

CORRE Newsletter

WINTER, 2025 EDITION



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A Message From Our CORRE President, Dave Whitehead

Welcome to the Winter 2025 edition of our CORRE newsletter. We hope you find it interesting and informative. We plan to publish a newsletter approximately four times per year and make it available on our website. The website contains a wealth of information that should be interesting and useful to our members. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please email them to:

communications@mycorre.org.

Who We Are

CORRE (preferred pronunciation “core”) is an acronym for the *Coalition of Oak Ridge Retired Employees*, which was established in 2002 to represent the interests of some 15,000 retirees and surviving spouses. CORRE is not-for-profit (501 (c)(5) corporation, run by volunteers and managed by an elected board of directors. Our mission is to protect, preserve, and enhance the retirement benefits of its members and their surviving spouses. All retirees are initially considered “*general*” members of CORRE, and are welcome to participate in CORRE activities regardless of whether they were formerly hourly, management, monthly, or weekly employees. You can become a **contributing member** by making a one-time \$20 donation to CORRE. This entitles you to vote in our annual meetings. We encourage all members to provide your contact information to CORRE. We use your street address (zip code) to determine your congressional district. We may occasionally send you email to inform you of important issues that could affect your pension or healthcare benefits (or to notify you when a new newsletter or other important retiree information is available on our website).

CORRE does not share your contact information with anyone in a way that identifies you by name.

CORRE Annual Meeting Summary

Our CORRE annual meeting was held on Friday, November 8, 2024 in the New Hope Center at Y-12. All Oak Ridge retirees were invited and approximately 200 members attended. For those who could not attend in person, the meeting was also available online using Zoom. A summary of the meeting is available on our website. In addition to the 17 CORRE Officers and Board members returning from the 2024 CORRE Board, the following five new CORRE Board members were introduced and the entire slate of 22 Board members were elected by acclamation.



Wayne Bolinger: Wayne is a 1979 graduate of Karns High School in Knoxville. Shortly after graduating he enlisted in the Air National Guard and was honorably discharged in 1984. He started his career as a Machinist at Y-12 in 1982 and held the Chief Steward position in the Machinist Local. In 1990, he transferred to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory as a Chemical Operator and Chief Steward of the Chemical Operators Local. In 2012, he was elected as 1st Vice President of the Atomic Trades and Labor Council of ORNL and held that position until his retirement in 2024.



Richard Green: Richard graduated from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and a Master's degree in Management Information Systems.

Began working at the K-25 computing center as a computer programmer in 1968 under Union Carbide Corp. He retired in 2011 having provided 40+ years of Computing and Telecommunications support and service to Y-12, ORNL, and K-25. He held a variety of technical and managerial positions at all three sites, including Computing and Telecommunications site manager at both the K-25 and Y-12 sites. In 1992 and 1993 he reported to the President of Martin Marietta Energy Systems in a 2 year special assignment as Ethics Director for the K-25, Y-12, ORNL, Paducah, and Portsmouth sites. Served as Chairman of the Energy Systems United Way Campaign in 1987, and Chairman of the Energy Systems Savings Bond Campaign in 1989.



Ross Harding: Ross graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1973. He retired after commanding both attack submarines and ballistic missile submarines. His first civilian job was with Lockheed Martin, restarting the nuclear facilities at Y-12 after the self-imposed shutdown in 1995. Following transition to B&W at Y-12 in 2001, he became a contractor and has supported restarts (including ORRs), nuclear safety compliance, safety basis development and implementation as well as disciplined operations efforts at DOE sites in Paducah, Portsmouth, K-25, ORNL, WIPP, and most recently supporting CNS at Y-12 and Pantex.

Annual Meeting Summary (Continued from Page 2)



Greg Livengood: Greg has more than 30 years of service with the various prime management & operating contractors in Oak Ridge. He served as the Regulatory Compliance Manager for Transportation & Packaging at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) before transitioning to Y-12 in 1999. He held several positions at Y-12, primarily involving the management of contractor regulatory compliance programs in a variety of areas. He retired from Y-12 in September 2021 as the Senior Manager for Business & Compliance Programs for the Legal Division of Consolidated Nuclear Security. Greg received a BS degree in Supply Chain Management from the University of Tennessee in 1987. He has lived in Oak Ridge since 1990 and enjoys a multitude of outdoor activities in the area, especially cycling and rowing.



John Steward: In 1968, John was employed as a Machinist in the K-25 Apprentice Program, and later the Maintenance Mechanic Apprentice Program. After completing the apprentice program, he was in charge of the Building K-1098-E Heat Treat Facility. He attended Roane State Community College to continue his education. In 1998 he accepted a position in K-25 *Environmental Health and Safety*, representing all K-25 hourly employees. In 1998 he received the Lockheed Martin Energy Systems operations and support *Special Achievement of the Year* award. In 2000, he assisted in petitioning Congress to enact the *Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act* (EEOICPA). He currently co-chairs the Oak Ridge Alliance of Grandfathered Retirees and Employees group (AGRE). He is also the Outreach Coordinator for the *Workers Health Protection Program* and is directly involved with assisting current and retired employees with their claims under the *Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act* (EEOICPA).

The CORRE board thanks the following outgoing board members for their service:

Joe Kato, Ed Lee, Debbie Randolph, Paul Standifer, Malcolm Stocks, and Garry Whitley.



CORRE President Dave Whitehead addresses our members at the 2024 Annual Meeting, held at New Hope Center.

A Message from Your CORRE Communications Director

This year the CORRE Communications Committee plans to make significant improvements in our ability to communicate with our members. Our members are divided into two categories, **General Members** and **Contributing Members**. We currently have about 3,700 *contributing members*, (those who have made a one-time contribution to CORRE of \$20 or more). Our Charter, which was created over 20 years ago, states that we represent the interests of **all retirees** who retired from an Oak Ridge DOE-owned facility. There are several thousand people who are either still working at an Oak Ridge facility, or who have retired and not provided contact information to CORRE. Many of these retirees are not even aware that CORRE exists. In recent years, managing contractors have become reluctant to include information about CORRE as a part of the retirement process. Despite this, over 600 of our CORRE general members and future retirees, have shown an interest in CORRE by providing contact information.)

The cost of using postal mail to communicate with our members has become prohibitive. Our website (and this newsletter) are now our primary methods of communicating with our members. Our newsletters are stored on the website, where you can read or download them. Our website also contains CORRE's charter, our history, mission and vision, important issues for retirees, and other beneficial information.

We depend on email to remind our members to visit our website and read our newsletters. You can help CORRE by making sure we have your current contact information. Later this year, we hope to provide a secure way to update your contact information on our website. The information will be protected and not visible to other people visiting the website. Until that feature becomes available, please take a look at the form on the following page. **If you are already a CORRE contributing member**, you can simply create an email message and include the updated information shown on the form in your message. Send the email message to communications@mycorre.org.

If you are not yet a contributing member and would like to become one, please use the form on the following page and provide the information requested, and mail it to the CORRE treasurer at the address shown.

Whether or not you are already a contributing member, CORRE is always happy to accept additional contributions to help defray our operating expenses. Those contributions should be mailed to the CORRE treasurer at the address shown on the form. Also, tell your retiree friends about CORRE and encourage them to participate.

Other Communications Activities

Our CORRE board of directors meets on the third Wednesday of every month at the Atomic Trades and Labor Council (ATLC) building at 109 Viking Rd in Oak Ridge. We are not affiliated with the ATLC, but we appreciate the use of their conference room and audiovisual equipment. CORRE members comprise a mixture of *retirees* who were formerly hourly, weekly, and monthly employees at Oak Ridge DOE facilities. Retirees who are interested in becoming more active in CORRE are welcome to attend our meetings.

CORRE also participates in various community events such as the "K-25 Reunion," and occasionally with Healthcare Providers who are associated with the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA). Once again, CORRE is not affiliated with any of these organizations.

Sam McSpadden,

CORRE Communications Committee Chair and CORRE Communications Director.

I can be reached by email at communications@mycorre.org

Help CORRE Communicate More Effectively with Our Members

I. Please **Update Your Contact Information!**

Although CORRE currently has the names of thousands of retiree members in our database, the majority of our member records are missing either an email address, phone number, or a street address (including zip code). ***Please help CORRE update our records. We will not share this information with other organizations in a way that reveals your name.***

Why do we need all of this information? Having your street address and zip code helps us determine your congressional district and the name of your elected representative. When CORRE meets with congressional staff members, it is very important to let them know *how many of their constituents* are CORRE members. Knowing your street address and zip code helps us determine your congressional district and enables us to provide a more accurate answer. Most of our communication with you will be done via email, our website and this newsletter. If you are already a contributing member of CORRE, please take a minute and update your contact information (preferably by sending an email), to communications@mycorre.org. Please provide the information shown below.

II. Become a **Contributing CORRE Member**

All CORRE board members are volunteers, and receive no compensation for their work. All retirees from Oak Ridge DOE contractor facilities are considered *general members* of CORRE. By making a one-time contribution of \$20, you will become a *contributing member*, and will be entitled to vote in our annual meetings. Your contribution will help CORRE defray the cost of maintaining a website, conducting our annual meeting, and other operating expenses. Just send your check for \$20, along with the following contact information:

Name: (First, middle name or initial, Last)

P.O. Box or Street Address

City, State and Zip Code

Phone (Please include area code)

Email

Retired From:

☐ Y-12 ☐ X-10 ☐ K-25 ☐ ProForce

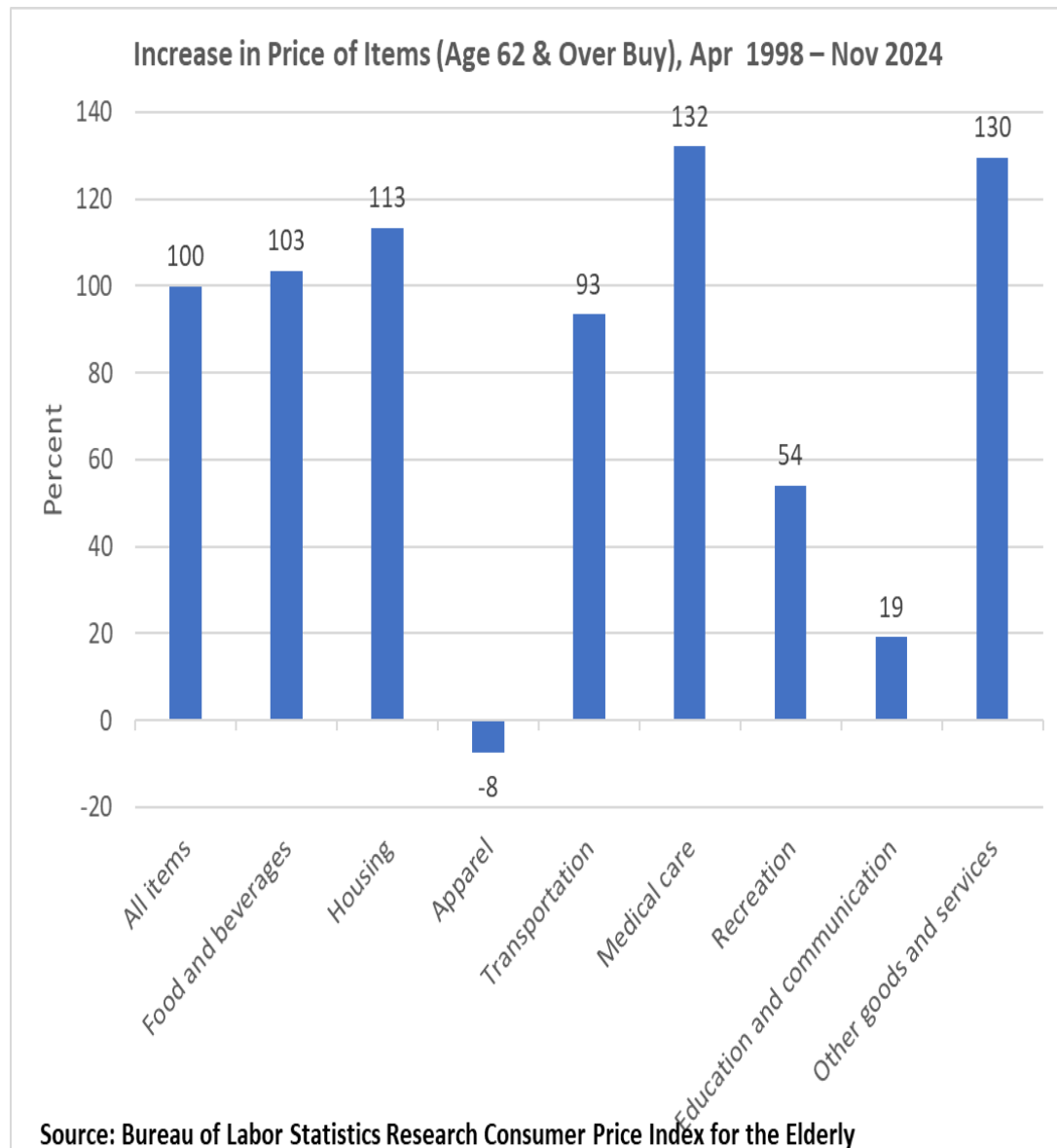
Year you Retired: _____

Mail to: CORRE Treasurer
 P.O. Box 4266
 Oak Ridge, TN 37830-4266

Inflation Continues to Relentlessly Affect Retirees

Although the benchmark Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) has remained relatively steady in recent months, increases earlier in 2024 cause it to be 2.75% above one year ago. Social Security checks only received a 2.5% increase, and Medicare Part B premiums increased from \$174.70 to \$185.00 for most retirees.

\$1.00 in April 1998 (retirement date of last COLA received by the four DOE Oak Ridge Contractor Pension Plans) needs to be \$1.94 as of November 2024. However, based on an index that measures the prices of goods and services that people age 62 and over buy, the impact is greater as illustrated in the chart below, and those retiring before April 1998 have now lost 50% of their original pension value.



Prepare and Send Emails or Letters to Your Congressional Members

In your request for their support for adjustments to our retiree benefits, letters in your own words are the most effective. Your letter should express how inflation has impacted your finances and quality of life in retirement. (If you prefer, you can also use the template form letter below.)

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
357 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20510
<https://www.marshablackburn.senate>
Phone: (202) 224-3344

Representative Tim Burchett
1122 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20515
<https://burchett.house.gov>
Phone: (202) 225-5435

The Honorable Bill Hagerty
251 Russell Senate Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20510
<https://www.hagerty.senate>
Phone: (202) 224-4944

Representative Chuck Fleischmann
2187 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
<https://fleischmann.house.gov>
Phone: (202) 225-3271

(Template/Form Letter)

Dear (Congressional Representative),

Our Coalition of Oak Ridge Retired Employees (CORRE) board of directors recently submitted a request for legislative corrective action concerning needed improvements to our pension and health care benefits for retired Oak Ridge nuclear workers. There are about 15,000 former Department of Energy (DOE) retirees and spouses, most of which live in Tennessee and are your constituents.

Our retirement and health benefits have eroded significantly over the past several years due to ever increasing inflation. No cost-of-living adjustments have been made since 1998 for those who worked for many years for the DOE as contractor employees at the Oak Ridge nuclear complex. The cost of living has nearly doubled since then!

(Add anything you wish regarding how inflation has affected you personally here.)

It is my request that you please be a champion and sponsor for this legislative corrective action request from our retiree organization (CORRE), which represents your Oak Ridge nuclear worker constituents. This legislation, if passed, will honor those who have worked for the DOE as contractors for so many years and made sacrifices for the country we have served.

Thank you so much for your support on this issue and for your service to our country and our state.

(Retiree signature and address)

Some Oak Ridge retirees live outside Tennessee congressional district 2 (Burchett) or district 3 (Fleischmann). If you don't already know your representative's name, you can determine it by visiting [this web site](#) and entering your zip code. In some cases, you will also need to enter your street address.

Oak Ridge Reservation Cleanup Contract (ORRCC) Retiree Healthcare Exchange (RHE) Information (for eligible Grandfathered Retirees/Spouses of UCOR, formerly Bechtel Jacobs)

Continuing in 2025, eligible Post-Age 65 retirees and eligible spouses will receive their healthcare coverage through an exchange program. The Oak Ridge Reservation Cleanup Contract *Retiree Healthcare Exchange Program*, listed options, requirements, and stipend process will remain in effect for 2025.

The annual employer-paid stipend amount for 2025 is \$2,784 per eligible retiree/spouse.

An annual employer paid tax free stipend, payable through a Retiree Reimbursement Arrangement (RRA), will be made available to eligible retirees and eligible spouses to help offset the cost “incurred in claims” of the healthcare coverage elected. If you are an eligible retiree, you may sign up for the ORRCC RHE Program during the applicable benefits annual open enrollment period or Qualifying Life Event (QLE). However, you must elect the healthcare exchange coverage through the ORRCC RHE program in order to receive the stipend. Eligible retirees must have enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B to be eligible for a stipend.

An eligible retiree must be enrolled in the ORRCC medical coverage in order for eligible spouse to enroll in Pre-Age 65 or Post-Age 65 retiree medical coverage (this does not apply to surviving spouse). Eligible retirees or spouses aged 65 or older must enroll in medical coverage under the ORRCC RHE program. Spouses aged 65 or older cannot enroll in the Pre-Age 65 Retiree Medical Plan as a dependent under the Retiree.

REMINDER: On January 1, 2023, UCOR implemented changes to the RRA stipend process by transitioning from the full rollover RRA balance to a different rollover method using a \$5,000 fixed-amount approach, along with a 90-day runout period from end of calendar year. If you would like to know your balance, reach out to Stephanie Strickland via the contact information below.

If you have received a letter indicating you have a large remaining RRA stipend balance, please reach out for assistance in remitting claims to avoid forfeiting your unused funds.

New Pre-Age 65 Medical Carrier for CY 2025

For Pre-Age 65 Retirees starting January 1, 2025, Aetna will be replaced by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee (BCBST) as the medical plan carrier. You will receive new BCBST identification cards, sent to your address on file.

Questions? Please contact: Stephanie Strickland, UCOR HR Administrator - Retiree Benefits & Pension, 865-241-0573

or stephanie.strickland@orcc.doe.gov.

NOTE: CORRE wants to help our members by keeping them informed about retiree benefits, potential changes in those benefits, and the way they are administered. Our CORRE board members are often not qualified to answer specific questions from our members regarding retiree benefits. We welcome articles such as this from other Oak Ridge contractor-operated DOE facilities. We will be happy to include such information in future CORRE newsletters as space permits. At the very least, we will try to provide contact information for the appropriate contractor HR personnel so that they can answer your specific questions.



P.O. Box 4699 | Oak Ridge, TN 37831

FINAL REMINDER from UCOR (formerly Bechtel Jacobs)

Retiree Reimbursement Arrangement (RRA)

You still have time!

This final reminder is reaching you since you are enrolled in the Retiree Reimbursement Arrangement (RRA) sometimes called a stipend through UCOR formerly Bechtel Jacobs.

A packet was sent to you in October 2024 which contained information regarding the large remaining balance, (over \$5,000) in your ORRCC Retiree Reimbursement Arrangement Account (RRA stipend), and how to complete claim forms for reimbursement of qualifying medical, prescription, dental, and vision expenses, including premiums for 2024.

Please note that there is a deadline for submission avoid forfeiture of remaining 2024 funds.


The extension deadline to file is **3/31/2025**

If you have 2024 premiums and expenses you would like to be considered for reimbursement, please reach out for assistance. You may also enroll for reimbursement on 2025 premiums for United Health-care, Medicare Part B, prescription coverage and more.

If you have questions about the program or need assistance completing the claims forms, please reach out to Stephanie Strickland at 865-241-0573 or stephanie.strickland@orcc.doe.gov.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Strickland

Stephanie Strickland
HR Administrator – Retiree Benefits/Pension

United Cleanup Oak Ridge LLC
P.O. Box 4699, MS 7402 Oak Ridge, TN 37831

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Matt Mullins | Director of Marketing and Communications
American Museum of Science and Energy Foundation
115 Main St E, Oak Ridge, TN 37830
E: mmullins@amse.org | C: (865) 387-1791

Friday, January 17, 2025



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2nd Annual Gathering of K-25 Employees and Supporters to Celebrate Legacy of Historic Plant Oak Ridge, Tennessee –

The legacy of the K-25 Gaseous Diffusion Plant, a cornerstone of the Manhattan Project and Cold War history, will take center stage at the 2nd Annual K-25 Employees Reunion on Saturday, April 26, from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM. This landmark event, the largest gathering of former K-25 employees, their families, and community supporters, will honor the extraordinary contributions of those who shaped one of the most significant chapters in American history.

Taking place at the K-25 Historical Site, the reunion will feature a mix of celebration, commemoration, and community engagement. Highlights include:

- **Community Gathering:** A chance for attendees to connect, share stories, and honor the achievements of the K-25 workforce.
- **Special Guest Speakers:** Hear from local legends, historians, and special guests who will share insights on the plant's construction, operation, and ongoing remediation efforts.
- **Oral History Collections & Artifact Donations:** Staff from the AMSE Foundation will be on-site to collect oral histories and artifacts, preserving the unique legacy of K-25 for generations to come.
- **Food Trucks & Catered Desserts:** Enjoy delicious offerings from local vendors while soaking in the atmosphere of this historic celebration.
- **More Activities:** Museum tours, photo opportunities, and much more to make the day unforgettable.

The K-25 Gaseous Diffusion Plant played a pivotal role in uranium enrichment during the Manhattan Project and later during the Cold War, contributing to global security and scientific innovation. Today, its story continues to inspire as efforts to preserve and redevelop the site ensure that its history remains accessible to future generations.

All proceeds from the event will go toward the maintenance and preservation of the K-25 Atomic History Center's historical collections and the continuing rehabilitation and development of the K-25 Historical Site.

Join us in celebrating history, honoring the heroes of K-25, and ensuring their legacy endures. For more information, visit amse.org or contact information on donations and sponsorships for this event, contact Jennifer Lee at jlee@amse.org or (423) 273-8131.

Attendees can register for free at <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/k25reunion>.