



## Benefit Statement Enclosed

Enclosed is your Annual Benefit Statement which contains detailed information about your pension payment & other benefits, taxes, and group & life insurance amounts. Remember that your group life insurance beneficiary(ies) is separate from your SERS beneficiary(ies). The Minnesota Life Insurance Company maintains your life insurance beneficiary information. To update your beneficiary, contact Minnesota Life at 1-888-202-5525. If you have questions about your statement, contact SERS at 217-785-7444 or 312-814-5853 in Chicago. An overview of the statement is on page 2.

## Retiree News

### Pension Reform Litigation



On November 21, 2014, the Circuit Court ruled that the pension reform law was unconstitutional and void in its entirety. The State swiftly filed an appeal directly to the Supreme Court who decided to start the pension reform case briefing schedule in January, with oral arguments set to begin in March. The plaintiffs had argued against an expedited timetable.

*A summary of the most important information contained in our annual financial report is being added to our website at [www.srs.illinois.gov/SERS/annreports\\_sers.htm](http://www.srs.illinois.gov/SERS/annreports_sers.htm)*

### Insurance Refunds

State retirees who are entitled to a refund of their state-subsidized health insurance premiums should see the money in June under a refund schedule recently approved by the court.

A total of \$63 million in premiums was collected from about 90,000 retirees. The court will decide this spring how much should be awarded to the attorneys for their work. The fees will be deducted from the premium money being refunded, and the amount of refunds will be reduced accordingly.

Retirees received a special "Notice" advising them of their right to opt-out of the class action lawsuit. The special notice included telephone numbers for members to call if they have questions about the notice.

## New SERS Chair



New Comptroller Leslie Geissler Munger was sworn in as the Chairman of the SERS Board of Trustees on

January 13, 2015.

Comptroller Munger is a native Illinoisan, earning her bachelor's degree at the University of Illinois and her master's degree from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Comptroller Munger and her husband John, live in Lincolnshire and have two adult sons.

## SERS Retirees by Age

<b>Under 51</b>	<b>219</b>
<b>51-60</b>	<b>8,794</b>
<b>61-70</b>	<b>23,392</b>
<b>71-80</b>	<b>13,661</b>
<b>81-89</b>	<b>5,852</b>
<b>90 &amp; over</b>	<b>1,560</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,478</b>
<b>Average Age</b>	<b>69.3</b>

# Overview of the Benefit Statement

**SRS** STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
 2101 S. Veterans Parkway, P. O. Box 19255 Springfield, IL 62794-6255 217-785-7444 TDD 217-785-7218  
 160 N. LaSalle St, Suite S200 Chicago, IL 60601 312-814-5853  
[www.srs.illinois.gov](http://www.srs.illinois.gov)

**Statement of Account as of 12/31/2014 Retiree**

John Doe  
 1 Someplace  
 Somewhere IL 62000

Social Security: XXX-XX-9999  
 Member ID: 999999999

**2015 Monthly Amounts**

Retirement Annuity	\$3,999.99
Total Increases	+\$1,000.00
<b>Total Gross</b>	<b>=\$4,999.99</b>
Total Authorized Deductions	-\$400.00
<b>Net Benefit Amount</b>	<b>= \$4,599.99</b>
Direct Deposit	Yes

**Calendar 2014 Totals**  
 Total gross of \$23,999.99 minus total deductions of \$4,800.00 equals total net of \$19,199.99.

**Authorized Deductions**  
 (123) 456-7890

Deduction	January 2015	Calendar Year 2014
Total Group Insurance Premium	\$150.00	\$1,800.00
Federal Tax Withheld	\$200.00	\$2,400.00
State Tax Withheld	\$0.00	\$0.00
Some place Credit Union	\$50.00	\$600.00
<b>Total Deductions</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>	<b>\$4,800.00</b>

**Group Insurance**  
 (123) 456-7890

**Group Insurance Premium – Monthly Deduction as of 12/31/2014**

Plan	Member	Dependent(s)	Total
Some Health Plan	\$75.00	\$25.00	\$100.00
Quality Care Dental Plan	\$11.00	\$6.00	\$17.00
State Life Insurance	\$30.00	\$3.00	\$33.00
Vision Benefit Plan	Included in Healthcare Cost		N/A
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$116.00</b>	<b>\$34.00</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>

Your life insurance beneficiary form is maintained by Minnesota Life Insurance Company. You can contact them at 1-888-202-5525

**Life Insurance**

Coverage	Member	Dependent(s)	Total
Basic Life	\$5,000.00	Spouse Life	\$5,000.00
Optional Life (1 x Basic)	\$5,000.00	Per Child Life	\$0.00
A&O	\$0.00		
<b>Total Member Coverage</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>		

All aspects of the administration of the State Employees' Retirement System (SERS), including but not limited to benefit calculation and payment, must comply with state and federal law (40 ILCS 5/14). No employee of SERS has the authority to bind the System to take action contrary to the law, even in the event of a misstatement of law. Furthermore, while this statement describes SERS' current understanding of the law, this could change as a result of court opinions, statutory changes or other matters (e.g. Attorney General's opinions). Accordingly, SERS is required under law to correct any mistake in benefit amount, even after payments have begun. Use of any information from this statement, form or any other document provided by SERS is for general information only.

## General Information

- Member ID Number
- 2015 Retirement Amounts
- Total Gross Amount
- Authorized Deductions
- Net Benefit Amount

## Calculation of 2014 Totals

## 2015 Authorized Deductions

- Group Insurance Premium
- Federal Tax Withheld
- Other Misc. Deductions
- Total Deductions

## Group Insurance Benefits

- Health, Dental, Life and Vision Coverage
- Member and Dependent Life Insurance Coverage

**Contributions**  
 Your monthly benefit is payable for your lifetime. When you retired, you had contributions and interest in SERS amounting to \$50,000.00. Since your retirement, you have received benefits totaling \$75,000.00.

**Level Income**  
 Our records indicate that you retired under the level income option. Your benefit will be reduced by \$1,000 in 2020.

**Death or Survivor Benefits**  
 (123) 456-7890  
 Our records indicate that at the time of retirement, you had an eligible survivor. Upon your death, your eligible survivor would receive a \$1,000 lump sum payment and a monthly annuity of approximately \$999,999.99, less 1/2 of any benefits your survivor is eligible to receive from Social Security. This annuity may change if survivor benefits are payable to dependent or disabled children. The Social Security offset will not reduce the survivor benefits more than 50%. Your survivor will be required to pay the same portion of the health insurance premiums that you are required to pay. However, if there is not an eligible survivor, your nominated beneficiary(ies) will receive a lump sum benefit consisting of any remaining balance (Contributions and Interest) in your retirement account.

**Beneficiary Information**  
 (123) 456-7890  
 Your death benefits will be paid equally to your primary beneficiaries (those listed as #1). If some of your #1 beneficiaries predecease you, your death benefits will be divided among those #1's still living. Beneficiaries listed as #2's will only be paid if NO primary beneficiaries survive you. The same process applies to remaining beneficiaries listed as #3 or greater.  
 1 – John Doe Jr.  
 1 – Jane Doe  
 2 – Doug Doe  
 3 – Tim Doe

If you would like to change or update your beneficiaries, you may find the form at [www.srs.illinois.gov/SERS/Forms\\_sers.htm](http://www.srs.illinois.gov/SERS/Forms_sers.htm)

## Contributions

- Member Contributions vs. Benefits Received

## Level Income (if applicable)

## Death & Survivor Benefits

- Explanation of Death & Survivor Benefits

## Beneficiary Information

- Listed Beneficiaries
- Order of Designation
- Change or Update Beneficiaries

## Tax Information

### 1099-R



In January, the Office of the Comptroller mailed IRS Form 1099R for 2014 SERS benefit payments to all annuitants. These payments must be reported on IRS Form 1040 under "Pensions and Annuities."

### W2GI+

The Comptroller also mailed IRS Form W2-GI+ to SERS annuitants who carry non-IRS dependent(s) (*i.e., civil union or domestic partners*) on their state health insurance, and for all annuitants who carry over \$50,000 in group term life insurance through the state.

Under federal tax law, if a domestic/civil union partner does not qualify as your tax dependent, the premium paid by the State must be added to your annual gross income and be subject to federal income tax.

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## Receiving Information

If you would like to receive phone calls, text messages or email announcements from SERS about the latest news and upcoming deadlines, visit our website at [www.srs.illinois.gov](http://www.srs.illinois.gov), click on State Employees' Retirement System, and click on Member's Email & Phone Contact Information. Complete the form and return to us electronically.

**2,904 SERS members  
retired during FY2014**

## Field Services Changes

The SERS Field Services Division is responsible for our workshops, benefit seminars and counseling members about their benefits. They have undergone a few recent personnel changes:

**Hannah Bettis**, Field Service Representative, conducts workshops for both pre-retirement and post-retirement as well as benefit seminars for state agencies south of I-80. She has worked for the State since 1999.

**LaVondra Hinton**, Field Representative for the Chicago area, is responsible for conducting pre-retirement workshops and seminars for state agencies north of I-80. She has over 13 years of state service.

**Cathy McGrath**, Office Coordinator for Field Services in Springfield, is responsible for workshop reservations and enrolling & approving attendees. She has been with the State since 1988.

## Direct Deposit

If you've been receiving your pension checks in the mail, why not choose the convenience of Direct Deposit instead of waiting for your benefit check in the mail?

Direct Deposit allows your monthly benefit to be electronically deposited into your savings or checking account on the 19th of each month. Once you sign up, all payments are electronically deposited into your bank account on the 19th of each month.

You also have access to your money sooner since you aren't waiting for the mail. To enroll, complete form 3967 on our website at [www.srs.illinois.gov/PDFILES/Forms/3967.pdf](http://www.srs.illinois.gov/PDFILES/Forms/3967.pdf).

If you don't have a computer, contact a Direct Deposit specialist at 217-524-8806.



*The Claims Division Vouchering Section is responsible for all agency vouchers and controls benefit payments to our members. They also maintain member address and bank information, retiree return to work records and prepare any necessary benefit recoveries. Front row: Debbie Ray, Julie Stites, Brenda Bain. Back row: Jennifer Paoni, Adam Rainis, Scott Ladendorf, Mike Martin.*

# 2015 Myths & Realities of Retirement Workshop

*The MRR is a free, one day workshop examining various issues facing retirees.*

*SERS retirees can register for the MRR workshop online by using our website ([www.srs.illinois.gov](http://www.srs.illinois.gov)) and following the instructions. After you register, we will confirm your registration and send you reminders by email. If you don't have access to a computer, you can complete and return the application to us or call our office to register. After you're registered, we'll confirm your enrollment.*

Feb. 10	Springfield	Jul. 21	Moline
Feb. 24	Jacksonville	Jul. 28	Chicago
Mar. 10	Glen Ellyn	Aug. 4	Utica
Mar. 17	Bloomington	Aug. 11	Effingham
Mar. 24	Orland Park	Aug. 18	Mt. Vernon
Apr. 14	Collinsville	Aug. 25	Schaumburg
Apr. 21	Marion	Sep. 8	Springfield
May 5	Springfield	Sep. 22	Kankakee
May 12	Chicago	Sep. 29	Carbondale
Jun. 2	Litchfield	Oct. 6	Quincy
Jun. 9	Carbondale	Oct. 20	Gurnee
Jun. 16	East Peoria	Oct. 27	Fairview Heights
Jun. 23	Rockford	Nov. 17	Springfield
Jul. 7	Springfield	Dec. 8	Chicago
Jul. 14	Rock Falls	Dec. 15	Joliet

## ***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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Bringing a Guest?

Social Security Number xxx-xx \_\_\_\_\_

Yes  No

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop Date & Location \_\_\_\_\_

