



2101 S. Veterans Parkway
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217-785-7444

The Informer



The newsletter for survivors of the State Employees' Retirement System of Illinois

 srs.illinois.gov

JANUARY 2018



Keep your Member Services contact information up to date to receive the latest news, announcements or deadlines by email, letter or call.

Your benefit statement

Enclosed with this Informer is your current benefit statement. This statement contains detailed information about your SERS benefits.

If you have questions about your statement, call us at 217-785-7444.

Tax Information

1099-R

In January, the Office of the Comptroller mailed IRS Form 1099-Rs for 2017 SERS benefit payments to all annuitants and survivors. These payments must be reported on IRS Form 1040 under the Income section (Pensions and annuities).

W2GI+

If you carry non-IRS dependent(s) on your state health/dental insurance, you should receive a Form W2GI+ from the Comptroller's office. Under federal tax law, the premium paid by the state must be added to your annual gross income if a covered dependent does not qualify as your tax dependent because it is subject to federal income tax.

Federal income tax withholding

Due to the recent federal tax reform, new federal tax tables will be implemented in February. If your federal tax withholding is based on the tax tables, your February benefit check will likely be subject to less tax withholding, therefore your February check will be higher than your January check.

We recommend you securely view your monthly check stubs through the SRS Member Services website at memberservices.srs.illinois.gov to see the details of your deductions and history of transactions.

If you need to change the amount of your federal tax withholding, you can submit a new W-4P to SERS at any time. The W-4P is available at srs.illinois.gov, under the Forms link. *Note – SERS is unable to withhold state tax for any state other than Illinois.*

You should contact a qualified tax advisor or an IRS representative at 800-829-1040 with questions about your taxes, including withholdings.

How do other states tax your annuity?

Many annuitants move to warmer states or to places where their families live. Illinois does not tax your annuity, but each state has differing tax laws regarding your SERS benefit. Visit retirementliving.com or check with the specific state's department of revenue for more information.

SERS is getting a new look

As we modernize our operations, we are updating our look and logo. Our new logo (seen in the header) will be implemented in stages and we will have all materials rebranded with our new look and logo by the end of 2018.

New tax rates for 2018 have been released this month and will go into effect on your February 2018 benefit check.

Did you know?

Over 1,500 survivors have registered for the Member Services website.

I want register to attend the Myths & Realities of Retirement workshop:

on _____
Date/Location

Name (please print)

Address

City Zip

(_____) _____
Phone number Date of birth

Last 4 numbers of SSN **OR** Member ID

Email address

Bringing a guest? Yes No

Send this completed registration form only if you're registering for a workshop (and you haven't already done so online).

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2018 Myths & Realities of Retirement Workshop

To register, visit srs.illinois.gov and follow the instructions. After you register, you will receive confirmation and email reminders.

If you don't have access to a computer, you can complete and return the application below to us or call our office to register. After you're registered, we will send a reminder letter two weeks prior to the respective workshop.

The MRR is a free, one-day workshop examining various issues affecting retirees.

Feb. 6	Springfield	July 10	Springfield
Mar. 6	Springfield	July 24	Galesburg
Mar. 13	Bloomington	Aug. 7	Effingham
Mar. 20	Carol Stream	Aug. 8	Kankakee
Mar. 27	Orland Park	Aug. 14	Mt. Vernon
Apr. 3	Marion	Aug. 14	Schaumburg
Apr. 17	Collinsville	Aug. 22	Dixon
Apr. 24	Springfield	Sept. 11	Springfield
May 5	Chicago	Oct. 2	Quincy
May 22	Springfield	Oct. 16	Collinsville
June 12	Springfield	Oct. 23	Utica
June 19	E. Peoria	Nov. 13	Springfield
June 19	Rockford	Dec. 4	Chicago
June 26	Springfield	Dec. 11	Joliet

Visit us online

Did you know you could access a copy of all publications on our website? This includes the newsletters, handbooks and brochures. You can also find helpful information regarding your insurance, any news about upcoming legislation, survivor benefit information and much more. Check us out at srs.illinois.gov.

Text message updates available soon

In an effort to better communicate with our members, we are implementing a cell phone texting system. If you have a cell phone number on file with us, we will send you text messages with important messages. We plan on piloting the system in January/February '18 with a full implementation in the Spring of '18. We will provide an "opt-out" for those who don't want to receive texts.