Protect our pensions: Vote in SERS trustee election

All retirees in the State Employees Retirement System (SERS) are eligible to vote in the upcoming election for Annuitant Trustee. AFSCME recommends John Tilden for this position. The voting period begins on May 1 and runs through June 1, 2016. When retirees receive their SERS ballot on or around May 1, they should mark it for John Tilden,” said David Amerson, Chapter 31 retiree coordinator.

An experienced and proven advocate for retirement security, John Tilden serves as the president of AFSCME Retiree Sub-chapter 66 (Lake and McHenry County) and on the statewide executive board for Chapter 31. He is retired from the Illinois Department of Human Services where he worked as a psychologist for more than 30 years.

At a time when public pension systems are threatened, it is critical that SERS members have a voice in the decisions that affect their retirement. Tilden serves on the finance and legislative committees of Chapter 31. He knows that politicians mismanaging pension funding caused the SERS to be underfunded—not retirees who have a voice in the decisions every month.

Ballots must be received at SERS by June 1. Retirees must follow voting instructions exactly to ensure every vote is counted.

Retirees help secure big wins in primary election

In two of the most hotly contested elections of the March primary, AFSCME Chapter 31 retirees led the grassroots charge that resulted in big wins for union-backed candidates. In Springfield, where AFSCME-backed incumbent senator Sam McCann was running against a Rauner super PAC backed challenger, volunteers called their fellow AFSCME retirees and knocked on doors in the 50th District to help get out the vote.

“Sam was the only Republican in the General Assembly who took a stand to help get out the vote. Republican in the General Assembly help get out the vote.

AFSCME retiree Eva Gregory volunteers with her fellow Sub-chapter 60 members at a union phone bank to support Juliana Stratton in Chicago.