



ELECTION EDITION

IT'S TIME TO VOTE

The SERS Retirement Act requires an active member and a retiree to serve on the Board of Trustees of the State Employees' Retirement System. An election for these positions is held every five years. In order to run for Trustee, retirees need must be retired for one full year, and collect 100 signatures from retired SERS members. The candidates provide short biographies that are included in this *Informer*. They are listed in the order they appear on the ballot.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a ballot and a return postage paid envelope. Read the instructions on the ballot carefully and make your selection. In order for your ballot to count, it must be clearly marked and returned in the envelope provided by May 30. Ballots received after May 30 will be disqualified. We encourage your participation.

After the election results are tabulated and certified, they will be published in the August edition of the *Informer*. If you have questions about the election, contact us in Springfield (217-785-7017) or Chicago (312-814-5853).

JOYCE KING

Prior to my retirement in 1994, I worked for the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) for 41 years. I licensed private child welfare agencies and children's institutions. When DCFS began its child abuse program, I became involved with AFSCME, serving as a chief steward.

I have remained very active since my retirement, serving on the boards of AFSCME Retirees Chapter 31, the Women's Civic Federation of Peoria, and the American Association of University Women.

I received my Bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois, attended graduate school in social work at the University of Denver, and was a deaconess in my church.

As a widow, I depend on my earned state benefits, and I know from my own experience the plight of state retirees, particularly those who have been retired the longest.

For those who retired before January 1, 1998, an ad hoc increase is a dire need. And many retirees are being shortchanged by the state Social Security Offset provision—a rule that unfairly penalizes many surviving spouses of deceased SERS retirees.

If elected to represent you as the retiree member trustee, I look forward to working on these issues and more to improve and protect our pension benefits.

MOLLIE GOODMAN-LEVI

As a 13-year annuitant and currently a part-time service representative with the State Retirement Systems, I am confident my experience will be an asset to the SERS Board of Trustees.

I began employment with the Department of Labor in 1953 as a clerk stenographer and finished as Director of Personnel with the Industrial Commission in December 1992 (38+ years).

As a transplanted resident to the southern Illinois area at the age of three, my educational history began in Murphysboro, Illinois through high school; I later attended Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

My family consists of my husband Terry, four children, and 13 grandchildren. I am proud of my family life where celebrations are held on a regular basis.

My community affiliations include: local block club; Woman's Social organization; AARP corresponding secretary, Chatham Chapter 4177; AFSCME member; annual volunteer at the Winnetka

CANDIDATES (over)

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Congregational Church Rummage Sale; and member of the Apostolic Church of God.

My hobbies include tennis, exercising and reading extensively.

The results of the election will be posted on our website in June at www.state.il.us/srs

Myths & Realities of Retirement Workshop

The Myths and Realities of Retirement (MRR) workshop is for retirees, survivors, disability benefit recipients and their guests.

The MRR is a free, one-day workshop examining retirement issues. Participants will find this workshop worthwhile and informative. If you would like to attend an MRR workshop, please call 217-785-6979.

May 9	Quincy
Jun. 1	Urbana
Jun. 15	Normal
Jun. 27	Marion
Jul. 25	Springfield
Jul. 27	East Peoria
Aug. 3	Taylorville
Aug. 15	Fairview Heights
Sep. 14	Effingham
Sep. 19	Macomb
Sep. 27	Mt. Vernon
Oct. 13	Galesburg
Oct. 18	Moline
Oct. 25	Schaumburg
Oct. 31	Chicago
Nov. 1	Rockford
Nov. 8	Joliet
Nov. 21	Peoria
Nov. 29	Chicago

BOARD OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

A member of the SERS Board of Trustees has a fiduciary responsibility to the members and beneficiaries of SERS, which serves approximately 120,000 members and oversees assets totaling over \$10.5 billion.

A trustee of SERS must demonstrate strategic leadership and have the ability to work as part of a group. The trustees serve without compensation but are reimbursed for all necessary expenses incurred through service on the Board.

The Board holds regular meetings

at least four times each year. Specific responsibilities include oversight of the administration of SERS benefits; establishes rules and regulations and formulates policies for proper operation of SERS and its business.

The Board also adopts actuarial tables used in the operation of SERS as prepared by the actuary; has the accounts of SERS audited annually by a certified public accountant designated by the Auditor General; and certifies the rate of state contributions for the next fiscal year.

The Board consists of seven members

SERS ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Our organizational chart shows the relationship between the Board of Trustees and the agency.

