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To: EVERYONE

cc:

Subject: newsflash newsletter

sers is starting a new, electronic newsletter for our RCs. We wanted everyone to be aware of it before we send it out today.

for more information, note the first paragraph below.

NewsFlash

An electronic newsletter for SERS Retirement Coordinators



Welcome to the first edition of the SERS electronic newsletter NewsFlash, which is geared specifically for you, the Retirement Coordinator. NewsFlash does not replace the Field Report newsletter, but serves as a supplement to it when we want to get information to you quickly. If there is any information you would like included in future editions, contact our editor at bhanney@srs.state.il.us.

Benefit Fairs This year's Benefit Fair participation has been extremely valuable and has allowed SERS representatives the opportunity to answer employee questions and provide more information. We always appreciate the opportunity to interact with our members. Please keep us in mind for future Benefit Fairs!

2006 Workshops We are in the planning phase for the 2006 preretirement workshop schedule. If there are cities we haven't held workshops in recently that may attract participants, email your ideas to Vickie at vhaas@srs.state.il.us.

2005 Workshops Remember to visit the Retirement Coordinator link within the State Employees website for any 2005 workshops that are still open and the number of members enrolled thus far.

RC Meetings The tentative schedule for the annual RC Regional Meetings is fall of 2005. If you have topics of interest, or have dates that could conflict with these meetings, email Vickie.

Web Stuff The latest enhancements to our website includes a federal tax withholding calculator, a link to proposed legislation affecting SERS members, and a link to CMS for all information pertaining to this year's Benefit Choice period.

Handbooks The 2005 Your Rights & Responsibilities Member Handbook was mailed to all active SERS members earlier this month. If you need additional copies of the handbook, email Vickie. The handbook is also online at www.state.il.us/srs/sers/pubhandbooks_sers.htm.

Chicago Office News Please help us in welcoming John McCloskey as the newest member of the SERS Field Services Division. John will conduct preretirement workshops and Benefit Fairs in the Chicago metro area and north of I-80. He also provides information on employee entitlements and legislative updates that affect SERS members. John received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Louisiana at Monroe and a Master's degree from the University of Redlands. He served in the U. S. Navy for seven years and also taught high and junior high school. If your office is located within John's district and you would like to schedule a visit with him, call the Chicago office at 312-814-5853.