

We work better, when we work together...

April 2019

For HR/Benefits use only – Please do not distribute to all users

Active Member Benefit Statements

Benefit statements were recently distributed to active employees. If the member had "email" set up as the correspondence distribution preference or if we have a work email address on file, the member was advised via email that the benefit statement was available for viewing via myMPERS Secure Member Access. All other eligible employees will receive their benefit statement in the mail.

Benefit statements are based on members' records and balances **as of February 28, 2019**. Employees will only receive a benefit statement if they meet all of the following criteria:

1. Currently employed in a benefit-eligible position
2. Hired prior to (or on) February 1, 2019
3. Not on a leave of absence
4. Have not already submitted a Notice of Retirement

myMPERS Secure Member Access

Since distributing the benefit statements, MPERS has received a number of calls from members inquiring about how to set up a myMPERS Secure Member Access account. To activate a myMPERS account a member must follow these steps.

1. Go to the MPERS website (www.mpers.org). Click the green button in the top right corner that says "myMPERS Login."
2. Under "Why Enroll? As a Member..." click on "Enroll Now."
3. After clicking "Enroll Now," key in personal information, create a username and password, and select and answer two security questions.
4. Read the terms and conditions and check the disclosure box.
5. Click "Enroll."

After enrolling the member will be taken to the login screen to enter a username and password to begin using the myMPERS Secure Member Access account.

When members create a password, it must be at least 16 characters long and cannot contain the member's first name, last name or the username they created.

Members who are currently employed in a benefit-eligible position may create an account. A member or survivor who is already receiving a monthly benefit must contact MPERS to activate an account (only if the member had not created one while still actively employed). MPERS will deactivate an account when a member passes away or a non-vested member terminates employment.

Military Leave of Absence

If members are called to or volunteer for active-duty military, the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) protects employment and benefit rights, provided they meet the eligibility requirements set forth by law.

To receive service and salary credit for eligible military leave, members must

- have been employed by the state in a benefit-eligible position immediately prior to entering the armed forces,
- return to state employment within the timeframe specified by USERRA, and
- **provide MPERS with a copy of the DD214 (or other acceptable documentation)** showing the dates of active service and that the member was honorably discharged.

When a member returns from a creditable military leave of absence, MPERS fills in the missing service and salary that would have accrued during the leave as if the member had never been gone. This service and salary is then included when calculating the member's retirement benefits. Before we can do this, there is specific information we must receive from you to ensure the accuracy of the data. Some of the information will be available when the leave begins, and some not until the leave ends.

- 1. Leave of Absence form** – this form should be completed by you when the member begins **and** returns from a leave of absence. The form provides MPERS with the following information:
 - The type of leave on which the member has been placed (including whether or not the leave is creditable)
 - The beginning and end date of the leave
 - If, and when, the member was eligible to receive salary increases while on a leave of absence
 - ◇ This includes any increases the member would have obtained due to cost of living increases, step increases, promotions, etc. and the date the increase would have been effective, had the member not been on leave.
 - ◇ This is especially important for members on a military leave of absence, as the period of the leave could span multiple years.
- 2. A copy of the member's DD214, or other acceptable documentation**, showing the dates of active service and that the member was honorably discharged.

Although we try to program for and monitor when a member begins or returns from a leave of absence, our system is not perfect and there have been leaves we have not been made aware of in a timely manner. For this reason, it is crucial that you submit a Leave of Absence form and any required documentation when a leave begins or ends for one of your employees. We strive to ensure the accuracy of our records, so members can make informed decisions about future retirement benefits, but we need your help.

Leave of Absence forms are available under the Employers section of our website. To learn more about military service and the impact it can have on retirement benefits, please view our brochures and handbooks under the Resources section of our website.

Pre-Retirement Seminars for April and May

April 17th & 18th	Lee's Summit	MoDOT Kansas City District Office
May 10th	Jefferson City	MoDOT Central District Office

2019 Board Meeting Schedule

April 25, 2019 (tentative)	September 26, 2019
June 20, 2019	November 21, 2019