



# Retiree FOCUS

SPRING | MARCH 2021

SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF OHIO | SERVING THE PEOPLE WHO SERVE OUR SCHOOLS®

## The Taxman Cometh: Do You Have Your 1099-R Form?



SERS mailed your 1099-R Form in January.

Misplaced yours? It is easy to get a new one.

You can have a reprint of your 1099-R mailed to you by calling us toll-free at 800-878-5853.

You also can get your 1099-R through Account Login.

If you have not yet set up an online account, go to our website at [www.ohsers.org](http://www.ohsers.org), click on the Retirees login button, and follow the step-by-step instructions to register.

Once you have an online account, you will be able to instantly access all your personal retirement information, including your annual 1099-R Form. ■

## SERS Named Positive Education Influencer



In a recent blog entry, Linq.com named SERS a top positive education influencer

on Twitter. Citing a November 18 tweet honoring Education Support Professionals, the article stated that SERS' Twitter account "certainly upheld its mission [of Serving the People Who Serve our Schools] throughout the year by showing support to the professionals making sure the students of Ohio have a safe and healthy place to learn." ■

## Payment Schedule



Your payment is deposited into your bank account on the first day of the month.

If the first day of the month falls on a weekend or holiday, your payment will be deposited on the previous business day.

### Payment Stubs

Your quarterly payment stub, which details your gross monthly allowance and deductions, and these year-to-date amounts, is included with this issue of the *Retiree Focus* newsletter. You also receive a payment stub whenever there is any change in your benefit. ■

### PAYMENT SCHEDULE

March	March 1, 2021
April	April 1, 2021
May	April 30, 2021
June	June 1, 2021
July	July 1, 2021



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## Reporting Your Pension to Social Security

Social Security requires public employees who also receive a Social Security benefit to report their public pension amount. Failure to report your SERS income may result in your Social Security benefit being suspended, which could cause your Medicare Part B coverage to be terminated. Depending on the type of Social Security benefit you receive, the reporting process is different.

**Q: I receive a SERS survivor income and a Social Security benefit. Do I need to report my SERS income to Social Security?**

**A:** No.

**Q: I receive a SERS service retirement income or a SERS disability income, and never reported it to Social Security. Do I need to report my SERS income?**

**A:** Yes.

**Q: I receive a SERS service retirement or disability income, and a Social Security benefit based on my own record. Do I need to report my SERS income?**

**A:** Yes. Report at the time you begin receiving your SERS service retirement or disability.

**Q: I receive a SERS service retirement or disability income, and a Social Security benefit based on my spouse's, ex-spouse's, or deceased spouse's work record. Do I need to report my SERS income?**

**A:** Yes. Report at the time you begin receiving a SERS retirement or disability, any time you receive a cost-of-living adjustment from SERS, or if Social Security sends you a letter requesting information. ■



## Financial Documents Available

Every year, SERS publishes a *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)* and a *Summary Annual Financial Report (SAFR)*. These documents summarize the organization's financial health, investment performance, and accomplishments of the last fiscal year (July 1-June 30). The CAFR is a detailed, in-depth explanation of the numbers, while the SAFR is an



overview of the year's financial highlights with basic descriptions of investments, pension funding, membership, and health care. Both are available on the SERS website at [www.ohsers.org](http://www.ohsers.org). ■

## Retirement Board Update

### Board Members Reappointed

James A. Rossler, Jr., was reappointed to the SERS Retirement Board by the Ohio Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President

of the Ohio Senate. Jeffrey T. DeLeone was reappointed by the Ohio Treasurer. Daniel L. Wilson was reappointed by the Governor of Ohio.

### Election News: Board Member Candidates Certified, Will Serve



The SERS Board certified that James Haller and Barbra Phillips submitted sufficient petitions to qualify as candidates for the employee-member seats. The Board also certified that Frank Weglarz submitted sufficient petitions to qualify as a

candidate for the retiree-member seat.

Under Ohio law, because only one candidate qualified for each open seat, no election was held, and candidates will take office on July 1, 2021 as if elected. The terms for all three seats will end on June 30, 2025. ■



## Will Insurance Cover My COVID-19 Vaccination?



In most cases, insurance will cover the COVID-19 vaccination.

Vaccine doses purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars will be given to all people living in the United States at no cost. However, vaccination providers can charge an administration fee for giving the shot.

Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries will receive full coverage for the COVID-19 vaccination. Many private insurance plans also will provide full coverage.

### SERS Coverage

If you are enrolled in a SERS health care plan, the vaccine and administration fees will be covered. When receiving the vaccine:

- Aetna Medicare enrollees need to show their red,

white, and blue Medicare ID card. Usually, plan enrollees are told to show their Aetna Medicare card to pay for medical expenses, but not in this instance.

- SERS' AultCare PPO Plan enrollees should show their AultCare PPO ID card.
- SERS' Aetna Choice POS II enrollees can show either their Aetna Choice or Express Scripts ID card.

### When Will it be My Turn to Get the Vaccine?

Each state is handling the vaccine rollout differently. For information on Ohio's phased approach for vaccine distribution, visit [www.vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://www.vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov). For assistance in finding an agency in your community offering the COVID-19 vaccine, call 1-866-243-5678.

### Protect Yourself: Be on the Alert for Scammers

As COVID-19 vaccine distribution takes place, the FBI warns of scams. Do not give out your personal information to unknown sources. Here are signs of potential scams regarding the vaccination:

- You are asked to pay out of pocket to get the vaccine.
- You are asked to pay to put your name on a waiting list or to get early access.
- Advertisement for vaccines solicited through social media platforms, email, telephone calls, online, or from unsought sources.
- Marketers offering to sell or ship doses of the vaccine for payment. ■

## Stay Connected: Keep Your Contact Information Current



Make sure SERS has your updated address. This ensures that you do not miss any important SERS information, including your statement and newsletters.

Your *Retiree Focus* newsletter contains information on issues concerning taxes, health

care coverage, and Social Security penalties.

Additionally, if you move and do not notify SERS, your benefits can be suspended.

It's easy to update your address. Call us toll-free at 800-878-5853, or use Account Login online to change your address through our website at [www.ohsers.org](http://www.ohsers.org). ■

# You May Have Money Waiting: Is the State of Ohio Holding Money that Belongs to You?



You may be one of the millions of Americans with forgotten assets.

The Division of Unclaimed Funds reunites Ohioans with their hard-earned but forgotten money. This includes dormant savings accounts, checking accounts, unclaimed wages, dividends, credit balances, and different types of outstanding checks.

Currently, the state has \$3.2 billion in unclaimed funds. Go online to [www.com.ohio.gov/unfd](http://www.com.ohio.gov/unfd), or call 1-877-644-6823, to see if you have unclaimed funds. If a search finds you have missing money, you must complete a claim form and submit documentation to prove you are the rightful owner.

**SERS is unable to assist you with this process. ■**

## Are You Getting the Four Types of Exercise?



Most people tend to focus on one type of exercise. Research has shown it is important to get four types: endurance, strength, balance, and flexibility. Each

type improves your ability to do the others, and variety helps reduce the risk of injury.

### Endurance

Often referred to as aerobic, such activities increase your breathing and heart rates, improving the health of your heart, lungs, and circulatory system. They also can delay or prevent diseases common in older adults. Increase your endurance by taking a walk.

### Strength

Muscular strength makes a big difference in helping you stay independent. Strong muscles make everyday activities feel easier, like getting up from a chair, climbing stairs, and carrying groceries. They also can improve your balance and prevent falls, protecting you from fall-related

injuries. You are less likely to fall when your leg and hip muscles are strong. Using weight to build muscle is called “strength training” or “resistance training.” Such exercises include lifting weights or using resistance bands.

### Balance

Balance exercises help prevent falls, a common problem that can have serious consequences. Many lower-body strength exercises also help improve balance. Exercises to boost your balance include Tai Chi, a “moving meditation” that involves shifting the body slowly, gently, and precisely, while breathing deeply.

### Flexibility

Stretching can improve your flexibility. Moving more freely makes it easier to reach or turn your head, which helps when bending down to tie your shoes or looking over your shoulder to back your car out of the driveway. ■

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#### RETIREMENT BOARD

HUGH GARSIDE, JR. <i>Chair, Employee-Member</i>	BARBRA M. PHILLIPS <i>Vice-Chair, Employee-Member</i>	JEFFREY DELEONE <i>Appointed Member</i>	JAMES A. ROSSLER, JR. <i>Appointed Member</i>	DANIEL L. WILSON <i>Appointed Member</i>
JAMES H. HALLER <i>Employee-Member</i>	CATHERINE P. MOSS <i>Retiree-Member</i>	FRANK A. WEGLARZ <i>Retiree-Member</i>	MATTHEW A. KING <i>Employee-Member</i>	RICHARD STENSRUD <i>Executive Director</i>