

# NewsFlash

*An electronic newsletter for SERS Retirement Coordinators*



## **Retirees owed steps & longevity pay**

The FY 2019 supplemental budget as provided in Public Act 101-0007 includes appropriations for back wages associated with step increases and longevity pay for members of AFSCME. Once back wages are issued, SERS will begin the process of recalculating the benefits for those who were owed either steps or longevity pay. SERS staff must manually review the back wage records for thousands of benefit recipients in order to calculate the impact of the back wages on each benefit amount and to determine if a retroactive adjustment to the benefit is required. Please remember that SERS is still working on adjusting benefits from the back wages related to frozen pay increases from 2011-2012. This process will be significant and will take considerable time, which may be 3 years or more. SERS will also require assistance from the agencies issuing back pay to provide the necessary details to allow for the benefit adjustments. SERS will provide periodic updates on the website on the status of its progress related to this massive undertaking.

## **Accelerated Pension Benefit Payment Programs**

Public Act 101-0010 extends the Accelerated Pension Benefit Payment programs through June 1, 2024. The programs were originally set to expire on June 1, 2021. SERS is working to update the accelerated pension benefit payment estimator to reflect this change to the programs' expiration date. SERS will provide notice on the website once the estimator is updated.

## **Dave Thompson retiring**

Dave Thompson, Manager – Field Services, is retiring effective July 1. Please note that general questions will still go to the SERS Call Center at 217-785-7444 or can be emailed to [sers@srs.illinois.gov](mailto:sers@srs.illinois.gov). If you have specific questions, please call Stephanie Staber at 217-785-6979.

We wish Dave a happy, healthy retirement after his many years of service to the State of Illinois employees, and we all wish him well in his new endeavor. He wants to also express his gratitude to everyone.

## **Reminder – Do not save forms on your desktop**

Please remember the importance of accessing forms from the Member Services website and the SRS website to ensure you're using the most current version of the form. If you save forms on your desktop, you may be using an outdated version.

## **Reminder – Resignation refunds**

When a member applies for a resignation refund, an Agency Certification must be completed by the Agency. Please return all Agency Certifications to Yeri Kim at [Yeri.Kim@srs.illinois.gov](mailto:Yeri.Kim@srs.illinois.gov). If you have questions call Yeri at 217-785-7164.