

MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF ILLINOIS
December 8, 2016

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the State Employees' Retirement System of Illinois was held on Thursday, December 8, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. in the System's Springfield office at 2101 S. Veterans Parkway.

Committee Members:

David Morris, Vice Chairperson
Timothy Blair, Executive Secretary

Others Present:

Steve Bochenek, SERS Attorney
Jeff Houch, Assistant Executive Secretary
Kathy Yemm, Claims Manager
Don Williams, Supervisor, Disability Section
Cory Mitchell, Pension and Death Section
Joe Maggio, Service and Refunds Manager
Jennifer Staley, Recording Secretary
Loren Iglarsh

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the November 10, 2016 meeting of the Executive Committee were presented by Vice Chairman Morris for approval. Copies of the minutes were previously mailed to Committee members for review. There being no additions or corrections, on motion by Executive Secretary Blair and seconded by Vice Chairperson Morris, and by unanimous vote, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Routine Claims & Denial Report

The Routine Claims and Denials Report for the month of November, 2016 was presented. Following review and discussion, the Routine Claims and Denials Report for the period of November, 2016, as prepared by staff, was reviewed and received by the Executive Committee.

Old Business

Jerry Blackwell – Social Security Offset - Recommendation

Jerry Blackwell worked as a highway maintainer for the Department of Transportation. He last worked on February 17, 2015 and began a medical leave of absence on December 4, 2015.

Mr. Blackwell was paid a temporary disability benefit beginning January 3, 2016. Mr. Blackwell turned 66 years of age in August of 2016. His temporary disability benefit should have been offset by the unreduced social security amount he is eligible to receive. A tickler was not set by our office and, therefore, his temporary disability benefit was not offset until the following month when he came into our office inquiring about his retirement. This caused an overpayment of \$2,122.00. Mr. Blackwell requested the overpayment be waived.

Mr. Blackwell had a personal appeal at the November, 2016 Executive Committee meeting. The case was referred to SERS attorney Steve Bochenek for a recommendation.

Based upon a careful review of all the evidence, the Committee finds that Jerry Blackwell is not entitled to receive temporary disability benefits from the System without an offset for Social Security retirement benefits for which he was eligible. After discussion, Executive Secretary Blair moved to approve Recommendation No. 2016-6, seconded by Vice Chairperson Morris. All were in favor.

New Business

Kimberly Hannold – Appealing denial of temporary disability benefits

Kimberly Hannold works as a Juvenile Justice Specialist for the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice, Illinois Youth Center in St. Charles. She last worked on January 28, 2016 and began a medical leave of absence on February 8, 2016.

Medical records were requested and received from her physician on September 30, 2016. Her file was reviewed by SRS Medical Consultant #70 on October 22, 2016. It was of the medical consultant's opinion that Ms. Hannold retains the ability to perform all the duties of her job as delineated, based on the medical evidence in file as of that date. Ms. Hannold is requesting a person appeal for the denial of temporary disability benefits for the timeframe of January 28, 2016 to the present.

After reviewing the facts, the Executive Committee agreed to defer the case to get more information from the medical consultant.

Thomas Mizeur – Appeal to revoke Social Security offset removal

Thomas Mizeur began receiving a pension benefit effective June 1, 2001. In 2009, Mr. Mizeur signed the election form to reduce his pension by 3.825% for the social security offset removal. This election reduces his pension by \$169.16 per month.

Mr. Mizeur's spouse is a retired teacher. Due to the Government Pension Offset, she is eligible for a small amount of money from Social Security as a widow.

Mr. Mizeur's spouse would benefit from the revocation of the social security offset removal because she would receive more money as a survivor if this option was removed as his gross pension would be higher and the offset would be minimal. The reduction does not benefit the member or the survivor.

Thomas Mizeur is requesting the social security offset removal be removed from his pension and for a refund of the money deducted from his pension for the social security offset removal.

After discussing the case, Executive Secretary Blair made a motion to approve the removal of the social security offset but not to refund the money deducted for the offset, seconded by Vice Chairperson Morris. All were in favor.

Wenda Southerland – Appeal to retire October 1, 2016

Wenda Southerland submitted her retirement application in July, 2016. One of the pension staff emailed the member to determine if she had enough sick and vacation days to be eligible to retire on October 1, 2016. Ms. Southerland replied she did have enough days and had spoken to a Field Services representative and her retirement coordinator.

Ms. Southerland resigned September 30, 2016 with a retirement effective date of October 1, 2016.

Once the service credit for Ms. Southerland's paid sick and vacation days was posted to her account, it was discovered that she was 1.75 months short of meeting the Rule of 85.

Ms. Southerland is requesting a pension effective October 1, 2016 as she was told by both her agency and the Field Services Division that she was eligible to retire on this date.

After discussing the case, a motion was made by Vice Chairperson Morris to approve Ms. Southerland's pension effective date of October 1, 2016, seconded by Executive Secretary Blair. All were in favor.

Wayne Chamberlain – Waiver of guardianship

Wayne Chamberlain was a Property and Supply Clerk 3 for Chester Mental Health Center. Mr. Chamberlain sustained a disabling condition which prevents him from working. Per the letter from his physician, Mr. Chamberlain is totally incapacitated. Mr. Chamberlain's wife currently makes all health and personal decisions on her husband's behalf.

Mr. Chamberlain is not competent enough at this point to sign or execute a POA. The only thing available to Ms. Chamberlain is guardianship. This has to go through the courts and she says she has been told this may cost \$2,000 to \$3,000, which at this time would be a real hardship.

Ms. Chamberlain is asking the Executive Committee to waive the need for Guardianship. She has signed his application for nonoccupational disability benefits as her husband's "surrogate decision maker".

After some discussion, the committee decided to defer the matter and to look into different avenues to help Ms. Chamberlain obtain "guardianship".

Leannette Black – LOA Service Purchase

Leannette Black has requested a written appeal with the Executive Committee. She is requesting that she be allowed to purchase 7.75 months for her LOA's with interest calculated through July 31, 2010. It is her contention that we should have billed her previously for the two LOA's although she never requested a billing.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Executive Secretary Blair to deny Ms. Black's request to purchase the 7.75 months for her LOA's, seconded by Vice Chairperson Morris. All were in favor.

Policy – Suspension or Terminations for Executive Committee

The committee discussed what types of suspensions and terminations should be brought to the Executive Committee before they could be implemented. Attorney Steve Bochenek prepared a Memorandum for review and further discussion. Executive Secretary Blair indicated we need to identify the specific types of suspensions and terminations for better tracking the adjustments to help in the review of developing a policy.

There being no further business to be brought before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for January 12, 2017, in the Springfield office, with video conferencing in Chicago.

David Morris, Vice Chairperson

Timothy Blair, Executive Secretary