



New Online Service from Social Security

Social Security is expanding its services with a *my Social Security* account. This personalized information can be used throughout your working years and retirement.

Anyone age 18 or older can sign up for an account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. You must be able to provide information about yourself and answer questions only you will know. After completing the verification process, a *my Social Security* account is created with a unique user name and password in order to access this information.

Once an account is created, eligible workers can retrieve an online Social Security Statement. This statement provides secure and convenient access to Social Security earnings and benefit information.

More than 60 million Social Security beneficiaries can now access a variety of information instantly using their online account. Beneficiaries can also change their address and start or change direct deposit information online.

Social Security beneficiaries and recipients with a *my Social Security* account can go online and get an



Benefit Statement Enclosed



Enclosed is your Annual Benefit Statement. Review your statement carefully, since it contains group insurance and death benefit beneficiary information.

The Minnesota Life Insurance Company maintains your life insurance beneficiary information.

If you would like to update this information, contact Minnesota Life at 1-888-202-5525. The enclosed statement also has a SERS identification card. Carry it with you as proof of your association with the state of Illinois for government and retiree discounts.

official benefit verification letter. This letter serves as proof of income to secure loans and mortgages as well as proves current Medicare health insurance coverage, and

retirement or disability status. You can also print or save this customized letter.

This new online service allows you to conduct business with Social Security without having to visit an office or make a phone call, and avoids waiting for a letter to arrive in the mail. It will also reduce the time spent by SSA employees completing these requests and free them to focus on other workloads.

The portal also provides links to applications for retirement, disability and Medicare. For more information go to www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

SERS Member Snapshot June 30, 2012

Retired Members

Average age	69.2
Average annual benefit	\$30,628
Average years of service credit at retirement	26

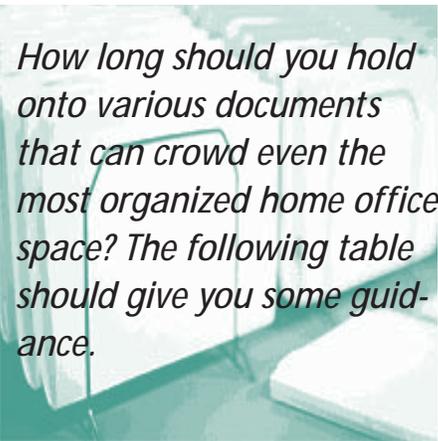
Total Membership

Active	62,732
Retired	50,000

SERS FACTOID

There are 1,471 SERS retirees who are age 90 or above.

What to Keep, What to Toss



How long should you hold onto various documents that can crowd even the most organized home office space? The following table should give you some guidance.

Reprinted from Ladies Home Journal

DOCUMENT	KEEP FOR	WHY
Tax Returns and receipts	Seven years from filing date	The IRS has three years from filing date to audit your return, and six years if they suspect significant underreporting.
Pay Stubs	One year	Once you receive your annual W-2 form from your employer, you can toss the stubs.
Home & auto titles, home repair receipts	As long as you own the items	Titles are essential to transfer when you sell. Receipts are necessary to calculate capital gains.
Bank statements, cancelled checks	Seven years from filing date	Keep checks related to your taxes, mortgage payments, and bank statements in case of a tax audit.
Sales receipts and warranties	Varies	Save receipts on expensive items for insurance; keep warranties until expiration.

Circle the 2013 MRR Workshop You Would Like to Attend

Please disregard the numbers in parentheses. They are for internal office use.

SERS offers the Myths and Realities of Retirement (MRR) workshop to retirees, survivors, disability benefit recipients and their guests.

The MRR is a free, one-day workshop which runs from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. It examines financial scams, the effects of inflation, estate planning, group insurance, and health & leisure. Participants will find this workshop worthwhile and informative.

If you would like to attend an MRR workshop, complete and return the application to us. You can also call our office to register. After you are registered, we will confirm your enrollment by letting you know the exact workshop location.

Apr. 2	Bloomington (04)	Aug. 20	Litchfield (11)
Apr. 24	FULL Collinsville (24)	Sep. 10	Carbondale (50)
May 7	FULL Chicago (02)	Sep. 17	Kankakee (12)
Jun. 4	FULL Springfield (01)	Sep. 24	Utica (43)
Jun. 11	Marion (07)	Oct. 1	Gurnee (48)
Jun. 25	East Peoria (82)	Oct. 8	Springfield (01)
Jul. 9	Chicago (02)	Oct. 22	Quincy (36)
Jul. 16	Rock Falls (66)	Oct. 29	Effingham (67)
Jul. 23	Schaumburg (77)	Nov. 6	Fairview Heights (18)
Jul. 30	Rockford (90)	Nov. 13	Chicago (02)
Aug. 6	Springfield (01)	Nov. 20	Champaign (37)
Aug. 13	Moline (46)	Dec. 10	Joliet (47)
		Dec. 17	Springfield (01)

Name _____

Social Security Number _____

Are You Bringing a Guest? _____

Return This Form To:

State Retirement Systems, Field Services Division
 2101 S. Veterans Parkway, P. O. Box 19255
 Springfield, IL 62794-9255
 217-785-6979 Fax: 217-557-5154