



## Imaging Project Complete!



In our last newsletter we notified our membership that the General Assembly Retirement System was implementing an “Imaging System” that would convert our paper-based files into electronic images.

We are excited to inform you that the imaging project is complete! All membership files, formerly maintained in paper files, are now scanned into our imaging system providing for safe, reliable storage of your personal information.

Conversion to the imaging system allows staff to retrieve your information more quickly, thereby providing you with faster service. This conversion was performed by your efficient GARS staff!

*The General Assembly Retirement System recently received a favorable determination ruling from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).* The IRS’ favorable determination allows GARS to continue to operate as a tax-qualified retirement plan. Based upon a request from the IRS to all public employee retirement systems, GARS submitted the determination letter application to the IRS on January 30, 2009.

## Active Member Benefit Statements

Enclosed with this edition of the Solon is your annual Benefit Statement if **you are an active member of the General Assembly**. Keep your Benefit Statement in a safe, secure place.

Your GARS Benefit Statement shows any reciprocal service you may have, along with a retirement benefit estimate at your normal retirement date using the Reciprocal Act. To determine your total benefit, add the projected GARS benefit to the amount from the reciprocal system(s).

If your statement shows reciprocal service but no amount, you either don’t have enough service to use the Reciprocal Act, you have concurrent service with GARS and another system, or you don’t need the service to qualify for the maximum benefit. Although we make every effort to provide you with an accurate benefit estimate, it is only an approximation. If you have questions, contact our office at 217-782-8500.

*Benefit Statements for retirees & survivors are NOT included with this Solon. These statements will be mailed in March, 2013.*

## 1-on-1 Counseling

Below are the dates and locations for the remaining 2012 1-on-1 counseling sessions. If you are interested in meeting with Jayne Waldeck regarding your benefit, please call her at 217-782-8500 to schedule an appointment.

**October 30**  
4th Municipal District  
Maywood at 11:00 a.m.

**November 14**  
5th Municipal District  
Bridgeview in the afternoon

**November 15**  
6th Municipal District  
Markham in the morning

## GARS Retirees & Survivors by Year

### Retirees

2008	269
2009	275
2010	278
2011	291
2012	294

### Survivors

2008	125
2009	125
2010	119
2011	118
2012	119

*General Assembly Retirement System of Illinois*

2101 South Veterans Parkway, P.O. Box 19255, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9255, Phone 217-782-8500

**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 General Assembly 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 of 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.

order you indicate. Two or more persons with the same order number will receive equal shares. When this beneficiary nomination is accepted by the General Assembly Retirement System, an acknowledgment will be mailed to the current address on file with GARS. If your address is not current, please contact the Office of the Comptroller.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete this form using ink or typewriter. You may nominate one person, as many as you wish, or your estate. Benefits will be paid on a survivor basis in the numerical

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

**EXAMPLE**

<i>Order Number</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Relationship</i>
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 a member dies with no qualified survivor eligible for a monthly annuity, the lump sum death benefit will be paid as follows:**

- All the money will be paid to John Doe.
- If John Doe is not living when the member dies, all the money will be paid to Jane 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 \_\_\_\_\_

# 2012 Flu Shot Schedule

Over the next several weeks, the Department of Healthcare and Family Services is providing free seasonal flu shots to State of Illinois employees and retirees enrolled in the Quality Care Health Plan (QCHP) or a state-sponsored HMO/OAP.

Flu shots will be available in various state agencies in Springfield and Chicago, as well as universities throughout the state. Many county health departments have partnered with the State to provide flu shots at no charge to eligible State of Illinois employees and retirees.

Individuals interested in getting a flu shot should contact the county health department directly to learn the dates and times the shots are scheduled to be administered.

Employees must present an employment ID and their state health insurance card. Retirees must present their state health insurance card and another form of ID. If you are enrolled in Medicare Part B, you can obtain a Medicare-covered flu shot from your physician or participating pharmacy (*check with your local pharmacy to see if they offer this service*).

*NOTE: Spouses, survivors, dependents, contractual workers, consultants, students and any GARS members who opted out of health insurance coverage are NOT eligible for a free flu shot.*

Flu shots will be given at the SRS Springfield office on October 17 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Additional flu shot information is posted on our website at [www.state.il.us/srs](http://www.state.il.us/srs).

## SPRINGFIELD, CHICAGO AND DOWNSTATE FLU SHOT SCHEDULE\*

*All clinics will be held from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., except where noted.*

<b>Chicago Area</b>	Elgin M. H. Center Assembly Hall, Elgin	Sep. 28 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Read M. H. Center Chicago	Oct. 31
	Thompson Center Room 2-025	Oct. 2 & 23	Madden M. H. Center Hines	Nov. 14
	IDOT, Schaumburg 201 W. Center	Oct. 4	<b>Springfield</b> State Capitol <i>park at Stratton Building</i>	Oct. 9
	Health & Family Services 401 S. Clinton	Oct. 9	Stratton Bldg. 401 S. Spring	Oct. 10 Nov. 20, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
	Elgin M. H. Center Kilborne Bldg., Elgin	Oct. 10 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	IDOT 2300 S. Dirksen	Oct. 12 Nov. 15, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
	Student Asst. Comm. Deerfield	Oct. 18 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.	DNR State Fairgrounds	Oct. 16
	CMS Suburban North Des Plaines	Oct. 25 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.	SRS Veterans & Greenbriar	Oct. 17
	Kiley M. H. Center Waukegan	Oct. 30 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	McFarland Mental Health 901 Southwind Road	Oct. 23 1 - 4 p.m.

*\* Flu shots are subject to the availability of the vaccine*

EPA 1021 N Grand Ave. E.	Oct. 25 9 a.m. - noon	<i>Other Downstate Sites</i>	ISP Collinsville	Sep. 27, 1 - 4 p.m. Oct. 11, 9 - 11 a.m.
DHFS Bloom Building, 201 S. Grand Ave. E.	Oct. 30		Vandalia Correct. Rt. 51 North	Sep. 28, 6:30 - 8 a.m. 2:30 - 3:15 p.m.
Dept. of Corrections 1301 Concordia Ct. Gym	Nov. 1 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.		Murray Develop. Center Centralia	Oct. 3 & 24 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Dept. of Revenue 100 W. Jefferson	Nov. 7		Jacksonville Correctional 2268 E. Morton	Oct. 11 12 - 3 p.m.
Alzina Building 100 N. 1st	Nov. 8 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.		Choate Center Anna	Oct. 12, 7 - 11 a.m. Oct. 19, 7 - 9:30 a.m. Oct. 23, 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Oct. 30, 1 - 4 p.m.
Dept. of Agriculture State Fairgrounds	Nov. 13		Kenneth Hall Bldg. E. St. Louis	Oct. 12 8 - 11 a.m.
State Police 801 S. 7th Street	Nov. 14 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.		Taylorville Correctional Rt. 29 South	Oct. 18 2 - 4 p.m.
Stratton Building 401 S. Spring	Nov. 20 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.		Jacksonville Develop. Center 1201 S. Main	Oct. 23 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Attorney General 500 S. 2nd	Nov. 21 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.		DHS Office Lincoln	Oct. 24 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
			Logan Correctional Lincoln	Oct. 25 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

## *County Health Departments Providing Flu Shots Fall 2012*

Many of the County Health Departments have partnered with the Department of Healthcare & Family Services to provide flu shots at no charge to eligible State of Illinois employees and retirees. ***Spouses, survivors, dependents, contractual workers, consultants, students, as well as employees who have opted-out of the health insurance coverage through the state are NOT eligible for the free seasonal flu shot through this program.*** State of Illinois employees and retirees enrolled in either the

Quality Care Health Plan (QCHP) or a State-sponsored HMO/OAP are eligible to receive the free seasonal flu shot. Each employee will be required to present his/her state health insurance card and his/her State ID card. Each retiree must present his/her state health insurance card and another form of identification. Interested individuals should call their local health department for the exact dates, times and locations that the shots will be offered.

*\* Flu shots are subject to the availability of the vaccine*