



Health Insurance News & Changes

Supreme Court Rules on Retiree Health Insurance

On July 3, 2014, the Illinois Supreme Court issued an opinion in the retiree health insurance premium case.

The Circuit Court of Sangamon County had originally dismissed the case on the grounds that insurance premium subsidies for retiree health insurance are not a benefit of membership in a retirement system.

The Supreme Court disagreed and determined the Circuit Court should not have dismissed the case. The Supreme Court has sent the case back to the Circuit Court for reconsideration.

The disputed health insurance premium increases will continue to be held in escrow until the final determination of the case is made.

**As this case has not yet been decided, SERS must continue to deduct retiree health insurance premiums until the courts advise us otherwise.*

Health Insurance Premium Changes *

Beginning July 1 2014, there is an increase in your health insurance premiums. Included with this *Informer* newsletter is your July earnings statement which reflects the change to group health insurance premiums for SERS retirees and survivors.

Your insurance premium is based on your Medicare status, years of service under 20 and the benefits you receive from any of the five state-funded retirement systems.

Non-Medicare retirees and survivors will be charged 4% of their monthly gross pension instead of the current 2%.

Medicare retirees and survivors will be charged 2% of their monthly gross pension instead of the current 1%.

Earnings Statement Changes

Based on legislation passed by the General Assembly effective July 1, 2014, the State Retirement Systems has implemented a secure website for members to access an electronic version of their earnings statement/pay stub. The Comptroller will no longer mail an earnings statement to you each time your net benefit changes.

SRS has created a new SRS Member Services website which provides members with secure interactive access to their membership data. We have included a copy of your July earnings statement/pay stub with this *Informer*.

To view future earnings statements you will have to access the new Member Website, or for assistance with receiving your earnings statement through email, contact our temporary call center at 217-524-0389 or technical support at 217-782-4202.

On the next page is a series of questions and answers on logging into this new website.

*Questions About Health Insurance Premiums?
SERS Call Center: 217-524-0389*

Included with this Informer newsletter is an instruction sheet on How to Register for the Member Services Website.

Member Services Log-In Q & A's

What browsers can I use to access the SRS Member Services website?

We support the following desktop browsers:

- Internet Explorer 9 and higher
- Chrome 33.x and higher
- Firefox 23.x and higher
- Safari 5.x and higher
- Opera 20.x and higher

If you do not have the current version of one of our supported browsers, please download and install a current version.

If you are using Windows XP we recommend that you download and use Chrome as your web browser.

How do I get to the SRS Member Services website?

Open a web browser and navigate to our main webpage at www.srs.illinois.gov. Then select your retirement system and choose the link to view your online account at <https://memberservices.srs.illinois.gov>

What do I need to access the SRS Member Services website?

You will need Internet access and an Illinois Public Account.

What is an Illinois Public Account?

It is an online account maintained by the Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS) that allows you secure access to your account information on the SRS Member Services website.

Is an Illinois Public Account free?

Yes, it is free to sign up. There is a one-time registration process during your first sign up that you will need to complete to access your account information online.

What if I already have an Illinois Public Account?

You can use your existing Illinois Public Account to sign into the SRS Member Services website.

What email address should I use to sign up?

You should use a personal email address when signing up for your Illinois Public Account.

For questions about the Member Services website, call 217-782-4202.

Due to the heavy volume of calls coming into SERS, you may receive a call back from SERS with "Unavailable" displayed as the incoming call. This is a legitimate call!

Member ID Number



Over the last several years the misuse and theft of Social Security numbers (SSNs) and other personal information has become a major problem in private industry and government agencies across the United States.

As a result, the Identity Protection Act was signed into law, which helps protect personal information stored in various state computer systems to safeguard Illinois citizens.

Consistent with that aim, the Department of Central Management Services has developed Employee/Member Identification (ID) numbers for all State employees, retirees and survivors to uniquely identify each member without the use of their SSN.

We are phasing out the use of SSNs on most reports and member correspondence, thereby protecting our members from possible unintended disclosure and misuse.

You can still use the last four digits of your SSN when contacting SERS, although we encourage you to start using your full Member ID number.



Kathy Welker, Vouchering Section Supervisor since 2003, retired from SERS on April 30, 2014.

Kathy worked at SERS for 29 years. Good luck in retirement Kathy!

Election Results

In addition to Alan Latoza becoming one of our retired Board members, David Morris, Cameron Watson and Robert Fierstein were recently elected as the SERS contributing member trustees. However, Cameron Watson withdrew from the Board before his term began. As the next highest vote-getter in the May election, Patricia Ousley will remain as a contributing member trustee. All four trustees will serve a five-year term on our Board of Trustees beginning July 15, 2014.

A total of 6,795 active member ballots were returned to the State Board of Elections. **Visit our website for additional election information at www.srs.illinois.gov**

