

We work better, when we work together...

## **November 2018**

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

### **Welcome Julie West**

MPERS would like to introduce our new Communication Specialist, Julie West. Julie comes to us with over eight years' experience with employee benefits and has served the last six years as a member education specialist at Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan. She will be focusing on our member communication and education efforts as well as serving as a benefit specialist as needed. Julie has a bachelor's degree in communications from Hannibal-LaGrange University and a master's degree in speech communication from the University of Central Missouri. We are excited to have Julie joining the MPERS team and look forward to working with her.

### **New Auto-Attendant Message**

MPERS recently updated the options available when dialing our main line. We have added the availability to dial by extension or access the staff directory based on first or last name.

These upgrades are in addition to the current system searching a pre-selected group (based on the topic selected by the caller) to determine which staff member is currently available. Callers also have the option to speak with a live representative to help direct them to the appropriate staff as needed.

If you know the direct line of the staff member you are trying to reach, you are welcome to call them using that number and bypass the main line.

### **Employee Recruitment Tool**

MPERS staff recently developed a new recruitment tool that you, as our employers, may be interested in using. This tool was designed to help give prospective employees a snapshot of the "total worth" of their employment, not just the salary you will be providing. As you know, there are several costs associated with each employee that they may be unaware of, therefore, they may not be able to make a truly informed choice when considering their career options.

This tool will show not only the salary, but also employer contributions toward the employee's medical insurance, retirement benefit, social security, disability benefits, life insurance and leave time. It will then provide them with a visual of the total benefit package you are offering.

Currently, the tool is located under the Employer Section of our website. In the near future, MPERS plans to develop a "prospective employee" page on our website, which is where this tool will be housed. If you have any questions or concerns about the employee recruitment tool, please feel free to contact our benefit specialists.

### **Happy Anniversary!**

Believe it or not, the November 2018 edition of *The HR Connection* marks five years that we have been reaching out to you on a monthly basis to share updates, concerns and milestones that have been achieved. In the last five years, we have seen many changes due to legislative, procedural or system updates. Our goal with this newsletter is to keep you up to date on changes and information that may affect your day-to-day work as it relates to MPERS retirement and disability benefits. We hope you agree that we have accomplished this goal. Communication is a key factor in working together to provide the best service possible for our members. Your feedback or questions are always welcome and appreciated! Thank you for everything you do!

### **2018 Board Meeting Schedule**

November 29, 2018