

We work better, when we work together...

## **July 2018**

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### **FY19 Contribution Rates**

Below are the employer contribution rates effective 7/1/18 – 6/30/19, which include the disability premium of 0.53%:

MoDOT & Civilian Patrol	Uniformed Patrol
58.00%	58.00%

### **Service Project**

As you may be aware, MPERS has been in the process of reviewing our member records to ensure that those with benefit-eligible, part-time service received full service credit for their time worked. While reviewing all of these records, we also checked salary, leave, employment history, etc. This was an extensive project that initially we expected to take around five years to complete. We are happy to announce that, after three years we have reviewed all of our active & deferred members for part-time service as well as members that retired within the last 10 years. Thank you for your patience, and assistance as we worked through this project. We had to contact several of you with questions, or to look up salary or leave history. We appreciate all of your help and are pleased to know that our members have now been given their full credit for the time periods they worked.

### **Board Meeting**

The Board of Trustees met on June 21st. A summary of the board meeting may be found here: <http://www.mpers.org/board-meeting-summaries/>

### **The Feedbag – Staying Connected**

We recently distributed Volume #4 of our retiree newsletter, *The Feedbag – Staying Connected*, which is available on our website, under Publications/Newsletters. This was the first fully electronic version of our retiree newsletter. A notification was emailed to retirees & survivors who have their correspondence preference set to email. Notice that the newsletter was available was also posted on Facebook & Twitter.

Our active member newsletter, *The Feedbag – Getting Connected* is scheduled to go out within the next month. A link to view the newsletter will be sent to employees via email. Please help us reach any employees without a work email by posting a copy of the newsletter, or directing them to our website. We want our newsletters to be interesting & informative. If you have suggestions for topics you think members would enjoy or find value in, please let us know.

### **MPERS Board Election**

The election for the active MSHP and active MoDOT employee representatives on the MPERS Board of Trustees closed on Thursday, May 31, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. Both Sgt. Matthew Broniec and Mr. Todd Tyler were re-elected by the active members of MoDOT and MSHP. The elected retiree representatives were uncontested and both Ms. Sue Cox and Mr. Bill Seibert remain representatives for the retirees. The board certified the election results by unanimous vote at their June 21st meeting.

### **Video Counseling**

MPERS is pleased to announce that we now offer video counseling sessions. This new method of communication is made available through our partnership with MoDOT and is available to employees of MoDOT and the Highway Patrol. While such capabilities would reasonably be used more often by our members who are located the greatest distances from Jefferson City, any member is invited to use this new communication tool.

We have a section on our website ([www.mpers.org](http://www.mpers.org)) dedicated to video counseling information. It can be found under "Members" and then "Seminars/Counseling."

As HR representatives, we expect that you field questions on retirement related matters and we can anticipate requests from you or your employees to utilize this new communication tool to speak with our benefit counselors. While there will be some work on your part to offer this new tool to your employees (assuming you choose to do so) there are some potential savings in both employee time and money by eliminating a trip to Jefferson City.

Our use of video counseling is not intended to reduce the number of pre-retirement seminars or special counseling sessions at your office, district or troop. Rather, it is simply one more way we can reach out to your employees/our members to answer questions they may have. We believe the face-to-face video experience may alleviate some trepidation when making retirement decisions.

Both employees and employers can use this communication tool. There are some basic requirements listed below that are needed in order to use this new tool:

- A computer, tablet, or smartphone with high-speed internet connection, speakers, microphone, and a video camera (most newer laptops have video cameras)
- Google Chrome or Firefox web browser
- Link to online video counseling: <https://join.modot.org/>

If you have a desktop computer and need a video camera, we found a "**Logitech C930e webcam**" on Amazon to be inexpensive (less than \$90) and we will be using it on our end for the video counseling sessions.

We hope you and your employees take advantage of this new method of communication.

### **Closed Plan Handbook**

We have released a new, improved version of our *Closed Plan Member Handbook*, which is available under the Publications/Handbook section of our website. Please take some time to review the handbook and let those without access to email know that this important resource is available. An updated version of the *Year 2000 Plan Member Handbook* will be released within the next month. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about any of the information included in these publications.

### **Upcoming Pre-Retirement Seminars**

July 24th Jefferson City MoDOT Central District Office

### **2018 Board Meeting Schedule**

September 27, 2018

November 29, 2018