

We work better, when we work together...

December 2017

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

Membership Records

In an effort to reach more of our membership via email, we have recently updated our *Membership Record* form to allow members to provide both a home and work email address. Please discontinue using any old versions of the form you currently have and log into the **Employers** section of our website to download & use the most current form. If you have any questions about the changes made, or trouble using the form, please contact us.

2011 Tier – Terminated, Not Vested Members

In the past, members of the 2011 Tier that terminated employment were required to call our office to obtain a form to request a refund of their employee contribution balance. The purpose of requiring the members to call was to ensure they received all the information they needed to make an informed decision with regard to taking a refund.

After following this procedure for quite some time, we have determined that most of the membership is already receiving the information they need by reading the termination letter that we send to them and they have no interest in discussing their options over the phone. Therefore, in an effort to make the process easier for our members, we have updated our letter & procedures and are now sending each terminated (not vested) member of the 2011 Tier a *Request for Refund of Employee Contributions* form with their letter at the time of their termination.

Members are still encouraged to contact us with any questions they may have regarding the refund process.

Buyout Update

The deadline of November 30th for members to elect the buyout has come and gone. We will still accept any paperwork that was postmarked as of November 30th; therefore, we are waiting a few more days before we finalize our list. Once the list has been finalized, we can begin to update records in our system to set up payments and void the service, salary, sick leave etc associated with each member's benefit calculation. Payments are scheduled to be issued in January 2018.

Once the list of buyout recipients has been finalized and their payment has been made, we will be contacting your agencies to provide a listing of these members so that their sick leave balance can be zeroed out in your systems. Unused sick leave is a component used to calculate a member's retirement benefits and therefore was included when calculating the dollar amount of the buyout lump sum payment. By taking the buyout, these members have received service credit for their reported sick leave balance and have forfeited their rights to future benefits. Therefore, the service, salary, and sick leave used to calculate their benefits should be cleared and not be made available should the member decide to return to work in a benefit eligible position.

If a member who has chosen the buyout provision does return to work for the state in a benefit eligible position, they will be considered a "first time hire" and will become a member of the 2011 Tier.

Sick Leave Balances at Retirement

Just a friendly reminder to please clear out sick leave balances for members in SAM II once they retire. If a retiree returns to work for the state after retiring, they are no longer eligible for the sick leave credit that was already used to calculate their retirement benefits. Therefore, in their new employment they should start out with 0 as their sick leave balance. Please contact a benefit specialist if you have questions regarding sick leave.

myMPERS Secure Member Access

Our Secure Member Access portal (*myMPERS*) on our website has recently been improved. The new design will allow our members to use a variety of devices (i.e.: smartphone, tablet, laptop and desktop computer) to access their individual account information. Additionally, the new design will allow the display to automatically resize based on the size of the screen.

Members must have a username and passphrase to access the secure member access portal. We would appreciate you letting your employees know about the new website and to encourage them to use it. If they have never used *myMPERS* before, they will need to enroll to gain access. Simply clicking the *myMPERS* login on our main website will get them started.

The new website offers a "site tour" that will provide them with an opportunity to learn about what the new website has to offer. We hope you and your employees like the new design and have a better experience when accessing the retirement data at MPERS.

2018 Board Meeting Schedule

February 15, 2018

April 26, 2018

June 21, 2018

September 27, 2018

November 29, 2018