



RETIREE FOCUS



School Employees Retirement System of Ohio
Serving the People Who Serve Our Schools®



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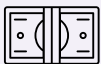
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Newsletter and Payment Stub: Twice a Year

Beginning August 1, 2022, you will start receiving your *Retiree Focus* newsletter and payment stub just two times a year.

The *Retiree Focus*, which previously came to you quarterly, will now come to you twice a year, once in January and once in July. Just as before, it will be accompanied by your payment stub. Additionally, whenever there is a change to your benefit, you also will receive a payment stub and an insert containing any necessary information.

You will not receive a *Retiree Focus* or payment stub in September or December. This will not affect your payment. You will continue to receive your payment each month.

**2023: Retiree Focus
and payment stub in
January and July**

The *Retiree Focus* will still contain information and dates you need to know, but it will offer more comprehensive articles along with special features and savable cut-out sections, including your monthly payment schedule. It also will be available electronically as an email.

You will receive email updates in April and October containing SERS news. If we do not have your email address, you can use the Updated Information Form on page 6 to send it to us.

Look for your next *Retiree Focus* and payment stub in January 2023.

Get Connected and View Stubs Online



In the meantime, you can always visit our website at www.ohsers.org to get the most up-to-date retirement news. You also can register for an Account Login if you want to view all your payment stubs online, change your address, or access your annual 1099-R tax form. For step-by-step instructions on how to register for Account Login, see page 4. ■

Happy Birthday: SERS is 85 Years Strong



The School Employees Retirement System of Ohio (SERS) celebrates a milestone birthday this year.

What began as the Cleveland Custodians Pension Fund, is now 85 years old.

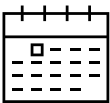
In 1927, a group of Cleveland custodians sponsored legislation known as the School Custodians' Pension Act. The act, which would make it possible for local boards of education to create pension funds in their own districts, led to the formation of the Cleveland Custodians Pension Fund.

In 1933, the group expanded the guidelines of its fund. It included retirement allowances for all nonteaching employees in Ohio's public schools. With support from other organizations promoting a statewide retirement system for nonteaching school employees, legislation was passed in 1937. The state provided \$5,000 in start-up money, and SERS began operating on September 1, 1937.

Today, SERS serves more than 227,000 members and retirees. It is Ohio's third largest public pension fund, and the 62nd largest public pension fund in the country.

In fiscal year 2021, SERS paid out more than \$1.5 billion in benefits, including \$128 million in health care. ■

Payment Stub Frequency Changing



You received a payment stub from SERS with this issue of the *Retiree Focus*.

Beginning August 1, 2022, you will start to receive your payment stub on a twice-a-year basis included with your issue of the *Retiree Focus*.

Your payment stub details your gross monthly allowance and deductions, and these amounts for year-to-date.

You will receive your next payment stub in January 2023 with your issue of the *Retiree Focus*.

Anytime There is a Change

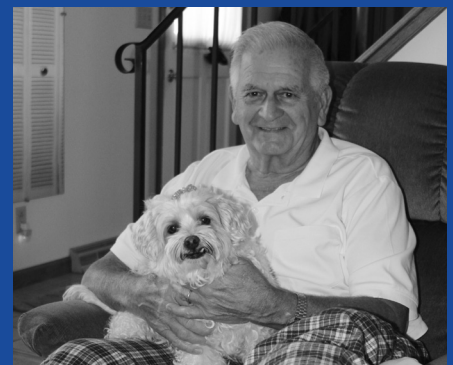
You also will receive a payment stub whenever there is a change in your benefit, including a change in your COLA, tax withholdings, or health care premiums. ■

Q: My wife recently died, and she was the beneficiary of my SERS benefit. What should I do?

A: Please notify SERS if your spouse dies. You can call us toll-free at 800-878-5853.

A life-changing event, such as a birth, death, or marriage, not only has an impact on you, it also can impact your benefits in retirement.

If you chose Retirement Plan A, C, or D for a beneficiary, and your beneficiary dies before you do, your pension will be adjusted to the Single Life amount, which would result in an increase to your benefit. ■



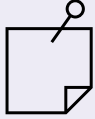
Featured on the cover of this issue of the *Retiree Focus* is Stan Arsenault. He retired from Worthington City Schools as facilities manager in 1989. ■



Health Care News



Open Enrollment



Open Enrollment begins October 1. SERS' health care participants should watch their mailbox this fall for a yellow envelope containing the SERS Open Enrollment informational packet, which highlights 2023 premiums and benefit changes.

Open Enrollment is your opportunity to review your SERS health care coverage for the upcoming year. It also is the time when you can select or cancel dental and vision coverage.

If you are eligible for SERS' dental and vision coverage for the upcoming year, you will receive enrollment information.

While no in-person Open Enrollment meetings are being held this year, Open Enrollment webinars will be offered. Once dates and times have been scheduled, they will be listed in your Open Enrollment materials and posted on our website at www.ohsers.org. ■

Medical Plans Cover Diabetic Supplies for those on Medicare



Preferred glucose test strips, meters, and lancets are available without a co-pay under SERS' health care plans.

However, for people with diabetes, what ID card you use at the pharmacy depends on your Medicare status.

Medicare:

Your medical plan covers diabetic testing supplies. Retirees covered by SERS' Aetna Medicare Plan need to use their Aetna ID card for these supplies.

Non-Medicare:

Plan participants also can get preferred-brand test strips and lancets at no charge. Aetna Choice participants should use their Express Scripts ID card, while AultCare participants should use their AultCare ID card.

You must use the preferred brand to receive the testing supplies at no cost to you. If there is a question about which test strips, meters, or lancets are preferred, call your plan's customer service number. ■

Has Anything Changed? Let Us Know



If you are enrolled in SERS' health care coverage, it's important to let us know when you or your covered dependents have changes to your:

- Permanent address
- Telephone number
- Marital status
- Medicare eligibility

Call us toll-free at 800-878-5853 to keep us informed of any changes.

When your permanent address changes, you also need to inform Social Security. Social Security updates its own record as well as Medicare's record, if applicable.

Failing to do so can result in delayed or missing mail.

For health care enrollment, your permanent SERS address must match Social Security and Medicare's records. ■

SERS and SERO: Similar Sounding but Not the Same



The School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

is a state pension system from which you receive your monthly benefit. It also offers health care coverage.



The School Employee Retirees of Ohio (SERO)

is a different organization. It is a non-profit retiree advocacy and education organization comprised of SERS retirees. It provides its members discounts on various products and services, including dental and vision plans.

You can be a member of both SERS and SERO.

Membership in SERO is optional. Its members pay a fee to be eligible for benefits. Membership is \$24 per year, and will increase to \$30 in October. For those on the dues deduction program, that is an increase from \$2.00 to \$2.50 per month.

To tell whether you have dental and vision coverage through SERS or SERO, look at how you pay your premiums. If your dental and/or vision premiums are deducted from your pension benefit, you have a SERS plan. If they are deducted from a checking or savings account, you probably have a SERO plan.

If you have questions, call SERO at 614-431-0387 or visit www.ohio-sero.com. ■



Register for Account Login: It's Easy

- 1 Visit our website at www.ohsers.org, and click "**Account Login**" at the top of the page or the Retirees icon in the center of the page under Login or Register Here.
- 2 You will then be taken to the My SERS Account page. Click "**Register Now.**"
- 3 On the End User Terms and Conditions page, click "**I Agree.**"
- 4 On the Confirm Your Identity page, fill in your Last Name, Social Security Number, Date of Birth, and ZIP Code/Postal Code. Click "**Continue.**"
- 5 You will be taken to the Create Username page to create a username by typing it into the blank field provided and clicking "**Continue.**"
- 6 You will create a password by entering a password, confirming it, and clicking "**Continue.**"
- 7 On the Account Verification page, select Email or Mail by clicking the appropriate circle, click "**Generate,**" enter the verification code that was sent to you, and click "**Submit.**"
- 8 You will be taken to the Select a Security Image and Phrase page to select an image and create a phrase. Click "**Continue.**"
- 9 Next, you will select your Challenge Questions by answering four questions and clicking "**Continue.**"
- 10 You will be taken to Your Communication Information page to type in your email address. Click "**Continue.**"
- 11 You will be asked if you want to use your current computer when checking your SERS account. Click "**Yes**" or "**No,**" then click "**Finish.**"



Sarah ‘Susie’ Hippler: Retired Bus Driver Has No Intention of Slowing Down but Always Stops to Help Others



The loosening of COVID-19 restrictions means that SERS retiree Sarah “Susie” Hippler is back at work helping her community.

Although driving a school bus for 34 years with the Edison Local School District was the “best job ever,” she said, she also enjoys helping others.

The 81-year-old Berlin Heights resident has been a dedicated volunteer at the Firelands Regional Medical Center, Care and Share Food Pantry, and the Erie County Senior Center.

“When COVID came, they didn’t want any volunteers. So, it was a little over a year before they called us back,” Susie said of Firelands. Due to the need for volunteers, she picked up a second day during the month.

“I love it,” said the former bus driver who now helps in the emergency room. “I check people in, and I take visitors back to the room,” she said. “They always ‘thank you’ for being there.”

Susie also returned to the senior center where she had volunteered since 2015. “Susie is a great volunteer,” said May McClure, Senior Enrichments Director. “She’s very friendly and gets along with everyone.”

When she first started at the center, Susie helped with the Meals on Wheels program.

Part of the job was making sure the seniors getting the meals were OK. One time, Susie said, they helped a woman who had fallen to the floor and could not get up again without assistance. ■

Remember When....



Help us celebrate. Do you have a good memory from your days in the SERS workforce? Have any photos of yourself on the job? Share your memories with your fellow SERS members by sending us a photo, and a few lines about what you did and where you worked. Email it to us at ltroiano@ohsers.org, or mail it to SERS, Attention: Laura Troiano, 300 E. Broad St., Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio, 43215. ■

Update Your Address



Make sure you advise SERS of any change in address, whether you snowbird to a second home or have permanently relocated. If you move and do not notify SERS, your benefits can be suspended.

You can update your address by calling us at 800-878-5853, or by using the Account Login on our website at www.ohsers.org. ■

Payment Schedule

Your SERS payment is deposited into your bank account on the first business day of each month. If the first day of the month falls on a weekend or holiday, it will be deposited on the previous business day, except for January.

Due to tax laws, your January payment will not be deposited early. Instead, it will be deposited on January 3, 2023, the first business day of the new year. ■

PAYMENT SCHEDULE	
June	June 1, 2022
July	July 1, 2022
August	August 1, 2022
September	September 1, 2022
October	September 30, 2022
November	November 1, 2022
December	December 1, 2022
January	January 3, 2023

Keep in Touch

You are a member of SERS, and we want to keep in touch. Please complete the Updated Information Form below and mail it to us at: SERS, 300 E. Broad St., Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio, 43215.

UPDATED INFORMATION FORM

NAME		LAST FOUR DIGITS OF SSN			
() () ()	() () () - () () () ()	() () ()	() () () - () () () ()		
(AREA CODE) HOME PHONE NUMBER		(AREA CODE) CELL PHONE NUMBER			
EMAIL ADDRESS					
SIGNATURE (DO NOT PRINT)				DATE	

Retiree Reminder Checklist

Until your next issue of *Retiree Focus* arrives in January, here are a few items to remember:

- ✓ Watch your mailbox this fall for the yellow Open Enrollment envelope when you are enrolled in SERS' health care coverage
- ✓ 1099-R Forms will be mailed in January
- ✓ If your marital status changes or your beneficiary passes away, contact SERS
- ✓ Make sure we always have your most current address, phone number, and email address

If you need help navigating our website at www.ohsers.org or help with any other SERS information, including health care or Medicare enrollment, visit the Education Center of the website which offers instructional videos to assist you. ■

PUBLISHED BY THE SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF OHIO

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