

Social Security Column I

MY SOCIAL SECURITY SIMPLIFIES YOUR LIFE

By <Name>

<Title> in <Place>

So many people buzz through extremely busy and complicated schedules these days. A smartphone in one hand, a computer in front of you, and a digital task list that never seems to end. If you're one of these people, here's one event you don't want to miss—National my Social Security week. This event takes place July 19 through 25. Put it on your calendar so you don't forget!

Most organized people agree that planning ahead is a great way to simplify your life. Whether you're planning tomorrow's schedule, next summer's vacation, or your retirement.

We have a suggestion that can help you simplify your life when it comes to Social Security. If you haven't already (you should add it to your task list), open your own personal *my Social Security* account.

What's *my Social Security*? It's a free, secure, online account that allows you immediate access to your personal Social Security information. During your working years, you can use *my Social Security* to view your *Social Security Statement* to check your earnings record and see estimates of the future retirement, disability and survivor benefits you and your family may receive based on your earnings. If you already receive Social Security benefits or have Medicare, you can use *my Social Security* to check your benefit information, change your address and phone number, change your electronic payment methods, obtain a benefit verification letter, get a replacement Medicare card, or get a replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S for the tax season. Check it out and sign up for *my Social Security* at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

After checking your online *Social Security Statement*, be sure to visit our *Retirement Estimator*. Like *my Social Security*, you can use it as many times as you'd like. The

Retirement Estimator lets you compute potential future Social Security benefits by changing variables, such as retirement dates and future earnings. You may discover that you'd rather wait another year or two before you retire to earn a higher benefit. To get instant, personalized estimates of your future benefits just go to www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator.

There are many tools at www.socialsecurity.gov that are simple and convenient to use. Open a *my Social Security* account today by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount and simplify your life.

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