

News Sheet "Update" April 10, 2018

Jim Benton, Editor. jamesbettybenton@gmail.com.

461 Rockland Ave. Lake Bluff, IL 60044 (847) 234-5279



The Top 10 Best Cities for Retirees to Live:

1. Austin, Texas
2. Denver, Colorado
3. San Jose, California
4. Washington, DC
5. Fayetteville, Arkansas
6. Seattle, Washington
7. Raleigh-Durham, N. Carolina
8. Boston, Massachusetts
9. Des Moines, Iowa
10. Salt Lake City, Utah



Larry Pfeiffer was the IRTA endorsed candidate for TRS Annuitant Trustee. Larry began his career as a teacher of agricultural education and welding at Carlinville High School. Larry was recognized as the Illinois Outstanding Beginning Agricultural Education Teacher, the Illinois Agri-science Teacher of the Year. Larry completed two additional advanced degrees from the University of Illinois which allowed him the opportunity to serve in education administration positions. From 2002- 2015, Larry served as the Regional Superintendent of Schools for the Regional Office of Education #40, which comprises the counties of Macoupin, Greene, Jersey and Calhoun. During his tenure as the Regional Superintendent, he was active in local, state and federal educational initiatives. Larry served as the President of the Illinois Association of County Officials in 2014 and is the current President of Macoupin County Retired Teachers Association.

TRS Financially Sound at 12.6%

October 26, 2017 – SPRINGFIELD, IL – Teachers' Retirement System investments generated a positive 12.6 percent rate of return, net of fees, during fiscal year 2017 – a return that exceeded the System's custom investment benchmark of 11.4 percent.

TRS ended FY 2017 on June 30 with \$49.4 billion in assets. Gross of fees, the TRS return for FY 2017 was 13.3 percent. Total investment income, net of fees, was \$5.5 billion. The 30-year investment return for TRS currently is 8.1 percent, net of fees, which exceeds the System's long-term investment goal of 7 percent.

"TRS investments performed well during FY 2017 and that's always good news," said TRS Executive Director Dick Ingram. "Even better is the fact that our portfolio is structured to deliver these returns while taking on less investment risk than most of our peers. Risk management is critical because we know we can't invest our way out of our funding shortfall. The TRS unfunded liability was created by seven decades of inadequate funding by state government and our future sustainability relies on consistent state funding to pay down this debt."

A yard sale can be traumatic. Even your best stuff looks tacky in the bright sunlight.

2018 Luncheon Programs for the LCRTA

- TODAY:** April 10: Larry Pfeiffer: TRS Update
May 8: Nicole Stocker: "Hollywood on the Prairie"
June 12: Richard Lanyon: "Draining Chicago"
July 10: Sanjay Kumar "Common computer Security"
August 14: James Carr "The I and M Canal"
September 11: Panel of Political Candidates
October 9: Luncheon at Dover Straits. Songs and Stories of Al Jolson, Judy Garland, and Liberace.
November 13: Pamela Brooks, "Lk. County Honor Flights"
December 11: Returning by popular demand: The Barrington Madrigal Singers directed by Brandon Pemberton

Area Council Breakfast Meetings:

- **NW** (Northwest Area):
Bob Kohler; phone: (847) 587-0145; robtkoh@att.net
(Next meeting: at "Dino's Den" 9:00 am
Fox Lake. (4th Mon. of every month):
April 23rd, 2018
- **SE** (Southeast Area): co-chairs:
Betty Carbol (847) 234-2539;
kensicarbol@hotmail.com
and **Anne Lindahl** (847) 926 -0555
lindnutt@bowery.com.



Change of venue TBA Watch this space for details

PLEASE BE AWARE OF THESE FOLLOWING SCAMS RELATED TO THE NEW MEDICARE CARDS THAT WILL BE SENT STARTING IN APRIL 2018 UNTIL APRIL 2019. PLEASE SEND THIS TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY WHO ARE ON MEDICARE OR WILL BE SOON.

Five tips to avoid the new Medicare card scams

Perhaps you haven't heard, but starting in April 2018, Medicare will issue new cards to all Medicare recipients. The new cards will no longer use Social Security numbers. Instead, members will be identified by a unique, eleven-character ID composed of numbers and letters.

The reasoning is sound. The old cards contained social security numbers and getting rid of those numbers should help reduce fraud. According to Medicare, the new cards will be sent automatically, so there's no need to do a thing. Unfortunately, that's the end of the good news.

The Medicare market is huge

Everyone 65 or older, roughly 60 million people, has Medicare. Your insurance may be provided via a Medicare Advantage plan, or you may have a supplemental plan, but the bottom line is if you're over 65, you're in the "Medicare market." Because it would be nearly impossible to ship out all those new cards at once, the switch will take place over the course of one year.

With a target market of 60 million people, many with some form of cognitive impairment, and more than a year to run their scams, is it any wonder scammers are salivating over the potential windfall? Even seniors without a cognitive impairment risk falling into the trap of following the lessons we were taught early in life—be trusting, be polite. Both lessons are tools scammers can use to their advantage.

Medicare card scam tips

Tip 1: Medicare will never call, e-mail, or text you to ask for your personal information. This means that if you receive a communication asking for your information **it's a scam**.

Tip 2: The new cards cost nothing. If you're asked to pay a fee to expedite or process your new card, **it's a scam!**

Tip 3: Medicare will not contact you via phone, e-mail, or text to discuss your new benefits or find out if you have received the new card. Medicare benefits are not changing just because new cards are being sent out.

Tip 4: If someone calls, e-mails, texts you and claims your Medicare benefits are in danger of being cancelled Unless you pay a fee or share your information, **it's a scam**.

Tip 5. Medicare does NOT accept payment in the form of gift cards, wired money, or credit cards. If someone asks you to send them money, **it's a scam!** Don't do it!

