

# The Pensioner: Looking Forward

Welcome to the digital MPERS newsletter! *The Pensioner: Looking Forward* contains news, updates, and important information for active employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and MPERS.



### **Election Update**

The 2022 MPERS Board election ended on Thursday, May 26th at 4:00 p.m. Voter turnout was on par with previous board elections, which was around 10%. For those who voted, thank you!

Below are the statistics for each voting group:



Total possible voters: 4,730 Number of actual voters: 605 Participation: 12.79%

#### **MoDOT Retirees**

Total possible voters: 5,483 Number of actual voters: 351 Participation: 6.40%

#### **MSHP Retirees**

Total possible voters: 1,866 Number of actual voters: 228 Participation: 12.22%

#### **Overall Totals**

Total possible voters: 12,079 Total actual voters: 1,184 Total participation: 9.80%

During the next step in the election process, ballots will be finalized between June 1-8 and the successful candidates will be notified by the executive director. The candidates will be presented to the Board during the June 16th board meeting; members and stakeholders will be notified shortly thereafter.



### In-Person Pre-Retirement Seminars Return



In-person pre-retirement seminars will be offered in a limited capacity from June through September. We ask that since there is a limited number of spaces in each seminar, attendance be limited to the employee only (no guests).

Additionally, these seminars will be for those who are currently eligible for retirement or will be prior to December 31, 2023.

The closer each seminar gets, if registration numbers allow, we will open registration to those who will be eligible to retire prior to December 31, 2027.

June 28, St. Joseph - MoDOT NW District Office, 12:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. June 29, St. Joseph - MoDOT NW District Office, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

July 26, Springfield - MoDOT SW District Office, 12:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. July 27, Springfield - MoDOT SW District Office, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

August 24, St. Louis - MSHP Troop C Headquarters, 12:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. August 25, St. Louis - MSHP Troop C Headquarters, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

September 21, Sikeston - Clinton Building, 12:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. September 22, Sikeston - Clinton Building, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

## Register for an in-person Pre-Retirement Seminar.

We understand that there may be some frustration that in-person seminars are not being held statewide this year, however, please remember that there are other avenues in which you can receive excellent service.

MPERS' benefit specialists are available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., for one-on-one counseling appointments that can be held in-person or virtually. These counseling sessions provide personalized retirement information specifically for you.

## Request an appointment with a benefit specialist; you won't be disappointed.

Additionally, MPERS conducts live Pre-Retirement Webinars monthly for your convenience. These webinars offer the same information provided at the in-person seminars, but you can participate from the comfort of your home or office, or wherever you have an internet connection or cell service.

View the Pre-Retirement Webinar schedule and perhaps register for one as well.

If you are unable to attend a Pre-Retirement Webinar, in-person Pre-Retirement Seminar, or make an appointment with a benefit specialist for a one-on-one counseling session, we record each of our Pre-Retirement Webinars and post them to the website so you can view them anytime. We invite you to view the Pre-Retirement Webinar recording of your choice then reach out to the benefits team with any questions you may have. You can reach them at 800-270-1271 or by emailing benefits@mpers.org.

Check out the Pre-Retirement Webinar recordings.



### **Check Out This Month's Benefit Bite!**

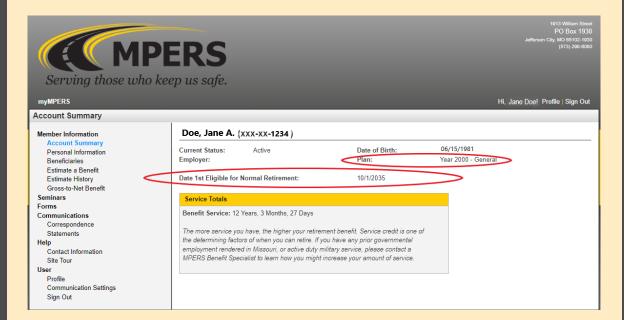
Do you know which plan you are in? Do you know the age and service requirements for retirement in your plan? Do you know when you will be able to retire?

There are three resources you can use to discover the answer to these questions and more.

• Visit the <u>retirement eligibility page</u> on our website. This page will give you a general idea of the requirements for each plan that must be met before being eligible to retire.



 Log in to your <u>myMPERS secure member access</u>. Your personalized home page will have your plan information along with the first date for which you would be eligible to retire under normal retirement eligibility guidelines.



 Your annual Personal Benefit Statement includes a plethora of information regarding your MPERS membership, including the plan you are in, your normal retirement date, as well as an estimate of your future retirement benefits. Personal Benefit Statements are located in <u>myMPERS</u> in the statements folder under communications.







### **Welcome Commissioner Ecker!**

MPERS would like to welcome Commissioner Terry Ecker to the Board of Trustees!

Terry was appointed to the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission on September 8, 2017, by Governor Eric Greitens. His term expires March 1, 2023.

Ecker and his wife, Susan, raise corn, soybeans, and cattle on their farm Northwest of Elmo, just one-quarter of a mile from where Ecker's great, great grandfather settled in Nodaway county in 1868. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Economics from the University of Missouri-Columbia and is a graduate of Agriculture Leaders of Tomorrow Class IX.

Ecker was appointed by three different U.S. Secretaries of Agriculture to represent the State of Missouri on the United Soybean Board. He is a past Vice Chairman of the U.S. Soybean Export Council. Ecker has served as an Agriculture Field Representative for Congressman Sam Graves. He is a member of Missouri Farm Bureau and currently serves as Nodaway County Farm Bureau President. Ecker is a member of the Missouri Cattlemen's Association, Missouri Corn Growers, and Missouri Soybean Association.

Commissioner Ecker replaced Commissioner Brinkmann, who had served on the MPERS Board of Trustees since March 2020.



## **Upcoming Events**

- 1-8 Validation of electronic ballots. Preliminary announcement of board election results; notify the successful candidates.
- 9 Pre-Retirement webinar for 2011 Tier members Register Here
- 14 Pre-Retirement webinar for Closed Plan and Year 2000 Plan membersRegister Here
- 16 Board meeting
- 20 Juneteenth observed, office closed
- 28 Afternoon in-person Pre-Retirement Seminar for Closed Plan and Year 2000 Plan members Register Here
- 29 Morning in-person Pre-Retirement Seminar for Closed Plan and Year 2000 Plan members Register Here
- 30 Deadline to submit step 1 -Notice of Retirement for August 1 retirement

### **Retirement Deadlines**

Intended Date of Retirement	Step 1 Notice of Retirement Due at MPERS	Step 2 Retirement Election Form Due at MPERS
January 1	September 1 - November 30	December 31
February 1	October 1 - December 31	January 31
March 1	November 1 - January 31	February 28
April 1	December 1 - February 28	March 31
May 1	January 1 - March 31	April 30
June 1	February 1 - April 30	May 31
July 1	March 1 - May 31	June 30
August 1	April 1 - June 30	July 31
September 1	May 1 - July 31	August 31
October 1	June 1 - August 31	September 30
November 1	July 1 - September 30	October 31
December 1	August 1 - October 31	November 30









We value your feedback!
What would you like to see in *The Pensioner: Looking Forward*?
Send comments and suggestions to <u>Julie.West@mpers.org</u>.