



motion picture  
pioneers  
assistance  
fund

# SOCIAL SERVICES CORNER

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2009



## ASK THE SOCIAL WORKER: IF I DELAY RETIREMENT, WILL I GET MORE MONEY FROM SOCIAL SECURITY?

**Question:** I hope to retire in a year or two. What advantages are there to delaying getting my Social Security payments until I'm 70, if I work until 67 or 70? I'm now 65.

**Answer:** The Social Security system entitles you to an increased amount in benefits for each year you wait to claim them — up until age 70. It also reduces your benefits if you retire early. If you'd started claiming benefits at any time between age 62 and your full retirement age (65, 66, or 67, depending on your year of birth), the amount would have been permanently reduced a fraction of a percent for each month before your full retirement age.

But you've already passed that point, and are entitled to full benefits — but still not as much as they'd be if you wait longer. You can get a graphic depiction of your potential benefit amounts directly from the Social Security Administration. Contact the SSA at (800) 772-1213 or go to its website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) to request your Social Security Statement. You'll get a complete record of your lifetime earnings — along with an estimate of the monthly benefits you will receive at various retirement ages.

Even though you'll receive more money per month the longer you wait, it's not always better to hold out. For example, you may want to claim benefits earlier if you need money to cover your basic living expenses, or if you have a medical condition that makes it likely that you won't live past age 75.

You can use a calculator at the Social Security website to see what retirement age makes most financial sense for you. Go to <http://ssa.gov/planners/calculators.htm> and enter your current earnings information without a planned retirement date. The calculator will give you your benefit estimates for three different retirement ages, just like your Social Security Statement. But unlike your statement, if you click on "break-even age," the calculator will tell you how long you must live to make delaying benefits worthwhile.

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## JOKE OF THE MONTH

**Why do hummingbirds hum?**

**Because they can't remember the words.**

*A Prairie Home Companion Pretty Good Joke Book  
New 4th Edition, Introduction by Garrison Keillor*

Laughter is known to boost the immune system, lower blood pressure, burn calories and release pleasure-inducing chemicals in the brain.

### Go Green!

Receive the *Social Services Corner* by email.  
Call 888.994.3863, ext. 2370, or e-mail [info@wrmail.org](mailto:info@wrmail.org).

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Renewable resources were used to produce this printed piece.



The Motion Picture Pioneers Assistance Fund is a program of the Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers Foundation.



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For instance, if a person could collect \$900 per month when turning 62, but would get \$1,700 per month by waiting until age 70, the calculator will show that he or she would have to live at least until age 80 1/2 to break even. That means that if the person lived beyond age 80 1/2,



it would be worth delaying retirement to age 70. But if the person were to die before age 80, collecting benefits earlier would have been better. Now we just need a calculator to tell us how long we'll live. (But would we really want to look?)

Visit [www.wrpioneers.org](http://www.wrpioneers.org) for more retirement planning articles, as well as other topics of concern. Our online articles are available to view or print out as often as you like.

## RETIREMENT PLANNING: GETTING STARTED

For the latest information on your Social Security benefits, visit the Motion Picture Pioneers Web site at [www.wrpioneers.org](http://www.wrpioneers.org), and see our collection of online articles called “**Retirement Planning: Getting Started.**” We suggest you read the articles in the “Social Security” section. These articles explain who is eligible for benefits, how to file for benefits, how benefits are calculated, the difference between early retirement age, full retirement age, and late

retirement age, and many other facts that will help you make the best decisions regarding your benefits. Two articles in particular, “If I Delay Retirement, Will I Get More Money From Social Security?” and “Claiming Social Security Benefits: When is the Best Time For You?,” will help you decide if you should delay your benefits. If you don't have Web access, you may call our Social Services Department at (888) 994-3863, ext. 2390, for assistance.

## NEW ADDITIONS TO THE MPPAF'S NATIONAL RESOURCE DIRECTORY

### **Benefits CheckUp: [www.benefitscheckup.org](http://www.benefitscheckup.org)**

This Web site is a not-for-profit managed by the National Council on Aging. It is a Web-based service for low income seniors to screen for benefits programs, such as prescriptions, energy assistance, health care and more.

### **New Eyes For the Needy: [www.neweyesfortheneedy.org](http://www.neweyesfortheneedy.org), (973) 376-4903**

This Web site is a not-for-profit founded in 1932. Their goal is to improve the vision of low income children and adults through the purchase of new eyeglasses in the U.S.



### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

**A man can fool you with his mind,  
and his soul and his heart, but if  
you follow his feet you will pretty  
near find out where he is going.**

— Will Rogers

### QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

Call Karen Wiener, Manager of Social Services at (888) 994-3863, ext. 2390, or write to [karen@wrmail.org](mailto:karen@wrmail.org).