

# **SRSRA NEWSLETTER**

For SRS Retiree Association Members

David Zigelman, Editor

Volume 41 May 2009

## **“Another Successful SRSRA Annual Meeting”**

*(see below for details)*

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### **MINUTES of SRSRA 2009 ANNUAL MEETING**

St. Angela Hall, Aiken, SC  
April 14, 2009

Charlie Miller opened the proceedings at 1:30 P.M. and welcomed all the members and guests to the annual meeting. He introduced Nick Kuehn, SRSRA Chairman, who had some opening remarks for the gathering.

Mr. Kuehn echoed Mr. Miller’s words of welcome to the members and guests and especially thanked the invited guests for all their support of the retirees and the Association. Whereas Mr. Kuehn had started his remarks at the past two Annual Meetings by stating that the members of the association were anxious and concerned about the awarding and implementation of the new M&O Contract, the transition to Savannah River Nuclear Solutions went smoothly; thus, we are no longer anxious about the transition. However, the membership is still concerned about the effect the provisions of the new contract will have on our post-retirement benefits.

In the presence of our invited guests, Mr. Kuehn continued: “I would like to briefly share our views on this matter and highlight our concerns. We, the retirees, believe that our post-retirement benefits—medical and dental insurance; prescription drug coverage; and life insurance—were earned during our working years. These were part of our total compensation package. We all believe that these benefits were guaranteed. This compensation package was developed by the site contractor and approved by the Department of Energy to attract and retain workers needed to provide materials for our country’s security. These benefits affected our decision to come to work at SRS and to remain here. We also believe these post-retirement benefits should have been fixed on the day we retired. We all made a life-changing decision when we decided to retire and should have had assurances that our benefits, which were a key element in our retirement planning, would be maintained. Unfortunately, our views are not shared by the Department of Energy. We have received verbal assurances from DOE that they recognize the importance of our past service, and that DOE has a legacy obligation to retirees. However, there are no formal written guarantees.”

DOE does not have a specific policy on retiree benefits. “In fact, under the new SRS M&O Contract, DOE lumps retirees with incumbent workers, those that were carried over from the previous contractor, and requires that benefits for retirees and incumbent employees be based on future comparisons with peer companies. We were told by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions that, in a recent comparison, SRS’s retiree medical benefits were valued at 300% of those of the comparison companies because many of these companies are dropping retiree medical benefits. The comparison was part of the basis for an increase in retiree medical premiums by 25% in 2009. We are concerned that these comparisons will only get worse in the future and our benefits will continue to be reduced. We can understand DOE’s position in regard to present workers. Their benefits should reflect the present workplace and be designed as they were designed while we were working to attract and retain the workers needed to carry out DOE’s mission. We also recognize that many companies are cutting benefits for their present retirees to improve their bottom line. A large part of DOE’s budget at the site is going to clean up radioactive and other waste from the production of weapons materials. This is a legacy obligation and cost. We think that providing post-retirement benefits to the workers who made the weapons materials should be viewed in the same way.”

Mr. Kuehn then turned to another item the Association is working on—pension adjustment. He noted that periodic pension adjustments have been made by site contractors to partially offset the effects of inflation. The last such adjustment was made in 2002. Since that time retirees have lost over 25% of the purchasing power of their pension. The Association believes it is time to rectify that situation. “We have started the process by asking Savannah River Nuclear Solutions to request funding from the Department of Energy for a study to determine the cost of an adjustment. We anticipate that this adjustment will require supplemental funding for the Department of Energy.”

Mr. Kuehn ended his opening remarks by telling the invited guests that they will continue to hear these and similar arguments as the Association strives to maintain the pensions and benefits of its members. He stated that we look forward to their support and help in the coming years and, again, we appreciated their attendance and attention today.

Congressman Joe Wilson (R-SC) was the next speaker on the agenda. Congressman Wilson serves on the House Armed Services Committee as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. The Congressman said he was happy to be at the annual meeting, a gathering he looks forward to every year. Congressman Wilson thanked the retirees for what they have done for our country and noted “we have a team of people who are serving you, who look forward to working together in any way we can for your interests, for the retiree interests, for this community.” The team consists of not two U. S. Senators, but four: Lindsey Graham, who has worked so hard and tirelessly for the Savannah River Site as a member of the House and now Senate; and Senator Jim DeMint who is a strong supporter of the Savannah River Site and the retiree community. Senator Johnny Isakson and Senator Saxby Chambliss from Georgia are also strong supporters of the Site and its retirees. Congressman Wilson noted that SRS retirees are the people who provided the nuclear capability during the Cold War that resulted in the victory of that war. He closed by stating that “your team is available and ready to work with you.”

Congressman Dr. Paul Broun (R-GA) was the next invited guest to speak at the meeting. Congressman Broun currently serves on three U. S. House Committees—Science & Technology, Homeland Security, and Natural Resources. Dr. Broun began with the comment, “being a physician, I understand how important health care benefits are to you. Being a member of Congress and also being a strict, original-intent Constitutionist, I

believe the Federal Government should fulfill the promises it made to you when you went to work at SRS.” (After considerable applause), Dr. Broun continued that the Federal Government may or may not do that, but he promised the retirees that he and Congressman Wilson as well as Congressman Barrett would be in there in the fight for what is right and good. He stated that he holds protection of SRS retiree benefits on a par with retaining VA benefits.

Dr. Broun thanked the retirees: “You won the war against Soviet Russia. You should not only be congratulated but should be compensated for that in your retirement.” And, “I’ll do everything I can to make sure that your retirement is secure.” He closed by saying that “you should have a cost-of-living increase and you should never worry about your medical and dental benefits.”

Representatives for Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC), Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA), Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and Congressman Gresham Barrett (R-SC) provided the Association with letters of support.

Mr. Jeff Allison, DOE Savannah River Operations Office Manager, took the podium next. He began by saying that he interacts regularly with our Board of Directors and assuring us they can always have access to him. Mr. Allison is pleased with the \$1.65 billion the Site received on March 31 as part of President Obama’s American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. He said that over the years, real inroads have been made in cleaning up the Site and these added funds will go toward furthering that clean-up process. He expects that an additional 3,000 people will be put to work as result of these monies. He said that primary focus will be on decontaminating and decommissioning two of the reactor areas (P and R Reactor Areas). Also, about 79,000 acres of the Site will be cleaned up (this is about 40% of the Site’s acreage). This will make land available for future new missions (energy parks, hydrogen, nuclear reactors). Mr. Allison expects there will be about 30 months of clean-up and then, hopefully, some immediate payback (a sustained employment level and a stabilized economy).

He said he has been working very closely with Chuck Munns to assure the additional 3,000 people will be well integrated into the Site’s safety culture. In closing Mr. Allison said he believes the work that will be done in this “recovery process” is very doable because it is all work that we have done before. “We understand how to do it safely and well.” Information on the cleanup can be found at [www.srs.gov/recovery](http://www.srs.gov/recovery).

He closed by thanking the retirees for their support for the Site and the work of the Site. He said the SRSRA Board does a very good job of making sure the Department knows the issues that we as members have and this allows Mr. Allison to work with his Headquarters organization to try to deal with our concerns.

Steve Piccolo President, Washington Savannah River Company, addressed the retirees next. Mr. Piccolo provides executive leadership for the current liquid waste contract at SRS. He began by thanking the Retiree Association for being a focal point for “many of the individual voices that are out there and for keeping the team spirit that you hear from the Congressional side.” Mr. Piccolo cataloged some of the achievements of the retirees: reactor restart, enhanced mission support for the canyons, blending uranium to a nuclear fuel source, the start of a new waste transfer system, the first two high-level waste tanks in the complex closed, the start of DWPF, the start of Salt Stone, and an integrated environmental cleanup mission. “It’s been a great 20-year run for WSRC.” But now, the Liquid Waste Contractor is going to change. Savannah River Remediation will be that new contractor, and Jim French is its leader. The new contract begins July 1, 2009. That team will rely on the expertise of folks like the retirees to give advice, keep paying attention, and staying engaged. Steve said

that Jim French is looking forward to working with the retirees. Because of a previous engagement, he could not attend the meeting.

Mr. Piccolo closed his remarks by saying “thank you; it’s been a great run.”

Charles Munns, President & CEO of SRNS, was the meeting’s keynote speaker. He began by acknowledging that the culture and traditions which he inherited are those the retirees started and left. He said “it is still your Site.” SRNS is composed of about 6,000 people; the vast majority being people previously employed by WSRC. In addition, there are also 2 pre-identified subcontractors: Lockheed Martin and Nuclear Fuel Services. The SRNS contract began on August 1, 2008. He said he has met often with the SRSRA Board and “they do keep us working on your issues.”

The No. 1 Priority for the Site is liquid waste—“cleaning out those tanks, getting that vestige of the Cold War in a stable form.” This is the responsibility of the Liquid Waste Contractor. SRNS handles the nuclear materials in H Canyon and K Area and L Area. They operate Tritium, The Savannah River National Laboratory, and projects going forward as an enduring Site. He made the point that the Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides monies in addition to the baseline budget provided by Congress each year. And, the site will continue to do what it has always done with continued strong Congressional appropriations. Regarding the ARR (the Recovery and Reinvestment) money, SRNS now has “the opportunity to take future work in the environmental cleanup area and pull it forward.” He was proud to note that the Site is still at the top of the “safety list” as far as the Department of Energy complex is concerned. With the Recovery Act monies, SRNS will accelerate environmental cleanup and facility decommissioning. This will open up areas for new projects—federal and commercial—aimed at energy independence, energy sustainability, and nuclear energy. It will take 2-1/2 years to accomplish this and will cost \$1.6 billion. It will put to work several thousand people—mostly construction and contract personnel. However, SRNS is looking for the retirees support. Mr. Munns said they must maintain the safety culture of the site. If retirees are interested in being a mentor/leader, check out the web site [www.srs.gov/recovery](http://www.srs.gov/recovery).

Mr. Munns concluded by saying he appreciated the invitation to join the retirees at their meeting and he values the relationship SRNS has had with the Board of Directors. “They’re doing great work for you.”

Mr. Munns asked if the group had any questions. He responded to an inquiry as to where to go for information on the ARR by iterating the web site address: [www.srs.gov/recovery](http://www.srs.gov/recovery). Mr. Munns said to just call SRNS if one encounters trouble finding the information. He said he has appointed Rich Slocum as Vice President, RAP (Recovery Act Portfolio). Mr. Slocum will be on this undertaking full time.

The slides Mr. Munns used during his presentation will be added to the SRSRA website [www.srsretirees.org](http://www.srsretirees.org).

After a 15-minute break, the attendees again assembled to hear Nick Kuehn’s presentation on the State of the Association.

Mr. Kuehn began by saying “we’ve had a busy year at the Site. We had two contractor changes—one that has been implemented and one coming up. And, we’ve had a busy year as a Board trying to maintain all of your benefits. As you’ve heard, at least people have heard us—the results aren’t quite what we’d like yet, but we’re still working.”

He went on to say our Bylaws contain three objectives for the Association:

1. Represent the interests of the retirees (i.e., pension and benefits)
2. Identify and communicate – be a focal point for publicizing the concerns of the retirees
3. Promote the site

Mr. Kuehn continued, “when we were working, we had wages (salaries) and benefits. We were also told we were going to get a pension when we retired and we were going to have post-retirement benefits. The amount of all those benefits was set by looking at the outside world—what did it take to get us to come to work here.” All those items were part of our compensation package. The Retiree Association thinks that when we retired the pension should have been fixed at retirement, benefits should have been fixed, and we as retirees should be a separate group. DOE has a little different picture. They have grouped retirees and employees as a single group and have made both of us subject to benefit value studies or comparisons with other companies. The Association believes we must get DOE to agree that our pensions and benefits were fixed when we retired and get that “word” to the contractor because that is not what is in the contract right now.

Mr. Kuehn pointed out that SRNS recently sent the SRSRA Board a copy of their new Human Capital Management Plan, and the Board sent comments back including our concerns that when “benefits” are referred to, SRNS is usually wondering how they can save money. The SRSRA Board was also given the word a few days before the public announcement that there was going to be a 25% increase in our contributions to medical benefits. The Association considers this “heads up” positive in the sense that they recognized that SRSRA does represent many retirees. Although we were not able to change this cost increase, SRNS did send several people to one of the SRSRA Board meetings to explain what had happened. The key was that they were doing a comparison to other companies and found that other companies charged a higher percentage of the total medical cost to the retirees and the workers. And, there is no guarantee that this increase will be the last. In fact, the Board was told that retiree medical benefits at Savannah River Site were 300% of the average of the peer companies because a number of the peer companies had zero benefits.

Since there was a change in administration last year at the federal level, the Association felt it was important to express our concerns to the new Secretary of Energy. We sent a letter to Dr. Chu congratulating him on his appointment and requesting that he honor what we believe is a DOE legacy obligation to maintain retiree benefits earned while we were working. The Association also takes advantage of dealing with our Congressional delegation, and today Mr. Kuehn and the SRSRA Board of Directors had an opportunity to chat with both Congressman Broun and Congressman Wilson prior to the meeting and tell them of our concerns face to face.

As you know, we have a defined benefit pension plan. That means we have pensions set up based on years of service and salaries (or wages) when we retired. Past contractors—both DuPont and Westinghouse Savannah River Company—have had pension adjustments to try to partially offset the effects of inflation. The last pension increase was in 2002. The SRSRA had set up a committee chaired by Delano Knight, to develop a plan as to why the site contractor, SRNS, should petition DOE for funding to have a pension adjustment again. That process was completed at the end of the summer. We submitted a request to SRNS in December 2008. Unfortunately, we picked a bad time to do that—the economy had deteriorated—and our pension fund was hit by all the turmoil in the financial markets. The DOE has had to add substantial amounts of money just to keep

our pension fund whole. Even with our 2002 pension adjustment, a typical retiree's pension had lost over 25% of its purchasing power. We are asking that in 2010 all pensions be increased to account for inflation. We may not get that full amount considering in 2002 we got less than 50% of the adjustment required to keep pace with inflation.

The process for obtaining a pension adjustment is a long one. We have taken the first step by presenting our adjustment proposal to SRNS. They must obtain DOE's approval to study the cost of such an increase. The next step would be a DOE budget request to Congress for the funds. If Congressional funding is approved, DOE then authorizes SRNS to make the adjustment. The Board did jump a bit ahead in the game by talking to Congressman Barrett last fall and requesting his support on this. His answer was that he would give us conditional support (he needed to know how much it would cost). So, we are at the beginning of the process. It will take a while to get to the final step where DOE authorizes SRNS to increase our pensions.

When employees retire from the Site, the Association has a letter that is included with their retirement paperwork package asking them to join the SRSRA. (A large membership impresses Congressional people because it represents a large number of votes.) Last year, we reached our largest membership number to date—1,038 members. It looks like we will exceed that in 2009. Nick acknowledged the hard work of past Membership Chairman, Ed Somers, and current Membership Chairman, Kent Sullivan.

Nick next pointed to the Newsletter as the Association's primary means of communication and thanked Bob and Pat Stokes for their work as its editors the past few years and acknowledged the fine job David Zigelman has been doing as their replacement. Suggested improvements for the Newsletter can be directed to David. Nick also asked members who have e-mail addresses to be sure Mr. Zigelman has them because e-mail simplifies Newsletter mailing and reduces the cost for the Association.

In addition the Association has a web site: [www.srsretirees.org](http://www.srsretirees.org). The site has much useful information and members are encouraged to look at it.

John Nichols was the Chairman for the 2009 Annual Meeting. Mr. Kuehn thanked him for the great job he did and reminded members that they could communicate their comments and suggestions to the Board by completing the survey on the back of the printed meeting agenda they received. Mr. Kuehn reminded members who are interested in going back to work either full or part time to check the web site [www.srs.gov/recovery](http://www.srs.gov/recovery) mentioned earlier by both Mr. Allison and Mr. Munns.

The Association does support the Site. Probably the number one way we do that is with contributions to the United Way. We started this contribution several years ago; and it has been so successful within our organization that the Site has expanded the program to all retirees. Last year a record number of contributions were received—over \$41,700. On behalf of the recipients, Mr. Kuehn thanked all members who contributed. SRSRA is recognized by the Department of Energy and the site contractors as an advocate for site programs. At a meeting last summer, Mr. Munns asked the Association to voice our support for funding for the Pit Disassembly and Conversion Facility and funding for continued operation of H Canyon. In one of our meetings with Congressman Barrett, we passed that information on. The Congressman's recommendation was that we send a letter to DOE Headquarters indicating we support the funding for both of these projects. We did do that, and we received a reply from DOE recognizing that we were supporting these two projects. In addition, SRNS

asked us to attend a Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement meeting. Several Board members attended that session; and Mike French and Nick read letters of support.

Mr. Kuehn reminded the retirees that they are all ambassadors for the site. Our support is key to obtaining new work and missions at the Site. Upcoming plans for the SRSRA include:

- A tentative meeting is planned with our champion Lindsey Graham. We expect to ask him to speak to Energy Secretary Chu and have him confirm that benefits for SRS retirees are frozen at the point of retirement. (This is a stipulation that exists for others in the DOE Complex—but we do not have it at Savannah River Site.)
- We expect to travel to Washington later this spring to visit with our Congressional delegation and make our case for support from them. (We were well received during previous trips to Washington and were told that Members of Congress appreciate our visits because it gives them a point of contact regarding retiree issues.)
- We will be working with SRNS on their Capital Management Plan. In particular, we will be focusing on benefits. We are concerned because of the benefit value studies that are mandated in the contract.
- We will continue to work for a pension adjustment.

Mr. Kuehn announced that he will be stepping down as Chairman of the Association at the conclusion of this meeting and told the membership Dave Cowfer will be taking over as Chairman. Mr. Cowfer has served as Association Chairman in the past and will serve the organization well again. Mr. Kuehn promised to remain active in his new role as Past Chairman.

Stan Smith was next on the agenda. He provided the following Treasurer's Report:

**Treasurer's Report**  
**March 1, 2008 to February 29, 2009**

Beginning Balance		\$38,837.00
Income		\$16,616.00*
Expenses		\$8,072.00
Printing	\$2,311.00	
Annual Meeting	2,269.00	
Insurance	750.00	
Postage	717.00	
Web Site	840.00	
Supplies	518.00	
Miscellaneous	433.00	
Travel	234.00	
Closing Balance		\$47,381.00**

\*Approximately \$15,000.00 is dues and \$1,616.00 is interest from CD's  
\*\*\$30,000.00 is in CD's and the remainder is in Checking

The election for 15 members to the Board of Directors followed. (The Board is comprised of 30 members, and 15 are elected each year.) Since there were no additional nominations from the floor, these people were accepted by acclamation:

Art Blanchard*	Ram Vichare*
Fred Cavanaugh*	Quitman White*
Ken Cooper*	Joe Yanek*
Nick Kuehn*	Fred Cadek (new)
Judy Maddox*	Maryalyce Gover (new)
John Nicholls*	Don Green (new)
Rhonda Priester*	Ellen Miller (new)
Kent Sullivan*	

\*Incumbent

Charlie Miller took the podium again to preside over the door prize drawing. This year a random number generator took the names of all the members as they registered at the meeting, and it was used to select the prize winners.

Following is a list of the lucky folks:

Minnie B. Maddox - \$50	George Moesta - \$100
Ed Kemper - \$50	Ron McFarland - \$100
Patrick Pride - \$50	Rebecca Green - \$100
Jann A. Smith - \$50	Loy Charles Heavner - \$100
Thomas M. Thompson - \$100	Delano Knight - \$300

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:45 PM.

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## **DAVE COWFER SUCCEEDS NICK KUEHN AS SRSRA CHAIRMAN**

As discussed in the above meeting minutes, Dave Cowfer has succeeded Nick Kuehn as Chairman of the SRSRA. On behalf of the entire SRSRA membership, the SRSRA Board of Directors offers its sincere thanks to Nick for leading the organization for the past three years and wishes Dave the best of luck.

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## **SRSRA MEETING WITH SENATOR LINDSEY GRAHAM**

The SRSRA Chairman and five (5) other SRSRA representatives met with Senator Lindsey Graham on May 15th at his Columbia, South Carolina office. We discussed SRSRA issues for maintaining our medical benefits and our request for a pension adjustment. The Senator understands the intricacies of those issues and he committed to speak with site contractor SRNS and the DOE on our behalf. Although he was not certain of the meeting location, Senator Graham may suggest that SRSRA also participate in these meetings.

Senator Graham suggested that we continue to involve the other members of the South Carolina and Georgia Delegation in these issues. The Senator was interested in our meetings with the DOE SR Site Manager, Mr. Jeff Allison, and Mr. Munns, CEO of SRNS. The Senator agreed that his staff interface person for SRS should participate in the pending video conference between SRSRA and DOE-HQ on medical and pension benefits.

The SRS Retiree Association very much appreciates the opportunity to have met face-to-face with Senator Graham. The meeting was a success and we look forward to the Senator's support and guidance. SRSRA will send a follow up letter to Senator Graham thanking him for the meeting and summarizing our concerns on pension/medical benefits.

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## **WHERE WERE YOU?**

Attendance at the annual meeting was only about half of what was expected. If you could take a moment and send an email to [bod@srsretirees.org](mailto:bod@srsretirees.org) describing why you did not attend, you would be providing a great service to the organization in that it would allow us to better plan for next year.

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## **ECONOMIC STIMULUS LAW IMPACT ON PENSION CHECKS WITHHOLDING**

Retirees may have noticed a change in their Pension Checks due to the new federal income tax withholding tables related to the economic stimulus law, "Making Work Pay Tax Credit". Please refer to information at the SRSRA website, [www.srsretirees.org](http://www.srsretirees.org), for assistance in determining what effect this may have on your tax liability.

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## **MEMBERSHIP**

Your membership in the SRS Retiree Association is critical to our success in protecting your benefits. Please renew now for 2009, or join for the first time, using the form attached below. The cost is only \$15.00 annually for a retiree (and no additional charge for a retired spouse), and \$5.00 for a surviving spouse. Encourage your

retired SRS friends to join as well. In 2008, our membership exceeded 1000 retirees and survivors, which provided strength when discussing your issues with elected officials and the Savannah River Site. For 2009 we want to strengthen the effectiveness of the SRSRA even more through your commitment as a member. Please join now to help us look out for your interests!

To join SRSRA, please send your membership payment, along with an application form to **SRS Retiree Association, PO Box 5686, Aiken, SC 29804**. You can use the application provided at the end of this newsletter or access the form from our website at [www.srsretirees.org](http://www.srsretirees.org) and click on “Membership”. You can also contact Kent Sullivan, Membership Chairman, at 803-279-9570 for assistance or questions.

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## **NEWSLETTER MAILING**

**Questions and comments related to the Newsletter may be addressed to David Zigelman, Newsletter Editor, at [zigelman@gforcecable.com](mailto:zigelman@gforcecable.com).**

A number of emails 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 email address, or have changed your address recently and are not receiving SRSRA communications by email, please contact [membership@srsretirees.org](mailto:membership@srsretirees.org). Our email program allows us to reach over 700 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.

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## **SRSRA WEB SITE**

The SRSRA web site now includes information on pension check withholding changes resulting from the Economic Stimulus Law and new contact information at Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Any suggestions on changes/additions to the web site should be sent via e-mail to: [webmaster@srsretirees.org](mailto:webmaster@srsretirees.org). **An SRSRA Membership Form is also available on the web site.**

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## **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.**

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

Our last Newsletter reported on financial activity through October 2008. Due to a data entry error, the closing balance at the end of October should have been \$36,395.64 (\$106.06 higher than reported). This report covers the period November 1, 2008 through January 31, 2009.

Opening Balance (11/1/2008)	\$36,395.64
Income	7,190.00
Expenses	<u>1,356.39</u>
Closing Balance (1/31/2009)	\$46,814.25

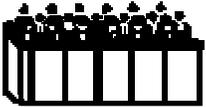
All income is the result of dues paid for 2009 and beyond. Among the major expenses for this report period are Post Office box rental, postage and postage deposit, printing associated with the previous Newsletter and website fees. The closing balance shown above includes \$30,000 in CDs and the Association's checking account.

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**SRSRA MEDICAL INTERFACE COMMITTEE**

**SENIOR FRAUD** (from Lt. Gov. Bauer's Web Site)

**Jury Duty Scam**



This has been verified by the FBI. Please pass this on to everyone in your email address book. It is spreading fast so be prepared should you get this call. Most of us take those summonses for jury duty seriously, but enough people skip out on their civic duty, that a new and ominous kind of fraud has surfaced.

The caller claims to be a jury coordinator. If you protest that you never received a summons for jury duty, the scammer asks you for your Social Security number and date of birth so he or she can verify the information and cancel the arrest warrant. Give out any of this information and bingo; your identity was just stolen

The fraud has been reported so far in 11 states, including Oklahoma, Illinois, and Colorado. This (swindle) is particularly insidious because they use intimidation over the phone to try to bully people into giving information by pretending they are with the court system. The FBI and the federal court system have issued nationwide alerts on their web sites, warning consumers about the fraud.

## **Cell Phone Kiosk Scam**

Cell Phone kiosks in malls offer a variety of products and services for many of the national cell phone services. However, not all of these kiosks are actually company owned. Many of them are “authorized resellers” of national product lines. This means that while they can use the trademark names, advertising, and offer the services and products of a nationally known company, they are not a company store.

While company stores often offer discounts and special incentives, resellers do not have to extend the same pricing to their customers. For example, a reseller may offer a phone for several hundred dollars and suggest that this is a great price, with rebates that the customer must file and then wait for payment. The national chain store may offer the same service contract pricing and sell the same phone for several hundred dollars less.

Often, kiosks are operated by high pressure salesmen who make their offers sound very attractive and pressure the consumer to make a decision “now.” They depend on people buying on impulse. Once the customer signs the contract and learns that they have paid more than the company rate, they cannot terminate the contract without paying a high non-refundable penalty.

If you are considering purchasing a product like a cell phone that requires a contract, do your research first. Visit a national dealership/permanent location to view products and you may also want to check on-line to see what products and services are offered and what the prices are. Before you sign on the dotted line, be sure to read the contract thoroughly and look for penalties. Don’t let anyone push you into making a decision before you have done your homework.

## **Medicare Signup On Line**

In an effort to go green and save tax payer dollars, starting this fall all Medicare beneficiaries that sign up on <http://www.mymedicare.gov/> by May 31, 2009 will get their Medicare and You books electronically. Those that miss the cutoff date can still sign up but will get their books electronically starting fall of 2010.

Below are links to the promotional flyers in 8x10 and 11x17. Medicare has developed different versions to reach specific audiences. To view: Simply copy and paste in your the links below and wait for the file to download.

We encourage you to print, display, and promote this new improved option for those who are interested.

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/downloads/AAeHB8x11.pdf>

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/downloads/AAeHB11x17.pdf>

## **New SRS BC/BS Representative**

Gari Howard is the new SRS Health Plans Priority Counselor. Gari has been with BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina for 4 years and in the Customer Service area for 3.5 years. Gari has worked very closely with Tawonda Knapper over the past couple of years as back up Priority Counselor if Tawonda was out

for vacation or an extended period of time. This new role for Gari was effective Monday, 4/13/09, and she attended this year's Annual SRS Retiree Meeting on April 14, 2009.

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## **STIMULUS JOBS at SRS**

The SRSRA website, [www.srsretirees.org](http://www.srsretirees.org), has information provided by SRNS for applying for positions at SRS under the American Reconstruction & Recovery Act. Information includes: (1) a list of staff augmentation providers and a contact at each provider, (2) the procedure to apply for permanent positions with SRNS and SRNL and (3) a listing of current job positions. If you do not have access to a computer with an internet connection, you can get the information on the SRSRA website by sending a stamped self addressed envelope to:

SRS Retiree Association  
P.O. Box 5686  
Aiken, SC 29804  
Attn: Stimulus Jobs

Remember it is up to you to determine what if any effect your return to work will have on your pension, retirement benefits or Social Security.

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## **SRS ACTIVITIES (INCLUDES DOE, SRNS AND WSRC)**

### **New Liquid Waste Contractor Named at SRS**

On March 30, 2009, the US General Accountability Office rejected the losing bidder's protest and DOE authorized Savannah River Remediation LLC (SRR) to begin contract transition activities for SRS Liquid Waste Operations. SRR immediately began the 90-day transition period. The contract turnover from WSRC will be complete on July 1, 2009. The next SRSRA newsletter will contain a message from Jim French, President of SRR.

### **DOE Announces \$1.615 Billion in Recovery Act funding for Environmental Cleanup at SRS**

Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced on March 31, 2009 \$1.615 billion in new funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to accelerate environmental cleanup work at SRS. The projects at SRS will be used to create hundreds of new jobs to make more progress in critical cleanup activities to accelerate decommissioning of nuclear facilities and contaminated areas throughout the Site, including in-place decommissioning of two nuclear materials production reactors. Recovery Act work also includes shipping more than 4,500 cubic meters of waste out of South Carolina and will reduce the Site's industrial area by 40 percent, or 79,000 acres, by September 2011.

## **SRS Organizations Hit New Heights of Safety**

It's usually impressive for one organization to work five million hours without incurring an illness or injury serious enough to result in time away from work. But at the Savannah River Site, six different operational organizations within the 6,000 employee management and operating company have worked at least five million such hours. They are the Soil and Groundwater Project, F Area Operations, L Area Complex, K Area Complex, F/H Analytical Laboratories and SRNL.

## **WSRC Begins Robotic Cleaning of Outside of Underground Waste Tanks**

In March 2009, WSRC began using a remote-controlled device to clean waste tank annulus spaces, a first of its kind operation in the DOE Complex.

The waste tanks that have an annulus are built to have a-cup-and-saucer arrangement, with the annulus area serving as the saucer with five-foot-high concrete walls. Over time, some tanks had small leaks that occurred – none of which escaped into the environment. Releases to the environment are stopped after salt waste material forms a salt nodule on the wall. However, in some cases the waste material leaked into the annulus, where it was trapped. The annulus serves as a barrier to keep the waste from the environment.

Work was started first on Tank 6 and will be next used on Tank 5. The work on both tanks is scheduled to be completed in a few months. The device, called a wall-crawler is a commercial product that was modified by SRNL for use on the SRS liquid waste tanks.

## **SRS Nears Completion of Another Waste Tank Cleanup**

The cleaning of the Waste Tank 18 is nearing completion. The operation has been conducted using a new robotic device, known as a Sand Mantis, which began its work in January. The Sand Mantis is designed to remove the residual waste (known as a heel) from inside the radioactive liquid waste tank, after other cleaning steps have removed the bulk waste. Prior to cleaning efforts, the tank contained nearly 1.3 million gallons of waste. When this mechanical cleaning step began on Tank 18, more than 6,700 gallons of waste remained in the bottom of the waste tank. The Sand Mantis has removed the majority of that waste. The device is being used in two of the Site's tanks, Tanks 18 and 19, which are no longer in use. The device has just begun its work in Tank 19. Both tanks are scheduled to be operationally closed ahead of the Federal Facilities Agreement requirement of 2012.

Safely closing waste tanks involves an intricate set of steps that includes emptying the waste tanks of bulk waste, then removing as much of the remaining heel waste as practical through various technologies and techniques, and demonstrating that the closure is protective of human health and the environment. Once that step is complete, the tanks can be filled with grout, a cement-like material created especially for these waste tanks. This grouting process is designed to stabilize the tank and protect the environment.

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## **SRSEA DISCOUNT WITH VERIZON WIRELESS**

The SRSEA and Verizon Wireless have come to an agreement to offer all SRSEA participants a 15 percent discount off all monthly access fees on your primary line with service of \$34.99 or higher. New activations and qualified renewals are eligible for discounted pricing on new phones. Accessories will be available at 25 percent off the regular price and available to all SRSEA employees. You will need to show your SRSEA card in order to receive these discounts. To take advantage of these discounts Verizon Wireless has provided the following contacts at their local corporate stores.

Augusta Store  
Representative: CJ Banks (cell: 706-799-1326)  
3241 Washington Road, Suite C  
Augusta, GA 30907

Aiken Store:  
Representative: Cohran Seawright (803-640-7861)  
156 S. Aiken Lane  
Suite 200  
Aiken, SC. 29803

You may also contact Angie Breindl, Verizon Wireless, [angie.breindl@verizonwireless.com](mailto:angie.breindl@verizonwireless.com), 404-550-4600 on our Federal Team, Alpharetta, GA.

Other SRSEA discounts can be found at their website, [www.srs-ora.com](http://www.srs-ora.com)

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## **ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION 2009 MEMORY WALK**

The Alzheimer's Association Aiken Memory Walk 2009 will be held September 17, 2009 at the Odell Weeks Activity Center. As the nation's premier fundraiser for Alzheimer's disease, Memory Walk is held in more than 600 communities across the country. Money raised from the Memory Walk primarily remains local. One of the local organizers of this year's Memory Walk is Eden Gardens Assisted Living Center. Eden Gardens has been a long term supporter of your SRSRA by allowing us to hold our monthly Board of Director meetings at their facility at no cost. We therefore request our local SRSRA members consider participating in this year's Memory Walk. Information and signup materials can be found at <http://memorywalk09.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=304166>.

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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). 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@bcbsc.com](mailto:KAYE.BOZEMAN@bcbsc.com), or Fax: 1-803-264-9353. You can also call Gari Howard, your BC/BS service representative, toll-free at (800) 868-2500, ext. 45805. As a last resort, you can call Kaye Bozeman at 800-288-2227, extension 44452 or 803-264-4452.

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## **BENEFITS CONTACTS**

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

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

### ◇ **Life, Health, Dental**

Becky Proveaux 803-725-3759  
Rosalee Bennett 803-725-3757  
Wanda McGee 803-725-0531  
Cindy McClintock 803-725-7004

### ◇ **Pension**

Pat Smith 803-725-7722  
Katherine Hutto 803-725-4775

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

### ◇ **SRNS Savings Plan** 800-360-2747 <http://resources.hewitt.com/srns>

### ◇ **Westinghouse Corp. Pension** 800-581-222

### ◇ **Westinghouse Corp. SIP** 800-581-3366 <http://westinghouse.csplans.com>

### ◇ **Safety Eyeglass Office**

Tom Cuny 803-208-8515

### ◇ **Blue Cross/Blue Shield of SC** 800-325-596

[www.southcarolinablues.com](http://www.southcarolinablues.com)

Option 1 for Medical

Option 2 for Dental

Option 3 for Pre-Cert/Med Authorization

### ◇ **Medicare Helpline** 800-633-4227

### ◇ **Medicare Web Site**

[www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

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

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## **UNITED WAY OF AIKEN COUNTY RETIRED EXECUTIVES PROGRAM**

The United Way of Aiken County is looking for 1-2 SRS retirees to become Retired Executives for this year's fundraising campaign. The executive(s) assist employee campaign managers by planning and making fundraising presentations to selected organizations in Aiken County. The goal is to help the United Way meet or exceed its campaign goal. If you are interested, further information can be obtained from Ms. Ellen Luton at 803-641-3009 or [ellenluton@yahoo.com](mailto:ellenluton@yahoo.com).

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**Savannah River Site Retiree Association 2009-2010 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:**

**Year 2009**

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

**Year 2010**

\$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 \_\_\_\_\_ BSRI \_\_\_\_\_ BWXT-SRC \_\_\_\_\_ BNFL-SRC \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE RETIRED FROM SRS:SRNS \_\_\_\_\_ WSRC \_\_\_\_\_ 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: Kent Sullivan, MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN**