

NEWSLETTER

For SRS Retiree Association Members

Bob Stokes, Editor

November, 2001

****REMEMBER ****
ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 12, 2002

REMINDER

DO NOT FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

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

(See details on page 9)

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Chairman's Letter

I want to take this opportunity to highlight your SRS Retiree Board of Director's agenda items for the past few months.

We had an excellent meeting with outgoing WSRC President Joe Buggy and Joe's replacement, Bob Pedde on July 17. Further information on the meeting is contained in this newsletter. I was impressed with Joe and Bob's interest in the Retiree Association. I urge you to respond the follow-up action item, identifying retirees interested in work opportunities at the site. The request was contained in a recent mailing to members.

Our SRSRA mission is two fold, 1) to maintain the pensions and benefits given to each individual retiree at the time of their retirement, and 2) to support current and future missions of the Savannah River Site. Our recent meeting with site management will help us to better accomplish those mission objectives.

Recent Board meetings have included retiree financial and estate planning presentations that have generated so much interest we have decided to make them part of the 2002 SRSRA Annual Meeting. New rules on IRA distributions make it economically advisable for all retirees to become familiar with them. Proper estate planning can enhance your estate's net worth significantly.

Our membership is over 700 strong. It is one of the largest retiree organizations in the USA. Our ongoing membership challenge is gaining knowledge of who and when an employee retires. You can help by advising new retirees to contact a Board member, or provide us a contact and we will follow up. The site cannot provide us information regarding retirees.

The last newsletter included a survey to determine SRSRA members' interests in social activities. Ray Perks will be planning events in response to those results. We continue to need your input to make this item, and our organization, a successful part of your retirement. Look for related information in this and future newsletters.

Benefits are discussed at all Board meetings. I am concerned about a recent change announced in the latest benefits renewal package. This change announces that Aiken area reasonable and customary (R&C) fees will no longer be paid; only the "Network" allowed fees will be paid. For non-network care, claims exceeding the "Network" allowable charges must be paid by the individual. We need to be aware of the "Network" status for our health providers. We also need to determine if all specialties are available in the "Network". The recent health benefit coverage will be discussed at future meetings. Dental coverage changes are also difficult to track under these new rules. The message here is be aware of the coverage and the non-network doctor's fees, especially dentist's fees, and understand that no "Network" exists to limit your costs.

A pension increase adjustment has been a high priority for some time. A SRSRA Board Task Group continues to spearhead this objective with our congressional leaders as well as with SRS site management. Federal Budget approvals (2002) are key to further discussions. We plan to ask you to write your Congressmen asking their support for pension increases after the 2002 budget is approved. Please respond promptly when requested.

Sincerely,

Dave Cowfer, Chairman
Savannah River Site Retirees Association

Fifth Annual Membership Meeting

Please make a note for your 2002 calendar to be sure you attend the fifth annual SRS Retirees Association membership meeting. The annual meeting of the SRSRA will be held at 1pm, March 12, 2002 in the Aiken Municipal Building Conference Center. Plans are underway to have an interesting and informative meeting. In addition to full updates on ongoing activities, free seminars specifically aimed at retirees, their finances and estate planning will be held. Last year's meeting was attended by over two hundred SRSRA members. We are expecting and even greater turnout for 2002 meeting based on the excellent response we received to the 2001 event. Both Bob Pedde and Lindsey Graham have been invited to be speakers for our March annual meeting. We expect to confirm shortly with Mr. Pedde, however we will have to wait on Lindsey Graham until sometime in January when the congressional calendar is firmed up.

Pension Adjustment Update

The SRSRA Pension Adjustment Committee is continuing to work with Congressman Lindsey Graham and now with Senator Strom Thurmond's office to bring increased attention to the pension increase initiative. The SRS budget problems are on the way to being resolved and we are awaiting the approval of the corresponding appropriation bills that will ensure SRS budgets are secure and whole. The recent terrorist activities have delayed congressional action on those appropriations but we anticipate their approval shortly. The Committee is planning strategies that will require your support to influence the acceptance of the pension adjustment we are seeking for the retirees. Please see the letter from Strom Thurmond included with this newsletter.

ORA News

As previously noted all SRS retirees are eligible to take advantage of all ORA activities offered by the ORA office. To order tickets or make other arrangements through the ORA please call the 700 area ORA store at 725-2073. A credit card can be used to obtain mail delivery for anything you might order,

The ORA is currently offering a deal on Family Portraits. Todd Lista, who is a well known professional photographer located at 203 Laurens St. in downtown Aiken, will be taking portraits of ORA members and their families from November 7 through November 11 at his studio, during selected hours. The sitting cost is \$10 for which you will receive one 8 x 10 photograph of your choice. There will be no pressure to purchase additional photographs, but they will be available at reasonable prices. To schedule an appointment, call the ORA store. You can also call Ben Burnau, the ORA

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

Financial Seminars at BOD Meetings in July, August and September

As announced in the last newsletter talks on different aspects of financial planning were given at the July, August and September Board of Directors meetings by representatives of three prominent financial institutions. The primary objective of the seminars was to enlighten members on financial planning and estate planning in their retirement. It is the opinion of the Board that it would be very beneficial for members to get updates on financial planning especially in light of the recent and extended downturn in each of our finances as the stock market has plunged. Talks from different sources have already been arranged and still others are being planned for the future. Please take advantage of these opportunities. You are under no obligation to any of these financial service organizations and it is your choice if you care to follow up with any of them on a personal basis.

Good financial planning takes more than a couple of seminars. The few presentations we have already attended should impress on everyone the importance of the subjects. There are many organizations that would like to help you but be sure to find out who wants to help you and why they want to help.

In July, **Chuck Smith from Edward Jones**, 803-279-6065, talked about recent changes in laws covering IRA's and 401k's Thrift Plans. Major changes have been made in how IRA's can be rolled over to succeeding generations and distribution of the accounts. It is important that everyone with 401k's and IRA's get updated on what is best for them under the new laws.

The August talk was by **Mike Herrington of the SRP Federal Credit Union-CUNNA**, 803-202-4385. He outlined the many components that go into making a good financial plan. Some of the areas he highlighted were estate conservation, asset allocation, financial management, retirement plan distribution, long-term care, mutual funds and annuities.

September's talk by **Tony Gallo from Merrell Lynch**, 706-823-4169, outlined some tools and techniques for reviewing and adjusting your financial plan from time to time. He talked about different degrees of risk and return and the desirability of a balanced plan.

If you do not want to wait until the next financial seminar, these gentlemen will be glad to talk to you individually. Their telephone numbers are shown above. The SRSRA does not recommend any person or firm. That is your personal choice.

SRS ACTIVITIES

WSRC Changes Top Management

On August 1, WSRC President Joe Buggy retired after a distinguished 34-year career with Westinghouse. Appointed as President, was Bob Pedde, who had been serving as Executive Vice President. Dave Amerine was appointed as the new Executive Vice President. We would like to wish them both every success in their new positions, and look forward to working with them in the future. In addition, we would like to send our best wishes to Joe Buggy for a long and enjoyable retirement.

Savannah River Technology Center (SRTC) personnel provide assistance in New York

Shortly after the September 11 terrorist attack, four SRTC employees were dispatched to the site with sophisticated, remotely operated equipment to assist with the search and rescue efforts in New York City. The assistance was provided by SRTC's Law Enforcement Technology Support Center at the request of the U.S. Department of Justice. From their base just yards away from the World Trade center location, SRTC personnel assisted FEMA and the NYFD by providing much needed on-the-spot fabrication of unique technologies for use in the search and rescue teams. The SRTC team took with them infrared cameras, special microphones, robotics equipment, crawlers, fiber optic cameras, borescopes, and other tools to search for victims and evidence. The video cameras and scopes could be used to allow personnel to see into confined spaces and into areas too small or too dangerous for humans to enter. They have adapted camera equipment to place on dogs that are sent into cavities, and also prepared cameras on cables that are lowered into holes beneath the rubble. We believe that everyone at SRS and in the CSRA should be very proud of the accomplishments of the SRTC team members.

Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) leads the world

The DWPF, which safely stabilizes high-level liquid waste in a durable glass form, finished the fiscal year – through September 30th. – with 227 canisters of waste poured. This achievement marks the fifth consecutive year the facility has met or exceeded its production goals. The WSRC high-level waste production goal for the past year was to produce 220 canisters of vitrified waste. The facility, the largest of its kind in the world, has now produced more than 4.5 million pounds of glassified waste since radioactive operations began in 1996. Many congratulations to Steve Piccolo – Vice President and General of the HLW Division – and the members of his organization on achieving this remarkable record.

Safety Milestones Achieved

On May 24th, WSRC set a new safety record by completing 225 days and over 13,559,593 hours without an employee losing time as a result of a workplace injury or illness. In addition, Construction Department employees continue to build on a new safety record by completing over 7.2 million safe hours and 1191 days without lost-time injury or illness. Both safety milestones represent the longest string of safe days and hours by the employees since WSRC assumed the SRS operating contract in 1989. Also, WSRC, the single largest employer in the DOE complex, received STAR recognition, the highest award for significant safety achievements in the Department's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). Another major safety achievement was that October 9th marked 4 years that the Environmental Restoration program has gone without a lost work day accident.

New Operating Division Formed.

Earlier this year, the Nuclear Materials Management Division was created from the consolidation of the Spent Fuel Storage Division and the Nuclear Materials Stabilization and Storage Division. The new division's activities span F-Canyon, FB Line, 235-F, H-Canyon, HB Line, K Area, L Area, and RBOF. It is responsible for managing materials ranging from plutonium, highly enriched uranium, heavy water, and spent nuclear fuel.

SRS Employee United Way Campaign.

SRS employees recently celebrated another site record by raising over \$2.2 million for United Way agencies. This is the highest level of employee giving in the history of the site's annual campaign. The grand total donated was \$2,272,405. **Contributions from SRSRA members who donated to the Site's campaign are included in this amount, so the SRSRA can share in this celebration.**

Survey on Other Activities of Interest to Members

The results of the survey, that was included in the last newsletter, have been received and evaluated. Not surprisingly, the financial planning topic was an area that has caught the attention of our members (see the earlier message in this newsletter on financial planning seminars). Ray Perks is organizing another financial planning event and you will be notified as soon as the schedule is known.

There was also considerable interest in historical site visits as a group activity. Ray Perks also has started planning with ORA to arrange events that will fill this need as well. Other areas of interest to members will be addressed as time permits and interest of members' warrant. Look for future announcements of these events as they are planned and scheduled.

Limited Service Employee Opportunities

A recent mailing to members requested those interested in Limited Service Employee (LSE) opportunities at the Savannah River Site to provide a resume and cover letter (two copies) to the SRSRA. That information will be included in a package being prepared for the SRS human resources office. The responses have been trickling in but you are still invited to submit that information if you are interested in limited site work to supplement your retirement income and that will not affect your pension payments. Submit those resumes and cover letters to the address at the top of this newsletter and note that it is for the attention of Ray Perks.

Benefits Contacts (note name and phone contact changes and additions in bold)

WSRC benefits contacts are as follows:

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| ◇ Life, Health, Dental | | ◇ Blue Cross/Blue Shield of SC |
| Kathy Hutto | (803) 725-9545 | 1-800-325-6596 |
| Becky Proveaux | (803) 725-0526 | Option 1 for Medical |
| Greg Murray | (803) 725-0531 | Option 2 for Dental |
| | | Option 3 for Pre-Cert/Med Authorization |
| ◇ Pension | | ◇ Value Options (mental health & substance |
| John Felkel | (803) 725-7722 | abuse assistance) 1-800-333-6557 |
| Viola Best | (803) 725-1900 | |
| ◇ Service Center | (800)-360-2747 | ◇ BAC (Westinghouse Corporate Pension) |
| | | 1-800-581-4222 |
| ◇ Internal Medicine Partners (706)-792-5075 | | |
| (Physical Examinations) | | |

Newsletter Mailing

With this newsletter, we will try to utilize electronic mailing of as many of the newsletters as possible. Sending the newsletter as an email attachment, rather than hard copies through the regular mail, will alleviate the time-consuming handling and stuffing of hard copies in envelopes, reduce copying and mailing costs, and speed the delivery of the newsletter to those active members with email access. If you did not receive this newsletter by email and would like to receive it that way, please send your email address to **rastokes@prodigy.net**

SRSRA Meeting with SRS Management

Meeting Agenda---July 17, 2001

1. Introductions - *All*
2. Retiree Association and Mission - *Dave Cowfer*
3. SRSRA support for SRS - *Mike French*
 - Participation in Public Meetings in Support of SRS
 - CAB and CNTA membership
 - Budget shortfall -- political support for increasing budget
 - United Way – SRSRA retiree donations credited to WSRC
 - Manpower resources – retiree engineers, management, technicians, and etc. available for supplemental staffing. SRSRA would like to increase utilization of these resources. The options are as consultant subcontractor or under the WSRC / SRSRA Agreement (WSA). Under the WSA, a retiree is able to work approximately 64hrs/month. SRSRA would like to pursue increase in allowable monthly hours under WSA. Retirees could also be valuable to SRS for escorts and walk down support as well as in technical specialties.
4. Pension Adjustment – *Fred Cavanaugh*
5. 401K & IRA– limits on 401K payout and new rules for Minimum Required Distributions – *Bob Stokes*

Minutes:

<u>WSRC</u>	<u>SRSRA</u>
Attendees: Joe Buggy, Bob Pedde	Dave Cowfer, Mike French, Bob Stokes, Fred Cavanaugh

SRSRA members talked about the support that the SRSRA gives the site. e.g. United Way; available site-trained Manpower Resources (retirees) on short notice; support with the local Congressional Representatives and Senators; budget support with letters to DOE Secretary Spencer Abraham; etc. We mentioned the services we provide such as liaison between the Site and the retirees. We act as a focal point for retiree concerns and questions and provide information as to where they can get help at the site.

Fred Cavanaugh presented the pension adjustment subject. Buggy believes the site should do something to adjust pensions for retirees and felt that it might happen after the budget issue is resolved. He mentioned Oak Ridge in the context that people quote the positives (Oak Ridge's pension increase) but not the negatives (medical benefit changes). He says the Oak Ridge management claims it was a wash. i.e. no cost increase to them due to the offset of pension increase against medical benefit changes. Bob Stokes reminded him that the SRSRA retirees had already taken a "hit" on medical benefits a few years ago and now the SRSRA was looking for the balancing side of the issue---- a pension increase to offset those added "costs".

Bob Pedde was particularly interested the Manpower Resources area and cited recent help the Site could potentially have been utilized from SRSRA members on the Am/Cm vitrification project. He suggested that we poll our members to determine the level of interest in this type of short-term work and let him know the results. As part of this discussion, Mike French agreed to check with John Greenquist to identify a WSRC HR contact for a WSRC/SRSRA Agreement on this type of work.

Joe Buggy asked that we ensure that WSRC management (Pedde) gets copies of our newsletters to keep him in touch with the retirees' activities. We agreed to do that and also agreed to follow up with Bob Pedde in the future to schedule follow-up meetings to have further discussions of SRSRA retiree issues.

STROM THURMOND
SOUTH CAROLINA

COMMITTEES
ARMED SERVICES
JUDICIARY
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
EMERITUS
UNITED STATES SENATE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4001

September 17, 2001

Mr. Tom Greene
SRS Retiree Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 5686
Aiken, S.C. 29804

Dear Mr. Greene:

Thank you for informing me on the status of efforts to obtain a pension adjustment for certain retirees of the Savannah River Site (SRS).

For the years of fine service that retired public contractors have provided at the facility they rightly deserve the same level of pension compensation that government retirees receive. Be assured that I will continue to strongly support efforts to rectify the disparity between the pension plans of public and private retirees of SRS.

Please continue to keep me apprised of further developments in this important effort, and I welcome any requests for assistance that you may have.

With kindest regards and best wishes,

Sincerely,



Strom Thurmond

ST/lc

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

MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS: CALL Ray Perks [803 642 8654]

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

REMINDER: IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2002! PLEASE COMPLETE THE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM BELOW AND RETURN WITH YOUR CHECK FOR YOUR 2002 MEMBERSHIP DUES.

Include a legible email address to ensure SRSRA records are correct and we can communicate with you by electronic means. Send email to rastokes@prodigy.net to correct, or add, your email address to our files.

PLEASE REMIND OTHER RETIREES, WHO MAY NOT BE AWARE OF THE SRSRA ORGANIZATION AND ITS OBJECTIVES, TO CONTACT RAY PERKS (TEL. 803-642-8654) TO GET ON THE MEMBERSHIP LIST.

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

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

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

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

Annual Dues:

- | <u>Year 2002</u> | <u>Year 2002 and 2003</u> |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 for Retiree | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 for Retiree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 for Surviving Spouse | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 for Surviving Spouse |

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE _____

RETIRED FROM WSRC _____ BSRI _____ DATE OF RETIREMENT _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS [IF AVAILABLE] _____