



# SRSRA NEWSLETTER

For SRS Retiree Association Members Bruce Cadotte, Editor Volume 20, No. 1, March 2017  
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## SRS Retiree Association Notice of 2017 Annual Membership Meeting

**TUESDAY, APRIL 18, USC-AIKEN ETHERREDGE CENTER**  
**Registration 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**  
**Meeting 1:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Notice of Meeting	1	Get the Right Stipend for 2017?	11
Message from SRSRA Chair	2	United Way Tops \$21K	12
Draft Agenda	3	Age-in Training for 2017	12
Organizations Available During Registration	3	SRR Replacing DWPF's Second Melter	12
Credit Card Dues Payments Unavailable	3	Newsletter Information	12
Draft Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting	4	Benefits Contacts	13
2017 Proposed Bylaws Changes	6	Gas Card Awards	Various
20 Years of Service: Tell us Your Story	7	SRS Retiree Association Application	14
Managing Prescription Medication Costs	8		

### 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

Each year the Board of Directors of the Savannah River Site Retiree Association (SRSRA) holds an annual meeting to discuss the financial, political and overall outlook for retired Site employees. This year's meeting will be held on April 18, 2017 at the Etherredge Center on the University of South Carolina Aiken campus. Member registration will begin at 11 a.m. and the meeting will start promptly at 1:30 p.m. It is expected to conclude at about 4 p.m. This year's meeting will be the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the association.

Guests invited to this year's meeting include management from the Department of Energy-SR, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions and Savannah River Remediation, politicians from South Carolina and Georgia, and various organizations who provide important services to the Site retirees. Those service organizations will set up tables and be available to provide information about their services to retirees. Their tables will be open from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. to discuss various issues one-on-one (See p. 3). *Be sure to register before the break to be eligible for door prizes.*

## SRSRA: 20 Years of Service!

The Etherredge Center is located on the University of South Carolina Aiken campus. Information about how to find the center and where to park can be found at [srsretirees.org](http://srsretirees.org). The center's address is: 471 University Parkway, Aiken, SC 29801 (803-641-3327). Attendees are encouraged to carpool with one or two others because school will be in session and the four parking lots are expected to be in high demand.

Any questions about the meeting can be addressed to Dick Frushour (803-648-8126), e-mail [rsfrush@bellsouth.net](mailto:rsfrush@bellsouth.net).

### **Letter from SRSRA Chair Tom French**

Fellow retirees,

I am writing this letter to invite you to the annual meeting on April 18. The annual meeting gives everyone a great opportunity to catch up with friends and co-workers and also to hear the latest news about their benefits. DOE and the site contractors will be there to give an overview of their operational plans and discuss their relationship with the retirees. These folks have worked closely with the Retiree Association this year to help us make our benefits as solid as possible.

It has been a good year for the Association. I have put together a brief list that outlines the improvements in benefits and the impacts that the association has had on the community. I won't bore you with all the details and numbers here. I will save that for my talk in April.

- DOE and SRNS have granted an increase in the annual stipend.
- DOE and SRNS have been able to provide catastrophic drug coverage for the first time.
- Representative Joe Wilson's office is sponsoring studies to determine how retirees could reasonably receive a pension increase.
- The Resource Center volunteers have worked with hundreds of clients to help them understand starting life under Medicare, file claims with WageWorks, and review their Part D drug coverage every fall. This year the volunteers were able to save their clients hundreds of thousands of dollars in potential drug bills.
- The Association has agreed to raise money in support of the SRS Heritage Foundation.
- The retirees bundled their United Way contributions and were able to donate over \$21,000.
- The Site contractors and the SRS Employee Association have been very generous this year and donated funds to help us operate the Resource Center.

You can see it has been a great year. I look forward to seeing you in April so we can all renew our acquaintances with friends and co-workers and visit the booths of folks that provide insurance and other services. Finally, it will give you a chance to hear all the facts and figures for the list of accomplishments.

Sincerely,

TJ French,  
SRSRA Chair

## DRAFT AGENDA

### Call to Order

SRSRA Chair

### State of SRSRA

- Communications and Relationships
- Retiree Health Care Plan Review
- Resource Center Update
- Pension Adjustment Proposal
- Treasurer's Report

### Remarks by DOE-SR

DOE-SR

### Presentation by SRNS, SRR Management

SRNS, SRR

### Break (15 Minutes)

### Questions and Answers

SRSRA Chair

### General Business

- Approval of the 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Bylaws Changes
- Board of Directors Elections

### Door Prize Drawings\*

(\*NOTE: MUST REGISTER BEFORE THE BREAK TO BE ELIGIBLE, AND MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN.)

### Adjournment

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### Organizations Available During Registration

As of press time, the following organizations were expected to have people available for discussion during meeting registration.

- SRNS People Support Service Center
- SRS Retiree Association Resource Center
- RightOpt
- WageWorks
- Oak Ridge/ORISE Health Studies Administration
- Social Security Administration
- SRS Employee Association
- United Way of Aiken County
- Lower Savannah Council of Governments
- Blue Cross/Blue Shield of South Carolina
- Family Y of Aiken County
- Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness
- Energy Employee Compensation Resource Center
- SRS Heritage Foundation
- Project Lifesaver

#### ***SRSRA Regrets Credit Card Payments Cannot Be Accepted at Annual Meeting***

*Although some members would like to pay their dues at the annual meeting by credit card, SRSRA is not able to accommodate credit card payments at this time. Both cash and check are fine. SRSRA hopes to be able to accept credit cards at future meetings.*

Congratulations to Mattie J. Brown, winner of a \$50 gas card courtesy of the SRSEA and SRSRA. Call Neal Smith at 706-481-0970 or 706-833-1289 within 30 days to claim your gas card! Please verify your home address when you contact him.

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## **Draft Minutes of the April 2016 Annual Meeting**

**CALL TO ORDER:** John Veldman, Chair of the Board of Directors (BOD) of the Savannah River Site Retiree Association (SRSRA), welcomed the crowd of about 400 registered members, guests and vendors to the Annual Meeting. He thanked the companies and organizations who have provided grants to fund the Resource Center. The following dignitaries attended:

- Kelly Long from Senator Tim Scott's office
- Nancy Bobbitt from Senator Johnny Isakson's office
- Jennifer Hayes from Senator David Perdue's office
- Martha Ruthven from Representative Joe Wilson's office
- Brinsley Thigpen from Representative Rick Allen's office
- Beth Blalock from Representative Jody Hice's office
- Dr. David Moody, Manager, Department of Energy – Savannah River Office (DOE-SR)
- Carol Johnson, President and Chief Operating Officer, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS)
- Mark Schmitz, Acting President and Project Manager, Savannah River Remediation (SRR)

John explained the various parts of the handout and asked everyone to write their questions on the tear-off part of the handout and give them to the ushers.

**STATE OF SRSRA:** John reported on the three strategic objectives.

- Establish a Resource Center to assist retirees with health insurance, reimbursement, and other issues—Completed
- Achieve improvements in the Post-65 Retiree Health Care Plan in 2016—Completed
- Achieve an ad hoc pension adjustment in 2016—In progress

John explained the BOD and volunteers have met with DOE-SR, Savannah River Site (SRS) contractor management, the elected delegation and their staffs, and hundreds of SRS retirees to reach the completion of two of the objectives and assist retirees with their Medicare insurance and reimbursement from their health savings account.

The SRSRA has received contributions and direct support for the Resource Center from Savannah River Site Employees Association (SRSEA), SRNS, SRR, Merrill Lynch/Bank of America, and the Lower Savannah Council of Governments (LSCOG).

Since opening last September, Resource Center volunteers have helped over 1,000 SRS retirees make the most of their health care benefits. Help is provided by assisting retirees with problems they are unable to solve themselves, recovering over \$625,000 in reimbursement issues and by helping retirees choose the most suitable Medicare Part D drug plan—saving individuals \$313,000 in 2016 drug costs. The center also offers a free "Introduction to Medicare" class for those retirees approaching age 65.

John reminded the members to review their drug plan annually during the Medicare open enrollment period. Of those who used the center for this review, 70 percent saved money by switching drug insurance companies. John also asked for volunteers to staff the Resource Center to help the SRSRA members do more for SRS retirees.

To improve medical insurance for Medicare-eligible retirees, there were several meetings with the DOE-SR, SRNS, and SRR management. As a result, SRNS has established a Catastrophic Drug "Stop Loss" in the 2016 Post-65 Health Care Plan; details are pending. Veterans with VA or Tricare, and retirees who have access to health plans through their spouse,

may purchase a Medicare policy purchased from My Medicare Advocate (MMA), or RightOpt, for only one plan year to receive their annual stipend. If a retiree lapses a Medicare Supplement or Advantage Plan and loses his or her stipend, he or she can reapply for the stipend at the next open enrollment period. He further noted SRNS/DOE-SR made a decision not to increase the stipend for 2016 but are conducting another review for 2017.

The pension proposal is a \$35 flat dollar value increase with an adder for time since retirement for those retired prior to January 1, 2009. This would amount to an increase of approximately \$35 to \$111 per month, or about a six percent average increase. This provides the oldest retirees with the smallest pensions the highest percentage increases. The proposed adjustment is less than a third of cost-of-living adjustments available to DOE employees and some other DOE sites.

Since the Department of Energy has chosen not to support this increase, SRSRA BOD members are working with the elected delegation to advance the current pension adjustment proposal. They are also working with retiree associations at other DOE sites and labs to broaden legislative support for a pension adjustment.

John Veldman reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Total income for the SRSRA, fiscal year 2016 to date has been \$64,630, mainly from membership dues and grants. Expenses for the same period have been \$64,129. Major expenses have been mailings of the newsletter, maintenance of the website, and expenses for the Resource Center.

John added the membership should support new missions for SRS. Benefits, which are a target nation-wide, would be a smaller portion of the site budget if new missions are brought to the site. Retirees should be proud of their legacy, should comment at Citizens Advisory Board meetings, and help newcomers to the area understand SRS missions.

John thanked retiring BOD members for many years of dedicated service to retirees. They are: Fred Cavanaugh, Andy Cwalina, Ed Liebfarth, Dick Seif, Jann Smith, and Victor Wright.

**PRESENTATION BY JACK CRAIG, DOE-SR MANAGER:** John introduced Jack Craig, DOE-SR Manager. Jack said John Veldman and other SRSRA BOD members have provided an excellent perspective of retirees' issues and concerns.

Jack provided a brief overview of site activities. He noted the Environmental Management budget has increased, and SRS budget had the largest increase—more than any other DOE site. The Salt Waste Processing Facility was completed in April, which has improved the treatment of high-level waste. The Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) is now working on complex-wide issues and is branching out to assist industries and the academia. He noted 50 percent of the current workforce will be eligible to retire within the next five years. He also commented on the improvements to the Medicare-eligible retiree health issues and remarked on the improvements since the previous year. He said he will continue to work with BOD members and support the Resource Center.

**PRESENTATION BY CAROL JOHNSON, SRNS PRESIDENT AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** After being introduced by John Veldman, Carol Johnson informed the audience about some of the SRS activities, including: nuclear materials management in L Area, K Area Complex, H Canyon, and HB Line. She also discussed tritium production and current activities at SRNL. Recent changes at the site include: mobile devices are allowed in some limited areas, active shooter training for employees is provided, cafeterias have been replaced by food trucks, and the pension payroll is larger than the active employee payroll. Carol also discussed the changes to the health insurance and stipend for retirees.

**PRESENTATION BY MARK SCHMITZ, SRR ACTING PRESIDENT AND PROJECT MANAGER:** Mark Schmitz briefly explained several of the ongoing SRR activities, including over 4,000 canisters filled by the Defense Waste Processing Facility, eight high-level waste tanks closed, and 85 per cent of Saltstone Disposal Unit construction

completed. He noted SRS retirees are the best ambassadors for the site and thanked them for their continued support of site missions.

**QUESTIONS** [Questions and answers from the floor were printed in the June and September newsletters and can be provided by e-mail upon request.]

**GENERAL BUSINESS:** After John Veldman returned to the agenda, a motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the 2015 Annual Meeting minutes. John asked for nominations for the board from the floor. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the nominations provided by the board. The new board members elected were: Paula Brown, Bob Hottel, Gordie Leopard, David Moss, Chris Rodrigues, and Don Stevenson.

John Plodinec thanked the Savannah River Site Employees Association (SRSEA) for all of their support over the past year. They provided a grant for the Resource Center and provide gift cards for the newsletter and the Annual Meeting.

He then announced the provided the following SRSEA door prize winners: David Keller, Paul Kuppinger, Betsy Kerby, Fritz Wezinger, Janice Wilkins, Ursula Figna, Charlie Jenkins, Calvin Suber, Sue Crofts.

The following door prizes were provided by SRSRA: Rufus Cowart, James Hammond, Ray Geiselhart, Gary Shartzter and Beverly Burch.

After a motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and approved, John thanked everyone for attending the 2016 Annual Meeting.

---End of draft minutes

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## 2017 Proposed Bylaws Changes for Approval at Annual Meeting

The following are changes proposed to the SRSRA Bylaws for the members' approval. A brief background is given on each change.

### ARTICLE III – Members

**CURRENT WORDING:** Section 1. Composition. Members of this SRSRA Corporation shall be participants in the Westinghouse Savannah River Company-Bechtel Savannah River Incorporated retirement plan or in the successor plan, currently called the "Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC Multiple Employer Pension Plan."

**PROPOSED WORDING:** Section 1. Composition. Members of this SRSRA Corporation shall be limited to persons (excluding employees of the U.S. Department of Energy) who have been employed at or in direct association with the Savannah River Site (or the Savannah River Plant/Savannah River Laboratory as it was previously known) for at least five years and who have since retired from any such employment, as well as their spouses.

However, the primary focus of the SRSRA Corporation shall be to provide service to participants in the Westinghouse Savannah River Company-Bechtel Savannah River Incorporated retirement plan or in the successor plan, currently called the "Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC Multiple Employer Pension Plan."

**BACKGROUND** Past practices and changes in membership rules have resulted in a membership that does not exactly match the currently stated bylaws requirements for membership. The recommended change allows for an expanded membership and accommodates this. If approved, this information will be included on the membership enrollment form.

**CURRENT WORDING:** Section 4. Quorum. Twenty percent of the SRSRA Corporation members shall constitute a quorum for Member Meetings.

**PROPOSED WORDING:** Section 4. Quorum. As long as the Notification of Member Meetings requirements of Section 3 above are met, no specific quorum is required to conduct any business to come before any Member Meeting. Such business may be transacted by a majority of the members present and voting on any particular issue.

**BACKGROUND:** Historically the annual membership meetings have been attended by 20 to 40 percent of the total membership. Many attending the meeting do not choose to remain for the business portion of the meeting, conducted after the break, and it is therefore probable that less than 20 percent of the membership may remain for voting on the bylaws and the election of Board Members (the only items the members are required to vote upon). The Board of Directors recommends that the above language be adopted to make the bylaws consistent with present practice.

#### **ARTICLE IV -- Board of Directors**

**CURRENT WORDING:** Section 5. Quorum. A simple majority of the Board members shall constitute a quorum.

**PROPOSED WORDING:** Section 5. Quorum. A majority of the currently sitting Board members shall constitute a quorum.

**BACKGROUND:** The term “simple majority” is often misinterpreted and should never be used in defining a quorum. The intent of the statement has always been as presented in the proposed change, which is recommended by the Board of Directors.

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### **SRSRA’s 20 Years of Service: Tell us Your Story**

The first organizational meeting of the SRS Retiree Association was held in 1997, making this year the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this organization.

SRSRA has acquitted itself well in working on behalf of its members over those 20 years, in the opinion of the Board. More than that, though, members of the association (and other SRS retirees) are important parts of the public. Although the SRSRA’s specific focus is the interests of its members and, more broadly, the Savannah River Site, the interests of those members comprise major parts of the vitality of the communities in which they

live. In recognition of the Association's 20 years, we are looking at a way to characterize that importance to the community.

We thought it would be interesting to hear from you about the roles you play in your state, city, county, town or neighborhood. This might include volunteer work with churches, schools and the like, but more particularly personal involvement in civic clubs, volunteering commitments, special interest organizations, political parties, advisory groups, and service functions of all kinds.

If you are interested in providing such information—with or without your name—send an e-mail to [newsletter@retirees.org](mailto:newsletter@retirees.org), or mail a letter to the SRSRA at P.O. Box 5686, Aiken, SC 29804. If there are notable trends to report, we will try to do so in these pages. If you have some particular experience you would like to share about your life since retirement, let us know.

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## Managing Prescription Medication Costs

As we age, prescription medications become an ever larger percentage of our annual medical costs. The SRSRA would like to share some ways of controlling those costs.

### Annual Rx Plan Review

First and foremost, all retirees and their spouses should review their selection of a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan annually. Each year, between Oct. 15 and Dec. 7, you have the opportunity to select the most cost-effective plan. Unlike your Medicare supplement plan, you can change drug plans every year, without medical underwriting barriers, if you want to. Such changes do not affect your stipend.

The prescription plan premiums are determined by the plans' gains and losses from prior years, their estimate of drug cost inflation for the upcoming year, and in some cases, their merger plans. Don't make your decision solely by the amount of the premium and the deductible. Your costs will be more significantly determined by (1) what the plan charges for your specific drugs by dosage, which is affected by what cost tier your drug is assigned for a particular plan year; (2) whether you have used the plan's generic, or lower-tier drugs, whenever possible; (3) whether all your drugs are even on the plan's formulary list (not all drugs are covered by all carriers and that could prove very expensive if you have an uncovered drug); (4) whether you use the network or network preferred drug store chain (or individual drug store) your specific plan has contracted with for the plan year; and (5) whether you choose mail order, a feature which *can* be *less* expensive for some plans—but not every plan—and in some cases *can* be *more* expensive.

*Rx Cost  
Control*

Drug companies can, and do, change a number of these features annually. This is why it is so important for you to also review the plans every year. Retirees benefited from changing to a different prescription drug plan in 70 percent of the plans we reviewed at the Retiree Resource Center in the past two years. By using the drug plan

estimator on the Medicare website, retirees have been able to save about \$749,000 on total drug plan costs through the Resource Center in the same period (about \$1,700 per person).

The annual review can be done in four ways: (1) by yourself, using the computer program available at the [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) website, which lists the plans available for all locations; (2) by using the SRSRA Resource Center, which is particularly helpful if you do not have computer access, and which also uses that national model, (3) by RightOpt, which has a smaller number of plans available, but has licensed agents to help answer questions; or (4) by using another insurance broker. You can choose any of these methods *for selecting drug plans* without it affecting your stipend allocation.

Two things to remember when you are reviewing the plans:

- Most Rx plans contract with certain pharmacies, so the costs projected by you will vary by pharmacy and you must use the network pharmacies to get the best costs.
- If you choose an Rx plan that does not cover some of your prescriptions, the costs for those non-covered prescriptions will not be included in your out-of-pocket costs as determined by Medicare, and thus will not be eligible for inclusion in your SRS Catastrophic Drug Plan benefit (if you need it).

### **Generic versus Brand-Name Medications**

The cost of generics is 80-85 percent lower than brand-name drugs according to the FDA. Take an active role with your physicians, making sure you show them the list of all the drugs you are currently taking and asking if there are any generic or less expensive therapeutically equivalent medications which would be appropriate for you.

*Rx*  
*\$Cost\$*  
*Control*

Remember, the drugs most heavily advertised on television and in magazines are the ones with the highest profit margins, not necessarily the best choices for everyone. Also, a regular review of the medications may indicate some medications which can be eliminated because your condition has changed or a different medication that addresses the condition has been added. Do your homework and ask to have the prescription changed from 30-day to 90-day if your plan offers a discount on 90-day supplies. In some cases, you may even be able to change to a cheaper over-the-counter medication.

(Also, check the formulary that your plan gives you to see what “tier” your drugs are on, even if they are generics. Some generic drugs are not necessarily on the lowest-cost tier for every policy; ask if there is an equally-effective lower-cost one that you can use, if it is an issue.)

One in five new prescriptions nationwide are never even filled, which frustrates doctors, and patient compliance with medication dosages remains a major problem. Some retirees have made unilateral decisions to decrease or stop medications. It is always best to discuss the financial impact with your doctor, certainly before not filling, stopping, or reducing dosages yourself, to see if there are alternatives. It’s their job to help you, but you must be

knowledgeable about your Rx plan as it is not possible for all doctors to know all plans' details.

### Use Preventive Care

The better you take care of yourself, and the earlier you identify problems, the less costly your care will be. Diabetes is an excellent example of a condition which is much less expensive when managed consistently. Weight management and smoking have a very direct relationship to drug costs. You can save on not only the cost of cigarettes but also the cost of medications for related conditions.



### Ask for Samples

Sometimes your doctor will have free sample available. Bear in mind, though, that the drug companies often offer the free samples of expensive drugs to get you to choose them over less expensive and still effective generic drugs.

### Mail Order Service

Many retirees save a significant amount choosing a mail order feature, a service millions of Americans across the country use successfully. In those cases where the insurance plan has a business relationship with the online pharmacy, purchasing through the online pharmacy may result in a significant savings. In the case where there is no such business relationship, there may be no significant cost advantage. Changing from a local pharmacy to an online pharmacy needs to be carefully evaluated.

### Free Cost Comparison Service - GoodRx.com

GoodRx.com is an internet-based website that collects prices and discounts from over 60,000 U.S. pharmacies. By entering the drug name, dosage and your location, the website identifies the lowest cost pharmacies in your area for the particular drug. In some cases, you must print a coupon and take it to the particular pharmacy; in other cases, a coupon is not required. The drug prices shown on GoodRx.com are **retail** prices and can be used **in lieu of** a purchase through your Part D Prescription Drug Plan. In most cases, the price for a particular medication purchased using your Part D Medication Plan will be lower than the price using GoodRx.com; but there may be cases where the GoodRx.com price will be lower than your Part D insurance drug price. GoodRx.com only covers prescription drugs, not over-the-counter medications. GoodRx.com **is not insurance**; it just provides discounts.

# Rx Cost

# Control

If you do not have internet access or require assistance in determining if GoodRx.com can help you, please contact the SRSRA Resource Center. Please be prepared to identify the medication, dosage and what you currently pay for the medication using insurance.

### Prescription Drug Discount Cards

There are numerous discount cards that provide the same service as GoodRx.com. They offer an **alternative** to purchasing prescription medications through your Part D insurance. Most do not show you the discounted price online like GoodRx.com does. You would have to present these cards to your Pharmacist in order to determine if the reduced price is better than under your insurance. These cards are discount cards and do not represent insurance. The SRSRA Resource Center has a number of Familywize.org discount cards

(branded by the United Way of Aiken County). If you would like one of these cards, please contact the Resource Center.

One particular discount which may be of value for you is a program offered by AARP that provides discounts on FDA-approved medications that are not covered by Medicare Part D and are filled at a Walgreens retail and mail service pharmacy. Some examples would be drugs for weight loss, fertility, sexual dysfunction, hair growth, and cosmetic purposes.

### **On Line Internet Services**

If you do order your drugs on line, make sure the site is VIPPS-certified. There are some very reliable sites and some that are not so reliable. You must trade off any lower cost with extra vigilance on your part.

### **Pharmacy Cash Price**

Some pharmacies maintain a “cash price” list for prescription drugs purchased without the use of insurance. In some cases, these “cash prices” may be lower than the “insurance price.” Please ask your pharmacist.

### **Caveat Emptor – Let the Buyer Beware**

There are certainly some economies out there if you take the time and learn how to make apples-to-apples comparisons and are willing to drive to different locations rather than one drug store. But one very important consideration is that if you get your prescriptions from a number of places, you lose the very important service your regular pharmacy provides—knowing all your medications and checking for potential drug interactions. This is especially important for people with a large number of medications. Your pharmacist can be a very important ally in your health insurance team, and going outside that relationship can hamper their usefulness.

*Rx Cost  
Control*

As always, the SRSRA Retiree Resource Center is available to assist you in the use of these tools to manage your prescription medications costs.

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## **Did You Get The Right Stipend Amount for 2017?**

The SRSRA Retiree Resource Center has worked with a number of clients to resolve incorrect stipend amounts for January 2017, which is when increased amounts became effective. Issues were resolved successfully but not always easily. Please check your WageWorks accounts to verify that your stipend was determined correctly by RightOpt. If it is incorrect, you can call RightOpt at 877-591-8904, or you can contact the SRSRA Retiree Resource Center at 803-508-7065 or [srsra@lscog.org](mailto:srsra@lscog.org) and they will help you.

Here are the correct amounts: Starting in 2017, and using your age as of Dec. 31, 2017, the stipend is \$2,508 for ages 65-69, \$2,604 for 70-74, \$2,808 for 75-79, and \$3,000 for ages 80 and up.

## United Way Total Tops \$21K

Members donating to United Way campaigns through the SRSRA contributed a total of \$21,159 for the 2016 campaign, and excellent showing for the Association—more than \$1,800 more than the previous year. For further details, about donating to the United Way, contact (for example) the United Way of Aiken County, Inc., P.O. Box 699, Aiken, SC 29802-0699.

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## Age-in Training for 2017

April's class at the Resource Center for people who will be aging in to Medicare will be held on Friday, April 7, at 9 a.m. The Center is in the offices of the Lower Savannah Council of Governments, 2748 Wagener Rd., Aiken, SC 29801. The phone numbers are listed on the next page; call if you are interested.

Usually the training classes are held once a month on Tuesdays. Currently, the other sessions this year are scheduled for May 9, June 13, July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14 and Dec. 12.

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## SRR Replacing DWPF's Second Melter

Savannah River Site's Melter 2, a key component in the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF), will be replaced after nearly 14 years of record-breaking operational performance. A heater inside Melter 2 failed on Feb. 1 and is deemed not repairable.

Melter 2 is only the second melter in the 20-year history of DWPF. It has been operating nearly 14 years, approximately 12 years beyond its designed life expectancy. Melter 1 ran for about six years of radioactive service after two years of non-radioactive simulant processing.

The operational concept for DWPF is to use a melter until it is no longer operational and then replace it with a new melter. There are no risks to the public, workers, or the environment during melter replacement. The replacement melter, Melter 3, has been ready for years. Work to install it will begin shortly, and will take about six months.

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## Newsletter Information

**Questions and comments related to this newsletter may be addressed to Bruce Cadotte, newsletter editor, at [newsletter@srsretirees.org](mailto:newsletter@srsretirees.org), or Newsletter, SRS Retiree Association, P.O. Box. 5686, Aiken, SC 29804.**

If you have a new e-mail address, or have changed your address recently and are not receiving SRSRA communications by e-mail, please contact [newsletter@srsretirees.org](mailto:newsletter@srsretirees.org). Our e-mail program allows us to reach members more quickly with news. Other pluses are quicker distribution of the newsletter and less cost of copying and mailing hard copies. Thanks to all of you who are receiving your newsletter by e-mail.

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Congratulations to John R. Kosko, winner of a \$50 gas card courtesy of the SRSEA and SRSRA. Call Neal Smith at 706-481-0970 or 706-833-1289 within 30 days to claim your gas card! Please verify your home address when you contact him.

## BENEFITS CONTACTS

- **Benefits 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 (toll free)
  - [service-center@srs.gov](mailto:service-center@srs.gov) (e-mail contact for this service)
- **SRS Retiree Resource Center:**
  - (803) 508-7065
  - (866) 845-1550 (toll free)
  - **Internet:** [srsra@lscog.org](mailto:srsra@lscog.org)
- ◆ **Westinghouse Corp. Pension** 800-581-4222
- ◆ **RightOpt/My Medicare Advocate** 877-591-8904; [www.righoptretiree.com/srs](http://www.righoptretiree.com/srs)
- ◆ **WageWorks** 877-924-3967; [www.wageworks.com](http://www.wageworks.com)
- ◆ **Medicare Helpline** 800-633-4227
- ◆ **Medicare website:** [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)
- ◆ **Prudential Life Insurance** 844-494-4778 (Contributory and non-contributory life insurance)
- ◆ **Blue Cross/Blue Shield of SC** 800-325-6596;  
[www.southcarolinablues.com](http://www.southcarolinablues.com)  
Option 1 for Medical  
Option 2 for Dental  
Option 3 for Pre-Cert/Med Authorization

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### **Interested in serving on the SRSRA Board of Directors?**

**Please e-mail Tom Varallo, Nomination Chairman, at [tomvarallo@gmail.com](mailto:tomvarallo@gmail.com)**

Congratulations to Jeffery Abplanalp, winner of a \$50 gas card courtesy of the SRSEA and SRSRA. Call Neal Smith at 706-481-0970 or 706-833-1289 within 30 days to claim your gas card! Please verify your home address when you contact him.

# Savannah River Site Retiree Association Membership Form

## Annual Dues

Annual dues for the Association are \$25/year for a retiree (there is no charge for retirees who are spouses of members). For surviving spouses of retirees, annual dues are \$5.

- \_\_\_\_\_ As a retiree, I want to **JOIN/RENEW** my membership in the SRSRA (\$25). Retirement date from SRS: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am the **SPOUSE** of a member and also an SRS retiree and I want to **JOIN** the SRSRA (no charge). Retirement date from SRS: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am the **SURVIVING SPOUSE** of an SRS retiree and want to **JOIN/RENEW** my membership in the SRSRA (\$5).
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am willing to **SERVE** on the SRSRA Board of Directors.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in **VOLUNTEERING** at the SRSRA Retiree Resource Center.
- \_\_\_\_\_ In addition to my dues, I want to make **AN ADDITIONAL GIFT** to the SRSRA Resource Center \_\_\_ or the SRS Heritage Foundation \_\_\_ (latter is tax deductible):  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$25    \_\_\_ \$10    \_\_\_ \$15    \_\_\_\_\_ Other amount \$\_\_\_\_\_

*The Resource Center is staffed by volunteers, but your dues do not cover all of its costs.*

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Providing your e-mail address allows SRSRA to send important communications to you electronically.*

Mail this form (and your check) to:  
**SRS Retiree Association**  
**P. O. Box 5686**  
**Aiken, SC 29804**  
**Attention: Membership Chair**