

# SRSRA NEWSLETTER

For SRS Retiree Association Members

Bob & Pat Stokes, Editors

Volume 35 November, 2007

## “SRSRA Annual Meeting --- March 25, 2008”

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### CHAIRMAN’S LETTER

The focus of the SRSRA continues to be on the new site Management & Operations contract. We now know that there are only two bidders: Washington Savannah River Company and Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a team consisting of Fluor Daniel, Northrop Grumman, Honeywell, and Lockheed Martin. The new contractor is expected to be selected by DOE in a few months. As specified in the Request for Proposal (RFP), we retirees will be grouped with the incumbent employees (present site employees who elect to continue working for the next contractor) for benefit value studies that will be used to set post-retirement benefits in the future. Benefits should be essentially the same when the new contract starts. The SRSRA has been working for over two years to have the new contract specify that the winning bidder be required to maintain the pensions and benefits we received at the time of our retirement. We are continuing the fight.

Members of the Board met with Congressman Gresham Barrett in August and made the case that, as written, the RFP does not protect our benefits. At that meeting we pointed out that the treatment of SRS retirees is different than that of LANL retirees. Under the terms of the recent contract at LANL, retirees as well as transfer employees (our incumbent employees) will not be subjected to future corrective action plans (i.e. benefit reductions) based on the results of benefit value studies. Congressman Barrett indicated that he thought reducing our retiree benefits was contrary to verbal commitments made to him and Senator Graham by DOE. He agreed to work with Senator Graham to maintain our benefits. Senator Graham and Congressman Barrett met with Secretary of Energy Bodman in October. At that meeting Secretary Bodman recommended that the SRSRA meet with senior DOE staffers during a planned trip to Washington, DC. The Secretary thought that DOE did not understand our position. The meeting took place on October 24 at DOE Headquarters. We think we presented our case very clearly. Unfortunately, DOE did not agree to change the provisions in the contract or

provide any guidance to the new contractor. We do think that the DOE staffers have a better understanding of our concerns. Members of Senator Graham's and Congressman Barrett's staffs attended that meeting with DOE, which I view as a plus. They heard DOE's positions directly instead of indirectly through our letters and meeting minutes. We still hope that Congressional pressure will convince DOE to change their position.

During the trip to DC, we had the opportunity to meet with Senators Lindsey Graham, Jim DeMint, Saxby Chambliss, Johnny Isakson, and Congressmen Gresham Barrett, Joe Wilson, James Clyburn, and Paul Broun (or in some cases, members of their staffs). It was a very busy two days. We presented our case for maintaining our pensions and post-retirement benefits and received expressions of support from all of them. We expect that, as in the past, Senator Graham will take the lead and the other senators and representatives will work with him in dealing with DOE.

In September, members of the Board were invited to meet with key officials of the Savannah River Nuclear Solutions proposed management team. SR Nuclear Solutions gave a short presentation in which they emphasized the expertise they would bring to the site. In addition to the EM cleanup mission, they emphasized the importance of the Savannah River National Lab and future nuclear power development in the southeast. We had the opportunity to have one-on-one conversations with them during a lunch they hosted. After lunch I gave a presentation in which I gave them background information on the SRSRA and presented our concerns with the terms of the new contract as specified in the RFP. I also told them that we have a committee working on making a case for a pension adjustment. As would be expected during a contract negotiation, they did not make any commitments to us. However, they did indicate that they hope to work with the SRSRA if they are the successful bidder.

**I want to thank and congratulate all of you who contributed to the United Way campaign. The total contributed by retirees was nearly \$41,000 (over \$14,000 from SRSRA members). You can be sure the people served by the United Way in the CSRA are very grateful.**

We are now starting the SRSRA 2008 membership drive. You should have received, or will receive shortly, a membership application. I strongly urge all of you to continue your membership and to encourage your retired friends who are not now members to join. The size of our organization is a factor in how much influence we have with our congressional delegation and the Department of Energy. We will continue to need that influence as we work to maintain our pensions and benefits.

Nick Kuehn, Chairman  
Savannah River Site Retiree Association

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## **Retirees and the United Way**

SRS retirees again demonstrated their commitment to our communities by participating in a big way in the 2007 SRS Employee United Way Campaign. A total of 169 retirees elected to participate in the SRS campaign (up from 152 in 2006). This year retirees contributed a total of **\$40,966** (as of 11/12/07), an increase of \$7,466 over retiree contributions in 2006 (\$33,500). Below is a breakdown of contributions between SRSRA members and other retirees:

**SRSRA Members Responding = 91 (up from 87 in 2006)**  
**SRSRA Contributions = \$14,352 (up from \$12,911 in 2006)**

Other SRS Retirees Responding = 78 (up from 65 in 2006)  
Other SRS Retirees Contributions = \$26,614 (up from \$20,589 in 2006)

Overall, the 2007 SRS campaign raised **\$1,805,005**. With assistance from our retirees, we continue to enable area United Way agencies that provide services to those in need. We appreciate the support of the SRSRA members again this year. Our retirees established the long-standing tradition of caring at SRS and we are proud to continue that tradition. Together, we are helping to make sure the needs in our communities are addressed.

**Thank You SRS Retirees!**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Folk  
2007 SRS Employee United Way Chair

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### **SRS Retiree 2008 Annual Membership Meeting**

**The upcoming 2008 annual meeting has been scheduled for March 25, 2008. The meeting location will be St Angela's Hall in Aiken. (This is the same location used for the 2007 Annual meeting.) Please mark your schedules for this date and plan on joining your retiree friends for the annual update.**

**More details will be covered in the next Newsletter.**

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### **SRSRA Meeting with Congressional Representatives and DOE-HQ**

During the last week of October, Nick Kuehn, Mike French, and Charlie Miller traveled to Washington, DC to meet with Senators Lindsey Graham, Jim DeMint, Saxby Chambliss, and Johnny Isakson and Representatives Gresham Barrett, Joe Wilson, Jim Clyburn, and Paul Broun. They also had a meeting with Senior Staff members at DOE Headquarters. In those meetings with the Senators and Representatives and/or their senior staffers, our BOD members were well received and got expressions of support. Senator Graham and Congressman Barrett are the most knowledgeable about our concerns and are our strongest supporters.

The meeting with DOE, which was set up following an earlier meeting between Senator Graham, Representative Barrett, and Secretary of Energy Bodman, did not result in any changes in DOE's position on treatment of retirees under the new contract. We presented our arguments for maintaining our benefits and tried to get DOE to acknowledge a legacy obligation to retirees and sought some additional background on DOE's position. Nick Kuehn believes DOE has a better understanding of our concerns, but DOE made no offer to consider revising any of their positions. One positive piece of information from DOE was that in the last benefit/value study the SRS contractor benefits were about 2% below the 105% value that would trigger a corrective action plan. DOE also agreed to look into our concern that the contract officer may not be qualified to make a determination of

comparable benefits. In the meeting, DOE again used comforting words. However there were no commitments to provide written guarantees. The SRSRA thinks we will have a long term battle to maintain our benefits.

A significant amount of time was spent by SRSRA Board members to prepare for the trip. They had to coordinate schedules for the meetings with members of the two congressional delegations and DOE/HQ. In addition, strategies for the meetings, letters for handouts, etc. had to be developed. Let's hope that trip has proved successful!

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## **SRS Retiree Association & Savannah River Nuclear Solutions Meeting**

On September 18, your Retiree Association (SRSRA) officers met with the executive leadership of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC (SRNS). SRNS is one of the two companies that have submitted proposals to the Department of Energy (DOE) to perform the management and operations (M&O) contract for the Savannah River Site (SRS).

The objective of the meeting was to learn more about SRNS and to make their leadership aware of some of our strategic positions and current concerns. To begin this process, SRNS Chief Executive Officer, Chuck Munns, and our Chairman, Nick Kuehn, both made brief presentations. The presentations were followed by open discussion.

SRNS is a new company formed using the combined resources of Fluor Daniel, Northrop Grumman, Honeywell, and Lockheed Martin to bid on the Management and Operation contract for SRS. During their briefing they highlighted their focus and the M&O proposal they are making to DOE. They talked about safe, effective, and efficient operations. Although SRNS is a new company, they stressed that they offer a lot of experience. Their CEO, Chuck Munns, is a recently retired U.S. Navy Vice Admiral. In his presentation he highlighted the depth, experience, and quality of the leadership they would bring to SRS

In the SRSRA briefing, Nick stressed our desire to work with the SRS contractor leadership regardless of whom DOE selects for the site M&O contract. He also presented retiree concerns to the SRNS leadership. The SRNS team clearly expressed an interest in understanding our issues.

At the end of the meeting, Chuck Munns, on behalf of SRNS, thanked the Association for the opportunity to meet with them; and if successful in securing the SRS M&O contract, he expressed a desire and commitment to continue to meet with the SRSRA on an ongoing basis. He also offered to answer any future questions from the Retiree Association.

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## **SRSRA BOD NOMINATIONS**

The process by which candidates for the Board of Directors are nominated and subsequently elected at the Annual Meeting is being reviewed. Several potential ways to improve the process have been identified, including more advance notice to the membership, statements of candidates' interests and goals, and better efficiency of the election procedure. These and other changes are being evaluated, and the most promising ones will be incorporated in time for the 2008 Board of Directors election. **In the meantime, if you have nominees**

for BOD elections in 2008, please forward them to the address at the top of the page (Attn: BOD Nominations). If the nominee is someone other than yourself, please ensure the nominee is willing to serve.

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## SRS ACTIVITIES

### SRS FY 2008 Budget

The SRS Environmental Management baseline budget request for FY 2008 is \$1.206 billion. The SRS EM Safeguards & Security FY 2008 budget request is \$149 million, bringing the total SRS EM request to \$1.355 billion.

The SRS MOX and related programs, Tritium operations, and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Safeguards & Security Program are funded under other DOE budgets as indicated below. The entire Federal FY 2008 budget request is currently under Continuing Resolution (CR).

### SRS FY 2008 Budget Request Summary:

	(\$ Billion)
EM Budget Authority:	1.355
Other SRS funding:	
Defense Programs (includes Tritium operations)	0.169
Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation (MOX)	0.511
Safeguards & Security Program (NNSA)	0.013
Other EM Activities	<u>0.054</u>

Total SRS Budget Authority Request: \$2.102 Billion

The EM baseline SRS scope-of-work for FY2008 includes continuing H Canyon and H-B Line operations for stabilization of "at-risk" spent nuclear fuel and nuclear materials; storage of stabilized materials in K Area and construction of a 3013 Container Surveillance Capability in 105-K; continuing operation of the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) to produce 186 canisters of solidified high level radioactive waste; ramping-up construction of the Salt Waste Processing Facility needed to front-end process the Site's 36 million gallons of legacy radioactive liquid waste; start of preliminary design for a plutonium vitrification capability; and receipt of domestic and foreign research reactor fuels as part of the global threat reduction initiative.

The FY 2008 Federal budget is currently under a "Continuing Resolution (CR), Public Law 110-92," which ends on November 16, 2007. (The fiscal year, FY, runs from October 1 through September 30 of each year.) The FY 2008 budget will probably be subject to additional CR's after 11/16/07. CR's are Public Laws enacted by Congress (normally each year), which allow US Government agencies to receive partial current fiscal year (FY) budget authority, based upon the last FY budget expenditure rate, without Congress approval of the new budget as a whole entity. The budget for FY 2007 was based upon FY 2006 appropriations and went through four (4) CR's into late September 2007. The total SRS budget allocation for FY 2007 was \$2.194 billion. The EM portion of this amount was \$1.289 billion.

## **Resumption of Saltstone Operations**

The SRS Saltstone Process and Disposal Facilities (Saltstone) have resumed operations after several process improvements were completed to allow processing of slightly higher Curie solutions. Saltstone operations have been intermittent since radioactive startup in 1990. Periodic suspension of operations has been primarily due to lack of feedstock. Saltstone receives low-level radioactive cesium-salt solution (feedstock) from waste tank solution processes and mixes it with a special cement formula to produce a concrete-like mixture. The mixed concrete is pored into 100'x100'x25'(high) cells for curing. Multiple cells constitute a vault. Later, the vault/cells are capped, including an earth cover, to further isolate the concrete from the environment. Saltstone is a vital element in the overall process for safe disposal of SRS liquid waste.

SRS is the only site within the DOE complex to have processed and permanently dispositioned salt solutions removed from waste tanks. In March 2007, the first major salt processing milestone was achieved by SRS personnel, with over 100,000 gallons of low-activity salt solution safely mixed with cement-type materials and poured as a concrete mixture into cells for permanent disposition at Saltstone. In addition to this accomplishment, over one-million gallons of salt waste has been prepared as feedstock for Saltstone.

## **New Process Startup**

Start-up testing and cold runs for the new SRS Actinide Removal Process (ARP) and Modular Caustic Side Solvent Extraction Unit (MCU) have been successfully completed. These processes comprise the Interim Salt Disposition System. In combination with the Saltstone Disposal Facility, the integrated/combined systems will treat, decontaminate, and disposition radioactive salt waste. An Operational Readiness Review of the systems is being performed. Radioactive operations are scheduled for Spring 2008. Plans are to process more than five million gallons of radioactive salt waste.

## **Environmental Compliance Recognition**

The SRS was recognized for exemplary environmental compliance in the "SRS Environmental Report for 2006", released in October. SRS operations continue to result in minimal off-site radiation impact to the public. The largest dose an off-site individual could have received (except SRS huntsmen and fishermen at the mouth of SRS streams) is 0.2 millirem. The US DOE maximum all-pathway standard for individual off-site exposure is 100 millirem. Accordingly, SRS off-site radiation exposure to individuals is extremely low and of little consequence.

## **DOE Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Awards**

The DOE-VPP Program reviews and recognizes contractor performance in the broad areas of occupational health, safety, and hazards prevention. The Washington Savannah River Company (WSRC) was recently awarded three US Department of Energy (DOE) Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) awards at this year's conference in Washington, DC. Two awards are for corporate accomplishments, and one recognizes a WSRC employee for outstanding performance in leading the VPP effort at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The three awards are the Star of Excellence (fifth year running), DOE-VPP Outreach Award, and the DOE-VPP Contractor Champions Award.

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## **MEMBERSHIP**

**We currently have 1,004 members and want to increase that in 2008!**

We have begun our membership campaign for 2008. **If you are not paid through 2008, you should have received a request to pay your 2008 dues. (If you are already paid through 2008, you should have received a notification that you do not need to pay dues.)**

We have three categories of membership:

1. **Retiree – You are retired from SRS; the annual dues are \$15**
2. **Retired Spouse – If both you and your spouse are retired from SRS, the annual dues is still only \$15 for the two memberships. We designate one of you as the Retiree (\$15) and the other as the retired spouse (\$0). This is for our bookkeeping.**
3. **Surviving Spouse – This category of membership is for the spouse of an SRS retiree who is deceased. The annual dues is \$5. This category of membership may also apply to a surviving spouse who is also a retiree of SRS.**

If you wish to renew your membership for multiple years, just note that on your form and include the appropriate dues. If you have questions, you can contact me through the SRS Retiree Association email [membership@srsretirees.org](mailto:membership@srsretirees.org), or call Ed Somers at 803-642-3088.

**If your friends have not renewed for 2008, now is the time to remind them to join us! If they were members in 2007, they should have received an e-mail or letter with a 2008 membership form attached. If not, direct them to our website, or have them use the membership form in this Newsletter. Remember---the larger our membership, the louder our voice with the Site Contractor, DOE, and Congress!**

**When you complete the membership form, note the check box for indicating whether you are willing to serve on the Board. If you are interested, check the box.** Your name will be forwarded to the Nominating Committee; they will review the list of interested people and identify candidates to fill the vacancies among the 15 Board positions up to re-election at the April, 2008 Annual Meeting.

### **Why you should join SRSRA:**

2008 will be an important year for SRS retirees. By the end of 2008, both the new Management and Operations contract and the new Liquid Waste contract will have been awarded and the new contracts will be in place. There are at least two bidders on both contracts. The SRS Retiree Association has been active since the beginning of the procurement process to represent the interests of retirees. We have been in constant contact with the companies we know are bidding, plus DOE Savannah River and DOE Headquarters, as well as our South Carolina and Georgia congressional delegates.

We have tried to get assurances that the new contracts will maintain our current level of benefits. All of the above-mentioned organizations recognize our position and are sympathetic to our needs, but we have not been able to elicit any guarantees.

Over the past ten years, we have found that there is strength in numbers. Our membership is currently just over 1,000. We are one of the larger retiree organizations around the DOE complex, but by no means the largest. As our numbers have grown, we find that others listen to us more.

The SRS Retiree Association worked with WSRC, DOE, and our Congressional delegation to obtain a Cost-of-Living pension adjustment in 2002. We also worked with WSRC to reinstitute annual physicals for retirees. Over the past decade we have worked diligently with the Department of Energy (both Headquarters and the Savannah River Office), our South Carolina and Georgia Congressional delegations, Washington Savannah River Company, and the potential bidders for the SRS Management and Operations and the SRS Liquid Waste contracts to stress the importance of honoring the commitments for medical and insurance benefits that were made to us when we retired.

The SRS Retiree Association has established communications with Blue Cross/Blue Shield to resolve medical insurance issues. We have assisted a number of retirees who have encountered problems with coordination of Medicare with the WSRC Blue Cross / Blue Shield medical insurance program. We have worked to help successfully resolve generic problems and specific individual issues of denial of coverage or underpayment of benefits.

The Retiree Association has worked with WSRC, DOE, our Congressional delegation and Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness to promote new and ongoing missions at SRS. Our belief is that a strong workforce at SRS with long term missions is in our best interest and benefits our community as a whole.

**Join SRSRA NOW! You won't find a better value for your \$15 yearly dues!**

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### **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](mailto:membership@srsretirees.org). Our e-mail program will allow us to reach over 600 out of 1000+ members more quickly with news like the concern about medical reimbursement issues. 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 - WHEN IN DOUBT, LOOK TO THE SRSRA WEB SITE!!**

#### **Reminder:**

The Committees and Organization pages have been updated to reflect the new Board members and the new committee assignments. E-mail address links for each committee are provided on the Committee web page so that members can contact all members of a particular committee about their concerns.

**Notable additions to web site:**

1. Flu Clinic Finder is on the Medical Benefits page
2. A reminder that BCBS needs to be told in January of each year that you have no other insurance.
3. The latest (2005) Pension Report for SRS pensions has been uploaded to the web site. The link is on the Pension Benefits page.
4. A link to the web site of the Coalition of Oak Ridge Retired Employees (CORRE) has been added to the Pension Benefits page.
5. A graph showing a comparison of estimated prescription drug costs for Medicare vs. BC/BS drug reimbursement programs. (Check under 'Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Option' to see this important information.)

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](mailto:webmaster@srsretirees.org).

Please note that all e-mail sent to the Committee e-mail addresses goes through a strong spam filter. Hence, if the e-mail message is very cryptic, it may be bounced back to the sender. However, if you provide detailed information about your concern or idea, you should have no problem in sending a valid message to the appropriate committee.

**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.** The upcoming meetings will be on December 4, 2007; January 8, 2008; and February 5, 2008. The 2008 dates have not yet been firmed up with Eden Gardens but will be shortly. 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 also listed on the website.**

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

The following summarizes financial activity for the first three months of this fiscal year, July through September:

Opening Balance (July 1, 2007)	\$33,277.50
Income	\$2,125.12
Expenses	<u>\$1,053.14</u>
Closing Balance (September 30, 2007)	\$34,349.48

The income includes \$986.12 interest from matured CDs with the remainder from membership dues. The major expense items were printing costs associated with the August Newsletter, website management and host fees, postage and postage deposits, and room deposit for the 2008 Annual Meeting. The closing balance includes \$25,000 in CDs.

## **AUDIT of TREASURER'S FUNCTION**

An audit, covering the period July 2005 through June 2007, was performed on October 17, 2007. The audit was conducted by SRSRA BOD members, Art Blanchard and Martin Pechersky. The audit was based on the Treasurer's Reports and banking records, plus additional information supplied by the Membership Chairman.

The auditors selected the time period from March 1 through April 30, 2007, for their review. This period was especially active since many expenses related to the Annual Meeting were reported and there were relatively large receipts from dues payments.

The detailed review consisted of examining and reconciling expenses between the Treasurer's Report, checks written, and a sampling of expense claims submitted by BOD members. A similar detailed review was performed on the receipts.

Also, a review was performed on the Membership Chairman's dues acknowledged listing.

The audit concluded that all incomes and expenses are accounted for, and well documented by the Treasurer and the Membership Chairman.

The audit report was submitted to the Board of Directors at the November 13, 2007, meeting.

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## **SRSRA Medical Interface Committee**

### **Possible Error in BC/BS Reimbursement for Medicare Recipients – Followup**

In our last Newsletter we alerted you to the fact that a Blue Cross (BC) modification to out-of-state benefits may have affected in-state (SC and certain Augusta, GA) providers on BC Explanation of Benefits (EOB) statements. We received a response to our inquiry from John Greenquist at WSRC. He stated that they are continuing to work on claims from out-of-state retirees regarding coordination of benefits between Medicare and BC/BS and allowable rates.

Mr. Greenquist also informed us that the claims filed for retirees on Medicare outside of the BCBS-SC provider network were processed using the BCBS-SC provider reimbursement schedule, which **WAS** the process at the time. Because they felt it would be fairer for those retirees on Medicare who incurred services from out-of-state BCBS providers to use a BCBS allowable charge derived from Reasonable and Customary (R&C) data rather than from the BCBS-SC allowable charge, this change was implemented at the end of 2006. Because of many complicating factors to this issue, self-identification of possible adjustments due to this issue makes the adjustment process and any subsequent collection efforts more transparent to the retiree. Therefore, if you

believe you are due an adjustment for some out-of-state services received before this change was implemented, please notify BCBS Customer Service at 800-325-6596.

Claims for retirees from providers in SC and certain ones in Augusta will continue to be processed in accordance with the BCBS-SC provider reimbursement schedule.

### **Two New Items Under Medical Benefits on Web Page**

There are two NEW items of interest to all retirees under “Medical Benefits” on our Web Page. Please check them out:

- A Flu Shot Finder that will give you the locations where you can get a flu shot in your local CSRA area. Remember, if you are on Medicare these shots are free. You can find the link on the SRSRA web site’s Medical Benefit page. Check it out!
- You need to inform BC/BS annually that you have not made any changes in your insurance coverage and that you have no other insurance (other than Medicare if you are over 65.) (If you have had changes to your insurance coverage, then you should inform BC/BS of this also.) BC/BS requires your most current information before they will process your claim.

### **Reminder**

An e-mail to this address will reach the entire Medical Interface Committee. Please let us know if you have problems that you have experienced, or solved, and we will alert other members to these problems.

[medicalbenefits@srsretirees.org](mailto:medicalbenefits@srsretirees.org)

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### **Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence --- Flu Shots**

#### **Use Reason This Season: Get Your Flu Shot!**

October 1 marked the official beginning of Senior Vaccination Season in South Carolina, according to a proclamation by Governor Mark Sanford. People of all ages can get the flu. In fact, the illness hospitalizes an average of 114,000 people each year, and 36,000 Americans die each year from flu-related complications. Ninety percent of the deaths occur in people age 65 and older.

According to the CDC, the best time to get your flu shot is in October or November. If you wait until December or later, however, you will not be too late! Flu shots are given as late as March, depending on the availability of the vaccine. Without the protection of the flu shot, high-risk individuals can become seriously ill. Sometimes the flu can lead to death.

Remember that Medicare Part B covers the flu shot, so there’s no reason not to get this shot! Medicare beneficiaries should not be required to pay for the flu vaccine. If you are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan,

please contact your representative to learn whether your plan requires you to visit a certain provider for your flu shot.

To find a flu shot clinic near you, go to [www.thecarolinascenter.org/fcf](http://www.thecarolinascenter.org/fcf).

**Reasons for getting a flu shot:**

1. The flu can be dangerous
2. You can get the shot any time during the flu season (October 1 through March 31)
3. You can't get the flu from the shot
4. Medicare Pays!
5. Your doctor recommends a flu shot every flu season

**Who should get the pneumonia shot?**

6. Adults age 65 and older--even those who are healthy and active!
7. Anyone who has a weakened immune system.
8. Anyone who has chronic health conditions such as heart disease, kidney disease, liver disease, lung disease, diabetes, or alcoholism.

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**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](mailto:KAYE.BOZEMAN@cbssc.com), or Fax: 1-803-264-9353. You can also call toll-free at: 1-800-288-2227, x44452; or as a last resort, call her at 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)

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|---|--|
| ◇ <b>Life, Health, Dental</b><br>Becky Proveaux PS Svc. Ctr. #<br>Rosalee Bennett PS Svc. Ctr. #<br>Wanda McGee 803-725-0531<br>Cindy McClintock 803-725-7004 | ◇ <b>Westinghouse Corp. SIP</b> 800-581-3366<br><a href="http://westinghouse.csplans.com">http://westinghouse.csplans.com</a>  |
| ◇ <b>Pension</b><br>Pat Smith 803-725-7722<br>Viola Best 803-725-1900   | ◇ <b>Safety Eyeglass Office</b><br>Tom Cuny 803-557-4340   |
| ◇ <b>Internal Medicine Partners</b> 706-792-5075<br>(Annual Physical Examinations)  | ◇ <b>Blue Cross/Blue Shield of SC</b> 800-325-6596<br><a href="http://www.southcarolinablues.com">www.southcarolinablues.com</a><br>Option 1 for Medical<br>Option 2 for Dental<br>Option 3 for Pre-Cert/Med Authorization |
| ◇ <b>WSRC/BSRI Savings Plan</b> 800-360-2747<br><a href="http://resources.hewitt.com/wsrc">http://resources.hewitt.com/wsrc</a>                               | ◇ <b>Medicare Helpline</b> 800-633-4227  |
| ◇ <b>Westinghouse Corp. Pension</b> 800-581-4222  | ◇ <b>Medicare Web Site</b><br><a href="http://www.medicare.gov">www.medicare.gov</a>   |
|   | ◇ <b>Value Options</b> (mental health & substance abuse assistance) 800-333-6557   |

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### **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: Ed Somers**