



***Mary Jordan, Senior Benefit Specialist***

As a benefit specialist, my primary duties are to provide the members of MPERS with all the information necessary to make informed decisions regarding their retirement benefits. This includes:

- Talking with new employees about the retirement and disability benefits provided by MPERS.
- Talking with employees about pros and cons to purchasing or transferring service.
- Talking with members as they are reaching retirement eligibility.
- Conducting Pre-Retirement seminars. At these seminars we talk about all of the options and decisions that will need to be made at the time of retirement.
- Conducting Benefit Basics seminars. These seminars are more for employees earlier in their career.

One of the most common questions I am asked by members nearing retirement is “what should I do” or “what would you do”. Unfortunately, that is one of the few questions that I cannot answer. I can provide comparisons and the key differences to help them make the decision, but that is a decision that, ultimately, has to be made by the member. The earlier in a members career they can start planning for their retirement the better.

