

Benefit Statement Enclosed



Enclosed is your Annual Benefit Statement. Review your statement carefully, since it contains group insurance and death benefit beneficiary information.

The Minnesota Life Insurance Company maintains your life insurance beneficiary information.

If you would like to update your beneficiary, contact Minnesota Life at 1-888-202-5525. The statement also has a SERS identification card. Carry it with you as proof of your association with the state of Illinois for government and retiree discounts.

Federal Income Tax Withholding

You may see an increase in the amount of federal tax deducted from your SERS benefit payment due to revised federal withholding tables that went into effect on January 1, 2011.

SERS withholds taxes based on your withholdings on file in our office. To modify or end your withholding, you must submit a new W-4P to SERS (the W-4P is available on our website at www.state.il.us/srs). You may also contact a qualified tax advisor or the IRS at 800-829-1040 to ensure you have adequate withholding for the 2011 tax year.

Civil Unions and SERS Benefits

Public Act 96-1513 (SB 1716) created the Illinois Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act.

Effective June 1, 2011, this new state law provides civil unions not only for couples of the same sex, but for couples of the opposite sex as well.

The Act provides parties to a civil union are "entitled to the same legal obligations, responsibilities, protections and benefits as are afforded or recognized by the law of Illinois to spouses, whether they derive from statute, administrative rules, policy, common law, or any other source of civil or criminal law."

All current statutes, rules and policies that currently apply to

married SERS members and spouses will now apply to couples in a civil union.

SERS staff is revising and updating rules, policies and related materials to reflect the new Civil Unions Act. Additional information will be provided as these materials are completed. You may contact our office at 217-785-7444 for additional information.



Illinois Comptroller, Judy Baar Topinka, was sworn in as Chairman of the SERS Board of Trustees on January 20, 2011.

The State Employees' Retirement System was created in the mid-1940s to provide retirement, disability and death benefits to its members and their survivors & beneficiaries. On January 1, 1944, 17,237 state employees elected to become members of SERS. Today, we have nearly 110,000 active and retired members. Our goal has always been to serve our membership in the most efficient and timely manner possible, while keeping in mind that each individual is our greatest asset.

SERS Benefits and the Financial Markets

The State Employees' Retirement System of Illinois (SERS) is a defined benefit plan. Current and future retirement benefits are based on a retirement formula provided by State statute.

SERS benefits will not be delayed, reduced or eliminated based on the performance of the financial markets or for any other reason. The



Illinois Constitution provides additional protection, specifying that SERS benefits may not be "diminished or impaired." This constitutional protection applies regardless of the condition of the financial markets or the State budget situation.

Our long-term investment performance has been solid and this is expected to continue in the

future regardless of market conditions. Through December 31, 2010, the 10-year net return was 3.55% annually, while the 20- and 30-year net return numbers were 7.93% and 8.96% respectively.

SERS FACTOID
SERS has approximately 46,000 retirees living in 49 states and 71 in foreign countries.

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 which runs from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. It examines 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.

Circle the 2011 MRR Workshop You Would Like to Attend

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

Mar. 15 Glen Ellyn (71) **FULL**

Mar. 22 Quincy (36)

Mar. 29 Matteson (17) **FULL**

Apr. 6 Mt. Vernon (32)

Apr. 26 Chicago (02) **FULL**

Jun. 7 Springfield (01) **FULL**

Jun. 14 Marion (07)

Jun. 21 Champaign (37)

Jun. 29 Rockford (90)

Jul. 6 Schaumburg (77)

Jul. 19 Rock Falls (66)

Jul. 27 Chicago (02)

Aug. 2 Springfield (01)

Aug. 9 Bloomington (04)

Aug. 16 Carbondale (50)

Aug. 23 Utica (30)

Aug. 30 Gurnee (48)

Sep. 7 Rockford (90)

Sep. 14 Springfield (01)

Sep. 20 Kankakee (12) **FULL**

Sep. 27 Moline (46)

Oct. 4 Fairview Heights (18) **FULL**

Oct. 18 Effingham (67)

Oct. 25 Matteson (17)

Nov. 8 Springfield (01)

Nov. 29 Joliet (47)

Dec. 13 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: 217-557-5154