

SRSRA NEWSLETTER

For SRS Retiree Association Members

Bob & Pat Stokes, Editors

Volume 37 May 2008

“Another Successful SRSRA Annual Meeting”

(all the details in this Newsletter)

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Meeting Minutes of SRSRA 2008 Annual Meeting

St. Angela Hall, Aiken, SC

March 25, 2008

The 2008 SRSRA Annual Meeting got underway at 1:30 P.M. on March 25, 2008, as Charlie Miller welcomed the nearly 400 retirees and guests. Charlie indicated his appreciation for the fine crowd in attendance and proceeded to introduce Mike French whose first comment of the day was to express the Association’s thanks to Senator Jim DeMint and Congressmen Gresham Barrett and Joe Wilson for their presence at the meeting.

Congressman Barrett was the first of the honored guests to the podium. In his introduction, Mike noted that Congressman Barrett’s principles include support for the military, safe and secure borders, and lower tax burden. The Congressman has taken the lead among the South Carolina Delegation to bring the next generation of nuclear reactors to the state and to be the catalyst for the energy park at the Savannah River Site.

Congressman Barrett said that it was an honor and a privilege to attend the meeting to talk about “what I love best—energy....When I think about what you men and women have done... if it weren’t for your dedication and hard work, we would not be where we are today. And I don’t ever want to forget that....there’s a lot of uncertainty out there; but I can tell you, at the end of the day the Savannah River Site’s going to be stronger....when we think about national security, it goes hand in hand with energy...we have the ability to be energy independent, we can lead the world...right here in South Carolina....when you look at demographics, the fastest growing region (in the country) is the Southeast!...and, we’re still nuclear friendly...almost 60% of our power in South Carolina comes from nuclear power...and we’re working with Washington Group, and we’re working with SCANA, we’re working with Clemson, we’re working with USC Aiken...and anybody else who will help us on how we can pull this region together and lead the nation in energy independence!...the Savannah River Site is a major, major weapon in that fight for energy independence....and I’m so proud to represent that site and I’m so proud to represent you for what you have done and **I can tell you there’s no stauncher supporters than your delegation to make sure that no matter what happens with our contracts that we take care of the people that have taken care of us for so long...I can promise you that!**”

Mayor Fred Cavanaugh rose to introduce the Association's next honored speaker, Senator Jim DeMint. Fred noted that Senator DeMint is one of the most effective, conservative leaders in Washington. He has been a tireless advocate for smaller government, individual freedom, strong national defense, and traditional values. He was recently ranked as the Senate's most conservative member by The National Journal.

Senator DeMint began by saying that **"I appreciate your staying organized as a group.** It's very helpful to us in Washington. Issues come up every year, which are important not only to the site's future but (to) making sure that we keep the promises that we've made to folks who've helped to build a site and build a community that's been so important to our country....we've gotten all the verbal assurances so far that the benefits are not going to be changed; but as Gresham Barrett said, **we've got a good delegation standing by to make sure that we keep our promises! Stay organized as a group—it gives us a critical mass back here at home (and) we can speak on your behalf.**....when you're organized, you have a critical mass that can help effect change here locally...in the state and in the country...and when you can speak with one voice on an issue, for those of us who are representing you, when we know that you're together on something, it makes it easy for us to take that issue to the Department of Energy or anywhere else and say 'this is the way it has to be'. We are honored to be fighting for you and I appreciate what you have done not only for this site, for this community, and for our state, but the nation...I'm honored to serve you—thanks a lot."

Mike French thanked the Senator and expressed the Association's appreciation. He then introduced our next guest speaker, Congressman Joe Wilson. Joe is committed to promoting peace through a strong national defense, decreasing taxes for all Americans, and limiting the size of the Federal Government.

Congressman Wilson began by thanking the retirees for their service to our country. He also spoke about our servicemen and women and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and indicated he had sons serving in these campaigns. He spoke about the importance of family. He pledged support for site retirees who were instrumental in providing for the security of our country. He noted that, as a result of the Savannah River Site, the nation enjoys a strong national defense—in fact, we have the best military in the history of the world! He urged the Association to keep him up to date on issues he can help us with, and to visit him when in Washington.

Other commitments prevented Senators Graham, Chambliss, and Isakson from actual attendance at the meeting, but all had sent letters and representatives.

In Senator Graham's case, his representative was Ms. Rene Ann Tewkesbury; and his letter was read by Charlie Miller. The Senator noted that the hard work of the SRSRA makes sure the interests of employees past and present have a strong voice. He noted that a unified voice gives our delegation power as they strive for legislation in Washington. He looks forward to working with the SRSRA for many years to come.

Mr. Jim Hussey represented Senator Chambliss and read a letter from him. Among other things, the Senator said that the efforts of the SRSRA have been noticed in Washington. He appreciates our work in preserving our benefits and supporting missions at SRS. He looks forward to continued efforts and work with us in the future.

Ms. Nancy Bobbitt represented Senator Isakson and read his letter to the Association. The Senator regretted he could not be with us and noted SRS continues its long role in national security. He was especially glad to meet

with the Association's members when they visited Washington. He said he is concerned with protecting benefits—pension and medical—and will work with us in the future to accomplish that.

Mr. Jeff Allison, Manager of DOE SROO, planned to attend the meeting, but last-minute business in Washington prevented his doing so. He did send a DVD for the meeting. He noted that the state of SRS is good. He knows the new M&O contract is of interest to the Association, but he does not anticipate any significant change in our benefits and pension as a result of that new contract. He promised to continue to keep us updated on future activities at the site and noted that support from the SRSRA is key to success at SRS.

The final item on the Agenda before the meeting break was presentation of plaques honoring past Association Chairmen: Thomas W. Greene, Harcourt "Butch" Bull, III, and C. David Cowfer. Each plaque reads: "Distinguished Service Award Savannah River Site Retiree Association Presented To: (insert each of the gentlemen's names) in recognition of outstanding service and dedication as Chairman of the Savannah River Site Retiree Association." Their terms of service are indicated, and the plaque is signed by Nick Kuehn as the Current Chairman. Nick expressed the Association's deep appreciation to these three gentlemen for their fine contributions and efforts on the retirees' behalf. Tom Greene was the Association's first Chairman and served from 1997 to 1999; Butch Bull served from 1999 to 2001; and Dave Cowfer chaired our group from 2001 to 2006.

After a short break for refreshments and visiting with fellow retiree friends, Nick Kuehn presented the State of the Association. He began by noting the fine crowd in attendance and the fact that this March 25 session was our tenth annual meeting. He said the meeting was a tribute to all the members who "pay your dues, come to the meetings, and realize that this is a united effort." Nick said that he was happy to hear some of our speakers say how important it is that they hear a united voice. He continued that the officers and Board work so that Association represents "all of you".

He said that last year—for the first time—our membership exceeded 1,000. In fact, it went up to 1,030—and we are well on our way to going over a thousand again this year. Nick noted a special thanks was due to Ed Somers, our Membership Chairman, for his diligent efforts in hunting down old members who may have forgotten to send in their dues for this year, as well as contacting potential new members.

"I told you last year that size is important and several speakers—either coming in or going out—mentioned how impressed they were that we were able to draw this many people to our annual meeting."

Continuing on another subject, Nick told the Association that they set a new record with their United Way contributions this year. He thanked the members of the Association on behalf of those who have been served by the United Way agencies. Association member contributions this year were \$14,352. In addition and because of the good response from SRSRA, the site expanded the program to cover all retirees. We can be proud that the site decided to do this because they had been so successful when they solicited donations from our organization!

At last year's annual meeting, Leo Sain, President of WSRC, requested a list of retirees who are interested in working at the site. Leo said "we'd really like to get them out there." Forty-six of you responded. SRSRA has sent your information to the site. Nick has been in touch with the site and heard that, while no hiring will be done during this contract protest period, once the contract is settled there would be some hiring done based on

the resumes submitted. (And, if anyone else cares to send their resume in, the SRSRA will be certain the information gets out to the site.)

Nick took up the benefits question next—what is going to happen to them and how will they be affected by the new contract. Nick discussed what the Association has been doing on this subject and what the Association plans to do in the coming year.

He felt it was appropriate at this point to iterate our Mission Statement:

Maintain pensions and post retirement benefits given to retirees at the time of their retirement

In line with that, all the Association is asking is that the promises which were made at the time of our retirement be kept. He noted that Congressman Barrett said today that both he and Senator Graham have “words” from DOE that they are going to support that, but the Association has also heard those words and we don’t have anything in writing.

Specifically, the benefits we are striving to retain are:

- Medical Benefits
- Prescription Drug Coverage
- Dental Coverage
- Term Life Insurance
- The right to request Pension Adjustments to offset the effects of inflation

Retirees have had one pension adjustment since WSRC took over in 1989 (the adjustment being in 2002), but there has been a significant decrease in the buying power of pension dollars since then. So, we now have a committee working on developing a proposal for a new pension adjustment.

At last year’s meeting, we reported that DOE had rejected all of the comments we had made on the Draft RFP. Our comments focused on words that had been used in the past by DOE such as “grandfathering benefits”. We asked that those words be made part of the RFP, but the answer from the Department of Energy was “no”. And, within a few days of our seeing their answer, they put the RFP out for bids and we were told they really couldn’t discuss it with us anymore because it was “out for bids”.

The day after last year’s annual meeting, we contacted Congressman Barrett and made an appointment to meet with him. We told him that we were concerned our benefits were not guaranteed under the wording of the new contract and our perception was that DOE may be “backsliding” on what they’re going to tell the contractor they should do for us. He listened to us and said that, both he and Senator Graham, thought they had firm commitments from DOE to protect our pension and benefits.

However, when we told him what we had seen and read—and some of the details of the RFP—he concurred that “yes”, we did have a concern. He said that both he and Senator Graham would be meeting with DOE to discuss this. He also said that he would talk to DOE Savannah River to see if a way could be worked out so that we could talk to them as to why they rejected all of the comments we had given on the RFP.

Thanks to Congressman Barrett's efforts a teleconference was set up involving both DOE Savannah River Management and DOE Headquarters Management last July. This gave us a chance to ask what had happened and to argue our belief they should change their decision. They were cordial, they listened, but answered they were not going to change anything.

At that point, we asked DOE "if you aren't going to change the RFP, can you at least give us the same treatment you're giving the retirees at Los Alamos?" They have the same statement in their contract to the effect "if the benefits exceed a certain level, they have to be reduced." However, what DOE did at Los Alamos was to say, "O.K., even if it's exceeded, the retirees do not have to have their benefits reduced." When asked about this anomaly, DOE answered that Los Alamos is a special case because the original contractor for Los Alamos was the state of California. SRSRA does not understand this statement; but be that as it may, DOE said "no" to our request.

However, they did try to assure us that, if there were changes made by the contractor based on future studies, they would review them. But, they would not give any directions to the contractor. They did not talk about legacy obligations as they had done with us in an earlier meeting in December of 2006. Their words at that time were "you do not need to be concerned because your benefits shouldn't be reduced—look at the history, we've taken care of retirees over the last "x" number of years."

In August of last year, one of the bidders, SR Nuclear Solutions, contacted our organization and said they would like to set up a meeting with us to find out what our concerns were and to introduce themselves to us. So, on August 26, we met with a group from SR Nuclear Solutions. Retired Admiral Chuck Munns, who is scheduled to be President at SR Nuclear Solutions, headed up that group.

The meeting was cordial, and we believe they understood our positions. We even had the opportunity to bring up our plans to request a pension adjustment. Because the bidding on the contract is in progress, they could not make any promises. They did indicate that, if they are the winning contractor, they would be most happy to work with our organization.

At the end of the meeting, we mentioned some of the meetings we had with DOE and some of the comments we had put in for the RFP. They asked if they could get documentation of our comments on the RFP as well as minutes from our meetings with DOE. We agreed to gather that information for them, but did say we would prepare a similar package for WSRC as part of our commitment to be neutral as far as who would be the new contractor.

As a result of our meeting last April with Congressman Barrett, he and Senator Graham set up a session with Energy Secretary Bodman to discuss our concerns. Secretary Bodman again would not commit to saying "we're going to honor your benefits; we aren't going to reduce them". He did say he did not know what we wanted (*we thought we had been very clear when we sent information to the Department of Energy*) and suggested we have a meeting with his staff during our planned trip to Washington in the Fall.

So, in October of last year, Mike French, Charlie Miller, and I went up to D.C. for a two-day visit. "We really need to thank Mike French—he is unbelievable—he was able to get us appointments during those two days with 4 Senators (Graham and DeMint from South Carolina, and Chambliss and Isakson from Georgia) and 4 Congressmen (Barrett, Wilson, Jim Clyburn from South Carolina, and Paul Broun of Georgia)."

All of these gentlemen were very gracious and they allotted—in some cases a full hour of time—for either they or a member of their staff to sit down with us and hear what our concerns are and what we think might happen in the future. And, although at present none of our benefits have been reduced, we believe it is important to inform them about those things we fear could happen. Hopefully, that will prevent our need to go to them at some time in the future and say “look what has happened to our benefits—we need you to do something!” (In other words, we don’t want to “cry wolf”, but we are giving them a “heads up” and intend to continue doing that.)

Everyone we talked to pledged support for maintaining our pensions and benefits, and they all agreed to contact Secretary Bodman on our behalf.

During this same trip, we did have a meeting with DOE Headquarters Staff personnel as Secretary Bodman had recommended. One of Senator Graham’s staff members and one of Congressman Barrett’s attended this meeting with us. (Nick felt this was vital because they could hear what DOE is saying so SRSRA did not have to give our interpretation of what was said.)

The meeting was cordial, but the final result was their saying “what we told you in 2006 about legacy obligations and grandfathering wasn’t what you thought.” (When we heard the word “grandfathering” in 2006, we were satisfied and felt our fears had been laid to rest.) They continued, “what we really meant was that you’re going to stay under the same DOE Order that you’re under right now.” What that order says is “that benefits will be based on what is called a Benefit Value Study.” This means a number of companies are looked at and the benefits those companies are giving are compared to contractor benefits at SRS. DOE has mandated to its contractors that they must do these studies every two years; and if the benefits (at Savannah River Site) exceed the average of the companies studied by more than 5 percent, the contractor must develop a corrective action plan. That means: reduction in benefits! We have not seen a reduction in benefits up to now because SRS contractor benefits have been below 105%. (In the latest value study, the SRS benefits were about 103% of the comparison group.)

Also, we have not seen any reduction up to now because the people running the site (in this case, WSRC) have worked hard to assure we stay under that 105%. However, we are concerned that, should the rest of the country keep dropping benefits for retirees, at some point we will cross that 105% number; and as things now stand, the contractor would be required to reduce benefits. We will then need to make the argument to DOE that commitments were made to us that benefits would be there when we retired!

Nick, Charlie, and Mike left the DOE meeting with the concern that, at some time in the future, the site contractor will be required to cut our benefits because—although DOE assured us verbally we have nothing to be concerned about—they are not willing to put anything in writing.

We believed this past January the M&O contract had been awarded to SR Nuclear Solutions. Because WSRC filed a protest with the Government Accounting Office, the contract is on hold for 90 days while the protest is evaluated. So, at the present time, a final decision has not been made. We will keep you informed as matters progress.

Based on the Request for Proposal for the new contract, we do not anticipate any changes when the new contract does go into effect. However, within a year the new contractor is required to come up with their own human resources plan, and this is where we will probably see the first potential challenge to our benefits since they will be doing a Benefits Value Study prior to that and the new plan has to be based on that study. It is likely that we will get close to that 105% number.

One of the other things the SRSRA is working on now and plans to do in 2008 is to assure that, when the new contract takes over, all of our current benefits transfer over. We'll be talking to DOE, WSRC, and whoever the winning contractor is because what we've heard is "the change should be seamless"—we should not see any changes in our benefits. We want to be sure that happens, and we're going to follow it.

The other thing we will be doing is meeting with the new contractor to try to get our input into their human resources plan. All we can do is talk to them at that point; hopefully, they'll listen to us and we can persuade them to work to maintain our pension and benefits.

In addition, we are working on a proposal for a pension adjustment. As you are all aware, we do not have any cost-of-living built into our pensions. Since 1989 when Westinghouse took over operation of the site, the purchasing power of our pensions has dropped about 40%. In 2002 we did have a pension adjustment, but the purchasing power of our pensions has dropped about 20% since then.

We are preparing a proposal that will go to the new contractor and present our case for a pension adjustment. We must sell the new contractor on this adjustment and then have DOE approval and Congressional funding. Our 2002 adjustment was a combined effort. Senator Graham, who was then our Congressman, was very instrumental in our success. He told DOE that, if they approved it and sent it on as a budget request, he would make sure they received funding for it. Westinghouse Savannah River Company and Bob Pedde, who was the WSRC President at that time, had to actually put that adjustment into their budget request.

We will face the same three-prong procedure in order to get a new adjustment. We are going to start this process through the new contractor in the coming year, but Nick Kuehn would not be surprised if it took a while to get it through.

Once the contract is in place, SRSRA anticipates resuming meetings with the contractor. In the past, we held these meetings with WSRC. If they are the winning contractor, we will renew those meetings. In our meeting with SR Nuclear Solutions, they indicated that, if they are the winning bidder, they would like to have meetings with us. We also plan to resume our quarterly meetings with Jeff Allison. Of course, we will continue working with our Congressional Delegation—we will talk to them, write to them, and have additional trips to Washington since they noted today how important it is that we get to them with a united voice.

In our efforts to retain our benefits the Congressional Delegation is our No. 1 weapon in dealing with DOE and the contractor.

We will continue to keep you informed with the SRSRA Newsletter. While we do not anticipate needing a letter-writing campaign or a telephone-calling onslaught; if we feel the need in the future, we will call on you for them.

At this point, Nick opened the floor for questions and the following queries were made:

Question: Could we open up our meetings with something inspirational, or maybe a prayer?

Answer: Because of the great diversity of people in our organization, we opted not to do that.

Question: It appears that it is inevitable that we will hit the 105 number?

Answer: I agree with you and that is why we are talking to the Congressional people and trying to convince them that DOE has a legacy obligation to maintain retiree benefits. But, we don't have anything in writing and that is why we have this organization—to let the Congressional people know that this is what we see in the future.

Stan Smith, SRSRA Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's report and it was accepted as presented to the membership.

[Editor's Note: The following is an updated Treasurer's report for the period through April 30, 2008]

The following summarizes financial activity for the first 10 months of this fiscal year. (July 07 through April 08) and since the last Newsletter.

Opening Balance (July 1, 2007)	\$33,277.50
Income	\$12,530.12
Expenses	\$8,736.57
Closing Balance (April 30, 2008)	\$37,071.05

The \$1980 income since the last Newsletter was derived from membership dues. Expenses since the last Newsletter totaled \$3765.98 with the major expenditures devoted to the annual meeting, postage (postal deposit and permit renewal), and the February Newsletter. The closing balance shown above includes \$25,000 in CDs..

Stan Smith then presented the following two proposed minor changes/additions to the bylaws (the specific changes/additions are the underlined words):

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE 1

ARTICLE III MEMBERS

SECTION 6. Organization. The Chairperson, or in his/her absence, the First Vice-Chairperson; or in his/her absence, the Second Vice-Chairperson; or in their absence the Third Vice-Chairperson, or in their absence, a Chairperson chosen by the Board Members present, shall preside at each meeting of the members and shall act as Chairperson thereof. Meetings shall-----.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE 2

ARTICLE IV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 7. Organization. The Chairperson, or in his/her absence, the First Vice-Chairperson, or in his/her absence, the Second Vice-Chairperson, or in their absence the Third Vice-Chairperson, or in their absence a Chairperson chosen by the Board Members present, shall preside at each meeting of the Board of Directors and shall act as Chairperson thereof. Meetings shall-----.

Both proposed changes were approved as written.

The next item on the Agenda was the Election of the Board of Directors. Jim Morrison submitted the report of the Nominating Committee and reminded the gathering that there are 30 members on the Board of Directors. They are elected for two-year terms. Each year we elect 15 members. Someone on the Board may elect to run again, or may choose to step down.

This year we had a total of 7 members for whom we had to find replacements—4 members on the board elected not to run again, 2 others have resigned at mid-term of their 2-year term (one for health reasons and one for scheduling conflicts), and the last member, unfortunately, is Charles Riley who recently passed away.

Following are the nominees for the Board of Directors to fill the seats of the 4 members who elected not to run again:

Joe Ortaldo
Charlie Sessions
Dupree Simmons
Dave Zigelman

Following are the nominees to complete the one-year remaining of the terms of the 3 members who were not able to continue in their positions:

Mel Buckner
Kent Sullivan
Joe Yanek

Following are the incumbents who have chosen to run again:

John Church	Mike French	Stan Smith
Dave Cowfer	Elizabeth Friar	Ed Somers
Sid Curry	Sam Goforth	Bob Stokes
Andy Cwalina	Charlie Miller	

Jim asked for nominations from the floor to add to the ballot. There were no nominations; so the candidates were approved as presented.

The final item on the agenda was the awarding of door prizes. Charlie Miller and Bob Stokes handled this pleasant task. The door prize results follow:

\$20 Atlanta Bread Company gift cards were won by George Burris, Thomasina Dais, Charles Roach, and Sid Curry.

\$50 Applebee's gift cards went to Russell Snow and Keith Stawney.

\$50 Outback Steakhouse gift cards were given to Bill Babineau, Art Blanchard, and Thomas Sanders.

\$75 Red Lobster gift cards were won by Carl Bergman and John Rosbach.

\$100 Prepaid VISA Card winners were Linda Baker, Bob Bean, and Quitman White

\$200 Prepaid VISA Card went to Sidney Gambrel

The door prize drawing concluded the agenda. The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 P.M.

DOE Awards M&O Contract to SRNS

On April 25, the Department of Energy officially cleared the way for the award of the SRS M&O contract to Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS). DOE issued an Order to Proceed for the SRS M&O Contract to SRNS. SRNS was formed by Flour Daniel as the senior partner with Northrop Grumman and Honeywell. They will be joined by Lockheed Martin, Nuclear Fuel Services and other current site subcontractors assisting in the new contract's execution. The challenge of the contract award by URS, WSRC's parent company, has been resolved by the General Accounting Office (GAO). The 90-day transition for turnover of the site operation to the new contractor has begun.

SRSRA to Join SC Task Force on Senior Fraud

Our organization has been invited to participate in the SC Lieutenant Governor's Task Force on Senior Fraud. SRSRA was contacted by SC's Director of the Office on Aging and invited to participate. Dale Friar, SRSRA Medical Interface Committee Chairman, has agreed to represent the organization on the Task Force. This group will be tasked with educating seniors about the latest consumer fraud schemes.

The Task Force was kicked off at the Lt. Governor's Press Conference on Senior Fraud on Thursday, May 8, at the State House. There are numerous agencies throughout the state, including the Savannah River Site Retiree Association, that are participating in the Task Force set up to protect seniors from scammers.

The Lt. Governor's Office on Aging will coordinate with the Department of Consumer Affairs, the Office of Secretary of State, the Office of Attorney General, South Carolina Educational Television, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, members of the Adult Protection Coordinating Council, and other state agencies,

private groups, local law enforcement, solicitors, magistrates, and media organizations to shield our senior citizens from fraudulent businesses, individuals, and the various other types of fraud that seek to take what seniors have worked hard their entire lives to obtain.

If you have been a target of a scam or know of anyone you suspect is being exploited, please notify the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging at **1-800-868-9095** or the Department of Consumer Affairs at **1-800-922-1594**.

We will keep you posted on activities of this Task Force to protect seniors in SC. The SRSRA membership should benefit from this effort regardless of where they reside in the USA.

SRSRA BOD Executive Officers & Committee Representatives

At the BOD meeting of May 6, 2008 the BOD elected the following officers for the 2008:

Chairman	Nick Kuehn
First Vice Chairman (& Chairman Elect for 2009)	Ed Somers
Second Vice Chairman	Mike French
Third Vice Chairman	Bob Stokes
Secretary	Charlie Miller
Treasurer	Stan Smith

The following Committee Representatives were appointed by Nick Kuehn for 2008:

Benefits	Sid Curry
Pension Adjustment	Delano Knight
Annual Meeting	John Nicholls
Nominations	Joe Yanek
Membership	Kent Sullivan
Public Relations & Communications	Joe Ortaldo
Medical Interface	Dale Friar
Charter & Bylaws	Quitman White
Newsletter	Bob Stokes and Pat Stokes
Historical Files	Judy Maddox
Website	John Church
ORA	Quitman White
Recognition of Past Service	Sid Curry and Mike French
Retiree Work	Charlie Sessions and Nick Kuehn

Message from ORA

I appreciate the SRS Retirees Association once again inviting me to attend your annual meeting a few weeks ago. I hope that you will continue to send an invitation for me to attend and set up at one of your tables. As it is every year, I was able to hand out a few new ORA cards and did add some of your members to my "ORA News" distribution. However, I have found that the most beneficial aspect, for me at least, is the one-on-one contact getting to discuss any questions they may have for me. Of course, it is always great to see and catch up with folks I have dealt with in the past.

I have another reason for contacting you today. Now that we have the sale of the ORA Site behind us we are beginning to look toward pursuing new activities as well as getting back in touch with those who we feel a bit out of touch with. The one group that fits that more than any other is the retirees. What I would like to do is to start a dialogue where we can work together to come up with a method where we can communicate our information to the retirees as well as allow them to let us know what we can do for them.

One of our initial thoughts would be to have a brief article in your newsletter. It could be one for each issue, every other issue or just when you want one. It could be a topic of our choosing or one that your membership sends in to us - kind of a Q&A.

I would also like to hear what the retirees would like from the ORA. Whether they have any input on some new activities or events or anything else that may come to mind. I guess what we are primarily looking for is to get back in touch with the retirees and to keep a line of communication going.

I appreciate any thoughts you may have regarding this note and any other ideas you might have that would allow us to be more accessible to your membership.

Ben Burnau
ORA Executive Director
952-9866

Message from CNTA



Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) would like to invite you to join our organization and become a part of our initiative to make a difference in the nuclear world, ensuring that the Savannah River Site continues to play a key role in the economic vitality of our region and nation.

A significant portion of leadership and membership of CNTA comes from community and business leaders. But many of our members are retired or active nuclear experts or managers in nuclear companies. This allows CNTA to speak for a concerned citizenry, but with technical expertise. As an SRS retiree with a proud heritage, we welcome your participation and know you will be a valuable asset to the organization.

Check out our website at <http://www.c-n-t-a.com/> for additional information on CNTA mission, initiatives, membership opportunities, events and heritage.

Joining the organization is simple and there are several different levels of membership to choose from. You may join CNTA through the Website, <http://www.c-n-t-a.com/>, and by clicking on membership or simply call the CNTA office at 803-649-3456 or toll free at 1-800-299CNTA. Levels of membership include: Benefactor Membership (\$125); Patron Membership (\$70); Sustaining Membership (\$35). See the website for details on each of these membership levels.

SRSRA MEMBERSHIP

We signed up 40 members at the Annual Meeting; and since then, we have added 18 more. **We currently have 1003 members.** Thank all of you for your support. When we tell our Senators, Representatives, SRS management and DOE management that we are 1,000 strong, they take notice. Our greatest strengths are in our numbers and our commitment.

When you see fellow retirees, please remind them that we are working hard to maintain their, and our, benefits. They can get an SRSRA membership application from our website, from the Newsletter or by mail request at P.O. Box 5686, Aiken, SC 29804.

NEWSLETTER MAILING

We still experience incorrect e-mail addresses and bounced communications to our membership. A number of e-mails have been 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 e-mail address, or have changed your address recently and are not receiving SRSRA communications by e-mail, please contact membership@srsretirees.org. Our e-mail program allows us to reach over 600 members more quickly with news. Other pluses are quicker distribution of the Newsletter and less cost of copying and mailing hard copies. Thanks to all of you who are receiving your Newsletter by e-mail.

SRSRA WEB SITE - WHEN IN DOUBT, LOOK TO THE SRSRA WEB SITE!!

Links continue to be added to make it easier to find medical and other useful information. If any member has found useful web sites that they believe would benefit all members, please submit them to the webmaster (e-mail address is listed on the Committee web page). Just send an e-mail to: webmaster@srsretirees.org.

An SRSRA Membership Form is also available on the web site.

BOARD MEETING DATES, TIME AND LOCATION

The SRSRA Board of Directors meets at **10:00 A.M. in the Conference Room at Eden Gardens off Silver Bluff Road near Woodside Executive Park.** Association members 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 BOD member to confirm that the meeting date and time has not changed. **BOD meeting dates are listed on the website but are generally on the first Tuesday each month unless impacted by a holiday or special event.**

BC/BS SERVICE CONCERNS

We have many 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). If you have records of BC/BS service problems to share with SRSRA members, please **send a letter outlining your case to both:**

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

**Kaye Bozeman, Major Service Representative
I-20 at Alpine Road AV-100
Columbia, SC 29219**

or e-mail your information to: KAYE.BOZEMAN@cbssc.com, or Fax: 1-803-264-9353. You can also call Tawonda Knapper, your BC/BS service representative, toll-free at 800-325-6596. As a last resort, you can call Kaye Bozeman at 800-288-2227, extension 44452 or 803-264-4452.

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 (e-mail contact for this new service)

- | | | |
|---|----------------|--|
| ◇ Life, Health, Dental | | ◇ Westinghouse Corp. SIP 800-581-3366 |
| Becky Proveaux | PS Svc. Ctr. # | http://westinghouse.csplans.com |
| Rosalee Bennett | PS Svc. Ctr. # | ◇ Safety Eyeglass Office |
| Wanda McGee | 803-725-0531 | Tom Cuny 803-208-8515 |
| Cindy McClintock | 803-725-7004 | ◇ Blue Cross/Blue Shield of SC 800-325-6596 |
| ◇ Pension | | www.southcarolinablues.com |
| Pat Smith | 803-725-7722 | Option 1 for Medical |
| Viola Best | 803-725-1900 | Option 2 for Dental |
| ◇ Internal Medicine Partners 706-792-5075 | | Option 3 for Pre-Cert/Med Authorization |
| (Annual Physical Examinations) | | ◇ Medicare Helpline 800-633-4227 |
| ◇ WSRC/BSRI Savings Plan 800-360-2747 | | ◇ Medicare Web Site |
| http://resources.hewitt.com/wsrc | | www.medicare.gov |
| ◇ Westinghouse Corp. Pension 800-581-4222 | | ◇ Value Options (mental health & substance abuse assistance) 800-333-6557 |

Savannah River Site Retiree Association 2008-2009 Membership Application

Annual Dues:

Year 2008

- _____ \$15 for Retiree
- _____ \$0 for Retiree's Spouse (also retired from SRS)
- _____ \$5 for Retiree's Surviving Spouse

Year 2009

- _____ \$15 for Retiree
- _____ \$0 for Retiree's Spouse (also retired from SRS)
- _____ \$5 for Retiree's Surviving Spouse

SRS RETIREE NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ TELEPHONE _____

RETIRED FROM: WSRC _____ BSRI _____ BWXT-SRC _____ BNFL-SRC _____ OTHER _____

DATE OF RETIREMENT _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

SRS RETIRED OR SURVIVING SPOUSE NAME _____

RETIRED FROM: WSRC _____ BSRI _____ BWXT-SRC _____ BNFL-SRC _____ OTHER _____

DATE OF RETIREMENT _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Return to: **SRS Retiree Association**
P. O. Box 5686
Aiken, SC 29804
Attn: Kent Sullivan