

We work better, when we work together...

## December 2019

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### Standard Disability Contract

Our contract with the Standard Insurance Company (the administrator of our disability benefits and work place possibilities program) has recently been amended to clarify that if a member retires, either from MPERS or MOSERS, and returns to work in a benefit-eligible position, the member is not eligible to receive disability benefits through Standard. Therefore, if you hire a state paid retiree in a benefit-eligible position, disability premiums should not be set up or paid for this employee.

### Changes in MPERS Staff

Please join us in welcoming our newest team member, Gabrielle Lewis. Gabrielle joined MPERS as a benefit specialist in September. She was previously employed by ICMA-RC as a participant service representative for the state of Missouri Deferred Compensation Plan. She brings many years of customer service experience to the organization along with some prior experience with industrial-organizational psychology. Gabrielle can be reached at Gabrielle.Lewis@mpers.org. MPERS' assistant executive director, Greg Beck, is retiring January 1, 2020, after serving the state of Missouri for over 31 years. Greg began his career with the state of Missouri in 1988 at the State Auditor's Office and more recently served at the Missouri State Employees' Retirement System (MOSERS) until 2016 when he began his career at MPERS. Greg has been an asset to MPERS and we wish him the very best on his retirement!

On January 2, 2020, Greta Bassett-Seymour will take over the assistant executive director duties from Greg Beck. Greta joined our staff as our general counsel in April 2014. Greta came to MPERS after 12 years in the private practice of law. She owned her own practice where she handled social security disability claims. Her firm employed 5 attorneys and 25 support and professional staff. Before attending law school, Greta was an eighth grade English teacher. Greta completed her law degree at the University of Missouri-Columbia, School of Law, received a Bachelor of Arts in German at DePauw University and, earned a teaching certificate in secondary education (in German and English) from Northern Illinois University. She is a member of the Missouri Bar, in Good Standing, and a member of the National Association of Public Pension Attorneys.

Greta will be involved with all functions of the retirement office; however, she will be responsible for the operations side of the System, including legal services. We are happy to have Greta take on a new role and wish her continued success at MPERS.

### Member Survey

We need your help! MPERS strives to serve our members with excellence; however, it is difficult to determine what and where those needs are if we don't ask. **Over the course of the next couple of weeks**, MPERS will be sending a series of emails to our members and HR contacts regarding an online needs assessment survey. This survey consists of eight questions and is targeted to members who are **within eight years of retirement**. The results of this survey will be used to help MPERS better serve MoDOT and Patrol employees in your area as we begin to create the schedule for retirement seminars as well as consider one-on-one offerings. We understand that because of the nature of certain positions at your agency, not all members have

easy access to this online survey. Therefore, as HR contacts, we ask that you promote the survey to members in the targeted demographic (eligible to retire within eight years) the best way you can. If you have questions regarding the survey, please contact Communications Specialist Julie West at Julie.West@mpers.org or (573) 298-6027.

### **New for 2020 – Mid-Career Seminars**

We are excited to announce that MPERS will begin offering mid-career seminars beginning in March 2020. The details of the seminars are still being developed and more information will be forthcoming in the next HR Connection as well as on the MPERS website, on our Facebook page and our Twitter feed. Additionally, if you have suggestions as to what topics would be helpful to include in these seminars, please contact Communications Specialist Julie West at Julie.West@mpers.org or (573) 298-6027.

### **FY 2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report**

MPERS' FY 2019 *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report* (CAFR) has recently been posted to our website. This report provides detailed information about the financial status of our system as well as other valuable information about our membership, investments and the actuarial assumptions used to calculate our financial status.

Our FY 2019 Popular Annual Financial Report will be coming soon. This report provides a summary of the information provided in the CAFR. Please feel free to contact our office if you have questions about the information provided in either of these documents.

### **Board Meeting Dates for 2020**

February 28, 2020 (Friday)

April 24, 2020 (Friday)

June 18, 2020 (Thursday)

September 24, 2020 (Thursday)

November 19, 2020 (Thursday)