

We work better, when we work together...

June 2016

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SAMII Codes

Just a friendly reminder that when updates are made in SAMII for an org code, pay code, job title etc., please remember to notify MPERS of the change. Twice a month we upload files from SAMII which contain your employees' payroll & demographic information, which is used to calculate their retirement benefits. If there is a code that cannot be identified by our system, the file errors out and we cannot process the payroll information until we determine the code causing the errors and obtain all of its corresponding information. Depending on the code, it may also require additional programming from our system administrator, which can take even more time to correct. This in turn delays the processing of the active payroll information, which then delays our ability to process and finalize our retirements for that month. So please keep us in mind, and add Angel Backes and Tammy Kroll to any distribution listings you may have to avoid these delays in the future.

Credit Union Deductions

As you are aware, it has been our practice to allow non-state-sponsored deductions for credit unions, from the monthly benefit payments of our retirees. This practice began long ago when these deductions were tied directly to the credit unions created under the purview of the Missouri Department of Transportation. Since those early times, the evolution of these credit unions has gone from having a direct connection with our employers to having a much broader membership. Over that same time, our governing statutes have also evolved and today provide explicit direction with regard to authorized deductions. As such, we are no longer going to withhold deductions for anything other than federal & Missouri state taxes, state-sponsored health, dental, vision and life insurance and the state's charitable campaign as they are the only authorized deductions under our statutes.

This change becomes effective for any benefits paid after **December 31, 2016**. In the coming weeks, we will notify affected members of this decision, which should allow plenty of time for them to make other arrangements.

This decision is not intended to suggest any negative experiences with the credit unions. Instead, as a fiduciary of MPERS, we do not believe we are exercising our duties to our membership by maintaining deductions for which we are not statutorily authorized. This decision was not made lightly, given that it will likely be viewed unfavorably by some of our members. To be clear, we will continue to allow each member to direct deposit their retirement payment to all valid financial institutions, including credit unions, assuming the financial institution maintains routing numbers for that purpose.

Credit for Unused Sick Leave

As members get closer to retirement, they begin to pay more attention to details, such as their unused sick leave balance. Currently, if members work continuously until retirement, one month of service credit is granted for every 168 hours of unused sick leave. This service will be used in calculating the amount of the benefit. It cannot be used to determine eligibility for retirement. The information above pertains to all retirement plans administered by MPERS. However, when members terminate employment prior to retirement, their eligibility to receive credit for sick leave differs...

Closed Plan – If working continuously until *reaching early or normal retirement age*, members **will receive creditable service** for their unused accumulated sick leave upon application for retirement. If a member terminates employment **prior to reaching their retirement eligibility date**, they are **not eligible** to receive credit for any unused sick leave they have accumulated.

Year 2000 Plan & 2011 Tier – One month of creditable service will be granted for every 168 hours of unused sick leave, regardless of whether or not the member terminates employment prior to reaching retirement eligibility.

Retirement benefits can be confusing, especially when they differ between plans, or have varying effective dates due to legislative changes made throughout the years. When in doubt about any benefit provisions, please feel free to contact us, or have the member contact our office directly. Retirement is an important time in our members' lives, and certain elections cannot be changed once benefits begin. Therefore, it is imperative that they receive accurate information to help them make the best decisions possible to fit their individual needs. Our members have dedicated their lives to serving MoDOT & the Highway Patrol. Retirement is our time to give back to them and say thank you for their service, and to do our best to provide them with a secure future.

Pre-Retirement Seminars for June

A pre-retirement seminar was held in Jefferson City on June 1st. The next available seminar will be held in July, starting in St. Louis. For a full schedule of seminars, please visit the [Pre-Retirement Seminars](#) section of our website.

Pre-Retirement Seminar Change of Location - Joplin

The location of the seminar in Joplin has been changed to the Butcher's Block Event Center, 499 W. Fountain Road, Joplin, MO. The previous location will no longer be available to host the seminar on our scheduled date, thus the need for the location change. We will be contacting members that have already registered to alert them of the location change. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Mary Jordan.