

RETIREESTODAY 2026

Illinois State Employees Association Retirees

Rudy J. Kink, Jr., Executive Director
John P. Coady, President
John Mundstock, Secretary of the Board

Philip Novak, Director
John Hartnett, Director
David Thompson, Director

John J. Hartnett New ISEA Retirees President

On December 8, 2026 John J. Hartnett will assume the position as President of the Board of Trustees for ISEA Retirees. John served as an ISEA Retirees Board of Director from December 16, 2010 to December 5, 2012 and December 12, 2018 to the present. John Coady, the current President, will remain on the Board as a Director.

John retired from Illinois state government in April 2003 after a 26 year career in the field of labor relations. During that time he served as the state's chief labor negotiator responsible for 17 collective bargaining agreements covering 45,000 employees with various unions including AFSCME, the Illinois Nurses Association, Teamsters and the Illinois Federation of Teachers.

Following his retirement from State Government, John was employed by the University of Illinois as a Senior Associate in the Institute of Government and Public Affairs, Office of Public Leadership. John has also served as a member of the faculty at the University of Illinois, Springfield from 1997 to 2012 teaching graduate courses in public sector labor relations.

In September of 2012, John was chosen by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate to be the Chairman of the State Labor Relations Board and served in that capacity until December of 2018.

During his career John has also consulted with various groups in both the public and private sectors on labor matters and is a frequent speaker on negotiations and labor relations.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

By Jessica Nardulli, ISEA/R Lobbyist

The 2026 spring legislative session ended without major changes to the pensions or health benefits of current state retirees. That is welcome news, but it does not mean retirement issues were absent from the Capitol.

Pension funding remained part of the broader budget debate. Governor JB Pritzker again proposed moving Illinois from its current statutory goal of 90 percent funding by 2045 to full funding by 2048. His plan also included extending the voluntary pension buyout program, directing certain surplus revenues to the pension systems, and increasing pension payments as other state obligations are retired. Lawmakers showed interest but remained cautious given competing demands on the state budget.

Tier 2 pension reform was another significant unresolved issue. Questions remain about whether benefits for employees hired in 2011 and after comply with federal retirement standards, particularly for employees who do not participate in Social Security. Labor organizations also argue that Tier 2 has made it harder for state and local governments to recruit and retain workers.

Frustration over the lack of progress became unusually public this summer. The Illinois AFL-CIO withheld its political endorsements for more than a month to make clear that lawmakers had failed to address several of organized labor's priorities. Chief among them was Tier 2 pension reform. The delayed endorsements demonstrated that pension policy remains closely tied to legislative relationships and the broader political process.

Tier 2 reform would not directly change the benefits of most current retirees. It could, however, affect state costs, pension-system funding, and the long-term stability of the public retirement systems. Proposals directed at current employees can still have broader consequences for retirees and the systems on which they depend.

Retiree health insurance also requires continued attention, even when no major restructuring bill is pending. State budgets, vendor contracts, Medicare coordination, prescription-drug coverage, provider networks and administrative decisions can all affect how coverage works in practice.

From a legislative perspective, quieter sessions still matter. Major proposals often begin as informal discussions, task-force recommendations, or bills that are introduced but do not advance. They may return later in a different form or emerge as amendments during the final days of session.

Following those developments throughout the year provides a clearer picture of what may be coming next. ISEAR's continued presence helps ensure that proposals affecting pensions and retiree benefits are identified, evaluated and communicated before decisions are final.

Current retirees came through the spring without a significant change to their benefits. The debates over pension funding, Tier 2 reform and retiree health coverage, however, are far from over.

ISEA Retirees Board of Directors Election

ISEA Retirees will hold an election for current board members whose terms expire at the end of 2026. These directors whose terms expire and are seeking reelection are Directors John Coady, John Mundstock and David Thompson.

To be eligible to serve, you must be a member in good standing with the Association, have been an ISEA Retirees member for four consecutive preceding years, and must not be a member of a competing retired public employees organization or association. ISEA Retirees asks those members who meet the criteria and are interested in serving as a Board of Director to fill out the nomination form complete with a biographical paragraph or history of yourself and return it by October 15, 2026. The elections will take place by November 15, 2026. If any questions, you may call ISEA Retirees at: (217) 698-6070.

Nomination Form

I wish to serve on the ISEA Retirees Board of Directors.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: () _____

Membership began in the year: _____

Your History: (Please include a biographical paragraph or history of yourself).

Return the Nomination Form to: ISEA Retirees
2060 West Iles Suite D
Springfield, IL 62704

Income Tax Preparation

ISEA Retirees offers tax preparation to our members for a reasonable fee. We are located at 2060 W. Iles Ave. - Suite D Springfield, IL 62704 where you may drop off your tax information or some members mail their tax information to us using priority mail enabling the package to be tracked. We complete your federal and state returns and get them back to you for your review and signature before we electronically file the return. If we've never completed your tax return before, we ask for a copy of last year's return to be included with this year's information.

We ask to receive your individual tax information no later than April 9, 2027 to enable us preparation/return time before the April 15, 2027 deadline. If you have questions, please call us at: 217-698-6070.

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Springfield, IL
Permit No. 800

2060 W. Iles Ave - Suite D
Springfield, IL 62704
Phone 217/698-6070 Fax 217/698-6079



ISEA Retirees...Your Voice.

As a not-for-profit association, ISEA Retirees is an advocate to promote and support the welfare of Retirees as well as to ensure a fulfilling retirement. Our office remains open weekdays 8:30-4:30. Our members may telephone us: (217) 698-6070, visit us online: isearetirees.org, or email us at: isea_retirees@comcast.net. We are here for you and ready to welcome members into our offices.

You, our member, are our highest priority!

Your Email Address

We are updating our members email list and plan to send future newsletters via email instead of mailing them. Please send us your email address if you have not already done so.

For those members who do not have emails, we will mail your newsletter to you as in the past.