



Benefit Statement Enclosed

Your annual benefit statement is enclosed with this edition of the *Informer*. Your statement only shows the last four numbers of your Social Security number to help protect you from identity theft, which has become one of the most frequent and costly crimes in the U.S.

Review your statement carefully, since it contains information on group insurance and beneficiaries. The Minnesota Life Insurance Company maintains your life insurance beneficiary information. If you would like to change or update your beneficiaries, contact Minnesota Life at 1-888-202-5525.

Refer to your statement during the annual Benefit Choice insurance enrollment period in May. The statement also contains an annuitant identification card. Cut out the I.D. card and carry it with you as proof of your association with the state of Illinois for government and retiree discounts.

Social Security 101

Social Security is much more than a retirement program. It is a family income protection program that reflects the commitment of the country to the economic security of workers, retirees and their families.

It's also the primary source of retirement income for most Americans. In most low-income retiree households, Social Security represents more than 80% of their retirement income.

In addition to paying benefits to retirees and their spouses, Social Security provides an income for workers who become disabled, and

for the spouses and dependent children of wage earners who die or become disabled.

Anyone who qualifies for Social Security benefits receives a monthly check and can count on that check

keeping pace with the cost of living. Social Security provides a strong, unshakable financial base that does not depend on your investment savvy.

It was not designed to compete with the stock market as an investment vehicle, nor was it designed to provide all the money you need for retirement.

One in three beneficiaries are not retired workers.

Annuitant Trustee Leaving SERS Board of Trustees

Doris Clark is leaving her position on the Board of Trustees when her term expires on July 15, 2006.



Ms. Clark served four terms on the Board, beginning in 1986. She retired from the Department of Mental Health at the Jacksonville Developmental Center in 1980. Doris is president of AFSCME Illinois Retirees, Chapter 31, and vice-chair of the SERS Board of Trustees. She resides in Jacksonville.

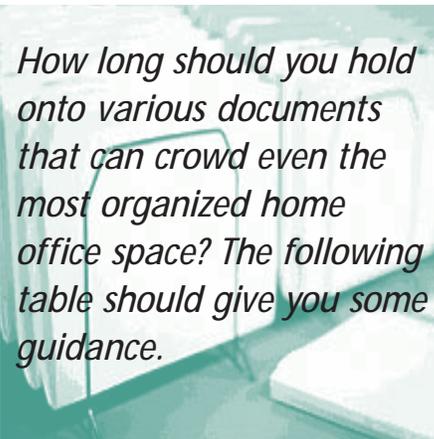
We wish her well and thank her for her outstanding service to SERS!

As a reminder, the election for a new SERS retiree to serve on our Board of Trustees is May 1. Ballots will be mailed to all qualified retirees on that date. Ballots must be returned to our office by May 30. We encourage all SERS retirees to vote in this important election!

SERS Website

For more specific information about the Retiree Election, go to our website at www.state.il.us/srs. You can also view the 2006 schedule for the Myths & Realities of Retirement workshop.

What to Keep, What to Toss



How long should you hold onto various documents that can crowd even the most organized home office space? The following table should give you some guidance.

Reprinted from Ladies Home Journal

DOCUMENT	KEEP FOR	WHY
Tax Returns and receipts	Seven years from filing date	The IRS has three years from filing date to audit your return, and six years if they suspect significant underreporting.
Pay Stubs	One year	Once you receive your annual W-2 form from your employer, you can toss the stubs.
Home & auto titles, home repair receipts	As long as you own the items	Titles are essential to transfer when you sell. Receipts are necessary to calculate capital gains.
Bank statements, cancelled checks	Seven years from filing date	Keep checks related to your taxes, mortgage payments, and bank statements in case of a tax audit.
Sales receipts and warranties	Varies	Save receipts on expensive items for insurance; keep warranties until expiration.

Circle the 2006 MRR Workshop That You Would Like to Attend

Please disregard the numbers in parentheses. They are for internal office use.

SERS offers the Myths and Realities of Retirement (MRR) workshop to retirees, survivors, disability benefit recipients and their guests.

The MRR is a free, one-day workshop examining financial scams, the effects of inflation, estate planning, group insurance, and health & leisure. Participants will find this workshop worthwhile and informative.

If you would like to attend an MRR workshop, complete and return the application to us. You can also call our office to register. After you are registered, we will confirm your enrollment by letting you know the exact workshop location.

Mar. 16	SE	Tinley Park (95)	Aug. 3	Taylorville (27)
Mar. 21		Carbondale (06)	Aug. 15	Collinsville (15)
Mar. 28		Springfield (01)	Aug. 23	SE
Apr. 5		Glen Ellyn (71)	Aug. 29	Springfield (01)
Apr. 13	SE	Farview Heights (18)	Aug. 30	SE
Apr. 20	SE	Joliet (47)	Sep. 14	Effingham (67)
Apr. 25		Springfield (01)	Sep. 19	Macomb (29)
May 9		Quincy (36)	Sep. 27	Mt. Vernon (32)
May 11	SE	Chicago (02)	Oct. 13	Galesburg (23)
May 18	SE	Utica (30)	Oct. 18	Moline (46)
May 23		Mt. Vernon (32)	Oct. 25	SE
Jun. 1		Urbana (34)	Oct. 31	Chicago (02)
Jun. 15		Normal (33)	Nov. 1	Rockford (90)
Jun. 20		Tinley Park (95)	Nov. 8	Joliet (47)
Jun. 27		Marion (07)	Nov. 16	SE
Jul. 25		Springfield (01)	Nov. 21	Peoria (13)
Jul. 27		East Peoria (82)	Nov. 29	Chicago (02)

Name _____

Social Security Number _____

Are You Bringing a Guest? _____

Return This Form To:

State Retirement Systems, Field Services Division
 2101 S. Veterans Parkway, P. O. Box 19255
 Springfield, IL 62794-9255
 217-785-6979 Fax: 217-785-7019

