

Special Election Results



David Morris,
Patricia Ousley and
Patricia Rensing

have been elected by the SERS contributing members to serve a five-year term as member trustees on the SERS Board of Trustees beginning July 2, 2009.

A total of 10,349 active member ballots were returned to the State Board of Elections, declared valid and certified on June 30.

Visit our website for additional election information at www.state.il.us/srs.

Your Annual Benefit Statement is Enclosed

Enclosed with this edition of the SERS-O-GRAM is your Annual Benefit Statement as of June 30, 2009. This statement retains a horizontal design to conform with new U.S. Postal regulations, saving 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.

A Nomination of Beneficiary(ies) form is located on the back page of this newsletter. 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.

Who are the SERS Board of Trustees?

Comptroller & Chairman Daniel Hynes

Thomas Allison - appointed
Renee Friedman - appointed
Joyce King - elected retiree
Lori Laidlaw - elected member
David Morris - elected member
Michael Noser - appointed
Patricia Ousley - elected member
Maria Palez Peterson - appointed
Patricia Rensing - elected member
Danny Silverthorn - appointed
Harold Sullivan, Jr. - appointed
Virginia Yates - elected retiree

SERS Legislation

During the spring legislative session, several bills passed both chambers of the General Assembly and await the Governor's signature.

HB 519 - Alternative Formula Transfers

Creates a six-month window to allow certain groups to transfer service to the SERS alternative formula.

HB 3606 - DNR Credit

Creates a six-month window to allow up to four years of service credit for contractual service rendered to the Illinois Institute of Natural Resources or the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources.

Check out the new features on our website at www.state.il.us/srs

HB 3964 - Leave of Absence Earnings Credit

Allows members to receive earnings credit when purchasing a leave of absence and to purchase earnings credit if no service credit purchase is required upon return from a leave of absence.

SB 214 - Veterans Affairs Service

Creates a six-month window to allow members to establish up to eight years of credit for full-time contractual service rendered to an Illinois Veterans Home operated by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

SB 1479 - Furlough Days

Until July 1, 2012, allows members to receive earnings credit and service credit for up to five furlough days occurring between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009 that result from a fiscal emergency.

Tale of the Tape

OPERATIONS

Member contributions in FY08 rose 11.2% from the FY07 amount. This was due, in part, to a general increase in wages subject to retirement, and a significant increase in optional service purchases.

Employer contributions in FY08 were \$587.7 million, compared to the FY07 employer contribution amount of \$358.8 million. This increase is primarily due to a change in state law regarding the employer financing of SERS for FY07 & 08. The employer contribution rate for FY08 and FY07 was 14.5% and 9.6%, respectively (net of the bond principal and interest repayment amounts).

Benefit payments increased 4.5% from FY07 to FY08. This was primarily due to the scheduled 3% increase in most benefit payments.

INVESTMENTS

By state law, SERS' investment function is managed by the Illinois State Board of Investment (ISBI) along with the Judges' and General Assembly Retirement Systems. All investments are accounted for in a commingled ISBI fund. In FY08, investment losses directly reflected the negative direction of the markets.

FUNDING

The most recent actuarial valuation shows the total SERS actuarial liability was \$23.8 billion. The amount of liabilities exceeded net assets by \$12.8 billion on June 30, 2008, compared to an excess of \$10.2 billion on June 30, 2007. The funded status of SERS on June 30, 2008 decreased to 46.1% from 54.2% on June 30, 2007.

Statements of Plan Net Assets June 30, 2008 and 2007

	2008	2007
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 306,528,043	\$ 249,858,696
Receivables	48,461,473	30,897,571
Investments (at fair value)	10,653,973,521	11,810,137,495
Equipment (net of acc. depr.)	2,720,676	2,670,416
Total Assets	\$ 11,011,683,713	\$ 12,093,564,178
Total Liabilities	\$ (16,317,228)	\$ (14,655,224)
Net Assets Held in Trust for Pension Benefits	\$ 10,995,366,485	\$12,078,908,954

Statements of Changes in Plan Net Assets June 30, 2008 and 2007

	2008	2007
REVENUES		
Contributions:		
Members	\$ 249,955,208	\$ 224,722,599
Employer	587,732,407	358,786,650
Total Contributions	837,687,615	\$ 583,509,249
Investment Income (Loss)	\$ (680,759,719)	\$ 1,779,907,177
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 156,927,896	\$ 2,363,416,426
EXPENSES		
Benefits	\$ 1,214,115,627	\$ 1,161,291,038
Refunds (including transfers)	16,817,433	14,261,872
Administrative	9,537,305	8,807,627
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,240,470,365	\$ 1,184,360,537
Net Increase/(Decrease)	\$ (1,083,542,469)	\$ 1,179,055,889
Net Assets Held in Trust for Pension Benefits:		
Beginning of Year	12,078,908,954	10,899,853,065
End of Year	\$ 10,995,366,485	\$ 12,078,908,954

If you change your address, you will need to complete a new W-4P form with your agency's Payroll Officer. Failure to do so could result in not receiving important notices from SERS.

You can download and print the W-4P form, complete it and return it to you Payroll Officer. We strive to provide our members with fast and efficient service. Correct mailing addresses are essential in meeting this goal.

2010 SERS Preretirement Workshops

Registration for all of the SERS 2010 workshops begins September 1, 2009. 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 or call 217-785-6979.

INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE For employees under age 45

Jan. 12	Springfield
Jan. 26	Chicago
Feb. 23	Bolingbrook
Mar. 16	Carbondale
Apr. 6	Springfield
Apr. 6	Rock Falls
Jun. 1	Chicago
Jun. 8	Whittington
Jun. 22	Schaumburg
Jul. 13	Springfield
Aug. 10	East Peoria
Aug. 31	Orland Park
Sep. 14	Springfield
Sep. 21	Rockford
Oct. 5	Chicago
Oct. 26	Champaign
Nov. 9	Collinsville

EDUCATION FOR TOMORROW'S CHOICES For employees 5-15 years from retirement

Jan. 6 & 7	Springfield
Jan. 13 & 14	Chicago
Jan. 27 & 28	Mt. Vernon
Feb. 3 & 4	Champaign
Feb. 3 & 4	Glen Ellyn
Feb. 10 & 11	Springfield
Feb. 17 & 18	Chicago
Mar. 3 & 4	Springfield
Mar. 17 & 18	Collinsville
Mar. 24 & 25	DeKalb
Mar. 31 & Apr. 1	Chicago
Mar. 31 & Apr. 1	Carbondale
Apr. 7 & 8	East Peoria
Apr. 14 & 15	Schaumburg
Apr. 21 & 22	Springfield
May 26 & 27	Springfield
Jun. 9 & 10	Champaign
Jun. 16 & 17	Rockford
Jun. 16 & 17	Springfield
Jul. 14 & 15	Carbondale
Jul. 21 & 22	Springfield
Aug. 18 & 19	Springfield
Aug. 25 & 26	Chicago
Sep. 8 & 9	Utica
Sep. 15 & 16	Orland Park
Sep. 22 & 23	Springfield
Sep. 29 & 30	Mt. Vernon
Oct. 6 & 7	Springfield
Oct. 13 & 14	Chicago
Oct. 20 & 21	Effingham
Oct. 27 & 28	Bolingbrook
Oct. 27 & 28	Collinsville
Nov. 17 & 18	Springfield
Nov. 17 & 18	Joliet
Dec. 1 & 2	East Peoria
Dec. 8 & 9	Springfield
Dec. 15 & 16	Bloomington

COUNTDOWN TO RETIREMENT For employees within 3 years of retirement

Jan. 14	Urbana
Jan. 21	Chicago
Jan. 28	Springfield
Feb. 18	Springfield
Feb. 25	Glen Ellyn
Mar. 4	Chicago
Mar. 11	Springfield
Apr. 15	Springfield
Apr. 22	Schaumburg
Apr. 29	Carbondale
Jun. 3	Bolingbrook
Jun. 3	Springfield
Jun. 24	Orland Park
Jun. 24	Springfield
Jul. 8	Chicago
Jul. 8	Springfield
Jul. 15	DeKalb
Jul. 22	Rockford
Jul. 29	East Peoria
Aug. 5	Collinsville
Aug. 19	Rock Falls
Aug. 26	Springfield
Sep. 2	Rockford
Sep. 9	Springfield
Sep. 23	Whittington
Oct. 14	Springfield
Oct. 21	Carbondale
Nov. 4	Chicago
Nov. 4	Springfield
Dec. 2	Chicago
Dec. 9	Mt. Vernon
Dec. 16	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

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:

1. All the money will be paid to John A. Doe.
2. If John Doe is not living when the member dies, all the money will be paid to Jane B. Doe.
3. 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.)
4. If John, Jane, David, Nancy, and Mary Doe are not living when the member dies, all the money will be paid to Frank Smith.
5. 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 _____