



RETIREE eFOCUS

SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF OHIO

October 2023

Open Enrollment Period for Dental and Vision Changing



This fall, SERS is changing to a biennial, or two-year, Dental and Vision Open Enrollment period.

Beginning January 1, 2024, everyone enrolled in a SERS dental and/or vision plan must pay monthly premiums through December 31, 2025.

Premiums will not change during the longer enrollment period.

Coverage is offered through Delta Dental of Ohio and VSP Vision Care.

Open Enrollment letters were mailed in

September. You must be eligible for SERS' health care coverage but do not have to be enrolled to participate in dental and vision coverage.

New enrollment requests must be submitted in writing by November 15 for coverage starting January 1.

If you are currently enrolled and make no changes this fall, coverage will renew for the two-year period. ■

2024 Health Care Open Enrollment Changes on Website

Open Enrollment packets were mailed in September to SERS' health care participants.

Premiums, plans, and benefits information included in the mailings can be found online at www.ohsers.org/retirees/health-care-in-retirement/open-enrollment.

Important Health Care Open Enrollment Dates and Deadlines

Open enrollment allows enrollees to review benefits and change their SERS' health care, if applicable, for the following year.

September:

Open Enrollment packets mailed to eligible benefit recipients throughout the month.

October 1:

The first day dental and/or vision enrollment changes can be made. Non-Medicare enrollees also have the option to change their health plan.

October 3, 11, 24:

Open Enrollment Webinar dates. Register at www.ohsers.org/health-care-in-retirement/open-enrollment.

November 15:

Last day to submit enrollment changes. Current enrollees' coverage automatically renews for the next period if no changes are requested by this date.

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.

Due to tax laws, your January payment will be deposited on January 2, 2024, the first business day of the new year.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

October	September 29, 2023
November	November 1, 2023
December	December 1, 2023
January	January 2, 2024
February	February 1, 2024

Payment Stubs

You receive a payment stub twice a year. It details your gross monthly allowance and deductions, and these amounts for year-to-date.

You will receive your next payment stub with the January 2024 issue of the *Retiree Focus*.

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: I am a snowbird. I leave Ohio before winter hits and head south till spring. Do I need to update my address?

A: Yes. You can update your address online by signing into Account Login, clicking the “My Profile” option on the left-hand menu, and updating your address information.

If you have not yet registered for an online account, visit our website at www.ohsers.org and click the “Retirees” button. Follow the prompts to set up your account. For additional instructions on how to register, go to the Quick Links menu on the SERS website homepage and click “Account Login: Step-by-Step.” ■



RETIREE PROFILE

David Hickey retired in 2016. He served as vice president of Information Technology at Cincinnati State College. At the suggestion of his wife, he began writing children’s books in 2018 about one of the couple’s rescue pets. Before long, he had a collection of short stories titled, the Little Red Dog Book Series.

He and Little Red Dog have appeared on television as well as have visited numerous schools, libraries, and nursing homes near where he currently lives in northern Kentucky. They also recently appeared at the Mill Run Care Center in Hilliard, Ohio.

Proceeds from his books are donated to local organizations. ■



Reminder: Make sure your answering machine or voicemail is set up or cleared out so that you are able to receive messages from SERS. With the open enrollment season approaching, this is especially important. You do not want to miss a call from SERS. ■

Interested in Becoming a Board Member? Retiree Seat Up for Election



One retiree-member seat is open for election the term beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2028. Any SERS disability or service retiree is eligible to run for a retiree-member seat. Full terms run four years.

To be considered for election, the following requirements must be met:

- Obtain signatures of 150 SERS retirees on a nominating petition provided by SERS with not less than 10 signatures of retirees from each of at least five counties where those retirees reside
- Make sure that each retiree signing the nominating petition, whether paper or electronic, indicates his or her county of residence and last four digits of his or her Social Security number or full SERS member ID number

Those interested in the seat should:

- Begin gathering signatures on or after August 8, 2023
- Deliver paper petitions with original signatures and a completed original Certification Form to the SERS office no later than 4:30 p.m., EDT, December 1, 2023; electronic signature collection also will end at this time

For this election, the nomination process includes the ability for retired members to sign an electronic petition form on SERS' website to nominate a candidate. The electronic form is secure and requires the same information as the paper form. Members may provide only one signature either on paper or electronically. Multiple submissions from one person for the same candidate are not counted.

All ballots must be received in the SERS office no later than 4:30 p.m. EST, March 4, 2024.

Ballots will be delivered unopened to the judges appointed by the Board. The judges will make the final determination of the validity of the ballots, which will be counted on March 5, 2024, in accordance with the Board's election laws, election rule, policy, and procedure.

Anyone interested in running for one of the open Board seats must contact Tim Barbour by phone at 614-222-5901 or by email at tbarbour@ohsers.org to have an electronic form on the SERS website created with their name. ■

Remember Your School Days?



Do you have good memories from your school days in the SERS workforce? Have any photos of yourself on the job? Share them with your fellow SERS retirees by sending us a photo, and a few lines about what you did and where you worked, and we will feature you in an upcoming issue. Email your photo and information to us at ltroiano@ohsers.org, or mail them to SERS, Attention: Laura Troiano, 300 E. Broad St., Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio, 43215.

Scammers Are Out There Looking for You

Don't be the victim of scammers. Knowing what they are up to arms you against them. If you know about their plays, you won't be fooled.



Tech Support Scam

How it Works:

In this type of scam, the scammer masquerades as a tech support representative from a company you know like Apple or Microsoft. They claim that your computer or device is at risk of being infected by viruses and then trick you into granting them remote access or paying for software that you don't need.

Sometimes, the goal is to trick you into downloading what you think is helpful

software. When you do, it is actually malware that opens up the potential for cyber-attacks that target your banking information.

This scam often happens through phone calls, but it's also common to see pop-up ads on websites.

Warning signs of tech support scams:

- You receive unsolicited phone calls about tech support. Companies like Apple will not call you about these issues.
- A pop-up on a website claims that your device has viruses or promises to give you faster service.
- Caller uses fear tactics to trick you into downloading software or clicking on links in emails.

Inheritance Scam

How it Works:

You receive a letter in the mail or an email from a law firm or a lawyer. They say that you might be the heir to an estate.

They claim they will split the inheritance with you or charge you a fee for processing the inheritance. They say to keep their contact with you secret and warn you against telling your family about it.

If you email them, they will try to get your personal information, like your Social Security number or bank account number, saying they need it to wire the money into your account.

What to do:

- Do not respond. Keep your money – and your information – to yourself. Never give personal information to a stranger.
- Tell your friends and family. Pass along the news of the fraud to protect others. Someone you know probably could use a reminder about scams. ■



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