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## The HR Connection

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

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### Virtual and In-Person Pre-Retirement Seminars Are Back!

We are pleased to announce our 2024 schedule for in-person and virtual pre-retirement seminars. Currently, we are scheduled to be in the following cities:

- Hannibal
- Jefferson City
- Joplin
- Lee's Summit
- Macon
- Sikeston
- Springfield
- St. Joseph
- St. Louis
- West Plains

Registration is currently open for all seminars and webinars and can be completed via [myMPERS](#). If you would like to view a complete schedule, check out [our website](#).

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### New Disability Packet from The Standard

We recently received an updated disability claim packet from The Standard. Please discard any old packets you may have and begin using the new packet immediately. You can obtain the new packet [here](#) or by visiting the MPERS website under Resources and then Forms.

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### Member Profile Report



The FY 2023 *Member Profile Report* is ready for your review and intended to provide the MPERS' Board of Trustees, MoDOT, and MSHP with an annual snapshot of membership statistics. The *Member Profile Report* can be shared with other HR/benefits personnel but is not intended to be shared or redistributed among the general employee population. We hope this report provides valuable information to help you with future planning.

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### Legislative Updates

During the 2023 legislative session, Senate Bills 20 and 75 were signed by the governor. There were two significant changes that became effective August 28, 2023, that we would like to bring to your attention.

1. Members who elect BackDROP at retirement and select the BackDROP payment to be distributed as cash, will receive one lump-sum payment. There is no longer the option for members to receive three annual installments.
2. The waiting period to receive a refund for 2011 Tier employee contributions has been changed slightly. Under most circumstances, requests for refunds will be processed within two weeks of the receipt of a refund request form, as long as the member has been terminated from employment for at least 90 days.

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## Reminders

### Active Deaths

Please remember to notify MPERS as soon as possible in the event of an active employee death, even if you think there are no benefits due. When submitting your notification, please ensure you provide information about the member's surviving spouse and/or children. This is especially important for members of the 2011 Tier, who will have an employee contribution balance that must be paid to a beneficiary in the event no other survivor benefits are due.

### Terminations

When a member terminates employment, they do not need to contact MPERS unless they have questions. Refund request forms will be distributed to members if applicable, after MPERS receives final service, salary, and contribution information. Due to the legislative change mentioned above, there is no advantage in contacting us to request a form because the 90-day waiting period is now based on the date of termination, not the date the form is received.

### MPERS Office Hours

MPERS is open to the public Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please note that our office is closed to the public and phone calls may go to voicemail between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.

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## Responding to MPERS' Newsletters

It has come to our attention that when MPERS distributes monthly active employee and retiree newsletters through an online platform called Constant Contact, the email address showing up in the header for Julie West, our Communication Specialist, is [juliewest@mpers.ccsend.com](mailto:juliewest@mpers.ccsend.com). Please note that this is **not** an active MPERS email account, so please do not send information to this address. **Replies** to the newsletter will go to Julie; however, if you would like to contact Julie with a separate email, her email address is [Julie.West@mpers.org](mailto:Julie.West@mpers.org). You can also forward any questions or concerns to [mpers@mpers.org](mailto:mpers@mpers.org).



The HR Connection is a quarterly newsletter for benefits, payroll & hr staff of MoDOT and the Highway Patrol used to relay important dates and information as well as provide clarity to policies or procedures when needed.

*Please contact Angel Backes to add or remove staff from this distribution list or if you have suggestions or topics to improve this newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you!*

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[www.mpers.org](http://www.mpers.org)

