

RETIREE NOTES



AFSCME Retirees are taking their shot to stop COVID-19

The three vaccines now available are proven safe and effective at preventing COVID-19 in those over age 65. That's why AFSCME Chapter 31 retirees like Eric Kenney (Sub-chapter 87) are taking their shot. See page 5 for more information.

Pensionomics

DEFINED BENEFIT PENSIONS are a significant driver of the U.S. economy, according to "Pensionomics 2021," a new study by the National Institute on Retirement Security.

Pension benefits create a ripple effect in our economy.

The study found that retiree spending of pension benefits in 2018 generated \$1.3 trillion in total economic output, supporting nearly seven million jobs across the nation. Pension spending also added nearly \$192 billion to government coffers at the federal, state and local levels.

"Pensionomics 2021" calculated each state's economic benefit stemming from state and local defined benefit pension payments and provided key state-level results of the economic impact analysis.

Pension benefits received by retirees are spent in the local

community, creating ripples through the economy. Each dollar paid out in pension benefits supports \$1.62 in total economic activity in Illinois.

Each dollar "invested" by Illinois taxpayers in the pension plans supported \$4.86 in total economic activity. Protecting defined benefit pensions is therefore not only important to those receiving the pensions, but also to the Illinois economy at large.

AFSCME backs Tilden in SERS annuitant trustee election

"IT IS VITAL THAT WE RETAIN John Tilden as our representative on the SERS Board in the State Employees' Retirement System annuitant trustee election beginning May 1," said Larry Brown, president of AFSCME Illinois Retiree Chapter 31.

"John has proven himself a strong advocate for working people and a staunch defender of our pensions. We must now flex our voting muscle to ensure he is able to continue that work." An experienced SERS

trustee with more than 50 years of public service, Tilden served the State of Illinois for nearly 40 years as a counselor and psychologist. After retiring, he helped establish an AFSCME sub-chapter in Lake and McHenry Counties because he knows the importance of retirees having an active voice in the

"John Tilden has proven himself a strong advocate."



decisions that affect them.

"At a time when attacks on public pensions continue unabated, it is essential to

have someone with John's experience and dedication to defend our retirement security," Brown said. "As a SERS Annuitant Trustee, John Tilden has focused on ensuring that the pension system remains healthy into the future and being responsive to the needs and concerns of members."

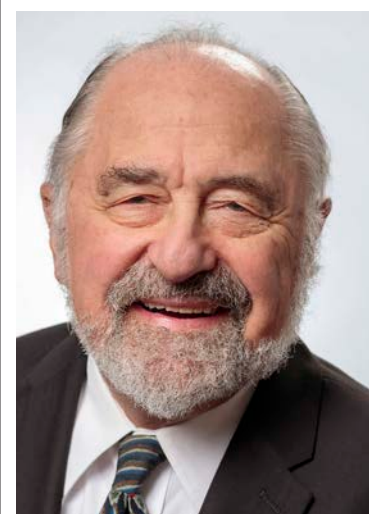
SERS retirees will receive a trustee election ballot from SERS in the mail the week of May 1.

"Watch for your ballot, mark your vote for John Tilden and return it right away," Brown urged.

Re-elect Mitch Vogel as SERS annuitant trustee

ANNUITANTS IN THE STATE University Retirement System should have received a notification from SERS that voting is open for the annuitant trustee election from April 1 to May 3. AFSCME is urging members to re-elect Mitch Vogel as annuitant trustee.

"AFSCME Council 31 is supporting Vogel because his experience and expertise have



served SERS annuitants well in his 12 years as trustee," said Retiree Coordinator Maria Britton-Sipe.

Vogel is a retired professor at Northeastern Illinois University. He served as president of the University Professionals of Illinois Local 4100 of the American Federation of Teachers for more than 17 years and was vice president of the Illinois Federation of Teachers.

Materials with instructions on how to vote were sent to annuitants from YES Elections. In addition, SERS will be sending out periodic reminders about the voting process. Ballots must be returned no later than May 3. 