

ELECTION EDITION

IT'S TIME TO VOTE

The Illinois General Assembly passed legislation increasing the SERS Board of Trustees from seven to thirteen people. The new Board will include four active members and two retirees who are elected by SERS members.

* **This special election is to fill three additional active member trustees to the Board.** SERS

members who wanted to become a trustee, had to file a Statement of Candidacy and have a Nominating Petition signed by at least 400 contributing members.

The candidates also provide short biographies included below. They are listed in the order they appear on the ballot.

David Morris

I have 27 years of service with the State of Illinois and am currently employed by the Department of Children and Family Services, where I work as a Social Service Program Planner III.

I also serve as president of AFSCME Local 805 and am a member of the Executive Board of AFSCME Council 31.

I am also involved in a number of activities in my community. I serve as volunteer counselor for dislocated workers, as well as coaching youth basketball.

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 June 26. Ballots received after June 26 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 SERS-O-GRAM. If you have questions about the election, contact us in Springfield (217-785-6975) or Chicago (312-814-5853).

I am active with the Springfield area United Way, having served on the committee that recommends allocations of local service agencies.

I believe it is essential to preserve the retirement security that state employees have worked so hard to secure. As a SERS trustee, I will be a firm advocate for protecting the gains that state employees have made and for assuring full funding of the pension system.

I believe that our current defined benefit pension plan is the most reliable guarantor of a secure retirement and would oppose any

effort to change to a defined contribution plan. I am also opposed to creating a two-tier pension system with lesser benefits for new employees.

Patricia Rensing

I am a Corrections Supply Supervisor II at Pinckneyville Correctional Center with 25 years of state service. I am the Recording Secretary of AFSCME Local 943, and have served on several AFSCME bargaining committees that negotiated major improvements in pension and health insurance benefits for state employees.

I'm also a member of the state-wide labor-management grievance resolution committee in the Department of Corrections.

I'm very active in my community, having served for 13 years as the Treasurer of the Village of Hoyleton and for 20 years on the Hoyleton School District Board. In addition, I've been a member of the governing board of the Kaskaskia Special Education District for the past 16 years.

I am firmly committed to preserving the pension benefits of state employees and assuring the fiscal stability of SERS. I will work to ensure that the SERS Board of Trustees is a forceful voice for full funding of our pension system in order to avert the looming crisis caused by

the state's failure to make its required contributions.

Based on my many years of union and community activities, I have demonstrated the ability to provide vigorous oversight and strong advocacy.

Robert Fierstein

I attended Northern Illinois University and began my career with the Illinois State Police in 1988. I am currently a Master Sergeant assigned to District 15, in the Tollway Division headquarters in Downers Grove.

I was a member of the negotiating committee for the State Police Master Sergeants in our successful landmark bid to unionize under the Teamsters. I remain active in Local 726, serving as a union steward, and I will represent you with the same enthusiasm as a Trustee of the State Employees' Retirement System.

Having been a SERS member for 21 years, I believe the current economic situation in our state and our nation requires that we act now to protect the pension benefits we have, and those we hope to secure.

I have two young children and work hard to provide for them, just as you do for your family. I wish to do my part to protect our pension benefits, in order that we can continue to take care of those who depend on us long after we have moved on from state service.

I would like to be among those representing all hard working state employees by being involved in the decisions today that will affect us all for years to come.

Dana Coughlin

My education includes a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from SIUE and a Masters of Arts Management from Webster University.

I am married with three children. My husband Craig, is the Assistant Police Chief of Swansea. My father, David Sterr, is a retired technician from IDOT District 8, and my brother, Mike Sterr, worked for IDOT District 1 as an engineer in construction.

I have 17 years of service with IDOT. I work at IDOT District 8, Collinsville, as a Field Engineer in Operations, overseeing six maintenance yards with three Field Technicians and 85 Maintainers. In Operations, we strive to keep the roads in the best repair as possible within a tight budget.

I would like to serve on the SERS Board of Trustees to improve and ensure the longevity of our retirement system.

Patricia Ousley

I have worked for the State of Illinois for 33 years, and am currently employed by the Department of Employment Security as an Unemployment Insurance Revenue Analyst II.

I also serve as President of AFSCME Local 1006, which represents more than 800 IDES employees. I also serve on the Executive Board of the State Council of AFSCME.

I am active in my local community where I serve as a trustee of my church, overseeing a three-quarter million dollar budget. I am also vice-president of Visionary Friends, a non-profit group that works with inner-city schools in Chicago.

I am strongly committed to assuring that the gains state employees have made are preserved, and that every employee can retire with security and dignity. It is critical that we address the under-funding of our pensions.

I will be a forceful advocate for ensuring that the state makes its required contributions to assure the system's continued financial soundness.

I believe the Illinois constitution prohibits any reduction in benefits for SERS participants and I oppose any increase in employee contributions. I will be a voice for the interests and concerns of state employees on all matters before the Board.

