



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 2000

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By John Gilchrist



BENEFIT ENHANCEMENTS

The Ohio General Assembly has recently enacted three bills that will provide benefit enhancements for PERS members and benefit recipients.

These benefit enhancements have been made possible because of the strong performance of the financial markets in recent years and the past funding and investment policies of the PERS Board. As a result, PERS is in a position to increase retirement benefits, provide for current members, and also provide a temporary contribution rate rollback for employers. In effect, retirees (including beneficiaries and disability recipients), employees, and employers will benefit from the strong financial condition of the system.

H.B. No. 628

As it relates to current retirees, H.B. No. 628 provides two important pension enhancements. The first provision will allow current retirees, beneficiaries, and disability recipients to have their benefits recalculated using a new 2.2% multiplier. The current multiplier is 2.1% for the first 30 years and 2.5% for years over 30. (The current 2.5% multiplier used for years over 30 will remain the same as current law.) The 2.1% multiplier has been used since 1989; prior to that it was at 2%.

As you are aware, an individual calculates a regular PERS retirement benefit by taking his or her final average salary and multiplying it by 2.1%. This amount is then multiplied by the years of service to determine the yearly retirement benefit.

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PERI ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN COLUMBUS ON SEPTEMBER 26

The 2000 Annual Meeting of PERI looks to be an informative and exciting event. In addition to reports from PERI Administrator, Bill Winegarner; Treasurer Marjorie Belville, and President Lucille Critchfield; we will be brought up to date on the PERS investment and financial picture by Neil Toth, PERS Assistant Director-Investments. To top all of this, we will have the opportunity to meet and hear from Laurie Hacking, PERS's new Executive Director.

There will be a luncheon after the business meeting where we will be announcing the 2000 Membership Drive winners and conducting other special activities.

Before and after the business meeting, we will have representatives from PERS, Medicare, Medical Mutual of Ohio, Aetna US Healthcare, Merck-Medco, Social Security, Delta Dental, and The Ohio Departments of Aging and Insurance located at service tables to answer your questions.

Come with great expectations for information, education, and a wonderful time.

The PERI 2000 Annual Meeting will be held at the Villa Milano, 1630 Schrock Rd, Columbus, (see map) on Tuesday, September 26, 2000.

Registration will be from 9 to 10 a.m., the business meeting begins at 10 a.m., and the luncheon at 12:30 p.m.

THEY'RE YOUR OFFICERS: BE SURE TO VOTE

On Page 4 of this newsletter, you will find your official ballot for PERI officers. Please mark your selections. Then tear off the page, fold it and tape the edge. Don't forget to apply a 33-cent postage stamp. You will find information about the candidates on Pages 2 and 3.



CANDIDATES FOR PERI OFFICES
Sitting, left to right, Lois Downour, Marjorie Belville and Lucille Critchfield. Standing: Bill Cook, Tom Skipton and Don Moyer. William Kuhner was not present. Details on Page 2.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Because meals have to be ordered and paid for in advance, we need to receive your written application and payment in full prior to 5 P.M., Friday, September 8, 2000. Tickets for registration with the meal are \$20 per person. Tickets for registration without the meal are \$5 per person. Since we have to pay whether you attend or not, there can be no refunds.

At this year's meeting, participants will have the choice of two entrees, Chicken Piccata or Orange Roughy. If you are making reservations for more than one person, please list each person's name separately and indicate their meal choice. If no meal choice is indicated the participant will receive the Chicken Piccata. (see registration form elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Please make your check out to PERI and mail to 659-F Park Meadow Road, Westerville, Ohio 43081.

Your Annual Meeting packet will be at the Registration table when you arrive, so you will not receive any information prior to the event.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE PRESENTS CANDIDATES FOR PERI OFFICES

The Nominating Committee has submitted the following candidates for the 2000 election. Board members on the committee were: Bill Cook, chairman, William Kuhner, and Frank Vaughner. District members on the committee were Albinus Miller-2, Noel Stephenson-4, Norma Riggs-6, Robert Poland-8, and Baker Herbert-10.

All PERI members are urged to cast ballots by returning the ballot on Page 3 to PERI, 659-F, Park Meadows Rd., Westerville, OH 43081. Ballots must be received at the PERI office by 5 p.m., Sept. 15, 2000.

LUCILLE CRITCHFIELD Candidate for President

Lucille Critchfield was clerk of the Richland County Board of Elections for 7 years and is still an active member of that Board. For 4 years she was assistant clerk of the Mansfield City Council and was employed as 5th District Field Representative of the Ohio Department of Highway Safety. Prior to her Public Service, she served as the financial secretary of Dominion Electric and was a committee woman for the IAM Local 1403.

Lucille has been actively involved in, and is a past President of, the PERI Chapter in Richland county. In 1990 she was elected to the PERI Board of Directors as the District 5 Representative. Lucille has served PERI as 3rd Vice-President (1992-1994), 2nd Vice-President (1995-1997), 1st Vice-President (1998-1999) and is currently its president. She has been active in legislative and financial interests of the organization, previously serving as chairman of the Finance Committee. As president she attends chapter, district, and numerous public meetings to represent the PERI perspective on a variety of issues.

WILLIAM J. (BILL) KUHNER JR. Candidate for 1st Vice-President

Bill Kuhner went to Ohio University where he received his BS degree in Education in 1947. Upon graduation, Bill worked with the Ohio Department of Transportation before moving on to the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services where he retired in 1988 with 42 years of service credit.

Shortly after retiring, Bill joined PERI

and became actively involved in his local chapter in Ross County. He has served his chapter in various positions including its presidency. In 1992 Bill was elected to the State PERI Board as District 7 Representative. In 1999, he was elected as 2nd Vice President, and in May 2000 he was appointed to the position of PERI 1st Vice President. Bill has served on the Audit, Constitution, Program, Legislative, and Nominating committees. He currently chairs the Membership/Education Committee and has always been committed to helping our chapters grow in content, fun, and numbers.

LOIS DOWNOUR Candidate for 2nd Vice-President

Lois Downour attended the University of Toledo. In 1957 she went to work for the Planned Parenthood Agency of Toledo. After 10 years, Lois transferred to the Lucas County Welfare Department where she worked as a caseworker for another 10 years. In 1977 Lois took on the supervisor responsibilities of the Aid for Dependent Children Unit and continued in that position until she retired in 1987.

Lois joined PERI shortly after her retirement and immediately became actively involved in her local Lucas County Chapter. She was elected to represent the members of District 1 on the PERI Board in 1993. In 1999 she was elected as PERI 3rd Vice President and served as such until May 2000 when she was appointed to the office of 2nd Vice President. Her service on the Board of Directors includes chairwoman of the Finance Committee and participation on the Membership/ Education, Chapter, and Legislative Committees. Lois' enthusiasm for the importance of local chapter participation has brought to pass three active chapters in Lucas county as well as increased membership in every other chapter in the district.

BILL COOK Candidate for 3rd Vice-President

Bill Cook, after graduating from Galion High School, served his country in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. He began his public employment as director of the Comprehensive Employment & Training Act Program

(CETA) under the Crawford County Commissioners. Later, he moved to the Crawford County Auditor's office, and then to the Galion City Schools, where he retired in 1996.

Bill has been very busy during his retirement years. In addition to his work for PERI, he holds leadership positions in several other organizations in his local area including: the Cemetery Board, the Concert Association, his local church, and the Board of Zoning Appeals.

In 1997, Bill, a respected and active member of the Crawford County Chapter, was elected by the members of District 5 to be their Representative on the PERI Board. During his tenure on the Board, Bill has served on the Legislative, Membership, Chapter, Education, and Nominating Committees. He currently serves as chairman of the Nominating Committee.

DONALD F. MOYER Candidate for 3rd Vice-President

Don Moyer, a native of Zanesville, attended the Muskingum Area Technical College and Ohio University. His public service was on the Muskingum County Board of Elections. A past member of the Naval Reserve, Don has always kept busy in his coin-operated laundry and apartment rental businesses.

An active member in his local Muskingum County chapter of PERI, Don was elected to represent the members of District 8 in 1996. Under Don's leadership, District 8 has grown in membership winning the 1999 Awards for "Greatest percentage of growth" and "Greatest percentage of chapter members to eligible PERI members". As a Board member, Don has been on various committees including Membership/ Chapter Education, Finance, and Constitution. He has chaired the Nominating and Audit Committees. In addition to his very active role as District 8 Representative, Don, stays on top of all legislative concerns that would or could affect retirees.

Don is married to the former Evelyn Timmel, and they have eight children and 18 grandchildren.

MARJORIE BELVILLE Candidate for Treasurer

Marjorie Belville began her public employment in Columbus with the Office of Price Stabilization. She worked in that

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CANDIDATES

(Continued from Page 2)

department from 1950 until the office moved in 1952. At that time she returned to Jackson, Ohio, and worked for the US Atomic Energy Commission at its Portsmouth operation. She completed her career as a Claims Examiner for the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services.

Upon her retirement in 1987, Marjorie joined PERI and became very involved in her local Hocking County chapter. In 1990 she was elected by the members of District 8 to be their representative on the PERI Board. As a member of the Board, she served on the Chapter, Finance, and Audit Committees; and has chaired the Program Committee. When her three consecutive two-year term limit as a District Representative ended in 1996, she continued to be active in her local chapter and as a resource person for the Board. In 1998, at the encouragement of the Board, Marjorie's name was placed in nomination for the position of PERI Treasurer. She was elected to the position in 1998 and again in 1999. Marjorie continues to be a giving and faithful servant to all of Ohio's retired public employees.

THOMAS R. SKIPTON
Candidate for Treasurer

Tom Skipton attended Ohio University and OSU where he received his B.S. degree in commerce with a major in accounting. Tom worked for the School Employees Retirement System from 1957-1991 where he served 16 years as controller and 12 years as assistant director-office services. His outside activities include: past director of the State Employees Credit Union, church and civic groups, and membership in the Association of Records Managers and Administrators.

Upon his retirement in 1991, Tom became a Life time member of PERI and joined his local Franklin County Chapter where he has served as treasurer for many years. He was elected as the PERI state treasurer in 1994 and served in that capacity until 1999. During that time, in addition to his treasurer's duties, Tom was actively involved in legislative issues and represented PERI at the NCPERS legislative conference in Washington, D.C.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

Again, under the new law, a retiree, beneficiary, and disability recipient will have his or her benefit recalculated using the new 2.2% multiplier for the first 30 years. This recalculation will provide an increase in the retirement benefits; the actual increase to a retiree will depend upon the year and the circumstances under which he or she retired. The benefit increase should be reflected in your October or November check.

It should be noted that for law enforcement members, 2.5 percent of final average salary for the first 25 years of service will be used in the retirement recalculation. Currently, for law enforcement members 2.5 percent is used for only the first 20 years of service and 2.1 percent is used for all years thereafter.

Under the second provision of the new law, current retirees who retired prior to 1980 will receive an ad hoc increase. These retirees will be given the ad hoc increase because inflation has eaten away more than 15 percent of the original purchasing power.

There was a third provision in the bill as introduced. This provision would have changed the cost of living adjustment (COLA) to provide a yearly 3% COLA for each retiree regardless of the Consumer Price Index. However, this provision was removed from the bill in committee and the Ohio Retirement Study Council has been asked to study this issue further.

There is another provision in the bill with which PERI has concerns. This is the provision that will require PERS to establish defined contribution plans (alternative retirement plans). The

PERI ANNUAL MEETING MAP

Villa Millano 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

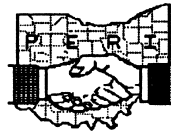
Tuesday, September 26, 2000
Registration 9:00 to 10:00 A.M.
Business Meeting 10 A.M. to Noon
Luncheon: 12:30 to 3:00 P.M.

Association has been opposed to the establishment of these alternative retirement plans. However, if we must have these alternative retirement plans PERI would prefer having them established, offered, and operated by PERS as opposed to the structure contemplated by other bills currently pending before the Ohio General Assembly.

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Registration and Luncheon Reservations for the PERI 2000 Annual Meeting				
			chicken	fish
first name	initial	last name		
first name	initial	last name	chicken	fish
first name	initial	last name		
first name	initial	last name	chicken	fish
first name	initial	last name		
County _____	Please Circle meal choice.			
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 8, 2000. Your packets will be at the Registration desk.				

OFFICIAL



BALLOT

Ballots need to be received at the State office no later than 5 P.M. September 15, 2000 to be counted in the vote.

For the Office of:

YES

NO

President:

Lucille Critchfield

1st Vice President:

William J. Kuhner Jr.

2nd Vice President:

Lois Downour

Fold bottom of page even with this line and crease at bend. Fold top of form even with the lower crease and crease the top. Turn form around and put one 3/4 inch tape tab (or staple) at the top center of the form. Affix (33¢) postage and mail.

Official PERI Ballot for the Office of 3rd Vice President

Vote for no more than one person for each position. Place an in the box in front of your candidate's name.

Donald F. Moyer

or

Bill Cook

All Officer terms, except treasurer, begin at the end of the Annual Meeting and run through the next Annual Meeting.

Official PERI Ballot for the Office of Treasurer

Vote for no more than one person for each position. Place an in the box in front of your candidate's name.

Marjorie Bellville

or

Thomas Skipton

The term of Treasurer begins January 1, and runs through December 31.



Put
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Here

Public Employee Retirees, Inc.
659-F Park Meadow Road
Westerville, Ohio 43081

Attn: Nominating Committee

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



Over the past several months we have been working with PERS and the Ohio General Assembly in an effort to secure the passage of the pension improvement Bill, HB 628. On June 21 the Governor signed the bill, which will take effect September 21, 2000. We will begin receiving the improved benefits on October 1. PERS is making every effort to have the increases incorporated into our October check; however, if they can not make that deadline, the increases, including the October amount, will be included in our November check.

One last minute amendment was attached to the bill that we are very unhappy about. The amendment seems innocent on the surface, because it simply requires PERS to conduct a study of alternate retirement plans and to report its findings to the legislative leadership. The problem is that the amendment was promoted by and is the result of a nationwide effort by insurance companies and stock brokers to get their hands on the retirement funds of state employees. We view this as a threat to the very existence of our pension program as we know it today.

Ohio's PERS is a defined benefit program. Simply stated, we paid the required contribution rate, and the State of Ohio guaranteed us a predetermined pension amount. When private vendors, such as insurance companies and stock brokers, get involved; they make a concerted effort to sell the idea of greater returns and pension amounts. Current workers can be taken in by

these promises of riches without fully evaluating the potential disaster of their investments not working out and them being left with nothing.

Do you remember the old saying "if it ain't broke, don't fix it?" Ohio's PERS has served its retired workers better than any other state retirement system in the country. Since 1948, we retirees have worked hand in hand with the PERS Administrators and the Ohio General Assembly to build a fiscally sound retirement system and benefit package. Because we have such a sound system, the wolves now want to come in and tap its resources.

As concerned retirees, you need to let your local Senator and Representative know that you are opposed to any changes in concept to the setup and operation of our pension system. If current employees feel they can make big money in the stock market, they certainly have the freedom to do so. Their state pension; however, should remain on solid ground.

On a lighter note, I look forward to seeing you all at the Annual Meeting. We will be recapping the year, meeting the new PERS Executive Director, and having a wonderful time of just being together.

Lucille Critchfield

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

(Continued from page 3)

SENATE BILL No. 144

This new law will give a greater distribution to an employee who leaves public employment and who takes his money out of the system; it also

applies if a member dies prior to retirement and the survivor takes a refund. Under the provision, if a person worked: a) 0-5 years, he would receive his contributions with interest; b) 5-10 years, he would receive his contributions with interest and then he would receive an additional amount equal to 33% of his contribution plus interest; c) 10 or more years, he would receive his contributions with interest and an additional 67% of his contribution plus interest. The interest rate credited on the member's contribution, for the vast majority, will be 4% annual compound interest. It should be noted that these additional amounts are not paid if the member is a reemployed retiree. Nor does it apply to sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, and township police in PERS-LE who will be eligible to retire at age 48 with 25 years of service.

Public Employee Retirees, Inc.

659-F Park Meadow Rd.

Westerville, Ohio 43081-2879

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

Lucille CritchfieldPresident
William J. Kuhner, Jr.1st Vice President
Lois Downour2nd Vice President
Marjorie Belville.....Treasurer
William E. Covert.....Past President
William I. WinegarnerAdministrator
Terri LeeBookkeeper
Howard E. Frisbee.....Editor
John Gilchrist.....Legislative Agent

District Representatives

Leland Codding	Joseph C. Speakman
Bill Cook	Beverly Sycks
Evelyn George	Stanley C. Wyllie
Mary McDowell	Earnest J. Wymer
Donald Moyer	Frank Vaughan

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