



# The HR Connection

We work better, when we work together....

## March 2014

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### Board of Trustees Member Election – Call for Nominations

The MoDOT and Patrol Employees’ Retirement System (MPERS) is governed by an 11-member Board of Trustees. MoDOT and MSHP each have an active employee representative and a retiree representative serving on the Board who is nominated and elected by their respective voting and nominating group. This election is to fill all 4 positions: 1) active MoDOT employee; 2) active MSHP employee; 3) MoDOT retiree; and 4) MSHP retiree.

- The 4-year term of the elected member representatives ends June 30, 2014.
- To be qualified and eligible for election to the office of trustee, the candidate must be a member of his/her respective voting and nominating group on March 1, 2014.
- Members interested in being nominated, or members interested in nominating someone, must collect the signatures of 25 eligible members of their respective voting/nominating group.

Candidate	Voting/Nominating Group
Active MoDOT Employee	Active MoDOT Employees
Active MSHP Employee	Active MSHP Employees
MoDOT Retiree	MoDOT Retirees
MSHP Retiree ( <i>civilian or uniformed</i> )	MSHP Retirees ( <i>civilian &amp; uniformed</i> )

### ***Call for Nominations***

The first step in the election process is the nomination phase, which begins March 3. For a candidate to be placed on the election ballot, a Nomination Form with 25 valid signatures (from the candidate’s voting/nominating group) must be completed and returned to MPERS by **4:00 p.m. on March 28**.

Serving as a fiduciary and Board member to the plan participants is a very important and rewarding volunteer position. If you are interested in learning more about the election process or running for one of the elected Board positions, MPERS has prepared an informative election brochure. The brochure outlines the duties and responsibilities of a trustee, the time commitment, the deadlines associated with the election, and a copy of the Nomination Form.

Click here for the [election brochure](#)

To request a hardcopy of the brochure, please contact MPERS at (573) 298-6080 or toll free at (800) 270-1271.

### ***Schedule for 2014 Board of Trustees Election***

March 3	Notification to members announcing nomination period
March 28	Completed Nomination Form(s) must be received at MPERS by 4:00 p.m.
April 4	MPERS will notify the nominees
April 15	Candidate statement due from nominees
April 30	Election ballot sent to eligible members of each voting group
May 22	Election Day – election ends at 4:00 p.m.
May 23 – June 2	Tally votes - Executive Director will notify the successful candidates
June 26	Board Meeting – introduction of successful candidates

### ***Electronic Voting!***

For the first time ever, members will be able to cast their votes electronically! MPERS is putting the finishing touches on this wonderful new feature as we speak. Instead of mailing their vote, members will be able to log into their Secure Member Access accounts and submit their vote there! MPERS is working with our IT provider for PensionGold, to ensure that although we will know who has voted (as in the past), we will not be able to see an individual person's vote, as our members' privacy and anonymity are very important parts of the election process. We will provide more information about this new feature in our next edition of *The HR Connection*.

### **Pre-Retirement Seminars 2014**

These seminars are for members *within 5 years of retirement eligibility*. Representatives from MPERS, the MoDOT & Patrol Medical and Life Insurance Plan, and Deferred Compensation will be making presentations and answering questions. There is no fee for this half-day seminar and spouses or non-member guests are also invited to attend with the member.

The MPERS portion of the workshop is conducted by a MPERS benefit specialist. Topics covered are the Closed Plan and Year 2000 Plan features, including the BackDROP option that allows members to take a lump sum distribution in addition to their defined monthly benefit over their life and the life of a loved one (if applicable). Members will learn about the options offered by MPERS, how they affect their benefit, when they can choose an option, and what they need to consider before electing an option. Other topics include service purchases, re-employment issues and updates on current legislative changes to MPERS benefits. Again, this workshop is for those within five years of retirement eligibility.

Each person in attendance will receive a Pre-Retirement Seminar Workbook.

Dates & locations of this year's seminars are attached.

### **Reminder – MPERS Is Going Paperless**

Just a quick reminder that beginning with the March benefit payment, we will no longer be issuing paper checks. A *Direct Deposit Authorization* was given to payees still receiving their benefit via check, with the option to switch to direct deposit. Those not electing direct deposit will be paid via pay card/debit card.

Also, effective with the January benefit, we are no longer mailing paystubs. Members can view/access their benefit information at any time via Secure Member Access. They can also elect to receive an email notification each month, once their monthly benefit information is available on line.

We are sensitive to the fact that some of our payees do not have access to/use computers on a regular basis. Therefore, any time a member's benefit amount changes, they will receive a letter explaining why their benefit has changed and what their new net amount will be going forward. This letter will be distributed based on the preference the member has elected (mail or email). A sample of this letter is attached.

Please let us know of anyone that needs to be added to/removed from this distribution listing. If you have topics you would like for us to address, please send them to us and we will do our best to incorporate them in future connections. As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have!