

We work better, when we work together...

## **September 2020**

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

### **Divorce After Retirement Legislation**

Legislation was recently passed that will allow retirees who elected a joint & survivor option at retirement and later divorce to have the benefit revert to a single life income annuity. In order for the change to be effective, MPERS must receive a completed application as well as approve a divorce decree or amended divorce decree dated on or after January 1, 2021, that provides sole ownership by the member of all rights in the annuity and must further state that the former spouse shall not be entitled to any survivor benefits (per sections 104.090.7 and 104.1027, RSMo.). Please contact our benefit specialists if you have questions regarding this change. Once our materials are updated and implementation process is in place, we will provide you with more information.

### **Pre-Retirement Seminars**

Pre-Retirement Seminars will continue to be held via live webinar throughout the rest of the year.

Live webinars are scheduled for:

September 15th @ 12:15 p.m.

September 30th @ 7:30 a.m.

November 4th @ 7:30 a.m.

Registration instructions for live webinars for the above dates can be found at the following link: <https://www.mpers.org/members/seminarscounseling/pre-retirement-seminars/>

Recordings from previous seminars are also available for viewing on our website.

### **Coming Soon: Mid-Career Webinars for those who have 5-15 years of service!**

We need your help! We are gearing up to introduce our new webinar "Mid-Career Check Up." This webinar was created in response to member feedback we received from the survey last fall. As HR professionals who receive questions regarding MPERS benefits regularly, we would be very interested in your input about the effectiveness of the presentations.

There are two presentations: a presentation targeting Closed Plan/Year 2000 Plan members and a presentation targeting 2011 Tier members. We are asking for you to view the recording for each presentation and provide some feedback. Do you think the presentations capture the information employees are seeking to know at the midpoint of their careers? Are there topics that were not addressed that you get questions about regularly? Anything else you would like to share?

The recording for the Mid-Career Check Up for Closed Plan and Year 2000 Plan Members can be viewed here. If you would like to view the Mid-Career Check Up for 2011 Tier Members, you can do so here.

Please keep in mind that during the live webinars, MO Deferred Comp will be joining us, however they are not present during these recordings.

If you have feedback, please email it to Communication Specialist Julie West at Julie.West@mpers.org no later than Thursday, September 17.

### **COVID-19 Update**

The MPERS office building continues to remain closed to visitors for the foreseeable future. However, staff are available via email, phone or video conference Monday through Friday during the regular business hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If you are aware of any employees who are interested in meeting with a specialist, please encourage them to contact MPERS to schedule a phone or video conference.

Any updates to our operations, schedules, etc., related to COVID-19 will be listed on the COVID-19 page on our website.

### **Internet Browser Functionality Issues**

Please remember that www.mpers.org operates optimally when viewed with Google Chrome, Firefox, or Safari. Internet Explorer is no longer being supported by Microsoft, therefore, issues will continue to arise when trying to access various sections of our website while using that browser.

Google Chrome can be found here.

Firefox can be found here.

Safari is the default web browser for Apple products.

If you receive questions regarding the inability to access certain links on our site, please suggest the employee try a different web browser and report the issue to MPERS via mpers@mpers.org.

### **Remaining Board Meeting Dates for 2020**

September 24, 2020 (Thursday)

November 19, 2020 (Thursday)