

We work better, when we work together...

September 2019

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Board Meetings

The next MPERS Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for September 26, 2019. There will be several important topics covered during this meeting including an annual presentation from the System's actuary; Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Co. This presentation will review the financial health of our plan as well as make recommendations for the next fiscal year's employer contribution rate. After the September meeting, we will also know the System's current funded status (percent). Be on the lookout later this fall for a webinar presentation by our executive director featuring this updated information. The final meeting for 2019 will be held on November 21, 2019.

Senate Interim Committee

During the last legislative session, a bill was introduced to consolidate MPERS and MOSERS. Although the bill did not progress very far during the session, a result of its introduction was the creation of a Senate Interim Committee to review MPERS. The committee met for the first time in July and is scheduled to meet again in September. We look forward to providing the senators with valuable information about the System and the progress we have made to improve the funded status and overall administration of the plan.

Change in MPERS Staff Duties

In July, senior benefit specialist Jamie Mullen took a position with another agency. As many of you know, Jamie was MPERS' lead contact for our disability program. At this time, notices for approval, denial or cancellation of disability benefits will be distributed by Angel Backes. All other disability correspondence or questions should be addressed to Mary Jordan. A new benefit specialist will be joining our staff soon. We look forward to introducing our newest team member to you at that time.

Member Profile Report

Attached to this email is the *Member Profile Report*. This 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.

Electronic Communication for New Retirees

As a reminder, effective July 1, 2018, MPERS no longer sends paper communication to our new retirees. All communication, with the exception of the annual 1099-R, is sent via email and tied to the member's *myMPERS* Secure Member Access Account. If you are helping a member complete their retirement paperwork, please remind them to update their email address if a work email was used to set up their *myMPERS* account. Failing to update from an invalid work email to a new home email will result in members not receiving important correspondence from MPERS regarding their benefits. Also, if a member wishes to set up a *myMPERS* account on their own, they must do so prior to retirement. Once a member begins receiving benefits, to ensure their account security, they must contact our office to have an account set up.

Benefit Presentations

Pre-Retirement Seminars are coming to a close for the year at the end of this month. There are two sessions remaining – September 11th in West Plains and September 25th in Rolla. Although these sessions will be wrapping up, MPERS staff are available to travel to your area if you have at least 15 members who are interested in meeting with them one-on-one. Benefit Basics presentations can also be scheduled upon request. If you are interested in pursuing either of these options, please contact our benefit specialists to schedule.

New Resources on MPERS Website

The MPERS website was redesigned earlier this year. An exciting new feature of our site is the Prospective Members section which provides a brief overview of the overall benefits package an employee can look forward to as an employee of MoDOT or MSHP. We have also added new infographics depicting the features of the three benefit plans we administer and a new video library under Member Education which provides basic information about MPERS and our benefits. If you have not already done so, please take some time to check out our site, www.mpers.org, and the new features we have incorporated. As always, your feedback is welcome and appreciated.