happen. I know he will have everyone's support in this very difficult challenge. John will be working closely with Tom Varallo, the new Vice Chair of the Association.

The change will allow me to focus on getting the Resource Center up and running. My thanks to all of you who have already volunteered! We have made excellent progress toward implementing the Center that we'll tell you about in the next newsletter.

My thanks to all of you for your support over the last two years. The progress the Association has made would not have been possible if you had not been behind us. I know that we will all get behind John Veldman as well; I wish him success as he begins the Association's next chapter.

*John Plodinec, Past Chair*

### For SRSRA Members: A Town Hall Meeting with Dr. Dave Moody

Friday, June 27, 10 a.m. to noon at the New Ellenton Community Center, 212 Pine Hill Ave., New Ellenton, SC (behind the library on Main St.).

DOE-SR Manager Dave Moody will discuss the state of SRS, SRS retiree's topics of interest (medical stipends, MMA, etc.), building cooperative relationships, and creating a sustained environment of mutual trust and support.

**NO RSVP REQUIRED. OPEN TO ALL  
SRSRA MEMBERS.**

For further information, contact Julie Petersen, DOE SR Office of External Affairs, (803) 952-7690, e-mail [julie.petersen@srs.gov](mailto:julie.petersen@srs.gov)  
See <http://www.srsretirees.org/index.html>

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## Message from the New SRSRA Chair, John Veldman

As the new Chairman of the Association, I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their vote of confidence. I feel privileged to serve our retirees, and pledge to do my best to represent you. I would also like to thank John Plodinec for his two years as Chair. John provided excellent leadership during a very difficult period of change.

A top goal this year has been to obtain a pension adjustment for our retirees. The last ad hoc pension adjustment was in 2002 for people who retired after early 1999. Since that time, inflation has eroded 30 percent of the buying power of their pension dollars. In addition, the savings that the Department of Energy achieved through the changes in retiree medical benefits are now coming out of the pockets of retirees. Despite these facts, selling a pension adjustment in the current budget environment is very difficult. Recognizing this fiscal reality, we have developed a flat rate pension adjustment proposal that focuses on the oldest and poorest of our retirees.

This proposal assures that pensioners with the smallest pensions receive the largest percentage increases, that retirees retired for the longest times receive larger increases, and the resulting increase in pension fund liabilities is fiscally responsible and affordable. We recently achieved an important milestone by receiving the pension fund actuary's calculations on our proposal.

We now have to work with DOE-Savannah River and the site contractors to figure out how we pay the \$31 million price tag, and obtain DOE Headquarters' approval. We are working collaboratively with DOE-SR and the site contractors to come up with a workable solution. Our elected representatives will also certainly play a role in supporting this process. This is a very tough problem, and it will take a considerable amount of time and effort to find a solution. The good news is that we have a solid proposal on the table, know what it costs, and can now begin the work of identifying the needed funding mechanism.

The other priority effort is the establishment of a Resource Center to assist our retirees with the entire medical benefits process. John Plodinec has agreed to lead this program. Much progress has been made, and I look forward to an August start-up of the Resource Center.

*John Veldman, SRSRA Chair*

## **Officers and Board Members for 2014-2015**

**Chair:** John Veldman

**Vice Chair:** Tom Varallo

**Secretary:** Gail Jernigan

**Treasurer:** Phil Croll

Board Members (including **new members in bold** elected at the meeting): Fred Cadek, Bruce Cadotte, Fred B. Cavanaugh, Jr., John P. Church, Larry Coleman, Bob Croley, Andrew Cwalina, Bernice Deloach, Dave Fauth, Dick Frushour, Rick Geddes, **Kathy Grant**, Harvey Kinder, Ed Leibfarth, John Lindsay, **Ron Malanowski**, **Robert Malstrom**, Wanda McGee, Joe Ortaldo, Art Osborne, John Plodinec, Jack Roberts, **Dick Seif**, Neal Smith, **Jim Tisaranni** and Dave Zigelman.

## Board Meeting Dates, Time And Location

**The SRSRA Board of Directors meets at 2 p.m. in the Breakfast Room at Cumberland Village off Hitchcock Parkway and Route 421.** Any Retiree Association member may attend Board meetings and participate, but may not vote on Board issues. If you ever plan to attend a meeting, be sure to contact a Board member to confirm that the meeting date and time has not changed. **Meeting dates are listed on the Web site but are generally on the first Tuesday each month unless affected by a holiday or special event.**

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Congratulations to Dan M. Boone, winner of a \$50 gas card courtesy of the SRSEA and SRSRA. Call Neal Smith at 706-481-0970 within 30 days to claim your gas card! Please verify your home address when you contact him.

## Summary of the 2014 Annual Meeting

John Plodinec, Chair of the SRSRA, called the 2014 Annual Members Meeting to order by welcoming all attendees and introducing himself. He told the group that they would hear about new ideas that the Board of Directors (BOD) have started. He also noted that the Annual Member Meeting was an important meeting because the BOD wants to hear from the members as to what issues need to be addressed.

John reminded the members that the association and the BOD are not associated with DOE or its contractors. The BOD is the voice of retirees and members are all volunteers.

Summarized below are the points that John made during his presentation:

### **State of the Association**

- Year One of New Health Benefits
- BOD's Strategic Directions
- Members' Roles

### **Health benefits changes: Year One**

- Medicare-eligible retirees:
  - Removed from Site health plan
  - In 2013, \$2400 annual stipend and one-time \$500 in seed money to buy our own coverage, reimbursement of costs (WW)
  - In 2014, stipend unchanged
- Non-Medicare-eligible retirees:
  - Moved from Site health plan to a separate plan
  - Phase-in of increased share of costs (up to ~25%) over five years
  - Steep jump from 2013 to 2014
- Pre-65 Medicare disabled – stayed on Site health plan

### **Stipend usage**

- Used only 71% in 2013
  - \$8.7 M out of \$12.4 M allocated
- One out of six (522/3047) didn't use stipend

- For those who used the stipend, average reimbursement ~\$2400
- Singles less likely to use than marrieds, esp. those who just aged into Medicare (38% of singles who aged in did not use)
- We need to ensure we spend the stipend

### **Problems**

- Sign-up still confusing; no orientation for those aging into Medicare
- Choices are narrowing (e.g., Aetna no longer a choice)
- Reimbursement cumbersome, especially for those without a computer; with inconsistent process and poor service from WageWorks
- Drug costs a major problem for a few
- Those who can least afford it are the ones being hurt the most

### **SRSRA's Responses**

- BOD has developed strategic approaches to deal with problems, and to be better prepared for future action
  - Resource Center
  - Pension increase
  - Communications
  - Site support
- Implementing them aggressively, but need your help!

### **Resource Center**

- We have become an important information source for you, our members
- You're telling us we're doing a good job (Thanks!), but we know we can do better
  - Help you to better access the stipend
  - Refer you to other agencies for specific problems
  - Help those in need to find ways to more affordably obtain non-formulary drugs
  - Help those outside the area

### **Resource Center Concept**

- Central location
  - COG has donated space
- Staffed by volunteers and a coordinator
- Once a month, volunteers available at convenient locations (Augusta, North Augusta, Barnwell)
- Appointments for homebound, and outreach to those outside CSRA as well

*The Center's success will depend on volunteers!*

### **Resource Center Volunteers**

- Will receive training on Medicare, WageWorks processes, and other needed skills
- Will be better able to handle own situation
- Will gain satisfaction from helping fellow retirees
- Please sign up in the lobby!

### **Helping those who need it most**

- No stipend increase in near-term; engaging over metrics to be used to evaluate

- Benefits Protection Committee developing proposal for pension increase
  - Pension has lost about 30% of purchasing power since 2002 adjustment
  - Target largest percent increase for those with smallest pensions, retired longest
  - Any increase must be affordable
  - Working with site to determine cost of flat dollar amount, adjusted for years of service

### **Won't be easy!**

- One Site; One Budget
  - DOE will be putting \$883 M into pension fund over next five years
  - Large chunk of Site budget (up to 10-15%) each year
- Many stars have to be aligned
  - Contractors
  - DOE-SR
  - DOE HQ
  - Congressional delegation
- Highly challenging task; but failure certain if we don't try

### **Communications Essential**

- One of the lessons we learned from the last two+ years is that the Association must be more proactive and consistent in its communications
- John Lindsay et al. have developed communications plan and begun implementation to "align the stars"
  - Members and prospective members
  - DOE and contractors
  - Congressional delegation

### **Supporting SRS**

- We should support new missions for SRS
  - Benefits are a target nation-wide
  - New missions mean our portion of budget a smaller target
- We must speak up for our legacy
  - We all contributed to SRS accomplishments
  - Newcomers to our community don't know or understand what we did or why it had to be done
  - Don't allow the ignorant to tarnish what we did!

### **Path Forward**

- SRSRA will continue to be the source of timely and accurate information for its members – website and newsletters
- More than ever before, the Retiree Association will proactively pursue solutions to problems – resource center, drugs, doctors, potential pension increase...
- Our problems are as much national as local
- But you are the major source of our strength; the more voices the sweeter (and louder!) the music

### **Conclusion**

- Your Retiree Association has been working for you
  - Helping you use medical benefits better

- Working toward a pension increase
- Improving our communications to you, the Site, and our Congressional delegation
- We will continue to work for you
  - Protect what we have earned
  - Find ways to improve
- Your role
  - Become involved in the Association, and get other retirees involved
  - Tell us your problems
  - Tell us how we can serve you better

We are searching for volunteers to make SRSRA even stronger.

Congratulations to Robert L. Bristol, winner of a \$50 gas card courtesy of the SRSEA and SRSRA. Call Neal Smith at 706-481-0970 within 30 days to claim your gas card! Please verify your home address when you contact him.

### **Representative Joe Wilson**

John introduced Representative Joe Wilson. Representative Wilson told the audience that he understood the problems the retirees were facing. There have been major changes to their health insurance; filing for claims is difficult, especially if the retiree does not use a computer. However, he noted that his office is willing to help. He is committed to helping the elderly, the poor, and sick. His office is a resource that all retirees can use. His Aiken office is located in the new Aiken County Administrative Building.

### **Dr. David Moody**

John introduced Dr. David Moody. He told the audience that Dr. Moody has shown excellent leadership and worked to improve communications between the two organizations. Dr. Moody continues to provide dynamic and vocal support for the site.

Below are the slides that Dr. Moody used in his presentation:

### **Building on a Strong History of National Service And Valued Partnership**

- Committed to collaborative relationship
- Create sustained environment of mutual trust and support
- Respect and high regard for patriotism and contributions
- Key to past, present and future success of SRS

### **DOE-SR and SRSRA Re-Establishing Relationships**

#### *Positive and Tangible Strides Toward Re-Building Trust*

- Re-started quarterly meetings with SRSRA Executive Committee
- DOE- hosted "Town Hall" with SRSRA Board of Directors (Dec. 2013)
- Future DOE-hosted Town Hall meeting set for Fri., June 27
  - Open to membership / State of the Site / Your "Hot Topics" Q&A
- SRSRA input to be solicited:
  - On any metrics and improvements to any follow-on My Medicare Advantage program
  - On any changes (up or down) to current medical stipend amounts
- DOE remains receptive to considering input on other items of interest (or case-by-case basis)

- Appreciate SRSRA continued support as SRS Ambassadors

### **Safety and Security at SRS**

- Protection of workers, public and environment is our objective
- Employ world's premier nuclear safety experts
- One of safest industrial complexes in the world (top 5 percent)
- Safest site in the DOE Complex
- Most secure site in the country

### **SRS Continues to Deliver . . . for Our Neighbors and the Nation**

- FY 2015 Budget Request (\$1.282B)
  - Congressional leadership and community support
  - "Catch up" and remain compliant
- Priority on Progress ~ Continue to Deliver
  - Knowledge of SRS nuclear materials workforce
  - Assets and the strength of the Savannah River National Laboratory
  - Capabilities to address challenges in national security, clean energy and environmental stewardship

*Enterprise SRS is the roadmap and measure of progress for our sustainable future. Doing business smarter and better.*

### **Cleaning Up and Reducing Risk**

- Soil and Groundwater Cleanup
  - Remediated 400 (out of 515) Federal Facility Agreement waste units – cleaned up and closed
- Waste Disposition
  - Defense Waste Processing Facility canister production total to date: 3,778
  - Increasing salt waste treatment capacity with enhanced throughput (3-4Mgal/year processing rate) using Next Generation Solvent
  - Saltstone Disposal Units (SDU) – greater capacity, less cost
- Tank Closure Program
  - Six tanks closed – next targeted for 2015
  - Outstanding collaborations and integration with regulators
- Salt Waste Processing Facility
  - Construction more than 70% complete
  - Will treat majority of stored tank waste volume

### **Using Unique Assets to Manage Legacy Nuclear Materials**

- Nation's only large-scale nuclear materials separations facilities
- Provide safe interim storage facilities to secure vulnerable materials worldwide

### **SRNL: World Reputation and Economic Engine for Region**

- Hydrogen research
- Natural gas
- Mobile Plutonium Facility

- Support to Japanese Fukushima
- SoundAnchor™
- Medical Isotope Production
- FBI Laboratory
- \$5B Savings over 5 Years

### **Partnering and Positioning for the Future**

- Support from SRSRA “Ambassadors” is Key
- SRSRA Town Hall Meeting on June 27th at New Ellenton Community Center

### **Summary**

- SRS Delivers (help us celebrate our successes)
- New missions for Site continue to gain traction
- More progress is possible
- Critical components for continued success:
  - Solid funding
  - Continue to work safely
  - Partner with Community and Congress (SRS Ambassadors)
  - Continue building credibility and trust

After the business meeting, Rick Geddes handled the drawing for gas and gift cards. The winners: Keith Stawney, Betty Lepard, Pat Wiley, Wyman Crapps--\$50 SRSEA gas cards; Janice Clarke, Alex Guanlao, Sadie Bell, Jim Howell--\$100 SRSEA gift cards; Johnny Price, Damon Haley, Allen Morris, Rex Nordeen, Charles Jenkins, \$100 SRSRA gift cards; Jan Daniels, \$200 SRSRA gift card; and Patricia Jenkins, \$300 SRSRA gift card.

### **Questions from Retirees at the Annual Meeting**

The following questions and answers address the subjects raised by members at the meeting. The Board of Directors welcomes any further questions that you may have.

*Q. Will the \$200/mo. Retiree Reimbursement Account (RRA) ever be looked at by the Site for a cost-of-living adjustment?*

**A.** SRNS has told us they will evaluate the amount of the stipend after three years. No decision has been made about the yardstick to be used. By the way, this is essentially an annual stipend, not monthly.

*Q. Why can't we purchase our insurance independently instead of through MMA?*

**A.** My Medicare Advisor (MMA) is intended to serve at least two purposes: provide introductory guidance to retirees entering Medicare (our reports indicate that their service has improved in this regard), and to start the process for setting up reimbursement accounts. SRNS has told us that they are evaluating both MMA and WageWorks, and looking at whether there might be better ways to carry out the process.

*Q. Could the SRSRA obtain a contract for dental insurance? Can we improve the options for dental coverage?*

A. When the change of benefits was announced in 2012, the Board considered this. At that time, we decided not to pursue it because we did not have the manpower necessary to support the paperwork required. If there is sufficient interest from the membership, we could look at this again.

*Q. What is happening with the pension plan? At what level is it funded?*

A. The SRS pension fund is currently funded at slightly less than 80% (assets to liabilities). DOE-Environmental Management (EM) has committed to make the minimum payments required by law—the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, also known as ERISA. These are currently projected to get the pension fund up to 80% in about 2018.

*Q. Is there any way that WW can set up an automatic payback for Medicare Part B payments?*

A. They can. You'll need to call them to set that up.

*Q. Aetna is no longer available through MMA. If we already have an Aetna plan, and want to change it, do we have to go through MMA?*

A. Yes, if you're changing it to a policy from a company that MMA supports. If you want to change from one Aetna policy to another Aetna policy, you cannot do that through MMA. If you do it yourself **you will lose the stipend**. If you switch from one Aetna plan to another Aetna plan by contacting Aetna directly, as you would have to do, Aetna will be marked as the "agent of record" (instead of MMA) when the year-end audit report is done (It seems the individual insurance companies have to provide MMA with year-end reports, so the change would be evident.). When this discrepancy is noticed, the stipend would be eliminated.

*Q. "Aetna is no longer a participant" in MMA. What does that mean for current policy holders?*

A. As long as you don't want to change your current Medicare Supplement policy, it means nothing. If you do want to change, see the answer above.

*Q. Why does DOE have to put \$883 million over five years into the pension fund if the fund is now funded at 85%? NNSA is keeping their funded pension funds at > 95%; what is DOE-EM's position on the pension fund?*

A. The SRS pension fund is funded at slightly less than 80%. DOE-EM has only committed to make the minimum payments required by ERISA. These are currently projected to get the pension fund up to 80% in about 2018.

*Q. Why do we have a donut hole on our prescription drugs?*

A. When Medicare Part D was passed in the last decade, the donut hole was included as a way to reduce costs while still providing basic coverage. From a retiree's standpoint, one of the better features of the Affordable Care Act is that it closes the donut hole by 2020.

*Q. I already have a Medicare supplement policy (e.g., Tricare or from the state). Why can't I use the entire supplement for real medical expenses rather than waste part of it on a supplement I don't need?*

**A.** Our current benefits plan isn't set up to allow that. (For most retirees who are eligible, Tricare is better than commercial Medicare supplements. However, both Tricare and state benefits may be modified in the future, so this is an issue that the Association will keep on its radar screen.)

*Q. Which members of our CSRA delegations have been most actively supportive of SRSRA? Least supportive?*

**A.** Clearly, Representative Joe Wilson has been most supportive. Our two SC Senators have been supportive as well. In GA, John Barrow has been supportive as has been Senator Isakson. Representative Duncan's support has been tepid, at best.

*Q. Why don't we have an office in Aiken for WageWorks to help with our problems?*

**A.** It would cost too much for them to open an office. The need for this kind of support is one of the reasons the Retiree Association is setting up a Resource Center for SRS retirees.

*Q. After all of the stipend is reimbursed to cover premiums, should we still file for meds knowing that there are no [more] funds available?*

**A.** We suggest that you do. You will be reimbursed at the start of the next year.

*Q. Will there be \$500 seed money beyond 2013?*

**A.** No. That was a one-time deal.

*Q. For non-Medicare retirees, monthly costs went up 25% [actually 28%] from 2013 to 2014. Being able to budget for future increases would be very helpful. Can you tell us what future increases will look like?*

**A.** Probably similar to those this year, but hopefully slowing after 2017. The intent of putting pre-65 retirees on a separate plan was so that they would pay the same fraction of their medical expenses as Site employees (at the time, about 25%). In 2012, DOE - in response to a question from our legislative delegation - said that the increase would be accomplished over a period of five years instead of the three that had originally been announced. The 2012 to 2013 increase was a fairly modest 9%. The bigger jump from 2013 to 2014 was due to two factors - another incremental increase toward parity between employees and pre-65 retirees, and the increasing cost of health care nationwide. Once parity is achieved, the first factor should disappear.

*Q. Why doesn't DOE separate the pension from the Site budget?*

**A.** Traditionally, Site pensions have been included in Site overheads.

*Q. Has an analysis been performed to determine whether the change in medical benefits has actually saved money?*

*A. Any savings have been slight. The bulk of the savings will come in the out years.*

*Q. We need a volunteer group to assist older retirees in filling out the paperwork to access the stipend.*

*A. The Retiree Association has been working on this. We expect to have a Retiree Resource Center in place by August 1.*

*Q. Does the Site's contract with WageWorks have performance goals and feedback mechanisms?*

*A. Yes, but the contract is actually with MMA.*

*Q. Can we get a debit card system set up to bypass WageWorks?*

*A. SRNS told the Association that they had originally looked at this as an option, but had chosen not to implement it. The primary reason given was concern about making sure charges to the card were only for IRS-allowable expenses. In addition, there was concern about loss of insurance. Since retirees use their stipend accounts mainly to pay for premiums, some carriers will set up recurrent debits from cards. However, if the funds are depleted on the card, premiums will not be paid, and the retiree may not be aware of it. Also, even if the debit card is used to pay for qualified expenses, WW is required by the IRS to verify card transactions. If a merchant the retiree uses is not an authorized merchant (meaning that their card system is not coded as a medical provider), the retiree would still need to send receipts to WageWorks to verify that the expenses were eligible under the stipend plan. Most retiree reimbursement accounts do not offer debit cards, as they're mainly geared toward Flexible Spending Accounts and Health Savings Accounts.*

*Q. Can we vote to replace WageWorks with another company?*

*A. The Retiree Association could hold a vote, but it wouldn't do any good - SRNS holds their contract.*

*Q. Does delay in reimbursements benefit WageWorks, Xerox (MMA), or the Site?*

*A. No delay in reimbursements benefits the Site. The Site transfers the stipend funds to WageWorks at the beginning of the calendar year. Assuming that the stipend funding goes into some sort of escrow account, WageWorks shouldn't benefit. MMA has no stake in payments from the stipend.*

*Q. What in the world is going on with the MOX facility?*

*A. Attend DOE's June 27 Town Hall meeting and ask that question!*

*Q. Will you follow up on last year's report on what partnerships with other DOE sites have done?*

**A.** Last winter, the Association reached out to the Idaho retiree association to see if we could take joint action. They are clearly interested but aren't sure that their delegation would be supportive. Once we have a clearer picture on what is do-able in terms of a pension increase, we intend to re-engage with them.

*Q. Can you list the doctors who accept Medicare?*

**A.** Short of calling all of the doctors in the phone book, we have no way of collecting this information.

*Q. Will you provide us with a report on membership and trend?*

**A.** Membership for the last two years has been nearly 1,600. Currently it is roughly 1,500, but we anticipate reaching about the same level. Membership was less than 1,000 until 2011 when it went over 1,200; it reached about 1,600 for the following two years and is currently just under 1,500. See the charts on p.15.

*Q. The new Resource Center is planning to deal with WageWorks. Do you plan to include "Extend Health" i.e., help former DuPonters?*

**A.** Initially, we definitely will not be offering that kind of assistance. We will have plenty on our plates just getting off the ground. However, we intend to partner with the Lower Savannah Council of Governments and eventually provide support to former Site DuPonters through the COG. We cannot give you a definitive date for that at this time but most likely it will happen in 2015.

*Q. What new areas does the SRSRA plan to get into?*

**A.** We have our plate pretty full right now. We do occasionally post information on jobs on our website, as well as information on preventive care.

*Q. Is assistance available for rollover of my SIP to an IRA?*

**A.** The Mercer folks who administer the SIP can help with that.

*Q. If I move to North Carolina, will all insurance claims be considered as out of area services?*

**A.** Please contact your insurer; they will have to answer this question.

*Q. Why were there only two insurers available this year?*

**A.** The number of insurers available to SRS retirees depends on several factors: *1. Your location.* In spite of the Affordable Care Act, insurance is still governed by a patchwork of state laws. Some insurers have chosen to pull out of certain states because of state laws. *2. The number of insurers who are servicing your area.* Nationally, there is a trend toward fewer insurers especially in more rural areas. *3. The number of insurers that are affiliated with MMA.* This year, Aetna decided to pull away from MMA.

*Q. Will the stipend program be extended beyond the current three years?*

**A.** That is the current plan, but not a promise on the part of the Site. At the end of three years, the entire program and the amount of the stipend will be evaluated. Our best guess is that the current program will not be greatly changed. The Retiree Association will work hard to protect current benefits, and for an increase if justified.

*Q. Has anyone performed a survey of those not accessing the stipend to find out why?*

**A.** No. Such a survey could be expensive, but also could prove valuable. The Association's Board will weigh each of these in considering this idea.

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Congratulations to Harold B. Peacock, winner of a \$50 gas card courtesy of the SRSEA and SRSRA. Call Neal Smith at 706-481-0970 within 30 days to claim your gas card! Please verify your home address when you contact him.

### **NEWSLETTER MAILING** - Bruce Cadotte, Membership Communications

**Questions and comments related to this newsletter may be addressed to Bruce Cadotte, newsletter editor, at [bmcadotte@msn.com](mailto:bmcadotte@msn.com).**

A number of emails continue to be returned for incorrect addresses, recipient mailbox over quota, recipient not accepting mail from SRSRA, and several others indicating that our database needs some "tuning up." If you have an active email address, or have changed your address recently and are not receiving SRSRA communications by email, please contact [newsletter@srsretirees.org](mailto:newsletter@srsretirees.org). Our email program allows us to reach the vast majority of members more quickly with news. Other pluses are quicker distribution of the newsletter and less cost of copying and mailing hard copies, even though we are currently still mailing all newsletters in hard copy until we get a better feel for the preferences of the entire membership. Thanks to all of you who are receiving your newsletter by e-mail.

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### **CONTACT INFORMATION FOR SERVICES AND BENEFITS**

#### **MY MEDICARE ADVOCATE / WAGeworks CONCERNS**

We receive letters from retirees trying to get proper WageWorks reimbursement for their medical bills. Most of the problems occur when the retiree/patient lives out-of-state (i.e., no longer in the CSRA). If you have records of My Medicare Advocate or WageWorks service problems to share with SRSRA members, please **send a letter outlining your case to:**

**Rick Geddes, Medical Benefits Committee  
SRS Retiree Association**

P.O. Box 5686  
Aiken, SC 29804

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### BC/BS SERVICE CONCERNS

We receive letters from retirees trying to get proper Blue Cross/Blue Shield reimbursement for their medical bills. Most of the problems occur when the retiree/patient lives out-of-state (i.e., no longer in SC). Your first recourse should be to call Blue Cross/Blue Shield at 800-325-6596 to resolve your issue directly. If you cannot get resolution this way, You can also call Gari Howard, your BC/BS service representative, at 803- 264-5805, or toll free at 800-868-2500 ext. 45805 or email [gari.howard@bcbsc.com](mailto:gari.howard@bcbsc.com). If you have records of BC/BS service problems to share with SRSRA members, please **send a letter outlining your case to:**

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

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### BENEFITS CONTACTS

**Benefits 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 (toll free)
- ◆ [service-center@srs.gov](mailto:service-center@srs.gov) (e-mail contact for this service)

- |                              |  |                                |  |
|------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|
| ◆ Westinghouse Corp. Pension | 800-581-4222   | ◆ Blue Cross/Blue Shield of SC |  |
| ◆ My Medicare Advocate       | 877-591-8904   |                                | 800-325-6596   |
|                              | <a href="http://www.mymedicareadvocate.com/srs">www.mymedicareadvocate.com/srs</a> |                                | <a href="http://www.southcarolinablues.com">www.southcarolinablues.com</a> |
| ◆ WageWorks                  | 877-924-3967   |                                | Option 1 for Medical   |
|                              | <a href="http://www.wageworks.com">www.wageworks.com</a>                           |                                | Option 2 for Dental  |
| ◆ Medicare Helpline          | 800-633-4227   |                                | Option 3 for Pre-Cert/Med Authorization                                    |
| ◆ Medicare Web Site          | <a href="http://www.medicare.gov">www.medicare.gov</a>                             |                                |  |

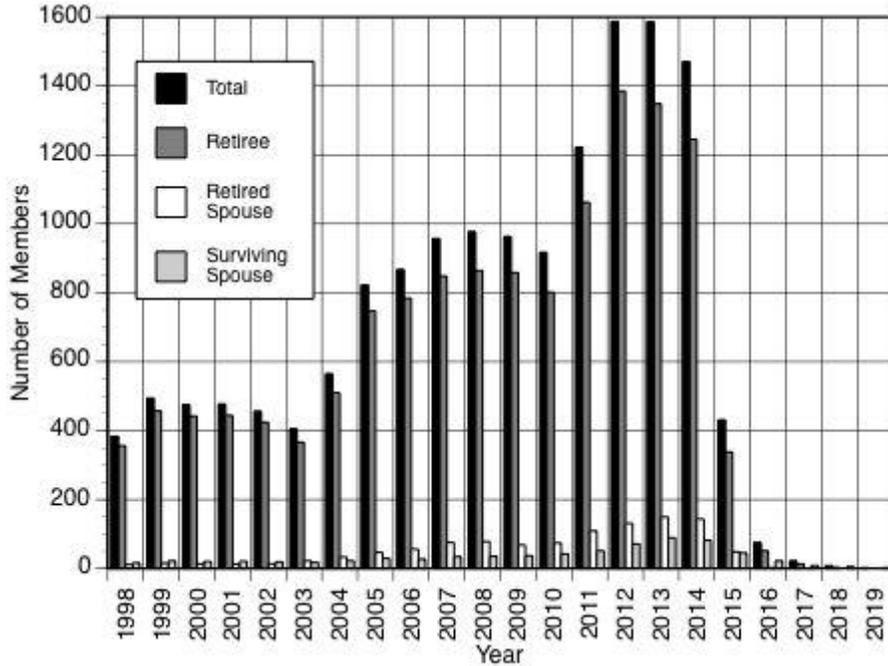
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### **Interested in serving on the SRSRA Board of Directors?**

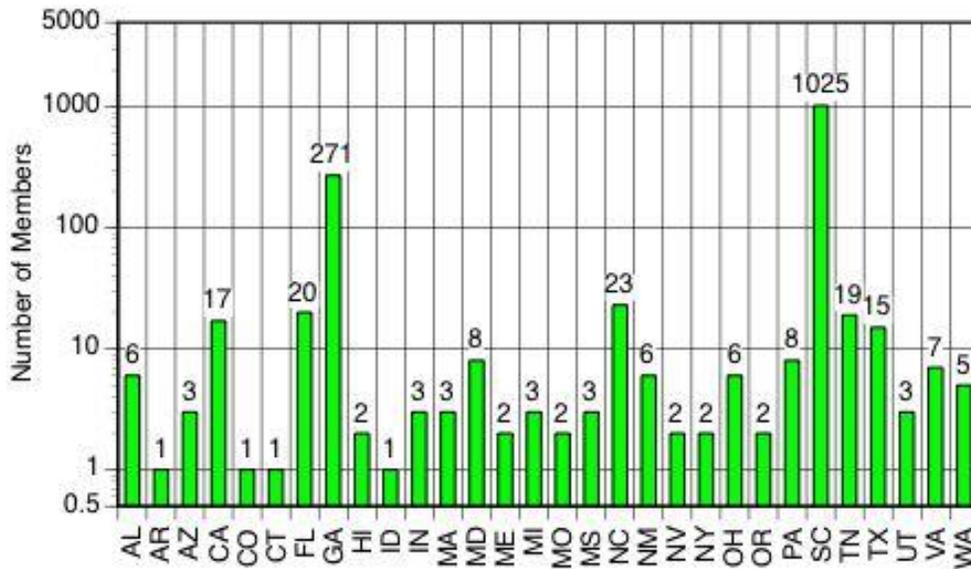
**Please e-mail Fred Cadek, Nomination Chairman, at [ffcadek@gforcecable.com](mailto:ffcadek@gforcecable.com)**

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The following two charts represent membership data for the SRSRA



Membership by year (membership past 2014 indicates prepaid dues)



Membership by state of residence

(Note that the scale of the second chart is logarithmic and emphasizes the states with lower retiree populations; only about 11 percent of SRSRA members live outside of South Carolina or Georgia.)

## Savannah River Site Retiree Association Membership Application

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

\_\_\_\_\_ My spouse is also retired from SRS and wants to JOIN the SRSRA  
(...and my retired SRS spouse is willing to 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  
(...and I am willing to serve on the Board of Directors) \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

### Annual Dues:

#### Current Year

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

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

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

#### Next Year

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

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

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

SRS RETIREE NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SRS Retired or Surviving SPOUSE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

SRS RETIREE RETIRED FROM: SRNS \_\_\_\_\_ WSRC/SRR \_\_\_\_\_ BSRI \_\_\_\_\_ BWXT-SRC \_\_\_\_\_ BNFL-SRC \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE RETIRED FROM SRS: SRNS \_\_\_\_\_ WSRC/SRR \_\_\_\_\_ BSRI \_\_\_\_\_ BWXT-SRC \_\_\_\_\_ BNFL-SRC \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

SRS RETIREE: DATE OF RETIREMENT \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

SRS RETIRED OR SURVIVOR SPOUSE: DATE OF RETIREMENT \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: **SRS Retiree Association**  
**P. O. Box 5686**  
**Aiken, SC 29804**  
**Attn: Larry Coleman, Membership Chairman**