

## The HR Connection

We work better, when we work together...

Welcome to the new HR Connection! We are pleased to bring you our updated newsletter and hope you find this format more user friendly.



## **Updates to Member Education**

COVID-19 has brought significant change to all of our lives. As a result of social distancing and other restrictions, MPERS converted our Pre-Retirement Seminars to a completely virtual experience. Our staff worked hard to make this transition as seamless as possible. We were able to provide over 25 live webinars, which are available for viewing at any time on our website.

Although the pandemic forced us to make this transition, we have discovered that change is not necessarily a bad thing. By providing seminars virtually versus in-person we have seen the following significant benefits:

- 1. Our seminars were offered in a way that kept all of our staff and members safe.
- 2. Members "attended" the webinars from the comfort and convenience of their home or office.
- 3. There was a significant cost savings due to lack of travel.
- 4. Members were offered an expanded list of dates and times to attend a seminar rather than being limited to in-person seminars offered in their local area.
- 5. MPERS used GoToWebinar to conduct our webinars. By using this platform we reached up to 200 members in a single webinar! In person, we were limited to space restrictions of the meeting room or conference center where the seminars were held.
- 6. MPERS was able to expand our pre-retirement season to include a session in November.
- 7. After a successful season of almost exclusively virtual sessions, we have decided to continue to offer webinars as an option in the future even when we can go back to doing our seminars in person, thereby reaching more members than we have in the past. The overall reaction from members to our webinars was very positive.

In addition to the pre-retirement webinars we have always offered, MPERS has expanded our educational library to include a new webinar for mid-career employees. MPERS and MO Deferred Comp joined forces to prepare our members and participants for retirement...sooner rather than later. This webinar is designed for active employees of MoDOT and the Highway Patrol who are within 6-15 years of retirement and those with at least 5-15 years of service. We are excited about this new program and have already received good attendance and feedback from the sessions we have offered!



The Member Profile Report is intended to provide our Board of Trustees and employers an annual snapshot of various statistical information pertaining to our membership, broken down by categories such as employer, status, plan, age and service. This report can be shared with other HR/benefits personnel but is not intended to be shared or redistributed among the general population. We hope this report provides valuable information to help you with future planning.

MPERS' FY 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) was recently 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 2020 **Popular Annual Financial Report** (PAFR) 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.



The 2020 Measuring MPERS Performance report is now available!

This report is designed to inform our members and stakeholders about various measurement tools MPERS has in place to gauge our annual performance. Measurements cover both investment and operations performance. Operation performance includes membership statistics, member satisfaction, as well as budget information.

## **The Pensioner**

In November, we released the newly formatted active employee and retiree newsletters, *The Pensioner: Looking Forward* and *The Pensioner: In the Moment*. MPERS plans to distribute these newsletters on a monthly basis to provide our members with more timely information and updates. PDF versions of current and previous newsletters can be <u>found on our website</u>.



## Important Dates to Remember...

December 31st Pay day for MPERS retirees & survivors

January 20th COLA rate for 2021 available for release

January 29th Pay day for MPERS retirees & survivors

January 31st 1099-Rs will be mailed by this date

February 26th MPERS board meeting

February 26th Pay day for MPERS retirees & survivors





The HR Connection is a quarterly newsletter for benefits, payroll & hr staff of MoDOT and the Highway Patrol used to relay important dates and information as well as provide clarity to policies or procedures when needed.

Please contact Angel Backes to add or remove staff from this distribution list or if you have suggestions or topics to improve this newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you!







