

Field

REPORT

January 2003



State Employees' Retirement System

www.state.il.us/srs

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A BIG ERI THANK YOU!

As the ERI begins to wind down we would like to say a big **thank you** to all Retirement Coordinators, Payroll Clerks, Designees, and everyone else involved for all your help in getting us through the ERI! You did a great job in processing your members retirement applications in a timely manner.

Approximately 4,000 more members took the ERI than originally estimated. This made for a huge workload for all involved.

As of December 31, 2002, 11,212 members filed their papers to participate in the ERI with effective dates ranging from August 1 to December 31, 2002. Of these, 3,277 have actually retired and received their first pension check.

Eight hundred and five members who applied, elected Option #2 of the ERI. To the right is a breakdown of ERI participants by agency.



Help us in welcoming our new Field Services staff. Mandy Beedie (left) will cover the state south of I-80 and east of U.S. 51. Dave Thompson is the new manager replacing John Sowinski. The MRR program will be run by Marlys Vala (right) replacing the legendary Lee Brown.

ERI TOTALS BY AGENCY

	<i>Eligible for ERI Option 1</i>	<i>Applied for ERI Option 1 & 2</i>
Governor's Office	23	24
Lieutenant Governor's Office	1	1
Secretary of State	1,108	423
Office of the Comptroller	106	53
Treasurer's Office	30	16
Attorney General	106	55
State Board of Education	107	39
Courts	241	98
State Officers & General Assembly	127	98
Human Services	5,892	2,992
Agriculture	185	96
Natural Resources	589	272
Insurance	109	57
Labor	25	12
Children & Family Services	1,071	501
Auditor General	8	5
Financial Institutions	26	16
Public Health	416	208
State Police	710	340
Transportation	2,072	1,170
Professional Regulation	94	56
Revenue	881	450
Corrections	2,671	2,122
Public Aid	907	430
Veteran Affairs	251	106
Military Affairs	89	50
CMS	398	215
Comm. & Community Affairs	151	83
Nuclear Safety	62	18
Employment Security	1,120	395
Lottery	85	44
EPA	310	107
Aging	47	27
Historic Preservation	76	33
Human Rights	37	14
Boards & Commissions	1,237	586

AGENCY UPDATE SHEET

ATTENTION RCs

Happy New Year! Any newly appointed Retirement Coordinator or Designee for 2003 should contact Vickie Haas at 217-785-6979 for a signature authorization card. Complete the card and return it to SERS. Those with signature authorization must have their card on file with us.

We will send an RC manual and set up an appointment (if necessary) with one of our Field Representatives to go over the manual and answer any questions you may have.

If you need workshop posters or schedules for 2003, or would like to schedule a one-hour Benefit Seminar, contact Vickie.

Due to low registration, the following 2003 workshop dates were cancelled:

ETC 1/22 & 23 - Springfield
1/29 & 30 - Springfield
& Glen Ellyn
2/5 & 6 - Springfield
2/26 & 27 - Chicago

CDR 2/20 - Joliet

Anyone registered for a cancelled 2002 workshop were moved to another workshop and received a new confirmation letter.

The Pension, Insurance and Vouchering Sections are working overtime to process the ERI retirement payments. Members who retired at the end of the year will receive their first pension check between February and April.

In order to keep our Agency Directory up-to-date, indicate in the space below any changes, additions or deletions to the following information.

Retirement Coordinator _____

Designee(s) _____

Insurance Representative _____

Payroll Clerk _____

Agency Fax Number _____

Check if fax is voice pick-up.

Please mail this sheet directly to SERS. If the Retirement Coordinator or Designee has changed, complete a Signature Authorization card (Form #500 for Retirement Coordinator, Form #508 for Signature Designee) and return them to us as soon as possible. To request new cards, or if you have questions, contact our office at 217-785-6979.

Sincerely,

David F. Thompson
Field Services Division

PREPARING FORM 1404

A Payroll Bulletin regarding the alternative formula rate changes, as well as an updated version of Form 1404 was issued by the SERS Accounting Division on November 11, 2002. This Payroll Bulletin provided guidance concerning the deduction codes and rates to be used when processing the 1404 form.

As a general rule, if the employee worked through December 31, 2002, and retired under the ERI, use the deduction

code/rate in effect at the time of the employee's last regular payroll.

If the employee works during the month of January or later, but not as a temporary employee, use the rate in effect at the time that he/she separates from state service.

If you have any questions about which version of the 1404 to use or the correct rate, contact the SERS Accounting Division at 217-524-3032.