

SRSRA NEWSLETTER

For SRS Retiree Association Members

Bob & Pat Stokes, Editors

Volume 18 September 2003

PLEASE RENEW YOUR SRSRA MEMBERSHIP FOR 2003/ 2004

(see last page of this newsletter)

INSIDE INSIGHT

Chairman's Letter	1	Mentors Needed	7
Pension Adjustment Planning	2	Occupational Illness Compensation Program	8
ORA Activities	2	SRS Activities	9
SRSRA Group Travel	3	Treasurer's Report	11
SRSRA Board of Directors	5	New Post-Retirement Employment Opportunity	12
Newsletter Mailing	5	BC / BS Service Concerns	13
Physical Exams in CSRA	5	Benefits Contacts	13
Medical Benefits Issue: Prescription Drug Bill	5	Membership Dues Renewal Form	14

Chairman's Letter

The SRSRA Board of Directors continues work on the following items of interest to all retirees:

1. We have contacted our Congressional Delegation regarding concerns with the new Medicare Prescription Drug Bill. Word from Washington is that the Bill is in committee for resolution of House and Senate differences. Most of our Delegation has indicated that they will vote against the Bill in its current form.

However, our primary concern is that, should it pass in its current state, we would be paying \$35 per month to Medicare for less coverage than we currently enjoy with SC Blue Cross. **(It is worth noting that an early version of the Bill has a constraint protecting Federal Retirees from any Bill offering less insurance benefits than they currently have - an amazing coincidence since that is exactly our concern!!!!)**

Another issue is the potential for a "carve-out" type of coverage similar to our medical coverage that has been an ongoing nightmare for those of us on Medicare.

What are we doing about it? We have interfaced and are continuing to interface with our Delegation voicing our concerns. SRS Management commented that the House and Senate versions of the Bill are too diverse to assess the impact of the Prescription Drug Bill. We see a potential for Corporate Management to use this Bill to dump a major portion of their prescription drug medical insurance costs on the taxpayer. (See the Medical Issues item later in this newsletter and look for more information on this topic in the future.)

2. Your Pension Benefits Committee has drafted criteria for pursuing future pension adjustments. The Committee is preparing a position paper to formalize our pension adjustment criteria. That position paper will be our proposal for both a trigger, for initiating future pension increases, and a process for handling those future increases. We plan to present the criteria to SRS Management once endorsed by your BOD. We will establish a schedule for BOD approval and future meetings with SRS management at the September meeting.

3. We have attended Public Hearings supporting new or proposed SRS missions:

One of the two SRSRA objectives is to provide support for SRS Programs wherever possible, and once again we delivered a strong message. On the evening of July 7, several hundred people attended a DOE public meeting in North Augusta to discuss the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed new Modern Pit Facility (MPF). Several busloads of “anti’s” came in from as far away as Atlanta and Charlotte, but the majority of attendees were in favor of the MPF. SRS is one of 5 sites in the DOE Complex being evaluated in the EIS process for the location of MPF. On behalf of SRSRA, Dave Cowfer and Mike French gave presentations strongly supporting the design, construction, and operation of this new facility. They also strongly recommended that the MPF be located at SRS, which has the necessary plutonium infrastructure, experienced personnel, and location, as well as wide ranging support of residents from across the CSRA. In addition, Fred Cavanaugh and Tom Greene both gave eloquent statements supporting the need for MPF with the preferred location to be at SRS.

4. Look for other SRSRA developments and opportunities reported in this newsletter.

Sincerely,

Dave Cowfer, Chairman
Savannah River Site Retiree Association

Pension Adjustment Planning

A draft of a position paper on future pension adjustment requests has been prepared and is currently being reviewed by the Pension Adjustment Committee. This position paper is based on an overall strategy that had been approved previously by your Board of Directors. Upon completion of the Committee's review and resolution of their comments, the draft position paper will be presented to the Board of Directors for their consideration and action.

ORA Activities

Paving of the road into the ORA site is still on schedule with an anticipated completion prior to year end. An open house is planned for next spring to provide ORA members the opportunity to reacquaint themselves with site facilities. In addition a stand-alone facility will soon be in place at the ORA site Par 3 golf course to provide a check-in point, rest rooms and a place for golfers to congregate.

Negotiations to either extend the SunCom cell phone contract or select a new provider are proceeding. It is anticipated that the new contract will provide a much better discount than the current 7 %.

SRSRA GROUP TRAVEL

As a result of interest shown at the annual meeting, SRSRA is hoping to make arrangements for several bus tours for members, spouses and friends in 2003/2004. If this program is successful, future trips will be developed. Excursions Unlimited, a tour company from Savannah, GA, who specializes in retiree travel and who has been providing very successful travel services to other local groups will be used. While their trips normally originate in Savannah, local pickup will be provided if there are at least 10 travelers from the CSRA. All travel will be provided in deluxe motor coaches with extended leg room, on-board movies and restroom facilities. Excursions Unlimited prides themselves in using proven quality restaurants and convenient, safe, comfortable hotels.

The following tours were highlighted in the last newsletter and may still be available if you are interested.

Georgia Mountain Fair and Octoberfest - October 13 & 14: Includes travel to annual Georgia Mountain Fair in Hiawassee followed by trip to Helen, Georgia, where you will have dinner and an overnight stay at the Unicoi Lodge. You will enjoy a typical Bavarian celebration with oompah bands, German dancing and sing-alongs that evening. The next day the tour will make an apple farm stop on the way to the Chateau Elan & Winery for lunch.

Price will be \$229 per person, double occupancy. The price for a single occupying a room is \$50 more (or \$279).

Key West and More - October 27 thru November 1: Overnight in Altamonte Springs. After a stop in Victorian village of Mount Dora, go on to the Keys for three nights at the Crown Plaza on Duval Street. A narrated trolley tour of all the major Key West sights and a Catamaran Cruise on the Gulf is included. An Optional day of deep sea fishing while in the Keys is available. On the way home, an Everglades Airboat ride and an Inter-coastal Waterway trip for Dinner and a Show on a small island are part of the tour.

Price will be \$699 per person double occupancy. Again, the cost for a single is an added \$225 (or \$924).

A "Georgia on My Mind" Christmas - December 8 thru 10: Overnight at the fabulous Callaway Inn which includes a lavish Holiday Buffet. Afterward board the bus and experience the annual, nationally-acclaimed Festival of Lights covering several miles of area within Callaway Gardens. The next day explore Callaway Gardens by daylight prior to leaving for Warm Springs and a tour of FDR's Little White House. That afternoon travel to Lake Lanier, check into a resort hotel and enjoy another festive holiday dinner prior to viewing the "Magical Night of Lights" drive around the lake. On the way home the next day, stop for lunch at the Blue Willow Inn in Social Circle.

Price will be \$399 per person double occupancy. The single rate is \$150 more (\$549).

These three tours represent only a small sample of tours that are available. So, if your interest is something else, let Paul Katonak know that as well. Catalogs of all 2003 trips offered by Excursions Unlimited to the general public are available upon request.

The following article was submitted by Pat Stokes after she and Bob Stokes, our newsletter editors, completed one of the Excursions Unlimited bus tours.

NINE DAYS ON A BUS

(Or, How to Take A Vacation Without the Hassle of Driving, Reading Maps, Getting Lost, Making Reservations, etc.)

Recently my husband Bob and I decided to try one of the bus tours offered by Excursions Unlimited out of Savannah, GA. The trip Bob and I chose was not one of those highlighted by Paul Katonak, but one we picked out of the Excursions Unlimited 2003 Catalog. Our adventure began with a drive to Savannah (from where the tour departed on Monday morning, July 28). There were 38 additional vacationers, a tour guide, and the bus driver on board. Bob and I were the only South Carolinians, but soon found all the other folks from Georgia and Florida to be amiable traveling companions.

We journeyed up through Tennessee, Ohio, and Michigan returning through Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Highlights of the tour were visits to the Ford Museum and Greenfield Village near Detroit; a stop at Bronner's Christmas Store (supposedly the largest such mercantile establishment in the U.S.) in Frankenmuth, Michigan (a delightful Bavarian-style village founded by German Lutherans); an overnight at The Grand Hotel (a lovely gem built in the 1880's and still going strong) on Mackinac Island in upper Michigan; and a tour of downtown Chicago. Additional side trips not on the official itinerary but included thanks to our accommodating tour guide and bus driver were a drive-by of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor as well as a brief stop at Lambeau Field in Green Bay (where all the guys on the bus were delighted to see the Green Bay Packers practicing!).

We had 8 nights (and 9 days) on the road. The nightly accommodations were more than adequate. Three of the nights were spent at what I would call 4-Star Hotels. These are the type establishments that provide a telephone in the bathroom (as well as one on the bedside table) and an apartment-size refrigerator in your room stocked with a wide variety of snacks and beverages. (I must point out though that should you choose to consume any of these "goodies" their cost is not part of the tour package and must be paid for out of your own pocket.) We bedded down at Comfort Inns, Best Westerns, and a Courtyard by Marriott on the other nights.

All meals with the exception of lunch each day and one dinner were included in the cost of the tour. In addition, all tips and admission costs for attractions and side tours were covered. When we arrived back in Savannah on August 5, we had covered nearly 3,000 miles! The bus was a comfortable and pleasant way to travel. It was equipped with 6 overhead TV screens; and during those parts of the trip where there was not much to see other than rolling farmlands, the tour guide showed entertaining videos.

It was a most satisfying experience; and perhaps the only thing that could have made it more so would have been to be traveling with a group of friends. **So, once again, if you would be interested in the SRSRA organizing such a tour, we ask that you call Paul Katonak at 803-649-9457 (or email him at katonak@msn.com) and let him know. If we have enough interest, we'll form a committee of 3 or 4 people to choose some trips of interest that we can publicize and take as a group. Just let Paul know what your interests are so that he can assess whether we should pursue this any further. You are not committing yourself to any trips by giving Paul and the Board of Directors a "show of hands".**

Excursions Unlimited has literally dozens of tours available from a 1-day trip to Amelia Island, Cumberland Island, and Fernandina Beach in Florida for \$79; to a 3-day New Years Celebration at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville for \$469; to a 6-day Branson, Missouri, trip to enjoy the shows there for \$749; to a 7-day jaunt to Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains, New York's 1000 Islands, and Niagara Falls for \$899; all the way to a 10-day tour to enjoy the beauty of Canada in the autumn for \$1,299. In addition, Excursions Unlimited offers

optional cancellation/health insurance for all of their tours. These policies are priced from \$45 to \$100, depending on the length and cost of the tour selected.

SRSRA Board of Directors

We continue to look for new candidates for the Retiree Association Board of Directors. We expect to have 5 to 8 positions to be filled by new members at the election to be held during the Annual Meeting in March 2004. If you are interested in serving contact Nick Kuehn at (803) 648-2849 or e-mail nhkuehn@msn.com.

Newsletter Mailing

As with the previous newsletter, we reinstated our efforts to use the internet email to reach many of our members. This will speed up delivery to many of our members and will minimize our time and costs for a hard copy mailing. **If you have an email address and you did not receive this newsletter over the internet, please correspond with Pat and Bob Stokes at Robert40@bellsouth.net and give us your correct email address for future use.**

Yearly Physicals for Retirees in CSRA

Just a note to remind all local area (CSRA) retirees that yearly physicals can be arranged through Internal Medicine Partners at 3121 Peach Orchard Road, Augusta, GA. (Tel: 706-792-5075) The phone number is also included regularly in the benefits contacts list. **You should retain the contacts list for future reference.** The cost for the service is your co-pay amount with BC/BS paying the rest. **You should not receive any additional charges for a routine physical.**

Medical Benefits Issue: Prescription Drug Bill Concerns:

Recently, there has been intense political interest in Congress to pass some kind of prescription drug bill. This is a cause of immediate concern to the SRSRA and should be of concern to you. Retirees who are on Medicare have already learned that the coverage provided by BC/BS decreases greatly when it becomes your secondary provider instead of your primary provider. In a great many cases, the combined coverage of Medicare and BC/BS is less than what BC/BS paid when it was the sole provider. The result is that the retiree on Medicare is hit by a double whammy: Not only does he pay the increased premium for Medicare, but he gets less overall coverage so that he also pays more direct medical fees.

Now, for whatever reason you wish to assign, Congress appears to be converging upon a hastily drawn bill to provide prescription drug coverage as part of an expanded Medicare. Because SRS Retirees already have such coverage as part of their BC/BS insurance, the proposed bill has the potential to create even more expense for you. If special provisions are not included in the bill, not only will you pay more for the increased Medicare coverage, but you may also lose the coverage you now have from BC/BS. It is a certainty that there will not be double coverage.

We urge all members of SRSRA to write their congressional representatives, both Senate and House, and inform them of your concern. The following is intended to suggest the content of such a letter for you to send. Change it to your own words as you see fit. But it is important that you send such letters as soon as possible, because the momentum for this bill is increasing even though thoughtful deliberation may not be increasing at the same pace; and **according to recent news reports, Congress may see action on this bill as early as October 15!**

-----A Suggestion for a letter -----

The Honorable _____
U.S. (Senate or House of Representatives)
Washington D.C.

Dear _____;

As a member of the SRS Retirees Association, I want to express my urgent and sincere concern about the impending Congressional bills that are intended to provide prescription drug coverage to Medicare participants.

I believe it is vital for Congress to follow the same admonishment that applies to every doctor with regard to his patient, and that is:

FIRST, DO NO HARM!

Tens of millions of retirees from hundreds of companies are now protected by medical coverage that includes a prescription drug benefit. If a new benefit that is already covered by these other policies is to be implemented in Medicare then it is imperative that it neither reduces the protection nor increases the cost to those retirees.

My fear is that as soon as a Medicare bill is passed with prescription drug coverage, the cost of Medicare will increase to me and the coverage will be passed from my existing policy to Medicare without any decrease in the cost of my existing policies.

I urge you to be sure that any bill, or any amendment to any bill, that is passed by Congress will neither reduce my current protection nor increase my cost for existing protection. It is imperative that such a bill or amendment not allow companies to avoid their responsibilities to their retirees by eliminating existing coverages.

-----end of suggested Letter-----

The SRSRA will continue to monitor the situation, but your individual letter to your congressional representatives will be most important in protecting your present medical coverage.

Mentors Needed

FUTURE CITY COMPETITION

How would you like to make a difference with tomorrow's engineers and possibly influence designs and decisions of the future? The SRS Retirees Association has a wealth of knowledge and experience to share, and here's your chance to mentor a design team. The Future City Competition has finally come to South Carolina and now's your chance to become involved.

As part of an initiative to encourage engineers to be involved in the classroom year round, the Savannah River Site (SRS), in conjunction with local engineering societies, is sponsoring a Future City Regional Competition in the CSRA. Future City is a national design competition for middle school students sponsored by the National Engineers Week committee. The competition has five phases: Planning & Research, Computer-City Layout using SIMCITY Software, Model Building, Essay Writing, and Presentation. Initially, the students perform research and plan their city; then, using SIMCITY software, the students create a "City of the Future". Once the city is designed, students build a "To Scale" model of their city emphasizing the use of recycled material. The program culminates in a competition where the students are graded on their design, model, essay, and an oral presentation of their city.

The program groups three students, an engineer, and a teacher into a mentor/protégé relationship. The engineer mentor meets with the students for a one- to two-hour period, weekly, from August through January. On January 17, 2004, students will compete against other teams at the Regional Competition. Regional winners are provided complimentary travel and accommodations for the National Competition in Washington, DC, held during National Engineer's Week, February 22–28, 2004. During the program, students learn about the different phases of engineering and develop teamwork, goal setting, planning, math, research, writing, and presentation skills.

Currently, we need mentors to help at approximately 25 schools located throughout the CSRA. The SRS Retirees Association, with its history of community involvement, is in a unique position to offer mentors with vast knowledge and experience in engineering to work with the Future City teams.

Mentor responsibilities include:

- Mentor team weekly, August until January or February 2004, as established with teacher.
- Provide regular feedback to Mentor Coordinator throughout the program
- Attend the Regional Competition with team, January 17, 2004
- Attend the National Competition in Washington, DC, if team is selected Regional winner

Visit the future city web site for additional information: <http://www.futurecity.org/>

If you would like to become involved with Future City as a mentor or would like more information about the program, please contact the Mentor Coordinator, Amanda Reedy, at (803) 557-3215 or the Regional Coordinator, Monica Mace, at (803) 952-2079.



U. S. Departments of Energy and Labor
Energy Employees Compensation Resource Center

1708-B Bunting Drive
North Augusta, SC 29841

Phone (803) 279-2728
Fax (803) 279-0146



The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program

During the period of the Cold War, thousands of workers were employed in the nation's atomic weapons programs. The work was dangerous and consequently many workers may have been exposed to radioactive and toxic substances. Recognizing that workers at these facilities may be suffering from illnesses caused by their work, Congress passed The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) to provide compensation to persons who have become ill as a result of work at atomic weapon facilities. The law became effective July 31, 2001.

Individuals, or their eligible survivors, who worked as an employee, contractor, or subcontractor at a Department of Energy (DOE) facility, such as the **Savannah River Site**, at an Atomic Weapons Employer or with a company under contract with the DOE and designated as a beryllium vendor may be eligible for benefits under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program (EEOICP).

The Program Administered by the Department of Labor

The federal portion of the EEOICP, administered by the Department of Labor, was enacted to provide compensation to workers with beryllium disease, silicosis, or cancer. Employees, or their survivors, whose claims are approved may receive a lump-sum payment of \$150,000 and medical benefits for the covered illness.

Uranium workers who received compensation under Section 5 of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) are eligible for an additional \$50,000 in compensation under EEOICP.

The Program Administered by the Department of Energy

DOE has established independent physician panels of occupational medicine doctors to review whether workplace toxic exposures may have caused or contributed to DOE workers occupational illnesses. If there is an affirmative finding, DOE will assist the worker in filing a claim with the state workers' compensation program. Toxic-related illnesses could include: asbestosis, liver disease, nervous system disorders, non-cancerous respiratory or kidney disease, heavy metal poisoning, certain reproductive disorders, radiological diseases, chronic beryllium disease, or other diseases.

How to get Help

If you need additional information about this program, or if you have been diagnosed with an illness and wish to file a claim, contact the:

**Energy Employees Compensation Resource Center
1708-B Bunting Drive, North Augusta, SC 29841**

Local: (803) 279-2728; Toll-free: (866) 666-4606

-----Telephone Interviews Available-----

SRS Activities

Visit of DOE/SROO Manager

On July 1, we welcomed Jeff Allison, Manager, DOE/SROO, and Jim Gaver his Director of Public Affairs as guests at the SRSRA monthly Board meeting. On behalf of the Association, Chairman Dave Cowfer thanked Mr. Allison for his role in helping to obtain the cost-of-living adjustment last year. Mr. Allison indicated that he was pleased to visit with us, and thanked SRSRA members for their continuing support, particularly our active participation in key public meetings. He informed us that on June 18 DOE and WSRC signed the renegotiated contract to fix costs and schedules to achieve more work by September 2006 through higher incentives in both quantity and value. By managing to a multi-year performance baseline, substantial savings will be realized to “fund” increased scope. This will accomplish up to \$1.5B more EM scope by FY-07. Cost is still the major driving factor regarding the reduction of unused facilities. The F-Canyon will be deactivated by the end of this year and most of the buildings in the M Area have either been demolished or are in process of being so. DOE has restructured the focus on cleanup at SRS and will do more direct contracting. Jeff then talked about new missions such as the MOX facility and, hopefully, the proposed Modern Pit Facility (MPF). He has realigned his organization so that it will be more compatible with the recent changes at WSRC, and now has 2 deputies reporting to him.

SRS Projects Honored by DOE

Two SRS projects were honored on May 20 at the third Annual Secretary of Energy’s Project Management Awards. The SRS Highly Enriched Uranium Blend Down Project, which converts weapons-usable uranium into low enriched uranium for use in power reactors producing electricity, received the Secretary’s Excellence in Acquisition Award at a ceremony at DOE Headquarters. The award is presented to an individual team that has demonstrated “exceptional” results in completing a project within cost and schedule. In addition, the Site’s K Area Nuclear Material Storage Project (KAMS) received honorable mention.

The HEU Blend Down Project, which is a collaborative effort among the DOE National Nuclear Security Administration, DOE/EM, and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), enables SRS to “turn weapons into plowshares” by blending surplus highly enriched uranium so that is no longer usable for weapons. A substantial capital construction project, encompassing modifications to several areas of the site, was required to ensure that SRS could purify, blend down, and load the material for shipment to TVA for use as fuel. Currently, with the project about 98% complete, it is under budget and substantially ahead of schedule.

Last Depleted Uranium Shipped Out; Buildings Coming Down

By June 9, SRS had shipped out the last depleted uranium metal from M Area, making way for the continuing demolition of six buildings there known as the “Six Pack” Project. Historically, the production process at SRS began in M Area. In the M Area buildings, now 50 years old, were the facilities where fuel and “target” materials were manufactured for SRS’s five reactors. The “target” materials were then sent to the reactors for irradiation in order to create the desired nuclear materials that played a major role in ending the cold war. M Area was shut down over a decade ago, leaving more than 2600 metric tons of depleted uranium “target” material. Since then, the material has been in safe storage in M Area awaiting disposition. Shipments of the material, which began in March, were concluded when the 145th truckload left SRS for disposition at

Envirocare of Utah. During the shipping operations, there were no security incidents, no injuries and no contamination events. While the depleted uranium metal has been completely removed from M Area, 3,270 drums of depleted uranium oxide are also being shipped from F Area to Envirocare, in a pilot program targeted at shipping 1,815 metric tons this summer. If all goes well, the approximately 33,000 remaining drums of DU oxide will follow in the next few years.

Dispositioning the uranium material clears the way for demolition to continue in the M Area, where 6 buildings – the “Six Pack” – totaling 150,000 sq. feet will be demolished by March 2004. This is one of the largest demolition projects ever undertaken at SRS. The “Six Pack” is also part of SRS’s concentrated effort to make “skyline changes”; changes that completely eliminate any environmental threat these facilities could pose in the future. Demolition work at the Site is also being concentrated in the T, D, M and F Areas, some of which are near the site boundary, and are integrated with soil and groundwater cleanup activities.

Final Plutonium Shipments sent to SRS

DOE marked a milestone on August 19 when it announced that the last shipment of weapons grade plutonium had been transported from the Rocky Flats weapons facility (RFETS) to SRS. Accomplished 12 years ahead of schedule, the final shipment of the 12 metric tons of material held at the former nuclear weapons site was marked at RFETS by a ceremony by DOE Secretary Spencer Abraham. The disposition of the weapons grade plutonium puts Rocky Flats one step closer to its final closure date of December 2006. The 6,000 acre reservation is slated to become a nature reserve.

DOE plans call for the material to be used in the production of mixed oxide fuel (MOX) at SRS by mixing the weapons grade plutonium with uranium oxide, making it very unattractive as a nuclear threat. The MOX fuel is scheduled to be burned in two Duke Power reactors, one located in S. Carolina and the other in N. Carolina. The MOX fuel fabrication facility is on track at SRS and is scheduled to be opened in 2007. DOE forecasters had previously estimated the RFETS cleanup to cost \$37 billion. Using an accelerated program, the facility is currently expected to be cleaned up for \$7 billion, a huge savings of taxpayers dollars.

SRTC Wins R&D 100 Award

It was announced on July 15 that Researches at the SRS Technology Center (SRTC) had won a coveted R&D 100 Award for 2003, considered the Academy Awards of applied research and development. The R&D 100 Awards are presented each year to recognize the 100 most technologically significant developments of the year. SRTC received its award for the Aerosol-to-Liquid Particle Extraction System (ALPES), a highly efficient, portable device that collects airborne particles, including chemical agents and microorganisms, and concentrates them into a liquid for analysis. ALPES is SRTC’s 4th innovation to receive the prestigious R&D 100 Award. ALPES is able to collect any aerosol, including chemical agents, radioactive particles, microorganisms (such as spores, bacteria, and fungi), residual substances from explosives, and byproducts of manufacturing processes such as lead in a battery factory. An array of units, deployed throughout a public or private facility, could be a vital part of an anti-terrorism alert system. In turn, this system could quickly notify authorities of the existence of harmful biological, chemical, radioactive particles, or explosive materials in the area. SRTC’s Dr. Cliff Carlson along with Dr. Justin Halverson and Jeff DeGrange designed ALPES to collect particles in the range 0.3 to 2 microns. Our congratulations to them on winning this highly prestigious award.

New Company Record for Safe Hours Worked

On August 25, Bechtel Construction employees set a new company record for hours worked without a lost-time injury, reaching 12 million safe hours worked. Twelve million safe work hours is the equivalent of 6000 employees working without a lost-time injury for one year. A typical U.S. construction firm experiences an average of 192 lost-time accidents for every 12 million hours worked. Earlier this year, Bechtel Construction marked a dual safety milestone – 11 million safe work hours without a lost-time injury and 5 consecutive years without a lost-time injury. Our congratulations to the Bechtel Construction Company and their employees for achieving this tremendous safety record! We look forward to reporting more records in future Newsletters.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Association's fiscal year runs from July through June. The following is a recap of income and expenditures for FY 02-03.

Bank Balance July 1, 2002.		\$11,884.75
Income (All income is from membership dues)		\$7,070.00
Expenditures		\$6,300.53
Newsletter	\$2420.34	
Annual Meeting	\$1546.30	
Consultant	\$1054.00	
Board Meeting Room	\$390.00	
Monthly Ads	\$270.00	
Membership Enlistment	\$238.06	
PO BOX / Permit	\$226.00	
Miscellaneous	\$111.30	
Miscellaneous Printing	\$44.53	
Bank Balance June 30, 2003		\$12,654.22

New Post-Retirement Employment Opportunity

RCS Corporation and Washington Group International have formed a new business based in Aiken to provide a broad range of engineering and technical services for both companies. Global Engineering Services was established to fill the need for both short and long-term staff on specific projects where a particular skill, experience or niche capability is needed. Dan Curry, General Manager of Global Engineering Services, said that "The Savannah River retirees provide a pool of potential employees with world-class talent and experience. Providing a way to access this skill base is essential to our project performance world-wide."

Global Engineering Services employees could work on a variety of projects ranging from assignments at Savannah River and other Washington Group operating facilities, to RCS and Washington Group projects both in the U.S. and Internationally. For example, Washington Group is currently providing technical and engineering services at several locations in the United Kingdom for environmental cleanup, waste treatment and defense facility projects. Assignments in the U.K. would range in duration from short-term consulting opportunities lasting on the order of 60 days to full-time assignments as long as two years on some of the longer term projects. Curry went on to say, "the other advantage of being able to access the SRS retirees is the ability to transfer and maintain their clearances which are recognized by the British government for work requiring access to defense facilities."

There is an immediate need for employees with the following skills and experience:

- Systems Engineering and Configuration Management – These people would be involved in requirements development and project definition for a variety of R&D and production projects primarily in the defense arena.
- Project Controls – Cost and schedule control specialists working with Primavera planning and scheduling products for both design and construction projects.
- Long-Range Planning – There is a pressing need for long range project planning staff who understand operations, D&D, environmental restoration, and new project management. The objective of this year-long project will be to develop a site integrated plan for a large multi-mission nuclear facility. The product is a fully documented plan with site maps, scope definition, schedules and a systems engineering study to assure integration of the work.
- Senior Technical Consultants - Graduate (MS & PhD) level staff in physics and engineering to provide front-end project consulting services on R&D and production projects ranging from laser facilities, nuclear material process chemistry, manufacturing, high explosives synthesis and assembly operations. The work will include developing sound technical and design requirements bases for new design projects.
- Safety Specialists – Graduate level candidates to work on analysis of highly specialized safety issues. Work products will be reviewed by the U.K. Nuclear Inspectorate, and the work will require personal interaction with the regulatory authorities.

Since Washington Group is a minority owner of the business, a retiree's employment in Global Engineering Services will not affect their pension benefits. **Global Engineering Services is interested in a full range of technical specialties. If you're interested in the specific opportunities listed above or you have other skill areas and you are interested in returning to work for other domestic or foreign assignments, contact either Dan Curry (803)502-5719 or Carlos Garcia (803) 641-0100 ext 225 for further information.**

BC/BS Service Concerns

We have many letters from retirees trying to get proper Blue Cross/Blue Shield reimbursement for their medical bills. Many 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:

John Church, Benefits Committee
SRS Retiree Association
P. O. Box 5686
Aiken, SC 29804

You should also address specific complaints and concerns to Judy Merritt, the BC/BS liaison for WSRC/SRS.

Judy Martin-Merritt, Manager, Service and Administration
Key Accounts Marketing, BC/BS SC, I-20 at Alpine Road
Columbia, SC 29219
Telephone 1-800-288-2227, Ext.42205 or in-state 1-803-788-0222, Ext. 42205;
email: Judy.Merritt@BCBSSC.com

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 (email contact for this new service)

◇ **Life, Health, Dental**

Becky Proveaux	PS Svc. Ctr. #
Rosalee Bennett	PS Svc. Ctr. #
Greg Murray	803-725-0531
Cindy McClintock	803-725-7004

◇ **Pension**

John Felkel	803-725-7722
Viola Best	803-725-1900

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

◇ **Metropolitan Life** 800-360-2747
(WSRC/BSRI SIP Funds Program)

◇ **Blue Cross/Blue Shield of SC**

1-800-325-6596
www.southcarolinablues.com

Option 1 for Medical

Option 2 for Dental

Option 3 for Pre-Cert/Med Authorization

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

◇ **BAC (Westinghouse Corporate Pension)**
800-581-4222

◇ **Safety Eyeglass Office**

Tom Cuny 803-725-3379

MEMBERSHIP

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2003! PLEASE COMPLETE THE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM BELOW AND RETURN WITH YOUR CHECK FOR YOUR 2003 MEMBERSHIP DUES. PLEASE REMIND OTHER RETIREES TO CONTACT RAY PERKS (TEL. 803-642-8654) TO GET ON THE MEMBERSHIP LIST.

_____ Yes, I want to join as a member in SRSRA. I would serve on the SRSRA BOD. _____ Yes _____ No

_____ Yes, my SRS retired spouse wants to join as a member in SRSRA and would serve on the SRSRA BOD. _____ Yes _____ No

Annual Dues: Year 2003

Year 2004

_____ \$15 for Retiree

_____ \$15 for Retiree

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

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

_____ \$5 for Retiree's Survivor Spouse

_____ \$5 for Retiree's Survivor Spouse

SRS RETIREE NAME _____ SRS RETIRED SPOUSE'S NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ TELEPHONE _____

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

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

RETIREE DATE OF RETIREMENT _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

RETIREE'S SPOUSE DATE OF RETIREMENT _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

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