



State Employees' Retirement System

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Changes in the SERS Field Service Division

Dave Thomas Retires, Lee Brown Takes His Position



After more than 20 years of service with SERS, Dave Thomas retired on July 1, 2001.

He began his state career at CMS Group Insurance Division in August of 1977.

After spending 2 1/2 years with CMS, he accepted a position as head of the SERS Group Insurance Section in January 1980.

As supervisor of Group Insurance, Dave kept the various retiree associations updated on any changes to the State of Illinois Group Insurance program. During this time, he also established a trusting rapport with SERS retirees.

Dave transferred to the SERS Field Services section in October of 1993 as facilitator of the newly created post-retirement workshop *Myths & Realities of Retirement* (MRR). Under Dave's stewardship, the MRR workshop matured in substance and grew in attendance.

This growth was largely a result of his popularity with our annuitants and his comprehension of the group insurance program. His concern for our annuitants and knowledge of retirement issues will be missed.



Lee Brown is a four-year Navy veteran, a graduate of Sangamon State University, and began his state career at the Department of Revenue.

Lee transferred to the SERS Field Services division in September of 1990 as a facilitator of the *Investing in Your Future* and *Countdown to Retirement* preretirement workshops. He also conducts Benefit Seminars and markets our workshops throughout eastern and southern Illinois.

With Dave Thomas' retirement, Lee will now become the facilitator of the MRR workshop. While he thinks this workshop is a very important benefit to SERS retirees, his major assignment will be maintaining the high standards that Dave established with the retiree associations throughout the state of Illinois.

You can reach Lee by telephone at 217-785-6976 or e-mail at lbrown@ser084r1.state.il.us.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

When we mailed the Benefit Statement to our members in August, "Return Service Requested" was printed on the envelope. This instructs the Post Office to return the statements to us if the mailing address is incorrect, rather than forwarding it to the member.

This allows us to find all inaccurate mailing addresses on our data base. Last year we discovered thousands of SERS members with an inaccurate mailing address!

We are asking for your help in distributing the Benefit Statements with inaccurate addresses. In early October, we will send the unopened, returned statements to our RCs. Please distribute the statements and encourage your employees to fill out a new W-4 tax form with your agency's Payroll Clerk.

This allows the Comptroller's office and SERS to maintain a current, up-to-date mailing list for any information we send to members in the future.

2002 PRERETIREMENT WORKSHOPS

INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

For employees under age 45

Feb. 26	Rolling Meadows
Apr. 9	Chicago
Apr. 23	Tinley Park
May 7	Rockford
May 21	Urbana
Jul. 16	Carbondale
Aug. 6	Peoria
Aug. 27	Chicago
Sep. 10	Joliet
Sep. 24	Chicago
Oct. 22	Collinsville

EDUCATION FOR TOMORROW'S CHOICES

For employees 5-15 years from retirement

Mar. 13 & 14	Rolling Meadows
May 1 & 2	Chicago
May 15 & 16	DeKalb
May 29 & 30	Mt. Vernon

Aug. 14 & 15	Collinsville
Aug. 21 & 22	Chicago
Sep. 18 & 19	Rolling Meadows
Oct. 16 & 17	Springfield
Oct. 30 & 31	Chicago
Nov. 13 & 14	Springfield
Nov. 20 & 21	Chicago & Peoria

COUNTDOWN TO RETIREMENT

For employees 3 years from retirement.

Jul. 25	Urbana
Aug. 29	Collinsville & Chicago
Sep. 5	Joliet
Sep. 26	Carbondale & Dixon
Oct. 3	Peoria
Oct. 17	Chicago
Nov. 14	Chicago & Mt. Vernon

This schedule shows the only OPEN 2002 dates. As you can see, all workshops are filling up quickly. You can send us reservation forms by mail, fax or e-mail. If you fax it in, don't send the originals in the mail, since this results in a duplicate registration.

You can also send us address, phone or fax changes, and personnel changes (RC, Designee, Payroll Clerk, Insurance Rep.) at any time by e-mail (ser084r1.vhaas), Internet (vhaas@ser084r1.state.il.us), or fax (217-785-7019).

If you have questions, contact Vickie Haas at 217-785-6979.