

## SERS Retirement Timeline

### Early in Your Career

- Carefully review your most recent Annual Benefit Statement to ensure that SERS records match yours.
- Purchase all allowable service credit prior to retirement.
- Visit our website and become familiar with its content.
- Attend the preretirement workshop Investing in Your Future.

### 5-15 Years from Retirement

- Carefully review your most recent Annual Benefit Statement.
- Purchase all allowable service credit prior to retirement.
- Attend the preretirement workshop Education for Tomorrow's Choices.

### 3 Years from Retirement

- Attend the preretirement workshop Countdown to Retirement.
- Utilize the estimates in your annual Benefit Statement for planning purposes.
- Contact the local Social Security office for an estimate of your Social Security benefit.

### 12 Months from Retirement

- Carefully review your most recent Annual Benefit Statement to ensure that SERS records match yours.

## Your Annual Benefit Statement is Enclosed



Enclosed with this edition of the SERS-O-GRAM is your Annual Benefit Statement as of June 30, 2008. The statement has been reformat- ted to a horizontal design to conform with new U.S. Postal regula- tions. This saves us considerable money in postage.

Besides giving you specific information about your SERS account, your benefit statement also lists any service you may have with a reciprocal system, any service you may be eligible to purchase or repay, and shows your service credit in months as well as years.

Included with this SERS-O-GRAM is a Nomination of Benefic- iary(ies) form on the back page. You may change your beneficiaries at any time by completing and filing this form with SERS.

If you have questions about beneficiaries, call us at 217-785-6973.

- Discuss benefit options with family members.
- Contact SERS for an official pension estimate.

### 1-2 Months from Retirement

- Request, complete and return the Application for Retirement Annuity Pension form #3004 to SERS within 90 days of your pension becoming effective.

### Documents that should be returned with your retirement application:

- The Depository Agreement for SERS Benefit Payments (form #3967) if you want your annuity electronically deposited in your bank.
- A photocopy of your certified birth certificate, if requested on retirement application.

- Check with the Deferred Com- pensation office about distribution options.

### At Retirement

- Acquire additional service credit by purchasing your sick and vacation days by completing Form #1404 with your agency payroll clerk before you terminate service.
- Notify your agency of your intent to retire and the date you wish to do so.
- If you need to change your SERS beneficiary, contact SERS for a Nomi- nation of Beneficiary(ies) Form #101.
- On your last day of employment, resign from your agency by signing the appropriate documents. If you are on disability, you must resign from your leave of absence in order to retire.

# Way Too Young to Retire!

If you're under age 45 and haven't worked for the State very long, you probably think you have no business even thinking about retirement! But you're exactly who the Investing in Your Future (IYF) workshop is designed for.

The IYF is our introductory workshop for state employees under the age of 45. Its main emphasis is money management, consumer debt, and investing in the Deferred Compensation program.

Believe it or not, someday you will actually retire! A happy and suc-



cessful retirement depends in large part on limiting financial debt during your career, investing in Deferred Compensation for 30-40 years, and understanding the various benefits you'll receive from SERS and Social Security.

Do yourself a favor and take one of the most important steps in a long career by signing up for the Investing in Your Future workshop (schedule is on the next page). Contact your agency's Retirement Coordinator, whose name is listed on your enclosed Annual Benefit Statement.

## 2007 Workshop Statistics

(See schedule on the next page)

### Total Yearly Workshops:

IYF	14	ETC	37
CDR	32	MRR	35

### Yearly Attendance by Workshop:

IYF	489	ETC	1854
CDR	1927	MRR	1167

### Average Attendance by Workshop:

IYF	35	ETC	50
CDR	60	MRR	34

## Changes to Deferred Compensation



The State of Illinois' Deferred Compensation Program has closed two of its under performing funds, while adding three other funds.

The two closed investments are T. Rowe Price International Stock Fund and Wells Fargo Large Company Growth Fund. Money that was investing in these funds was transferred to a specific new fund.

The three new investment options are:

- **Janus International Growth Fund** seeks long-term growth of capital. It normally invests at least 80% of its assets in equity securities, typically from countries outside of the United States.

- **Invesco International Growth Trust** seeks long-term growth of capital by investing in a diversified portfolio of reasonably priced, quality international companies.

- **Wellington Diversified Growth Trust** seeks long-term returns above those of the Russell 1000 Growth Index.

The AIM International Growth Commingled Fund and the Wellington Trust Diversified Growth are "common trust" funds, not mutual funds. Read more about common trust funds in the box at right.

If you have questions, or want a prospectus or trust fact sheet explaining investment objectives and expenses, call T. Rowe Price on business days between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. eastern time at 1-888-457-5770.

## Differences Between Common Trust Funds & Mutual Funds

Both mutual funds and common trusts are pooled investments that pursue specific financial goals by investing in various types of securities.

However, common trusts cannot be sold to the general investor because common trusts only allow employer-sponsored retirement plans to invest.

Fees for common trusts are generally lower than those charged for mutual funds since the trusts are not traded publicly and are only available to qualified retirement plans.

# 2009 SERS Preretirement Workshops

Registration for all of the SERS 2009 workshops begins September 1, 2008. All of our workshops provide information on financial planning, Deferred Compensation, entitlements & insurance, and estate planning

To register, contact your agency's Retirement Coordinator, whose name is listed in the "At a Glance" section of your enclosed Benefit Statement.

To find out if a workshop is filled or for specific workshop information, visit our website at [www.state.il.us/srs](http://www.state.il.us/srs) or call 217-785-6979.

## INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE For employees under age 45

Jan. 27	Chicago
Feb. 10	Springfield
Feb. 24	Joliet
Mar. 17	Carbondale
Mar. 24	Orland Park
Apr. 14	Springfield
Apr. 28	DeKalb
Jun. 2	Chicago
Jun. 23	Carbondale
Jul. 14	Springfield
Aug. 4	Springfield
Aug. 18	East Peoria
Sep. 1	Rock Falls
Oct. 6	Schaumburg
Oct. 27	Rockford
Oct. 27	Springfield
Nov. 3	Fairview Heights

## EDUCATION FOR TOMORROW'S CHOICES

For employees 5-15  
years from retirement

Jan. 7 & 8	Springfield
Jan. 14 & 15	Chicago
Jan. 28 & 29	Springfield
Feb. 4 & 5	Glen Ellyn
Feb. 18 & 19	Chicago
Feb. 18 & 19	Fairview Heights
Feb. 25 & 26	Springfield
Mar. 4 & 5	Peoria
Mar. 11 & 12	Springfield
Mar. 18 & 19	DeKalb
Mar. 25 & 26	Springfield
Apr. 1 & 2	Carbondale
Apr. 1 & 2	Chicago
Apr. 15 & 16	Schaumburg
Apr. 22 & 23	Springfield
Jun. 3 & 4	Mt. Vernon
Jun. 10 & 11	Springfield
Jun. 17 & 18	Rockford
Jun. 24 & 25	Champaign
Jul. 8 & 9	Quincy
Jul. 15 & 16	Bloomington
Jul. 22 & 23	East Peoria
Jul. 29 & 30	Springfield
Aug. 5 & 6	Carbondale
Aug. 12 & 13	Springfield
Aug. 26 & 27	Chicago
Aug. 26 & 27	Fairview Heights
Sep. 9 & 10	Utica
Sep. 16 & 17	Tinley Park
Sep. 16 & 17	Springfield
Oct. 7 & 8	Effingham
Oct. 14 & 15	Chicago
Oct. 21 & 22	Springfield
Nov. 4 & 5	Springfield
Nov. 18 & 19	Carbondale
Nov. 18 & 19	Joliet
Dec. 2 & 3	Springfield

## COUNTDOWN TO RETIREMENT

For employees within  
3 years of retirement

Jan. 15	Springfield
Jan. 22	Chicago
Feb. 5	Springfield
Feb. 26	Glen Ellyn
Mar. 12	Joliet
Mar. 19	Springfield
Mar. 26	Chicago
Apr. 2	Fairview Heights
Apr. 9	East Peoria
Apr. 16	Springfield
Apr. 30	Whittington
Apr. 30	Schaumburg
Jun. 11	East Peoria
Jun. 18	Carbondale
Jun. 25	Orland Park
Jul. 9	Chicago
Jul. 9	Springfield
Aug. 6	East Peoria
Aug. 20	DeKalb
Aug. 20	Springfield
Sep. 3	Rockford
Sep. 3	Springfield
Sep. 10	Mt. Vernon
Sep. 24	Springfield
Oct. 15	Carbondale
Oct. 22	East Peoria
Nov. 5	Urbana
Nov. 5	Chicago
Nov. 19	Springfield
Dec. 3	Chicago
Dec. 17	Springfield





- State Employees' Retirement System of Illinois
- General Assembly Retirement System
- Judges' Retirement System of Illinois

Internet: <http://www.state.il.us/srs> E-Mail: [ser@mail.state.il.us](mailto:ser@mail.state.il.us)

2101 South Veterans Parkway, P.O. Box 19255, Springfield, IL 62794-9255

## MEMBER'S NOMINATION OF BENEFICIARY(IES) FOR DEATH BENEFITS

This form is to be used to nominate the person or persons to receive any death benefit payable by the State Employees' Retirement System of Illinois. **This is a legal document which, after preparation, may not be altered in any way by any person.** A member desiring to change beneficiaries at a later date must complete a new Nomination Beneficiary form. The form on file with the System that has the most recent date, located next to the member's signature, will take precedence.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete this form using ink (PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE). You may nominate one person, as many as you wish, or your estate. If additional space is required,

use the reverse side of this form. Benefits will be paid on a **survivor basis in the numerical order** you indicate. Two or more persons with the same order number will receive equal shares. **When this beneficiary nomination is accepted by the State Employees' Retirement System an acknowledgment will be mailed to the current address on file with SERS. If your address is not current, please contact your payroll department to complete a W-4 form.**

**NOTE!** Persons nominated as beneficiaries without order numbers will be considered after those persons nominated with order numbers. Two or more persons nominated without order numbers will receive equal shares.

### EXAMPLE

Order Number	Name	Address	Relationship
1	John A. Doe	123 West Main, Chicago, IL 60601	Father
2	Jane B. Doe	123 West Main, Chicago, IL 60601	Mother
3	David C. Doe	123 West Main, Chicago, IL 60601	Brother
3	Nancy D. Doe	44 South 2nd, Springfield, IL 62708	Sister
3	Mary E. Doe	123 West Main, Chicago, IL 60601	Sister
4	Frank F. Smith	9876 E. 99th St., Peoria, IL 61605	None

**In the event the member dies while in state service, the benefit will be paid as follows:**

- All the money will be paid to John A. Doe.
- If John Doe is not living when the member dies, all the money will be paid to Jane B. Doe.
- If John and Jane Doe are not living when the member dies, the money will be divided equally among David, Nancy, and Mary Doe. (If only two of these three persons are living when the member dies, each will receive one half of the money and if only one of these three persons is living when the member dies, he/she will receive all of the money.)
- If John, Jane, David, Nancy, and Mary Doe are not living when the member dies, all the money will be paid to Frank Smith.
- If none of the nominated beneficiaries are living when the member dies, all of the money will be paid to the member's estate.

### NOMINATED BENEFICIARIES

Order Number	Name	Address	Relationship
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

This form must be witnessed by two people who are not named as beneficiaries.

**Member's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Witness \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Witness \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_