

NEWSLETTER

Issued by PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREES, INC.

659-F Park Meadow Rd., Westerville, Ohio 43081-2879

Telephone: 614-891-6868 or 1-800-247-7374

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 1998

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By John Gilchrist



The Ohio General Assembly has recessed for the summer. However, before recessing, it passed a comprehensive piece of legislation dealing with retirement. This is H.B.

No. 648 which was sponsored by Rep. Dale VanVyven. Although the new law focuses on disability retirement and particularly PFDPF, there are numerous provisions that impact PERS and the other systems. Some of these provisions deal with disability retirement; others do not.

A provision that appears to be of interest to a number of our members is the provision that repeals the so-called marriage penalty and allows a surviving spouse to remarry at any age without forfeiting the monthly survivor benefits. Under current law, survivor benefits to a surviving spouse terminate on remarriage. However, current law also provides that benefits continue if a first remarriage ceases within two years due to divorce or death. Benefits to a surviving spouse also continue if the spouse remarries on or after June 5, 1996, and at the time of remarriage has attained age 55. Again, under the new law, survivor benefits to a surviving spouse will continue regardless of remarriage.

In addition, benefits to a surviving spouse that were terminated under current law due to a remarriage will resume following receipt of an application on a form to be provided PERS. That is, a surviving spouse who has had survivor benefits terminated because of a remarriage, will have the survivor benefits reinstated because of H.B. No. 648.

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PERI ANNUAL MEETING PROMISES A SPECIAL TIME TOGETHER

The 1998 Annual meeting of PERI will be an informative and exciting event. In addition to reports from PERI President, William Covert, Treasurer, Thomas Skipton, Administrator, William Winegarner, and Legislative Counsel, John Gilchrist, we will hear from Richard Schumacher, Executive Director of PERS and Joel Buck, PERS Investment Director.

There will be information tables for questions about health care concerns, Social Security issues and other senior interests. And, of course, there will be plenty of time to meet and fellowship with friends, both old and new.

The PERI 1998 Annual Meeting will be held at the Villa Milano, 1630 Schrock Rd., Columbus, (see map) on Tuesday, Sept. 22. Registration will

be from 9:00 until 10:00 A.M. There will be complimentary coffee and sweets during that time and the information tables will be available. The business meeting will begin at 10:00 A.M. followed by luncheon with herb chicken being served. The day will conclude with a special awards ceremony.

Don't miss your chance to join retirees from all over Ohio for this educational and enjoyable day. Just fill out the reservation form in this Newsletter and send it to the PERI corporate office no later than Sept. 4, 1998. (Since the meals must be ordered and paid for in advance, no refunds can be made after that date). The cost for the full day's events including lunch is \$20. If you would like to attend the business meeting only, registration is \$5. [See you there!](#)

RETIREES TO VOTE FOR PERS REP., SIX PERI MEMBERS SEEK SEAT

On Sept. 4, 1998 ballots for the retiree representative on the PERS Board of Directors will be mailed to your home address. PERI is privileged to have at least six of our members attempting to get their names on the ballot. Your PERI Board members feel this position is vital to our association and all retirees.

At presstime those PERI members who are seeking the PERS Board seat included:

RICHARD BORROR — Mr. Borrer retired in 1987 and became a PERI Life member shortly thereafter. He is 67. He has never missed an annual meeting. (Perhaps you have sat with him at your table.) He is currently serving as president of Chapter #1 in Columbus. He also is president of

PERI District #6.

With BSC and MA degrees from OSU, Borrer brings to the PERS Board extensive managerial experience. He has served as county commissioners' clerk; business manager in two Columbus divisions — traffic engineering then sewers and drains; executive assistant to State Treasurer Joseph Ferguson and subsequently as his deputy auditor of state.

THOMAS E. FERGUSON — Mr. Ferguson is a longtime member of PERI. He is an OSU graduate in business administration. For 20 years, as auditor of the state, he served on all five of the Ohio retirement boards, including the Public Employees Retirement System.

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE PRESENTS 1998 OFFICER CANDIDATES

The PERI Nominating Committee met on June 19, 1998 in Westerville Ohio to review the nominations submitted in accordance with our constitution. In their report to the Board of Directors on July 21, 1998, the committee stated that only one nomination was received for each of the officer positions. Since all candidates are running unopposed, no ballots are required.

If you would like to cast a vote for this slate of officers, you may do so by mailing a note to PERI, 659-F Park Meadow Road, Westerville, Ohio 43081. All votes must be received by 5:00 P.M. Sept. 5, 1998. The PERI offices and nominees are as follows:

President: William E. Covert
1st Vice President: Lucille J. Critchfield
2nd Vice President: E. Ivor Jones
3rd Vice President: Floyd C. Smith
Treasurer: Marjorie J. Belville

WILLIAM E. COVERT

Dr. William E. Covert is a graduate of the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine. He is past president of the Ohio Southwest Veterinary Medical Association. His public health experience has included serving as executive director and president of the Ohio Health Commissioners' Association, health commissioner of multiple health districts, a member of the American Public Health Association, and president of the Southeast Ohio Public Health Association. He has been a member of the Lynchburg Village Council; and chairman of the Lynchburg Financial Advisory Commission. Currently, he serves on the legislative, public health, and political action committees of the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association and is very active in his local church.

Dr. Covert served as president of the Highland County PERI chapter and was elected to the Board of Directors as a District Director in 1989. He has served as 2nd Vice - President (1992-1993-1994) and 1st Vice-President in (1995-1996). He has chaired the Legislative Committee for the past several years and remains active in all legislative concerns for retirees. He is

currently serving as the President of PERI.

LUCILLE CRITCHFIELD

Mrs. Lucille Critchfield was clerk of the Richland County Board of Elections for 7 years, and is still an active member of that Board. She was assistant clerk of the Mansfield City Council for 4 years and was employed as 5th District Field Representative of the Ohio Department of Highway Safety for 4 years. Earlier, she served as the financial secretary for 21 years for Dominion Electric and was committeewoman for the IAM Local 1403.

Mrs. Critchfield has been actively involved in the PERI Chapter in Richland County and remains the president of that chapter. She was elected to the Board of Directors as a District Representative in 1990. She has served PERI as 3rd Vice - President (1992-1993-1994) and 2nd Vice- President (1995-1997), and 1st Vice-President (1998). She has been active in legislative and financial interests of the organization, serving as chairman of the Finance Committee for the past 4 years.

E. IVOR JONES

E. Ivor Jones, received his BE degree from Rio Grande University and his bachelor's and Master's degrees in Agricultural Education from OSU. During the years 1948-1955, he taught school in Champaign and Ross Counties as well as the Jackson City Schools. In late 1955 he became affiliated with the OSU Extension Service. He began as a 4-H agent, moved up to the Agricultural agent, and spent the last 13 years of his service as a 10 county area supervisor. He holds life membership in VFW, National Association of Retired Federal Employees, and PERI. He is also past president of the Hillsboro Lions Club, and past commander of his local American Legion.

Mr. Jones served one year as vice-president of the Highland County PERI chapter and 3 years as its president. He was first elected to the PERI Board of Directors as District 4 Representative in 1991. In 1995 he

was elected 3rd vice-president and is currently serving as 2nd Vice President. During his tenure on the Board, he has served as parliamentarian, and chaired the special Education Committee.

FLOYD C. SMITH

Floyd Smith served in the Naval Armed Guard from 1943 to 1946. He remained on reserves until he was called for active duty in 1950 until 1952. He was hired as deputy sheriff of Crawford County in 1953 and elected as sheriff in Jan. 1969. He retired in 1981 with 34 years of service and joined PERI as a life member.

Mr. Smith was the first president of the Crawford County PERI chapter and remains involved with that chapter today. He was appointed to the Board of Directors in 1992 as a District Representative and has served on the Board since that time. He has been actively involved in financial committees, the Nominating Committee, the Constitutional Committee and chaired the Program Committee. This past year, Mr. Smith served as third Vice-President and chaired the Legislative Committee.

MRS. MARJORIE BELVILLE

Mrs. Marjorie Belville worked as a legal secretary for 5 years after graduating from Jackson High School. Following that time she moved to Columbus and worked for an insurance company. In 1952 she was employed by the Office of Price Stabilization where she worked until the office moved in 1960. She returned to Jackson, Ohio, and worked for the US Atomic Energy Commission at its Portsmouth operation. After that, she was employed by the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services as a claims examiner. She retired in 1987. She is also an ordained minister.

Mrs. Belville joined the PERI Board in 1990 as a District Representative and remained active until her terms expired in 1996. She was active in several committees and chaired the Program Committee. She remains involved with her local chapter and is its current vice-president.

A Letter from Governor Voinovich

SOCIAL SECURITY THREATENS STATE PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS



GEORGE V. VOINOVICH
GOVERNOR

STATE OF OHIO
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COLUMBUS 43266-0601

July 17, 1998

Dear fellow state and local government employees:

The U.S. House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security has requested the federal government's General Accounting Office (GAO) to visit and review every state whose public employees do not participate in the Social Security system. The subcommittee is conducting a study to examine the effects of implementing the Social Security Advisory Council's recommendation that would require all state and local government employees to participate in Social Security. Recently, the GAO visited Ohio to examine the state's five public employee retirement systems.

As Governor of Ohio, I am very concerned that the GAO study will lead to Congressional consideration of the Advisory Council's proposal. I am writing to my fellow public employees to inform you I am strongly opposed to a federal mandate that state and local governments participate in Social Security, and assure you that I am taking steps to prevent implementation of this mandate.

Ohio's public retirement systems provide benefits to teachers, school employees, police and firemen, the highway patrol, and state and local government employees. The largest system, the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), has over 600,000 members and benefit recipients. PERS is pre-funded, with benefits financed over a working career. The largest source of income of the system is investment return. The system provides a tremendous amount of capital in the economy while providing higher benefits than Social Security.

If required to pay into Social Security, adding the full cost of the FICA tax to the PERS tax would create an enormous unfunded mandate on states and localities. Practically speaking, mandatory participation in Social Security would cause employee rates to increase, or employee benefits to decrease.

Mandatory Social Security taxes would likely cause states such as Ohio to reduce or eliminate the funding of post retirement health care programs, shifting an enormous burden to Medicare programs. In fifteen years, current and future beneficiaries' retirement benefits would decrease from 63 percent to 47 percent.

I have written to Congressional leaders voicing opposition to mandatory inclusion of state and local employees in the Social Security system. Universal state and local participation would provide an immediate infusion of funds, but the long-term liabilities associated with the new beneficiaries under Social Security's pay-as-you-go system only would exacerbate the long-run funding crisis faced by the system. Ohio's public employees would be forced to participate in a poorly funded system with future benefits at risk.

Also, letters have been sent to the 14 governors from states most affected by mandatory participation in the Social Security system. I have requested that they write their Congressional delegations to voice opposition to this mandate.

Additionally, I have met with the directors of Ohio's five retirement systems to express my concern, and we have combined our resources in opposition to mandatory participation in the Social Security system.

I encourage your support and urge your opposition to any attempt to require state and local government employees to participate in Social Security.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George V. Voinovich".

George V. Voinovich
Governor

RETIREES SEEK PERS

(Continued from Page 1)

He is a certified fraud examiner and a certified government financial manager.

Mr. Ferguson states that as a retiree representative his No. 1 commitment would be to continue to support and enhance strong health benefits for retirees. He would be available to meet with PERI retirees from around the state.

SHARON DOWNS — A retiree from the State Department of Administrative Services as a Human Resources manager, Sharon Downs is a life member of PERI. She has a thorough understanding of retirement system operations. She frequently sat as the designee for directors of DAS on both the PERS and Deferred Compensation Boards from 1991 until her retirement in October 1997.

She worked for the executive director of the School Employees Retirement System and as his personnel assistant.

She will continue all efforts fighting Social Security taking over control of the retirement systems' contributions and to protect the benefits received by retirees and their beneficiaries.

JOHN WILLIAM MAURER — Mr. Maurer is a PERI life member who recently retired as a State Administrative Law Judge.

He now does volunteer work with Riverside Hospital's McConnell Heart Health Center in Columbus. He also volunteers with local churches and retirement homes, and does radio reading for the blind. He has retained his certification as an Employee Benefit Specialist and is a fellow of the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans.

Judge Maurer was the elected state representative on the PERS Board from 1991 through 1994 and looks forward to serving his fellow retirees.

THOMAS R. SKIPTON — For 19 years Mr. Skipton attended meetings of the Ohio Retirement Board. He worked for the School Employees Retirement System for 33 years as controller and assistant director.

Since 1994 he has served the PERI Board as treasurer and board member. He is a life member and serves on the PERI Legislative Committee. He is also treasurer of PERI Chapter #1 in Columbus.

An OSU accounting graduate he has been married 37 years and has two children and three grandchildren.

He states, "I will work to maintain our independence from the Social Security System and will be your 'voice' at the Retirement Board meetings."

WILLIAM WILLIAMS — A lifetime member of PERI, Bill Williams served as secretary, then president of the Central Ohio PERI Chapter. He retired in 1988 after working for Workers' Compensation in Toledo, Franklin County Human Services and then the State Auditor.

Mr. Williams represented the auditor on all five retirement systems, including PERS. He has been involved in investment and disability activities and served on search committees for directors, key investment staff and advisors. Mr. Williams has received specialized pension, investment and health benefit training from several national and international organizations.

He is former treasurer of Neil Avenue United Methodist Church, and has been active in other service organizations.



Mary McDowell PERI District Representative, presents Brown County Chapter President Prudie Snider with a certificate in honor of the chapter's 10th anniversary.

BROWN COUNTY CHAPTER OBSERVES TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Brown County Chapter #69 observed its tenth anniversary on July 8, 1998. A covered dish dinner was held in the St. George Parish Hall in Georgetown. President Prudie Snider recalled how the Chapter was started with State President Carl James meeting with Dr. Donohoo and 20 other retired public employees.

Special guests on hand to offer congratulations were Helen Hiestand, district representative for Rob Portman, Second District Congressman; The Honorable Rose Vesper, 72nd District State Representative; and Mary McDowell, PERI District 4 Representative. Doug Green, Brown County Auditor, sang several musical selections.

A Certificate of Achievement was presented to President Snider by District Rep Mary McDowell. Special thanks are given to Betty Tutt, Carol Kattine, and Mary Crawford who served on the Program/Planning Committee.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREES, INC. BALANCE SHEET DECEMBER 1997

ASSETS:		
CASH:		
CHECKING	\$6,471.15	
CHECKING-STAR	\$165,343.87	
SAVINGS-LIFE FUND	\$6,320.14	
SAVINGS-LIFE FUND-STAR	\$19,784.84	
SAVINGS-REGULAR	\$0.00	
PETTY CASH	<u>\$100.00</u>	\$198,020.00
FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT	\$49,557.59	
RESERVE FOR DEPRECIATION	<u>(\$44,728.71)</u>	\$4,828.88
INVESTMENTS-LIFE		\$396,909.39
INVESTMENTS-REGULAR		\$1,558.78
PREPAID EXPENSES	<u>\$22,452.54</u>	
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>\$623,769.59</u>
LIABILITIES		
LIFE MEMBER TRUST		\$399,449.53
LIFE MEMBER TRUST-NEXT YEARS INCOME		\$23,584.34
RETAINED EARNINGS		\$22,798.41
CHAPTER TRUST FD		\$606.29
NEXT YEARS INCOME-REGULAR		<u>\$177,331.02</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>\$623,769.59</u>

ANNUAL MEETINGS

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The next Annual Banquet was Sept. 20, 1972. In the copy of the program, it is noted that in addition to speeches by members of PERI, the featured speaker was Dr. Arthur Flemming, Chairman of the White House Conference on Aging. It was interesting to note that the attendance had grown to 368. The minutes of this meeting mentioned media coverage due to the main speaker.

The Annual Luncheon in 1973 featured Robert L. Fleming, president of Ohio Retired Teachers Association, and a vote on some amendments to the PERI constitution. In 1974, Dr. Floyd Faust spoke and the first chapters gave reports. In the years to follow, speakers included Dorothy Teater from the Department of Community Services; Father Richard J. Connelly; Bill Pepper, senior life reporter - WBNS-TV; the vice president of Landmark, Inc.; and associate professors from Capital University and Ohio State University. William B. Saxbe, Vern Riffe and Jo Ann Davidson, all speakers of the Ohio House of Representatives have addressed the group, as well as US Congressman, Robert T. Secrest and Ohio State Representative, Dale VanVyven. PERI members have heard from a scientist, a humorist, a historian and a health care official.

PERS has been an informative part of the annual meeting. For many years, the Executive Director and the Investment Director have spoken to the assembly. PERI Board members have kept the group informed all along about the organization's growth and operations.

In reviewing the reports of these past Annual Meetings, it seems that they have been informative and entertaining times. They have played an important role in the success of PERI.

AETNA HAS NEW NUMBER

Aetna US Healthcare recently eliminated its local Columbus telephone number. You can now dial 1-800-645-5677 to reach member services at Aetna.

HOCKING COUNTY CHAPTER CELEBRATES 11th ANNIVERSARY



Members of the Hocking County PERI Chapter have held two busy meetings recently. On May 21 the group met for luncheon at the Scenic Hills Senior Center to celebrate the chapter's 11th anniversary.

Chapter president Charles Gilbert conducted the business meeting and Marjorie Belville gave a report on the District 8 meeting held in April in Beverly. Don Moyer, District 8 Representative gave members an update on activities from the state level.



Pres. Gilbert spoke briefly on the chapter's growth over the 11 years and praised retirees for their interest and efforts on behalf of this organization.

Members were reminded that the PERI Annual Meeting will be held in Columbus on Sept. 22.

On July 16, 37 members and guests attended the chapter luncheon meeting. Floyd Smith, PERI 3rd vice president, spoke to the members.

CHECK PHONE PROMISES BEFORE YOU INVEST

Those phone calls from unknown brokers with hot deals are a constant annoyance. The Federal Trade Commission recently summarized some of the claims and responses before you agree to invest:

Phone Scammer: "I have a can't-miss investment deal for you. Profits are almost certain and the risk is zero!"

This means: *Once I get your check, my profits are certain. There's no risk for me.*

Phone Scammer: "If you don't take some risks, you'll never make a profit. The opportunity is going fast. You must act NOW!"

This means: *The biggest you could ever take is listening to me, and if I don't get your money now, you'll find someone who will talk you out of this crazy thing you're about to do.*

Phone Scammer: "Are any of your investments currently showing you a 40 to 50 percent return with almost no risk?"

This means: *I know there's no such thing as an investment that makes that kind of return with low risk, but if you don't hang up the phone when I say that, I just may be able to get you to buy the junk I'm selling.*

Phone Scammer: "We've been in business over 20 years."

This means: *We close down and change our name every two years or so to keep ahead of law enforcement.*

Phone Scammer: "This is the next great business you've been reading about in the papers. It's going to make fortunes for people, and you're getting in on the ground floor!"

This means: *Fortunes can be made by people who devote great time and energy to develop businesses from the ground floor, but not by people who just send checks to someone who calls them on the phone.*

—From Four Score, the newsletter of the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

The law becomes effective Sept. 16, 1998.

As it relates to PERS, other provisions of the new law provide the following:

1. When PERS (and the other retirement systems) begins the process of adopting an administrative rule, it must submit a copy to the Ohio Retirement Study Council. This would give the Council the ability to work with JCARR on the proposed rule. (Sec. 145.09)

2. Current law requires PERS and the other boards to annually prepare a report that gives a full accounting of the system's health care revenues and costs. The report must specify, among other information, amounts paid for health care offered by the system. The new law requires each system to separate out Medicare Part B reimbursement costs in its annual health care report. (Sec. 145.22)

3. The act modifies the law governing receipt of credit into PERS for service credit earned under another system. Under the act, for a member of PERS, SERS, or STRS who has not withdrawn contributions to PFDPF or HPRS to receive credit for the service for which contributions were made, PFDPF or SHPRS must transfer to PERS, STRS, or SERS the sum of the following for each year of service: (1) the member's accumulated contributions for each year of service, including any payments for purchased military service; (2) the lesser of the employer contributions which were made for each year of service or the employer contributions which would have been made for each year of service had the member rendered such service in the other retirement system involved; (3) annual interest on the above amounts from the last day of the year for which the service credit was earned or in which the military service was purchased to the date the transfer is made.

PERS, SERS, or STRS members who have withdrawn their contributions will receive credit for PFDPF or SHPRS service if PERS, STRS, or SERS receives the sum of the following for each year of service: (1) an amount, which must be paid by the member, equal to the amount refunded to the member from PFDPF or SHPRS for that year of service credit, with interest from the date of the refund to

the date of payment; (2) interest, to be transferred by PFDPF or SHPRS, on the amount described in (1) that is attributable to the year of service from the last day of the year for which the service credit was earned or in which military service credit was purchased or obtained to the date the refund was made; (3) an amount, to be transferred by PFDPF or SHPRS, equal to the lesser of the employer's contribution to PFDPF or SHPRS for that year or the amount that would have been contributed by the employer for that year had the member been a PERS, STRS, or SERS member, with interest from the last day of the year for which the service credit was earned or in which the military service credit was purchased or obtained to the date of transfer. (Sec. 145.295)

4. Allows the University of Akron Police to transfer their service credit from SERS to PERS Law Enforcement; future employees will be under PERS Law Enforcement. (Sec. 145.33)

5. PERS (and the other retirement systems) is to adopt rules requiring each disability benefit recipient, as a condition of continuing to receive disability benefits, to agree in writing to receive medical treatment recommended by the Board's physician and submit medical reports regarding the treatment. If medical treatment is not obtained or if the Board does not receive a required report, the disability benefit will be suspended until treatment is obtained or the report is received. Should the failure to obtain treatment or to submit the report continue for more than one year, the benefit will terminate. (Sec. 145.35) (PERS currently has a rule that requires non-invasive medical treatment.)

6. PERS (and the other retirement systems) is to file yearly reports that specify the disability experience of each employer including the total of applications submitted, the status of each application, total applications granted or denied, and the percentage of disability benefit recipients to the total number of the employer's employees who are members of the system. PERS' first report is due by March 1, 2000. (Sec. 145.351)

7. Under current law the Board may adopt rules requiring a recipient to file an annual statement of earnings and current medical information. Under the new law, the rule adoption becomes mandatory. In addition, a recipient will be required to file any other information required in rules

adopted by the Board. The Board may waive the filing requirements if the Board's physician certifies that the disability is ongoing. Failure to provide this information results in the suspension of the benefit; if failure continues for more than one year, the benefit could be terminated. (Sec. 145.362)

8. Eliminates the option of a beneficiary to elect to receive a return of the contributions of a deceased member if the retirement system receives notice that there are qualified (dependent) children. That is, regardless of whether the member is survived by a spouse or designated beneficiary, if the conditions for survivor benefits are met and the retirement system receives notice that a deceased member has one or more qualified children, the persons who are qualified survivors are to receive monthly survivor benefits. In addition, a child support enforcement agency, on learning that an obligor under a support order has died, must notify the retirement system that the member was subject to a child support order. (Secs. 145.43 and 3113.25)

9. Requires spousal consent (rather than mere acknowledgment) for a married member to elect a retirement benefit plan of payment other than a joint survivorship plan. If the spouse fails to consent to another plan of payment, the member's retirement allowance will be a joint survivorship plan. Under this plan (Plan A), the member will receive a retirement allowance for life and the surviving spouse still receive one-half of such allowance after the member's death. Consent is valid only if signed and witnessed by a notary. However, it can be waived by the Board if the spouse is incapacitated or cannot be located. (Sec. 145.46)

10. Requires the Ohio Retirement Study Council to establish a task force to examine the feasibility of coordinating benefits between the Bureau of Workers' Compensation and retirement systems. The task force will consist of the Administrator of the Bureau and representatives of the five retirement boards. The report must contain a survey of how other states coordinate similar benefits and an examination of the types of benefits provided by the Bureau and retirement systems. The report is due not later than one year after the bill's effective date.

**JOIN US AT THE
PERI ANNUAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 22**

The History of PERI

ANNUAL MEETINGS MONITOR PERI PROGRESS

by TERRI LEE, Administrative Secretary

With the up-coming annual meeting just around the corner, I thought that I would look at some of the past meetings.

Our first recorded minutes were Feb. 19, 1969. At that meeting a slate of officers was presented by the nominating committee and the first chairman, Bertha Hill, and the other officers of the Ohio State Retirees Association were named. These served until the next election of officers on March 18, 1970. In January 1971, the suggestion was made to have an annual banquet in May to elect officers, however, in the March meeting it was determined that it should occur in September. Thus the plans were set for the first annual meeting.

The minutes of that meeting begin, "Sept. 16, 1971 was a day to be long remembered by the gathering of Public Employee Retirees, Inc., which held their first annual banquet in the ballroom of the Southern Hotel with about 25 members present besides our guests." The main speaker was Fred Schneider, head of PERS. He spoke about the retirement system and its history. When it started in 1937, there were about 289 retirees. In 1971, there were about 40,000. There was a question and answer period and Mr. Schneider pledged his cooperation with the organization. Short talks were given by William

Cory; state auditor Joseph Ferguson and Judge Bryant. At the end of the meeting, the assembly stood for a moment of silent prayer in memory of Hobart Scott, founder of the Public Employees League of Ohio.

(Continued on Page 5)

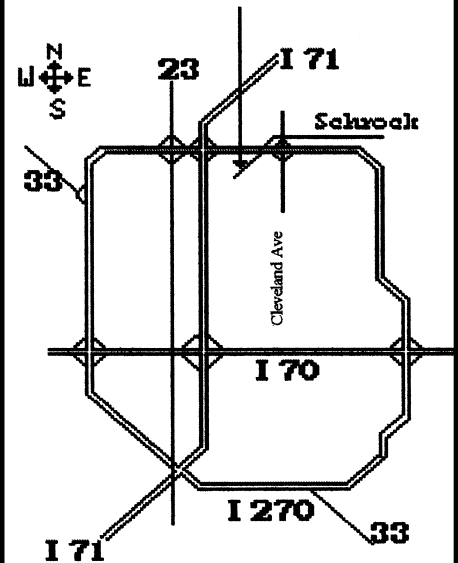
PERI BOARD ENDORSES SKIPTON FOR PERS BOARD SEAT

Even though it is tough to decide between PERI members, the PERI Board members believe that Thomas R. Skipton would be the best of the best to represent them on the PERS board. Mr. Skipton has been a life member of PERI since his retirement. He has served at the local, district and state levels in the association holding the office of treasurer in each of these. He has also been a vital part of PERI's state Legislative Committee, and it was his original initiative that started HB 365 and got the COLA increases for retirees who had not yet built a bank.

The PERI Board has worked hand in hand with Mr. Skipton for the past 5 years and feels their good working relationship will continue with him in the office of Retirant Representative on the PERS Board.

PERI ANNUAL MEETING MAP

Villa Milano 882-2058
1630 Schrock Road



Take Cleveland Avenue North off of I-270. Go to the first intersection, which is Schrock Road, and turn left. Follow Schrock Road to 1630. (Approximately 2 miles on the north side of the street.)

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, September 22, 1998

Registration: 9:00 to 10:00 A.M.

Business Meeting:
10:00 A.M. to Noon

Luncheon: 12:30 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Registration and Luncheon Reservations for the PERI 1998 Annual Meeting

first name initial last name

first name initial last name

first name initial last name

first name initial last name

first name initial last name

County _____

Number of Registrations with out meals: _____ x \$ 5.00 = \$ _____

Number of Registrations with meals: _____ x \$20.00 = \$ _____

Make check payable to PERI and mail to arrive no later than Friday, September 4, 1998.

Your packets will be at the Registration Desk.

HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY!!

Clark VanSchoik celebrated his 100th Birthday on August 2nd. Mr. VanSchoik has been involved with PERI for over 20 years, 10 years of which he served on the Board of Directors. Congratulations Clark!

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



The annual meeting is again upon us, and as I reflect on the past few years I can see many changes that are evident in the lives of the retirees.

The stability of PERS, the retirement system to which we contributed, is one of the foremost in all 50 states. It provides us with an annuity based on earnings and contributions, with health care coverage based on need and with a hedge against inflation based on the CPI index. All of this is Ohio engineered and born, controlled by the Public Employees Retirement System Board and the Ohio General Assembly. The Board and the Legislature are constantly studying the system, making recommendations and providing legislation and rules to improve, update and implement it. We at Public Employee Retirees, Inc. are vigilant and are constantly reviewing, commenting on and suggesting ways and means of improving and/or implementing the system.

The greatest challenge at this time is not from within our borders (Ohio) but is in the far-flung area of national government. The stability of Social Security, already affecting some retirees through the off-set program, is under constant study by many groups, committees, boards, etc., who are looking at state retirement systems as a way to help stabilize the Social Security System.

Many suggestions are forth-coming, among them the absorption of state retirement programs into the SS System. This, in effect, might eliminate any further retirement systems on the state level, with all public employees retired through the SS System. This could eliminate any supplemental health care coverage (leaving only Medicare), COLAs, state legislated increases, local state control.

This and many other proposals are coming out of Washington. You need help to guide some of these proposals, and so on and so on.

JOIN A PERI CHAPTER TODAY!!!

William Covert

AMERICANS SET RECORD FOR LIFE EXPECTANCY

American people are living longer. In 1996 the average life expectancy increased to 76.1, an all-time high. In 1995 the figure was 75.8 years. This was the country's largest recorded single-year rise in life expectancy, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

American women, with a life expectancy of 79.3, are living longer than men who have a 73.8 year expectancy.

LORAIN COUNTY MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN CALLS AND CALLS

In 1995 Chuck Buckovec retired from the Green Acres Children's Home in Oberlin. He soon joined the Loraine County PERI Chapter.

Since then he has called by phone nearly 300 potential PERI members in the county. About 40 of them have become new members of the chapter. His goal is to get another 30 new members by Christmas 1998.

He also secured a donated American Flag and base for the county chapter.

Public Employee Retirees, Inc.

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Westerville, Ohio 43081-2879

(614) 891-6868 or 1-800-247-7374

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