

# THE PERI NEWSLETTER

Issued by PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREES, INC.

**JULY - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2001**

## In This Issue:

Update on COLA bill, double-dipping, and keeping PERS out of Social Security – p. 1

PERI Candidates profiles – p. 2, 3

Recommended changes to PERI constitution – p. 4

Annual Meeting information – p. 5

New bookkeeper in PERI office – p. 6

We welcome your input and questions.  
Contact us at:

614-891-6868  
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[www.operi.org](http://www.operi.org)

## Legislative Report



### COLA Passes House Before Summer Recess

As of this writing, House Bill number 157, the one that provides for a standard annual 3% cost of living allowance (COLA), has passed in the House of Representatives. The Bill was the last one acted upon before the summer recess. We now have to wait patiently until the General Assembly re-assembles some time in September.

When the Legislators are back together, the Ohio Senate will begin their work on the Bill. If they approve it “as is,” it will be “enrolled” (put in official language) and presented to the Governor who will have 10 days to sign it, veto it, or let it pass without his signature.

If the Senate makes any modifications, it will go to a joint House and Senate conference committee to iron out the differences. If they can agree, it is back to the House, back to the Senate, and on to the Governor.

We keep informed on all legislation that affects retirement system operations or benefits. One such Bill is HB 84. Even though the PERI Board of Directors has decided to take no official position on this piece of legislation, we kept a watchful eye on it as it progressed through the General Assembly.

The Bill addresses the issue of double-dipping by elected officials who were collecting a pension and a salary for the same position. The Bill was introduced, after a public uproar over a number of judges who briefly retired at the end of one term, knowing they would be back in office for their newly elected term.

*(continued on page 2)*



### A Message From Your President

As we approach the 30th Annual Meeting since our incorporation in 1970, I look forward to being with all of you once again. [Editors note: Retirees were first organized in 1948 under the name Public Employees League of Ohio]

During my short years of service to PERI, I often think of the founder of the association, Hobart Scott, who labored for 20 years never gaining more than 100 members. Hobart not only volunteered his time, but also financed almost everything from his own pocket. He recognized the need for retirees to be organized for the purpose of keeping informed about legislation that could have an impact on our pensions. He saw the need for strength of numbers to work for improved benefits. But in his most positive moments, I don't believe that he ever envisioned that some day we would be 50,000 members strong, with 93 chapters across the state of Ohio, and more than 5,000 members

*(continued on page 2)*

## A Message From Your President

*(continued from page 1)*

living throughout the United States.

During these past 30 years, we have grown to where we are today, because men and women of vision followed in Hobart's footsteps. In 1992 the board made the decision to improve our ability to communicate to retirees. We modernized our office equipment by moving away from typewriters and 3 x 5 cards into the computer age. Our state officers have volunteered more of their time to help our district representatives. Our district representatives have volunteered more of their time so they lend a greater hand to our chapter officers. The officers and member in our local chapters have volunteered more of their time to accept positions of leadership and to help communicate to others the great value of participating in a local chapter in order to become more informed.

It has taken the commitment of our predecessors and all of us to build the quality association we have today. Some members are only capable of supporting us with their membership dues, others have the desire and health to participate in chapters, and others have the courage to take leadership responsibilities. It has taken each and every one of us to build and maintain a strong association that is cost conscious and effective.

I want to take this time to thank each of you for all that you have done.

Even though we are only halfway to where we desire to be in membership numbers, I am confident that we will achieve our goals, as we continue to be fiscally sound with a dedication to volunteerism.

I am looking forward to greeting all of you at the annual meeting in September, so get prepared for a wonderful time of fellowship and a wealth of current information on legislative issues and the condition of our retirement system.



**Lucille Critchfield**

Lucille has been actively involved her local PERI chapter in Richland County. She was elected to the Board of Directors as a district representative in 1990. Lucille has served PERI as 3rd Vice - President (1992-1994), 2nd Vice - President (1995-1997), 1st Vice-President (1998-1999) and has served as PERI president since 1999. She has been active in legislative and financial interests of the organization, previously serving as chairwoman of the Finance Committee. As president she has attended various meetings with PERS officials to represent PERI interests.

Lucille 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 four years and was employed as 5th District field representative of the Ohio Department of Highway Safety for four years. Earlier, she served as the financial secretary for 21 years for Dominion Electric and was committeewoman for the IAM Local 1403.



**Bill Cook**

Mr. Cook served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. After his return, he was employed as director of the Comprehensive Employment & Training Act (CETA) in Crawford County. Later, he moved to the Auditor's office and then the Galion City Schools, where he retired in 1996.

Bill joined PERI in 1996. In 1997 Bill, an active member of the Crawford County Chapter, was elected by the members of District 5 to be their representative on the PERI Board of Directors. During his tenure on the Board, Bill has served on the Legislative, Membership, Chapter Education, Program and Nominating Committees.

Bill lives in Galion with his wife of 46 years, the former Shirley Gledhill. They have two children and four grandchildren.

Bill also holds leadership positions in several other organizations including: the Board of Zoning Appeals, the Cemetery Board, the Concert Association, and his church.

## Legislative Report *(continued from page 1)*

The Bill passed the House and was sent on to the Senate. In the Senate, an amendment was added that would allow an elected official to receive their pension and salary, if the official files a written declaration of intent to retire with the Board of Elections 90 days prior to the election. The purpose of the filing is to alert the voters of the candidate's intentions. The Bill has now passed the House and Senate and awaits the Governor's signature.

The only other active piece of legislation (that relates to us) is SCR 7 (Senate Concurrent Resolution), which memorializes (asks) the United States Congress to defeat any federal legislation that would require Ohio's public employees to participate in Social Security. The resolution has passed the House and Senate. Because SCR 7 is a Resolution and not a Bill, it does not require any action by the Governor.

We are pleased with this resolution, because the PERI Board is firmly against any action by the U.S. Congress that would force future and some current state employees into the troubled Social Security system.

Even though Legislative activity will slow down over the next few months, we will be keeping our "ear to the ground" to protect our member's pensions and benefits.

### William J. Kuhner Jr.



Shortly after retiring, Bill joined PERI and became active in his local chapter in Ross County. He has served his chapter in various positions including its presidency. Elected to the State PERI Board of Directors as District 7 representative. In 1999 he was elected as 2nd Vice President, and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President in 2000. Bill has served on the Audit, Constitution, Program, Legislative, and Nominating committees and has chaired the Membership/Education Committee. He is currently the chairman of the Constitutional Review Committee. He is committed to chapter growth and health, and visits chapter meetings across the state.

Bill is a graduate of Ohio University where he received his B.S. degree in Education in 1947. Upon graduation, he 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.

### Donald F. Moyer



Don Moyer, a native of Zanesville, attended the Muskingum Area Technical College and Ohio University. His public service was on the County Board of Elections.

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 & 2000 Awards for "Greatest Percentage of Growth" and "Greatest Percentage of Chapter Members to Eligible PERI members."

As a board member, Don has served 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President, Don stays on top of all legislative concerns that would or could affect retirees.

Don is married to the former Evelyn Stimmel. They have eight children and 19 grandchildren.

### Mary McDowell



Mrs. McDowell has been the District 4 Representative since 1995 and has served on the Chapter Development, Legislative, Membership, Education, Program (chair), Constitution, Audit, and Finance Committees. Mary has the reputation for being extremely knowledgeable and enjoyable to work with.

Mary retired from the City of Middletown with 26 years of service. She worked three years for the health commissioner and 23 years with four city managers. She is an active volunteer at the Middletown Memorial Hospital and Meals on Wheels. She has also helped with Middfest, the Bicentennial Commission, the National Hot Air Balloon office, and chaired the residential division of the United Way campaign. Mrs. McDowell and her husband, Glenn, have celebrated 59 years together. They have three married daughters and sons-in-law, and five grandchildren.

### Floyd C. Smith



I became a Crawford County Deputy Sheriff in 1953 and was elected Sheriff in 1969. I served as President of the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association in 1980. I retired in 1981 with 34 years in the PERS system. I have been a life member of PERI since that time. I married Donna B. Coutts on June 13, 1948. We are parents of five daughters, thirteen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

I served as the 1st President of the Crawford County Chapter and continue to remain very active. I was appointed to the position of District 5 Representative and I was 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President in 1998 and 99. I have served on the following committees: Audit, Finance, Legislative, Program, Chapter, Nominating, and Constitution and By Laws. Of all the associations I am affiliated with, I feel PERI is the most important, as it protects our retirement and benefits.

### Donald E. Eley



Don's PERI service began in 1993 as president of the Darke County Chapter. Since then he served six years as District 3 representative, and has been an active member of the Audit, Nominating, Finance, Program and Chapter Development Committees. During Don's chairmanship of the Chapter Development Committee (1994-1998) local chapters took root, grew in numbers, and flourished across the state. Don has the admiration of his fellow retirees in his local chapter and District.

A veteran of World War II, Don's public service included 22 years with the Ohio Department of Transportation in Sidney, Ohio.

He is a 50-year member of the New Madison United Methodist Church and is president of the Darke County U.M. Men's Brotherhood and a past master of the Fort Black Masonic Lodge.

For 47 years he has been married to his wife Marilyn. They have four children, nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

### Thomas R. Skipton



When Tom Skipton's wife asked him why he was running for Treasurer, it made him stop and think. He had previously been treasurer of PERI from 1994-1998 and felt he was amply qualified and knows what the task entails.

Though he feels strongly about new people taking an active role in the organization, he also knows how difficult it is to get people to accept a position of leadership. Tom feels that when asked to help, one should be willing to do their part and not always rely on "George" to do it.

He also thinks there are numerous state and federal issues coming along which definitely will impact PERS. Therefore, PERI must be an active participant to safeguard the benefits of its retirees.

Tom wants to help protect PERS and its benefits and is once again running for treasurer of PERI.

## Recommended Changes For The PERI Constitution

After review by, and the recommendation of, the Constitutional Review Committee, the 14 members of the PERI Board of Directors present at its May 15, 2001 meeting signed a petition to submit the recommended constitutional changes to the membership for their approval.

With the advent of computer bookkeeping it is no longer practical for an elected Treasurer to personally keep the books. Our Treasurer must rely on a staff member to do the physical work, while he or she takes the oversight. The current constitutional wording gives us the latitude to do this, and we have been functioning this way for the past three years. The Constitutional Review Committee and the Board agrees, that for the purpose of clarity, the Constitution should spell this out. The word "Secretary" has been added to the position, because the Treasurer is also responsible for keeping all official records of the Corporation.

In addition to the wording describing the position of Treasurer, the committee and Board recommends a new section be added for clarity under the Director Article (Article V), and the moving of one sentence from the District Representative Article (Article IX) to the Director Article (Article V).

Added words, or parts of words, are enclosed in [ ]. Omitted words are noted with a strike through.

ARTICLE VI: Section 1. The officers of the Corporation shall be a President, a 1st Vice-President, a 2nd Vice-President, a 3rd Vice President, a [Secretary/]Treasurer, and the Immediate Past President. These officers shall constitute the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have supervision of the affairs of the Corporation between regularly scheduled Board of Directors meetings.

Article VI, section 4:

The [Secretary/]Treasurer shall [be responsible for overseeing the receipt and deposit of] ~~receive~~ all monies paid to this Corporation, and shall [insure they are deposited] ~~deposit them~~ in such depository[ies] as the Board of Directors may direct and shall [insure they are] disburse[d] ~~such funds~~ as authorized by the Board of Directors.

He or she shall [oversee the keeping of] ~~keep~~ the accounts [and records] of the Corporation and render a report at the regularly scheduled Board of Directors Meetings, the organization's Annual Meeting, and at such other times as the President, Executive Committee, or Board of Directors may require.

He or she shall make all corporate records, accounts, and books available to the Board of Directors, and/or auditors named by the Board of Directors, at all times.

He or she shall be required to give a bond for the faithful discharge of his or her duties in an amount to be fixed by the Board of Directors. The Premium for such bond shall be paid by this Corporation.

He or she shall [insure that no funds are distributed] ~~distribute no funds~~, except a small petty cash account, or ~~pay~~ no bills [paid] unless the [distribution or payment is approved] ~~check is signed~~ by himself or herself and the President. In the case of absence or incapacity of [the Treasurer or] the President[,], a Vice-President may [grant his or her approval] ~~countersign~~ in his or her place.

NOTE: The following new section to be added to Article V as Section 3 and the current sections 3, 4, and 5 are to be renumbered as sections 4, 5, and 6

[ARTICLE V Section 3: Directors (Officers and Representatives) are required to attend Board of Director meetings.]

ARTICLE V Section 4 [5]: The Board of Directors may appoint a successor to fill a vacant un-expired term of any member of the Board except President. [An appointment to fill an un-expired term does not restrict an individuals eligibility to be elected for three (3) consecutive terms.]

NOTE: The added last sentence in Article V Section 4 [5] above has been moved from the existing Article IX section 7.

ARTICLE IX Section 7: District Representatives may be elected to the same office for no more than three (3) consecutive terms. ~~An appointment to fill an un-expired term does not restrict an individuals eligibility to be elected for three (3) consecutive terms.~~

**On your ballot there is a place to vote for or against the recommended changes to the Constitution.**

## PERI PLANS 2001 ANNUAL MEETING

PERI's 2001 Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 25, 2001 at the Villa Milano Conference Center in Columbus.

Registration will be from 9 to 10 a.m. Coffee cake, coffee, and tea will be available during that time.

The business meeting will start at 10 a.m. and will feature reports from the Administrator, Treasurer, Legislative Counsel, and President. The Nominating Chairmen will announce the new Officers for the remainder of 2001 through the Annual Meeting in 2002. To complete the program we will have Mr. Neil Toth, PERS Investment Officer, and Mrs. Laurie Hacking, PERS Executive Director as our keynote speakers.

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

There will be a luncheon after the business meeting where you can enjoy fellowship with your fellow retirees. The meal choices this year will be Honey Mustard Chicken or Broiled Orange Roughy, served with appropriate accompaniments and desert.

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

### 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 7, 2001.

Tickets for registration and the Luncheon are \$20 per person. Tickets for registration only are \$10 per person. Please keep in mind that we have to pay whether you attend or not, so there can be no refunds.

If you are making reservations for more than one person, please list each person's name separately, along with their meal choice.

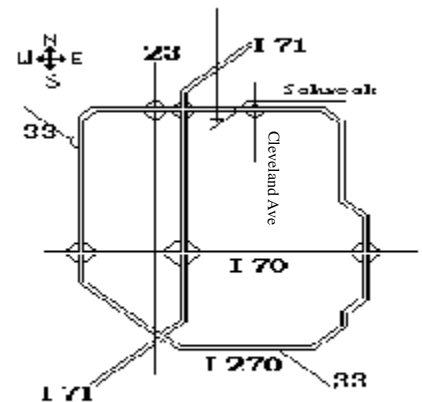
Those registering for the meeting only may participate in the continental breakfast and will be seated at tables in a special balcony section that is NOT set up for meal service.

Your Annual Meeting packet will be at the Registration table when you arrive. **Please do not send your registration in the ballot envelope.** The ballots are not opened until shortly before the meeting and there would be no time to process your registration.



### PERI ANNUAL MEETING MAP

Villa Milano 614-882-2058



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(right) side of the Street.

#### Annual Meeting

Tuesday, September 25, 2001  
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.

*Partners in Retirement*

#### Registration and Luncheon Reservations for the PERI 2001 Annual Meeting

first name	initial	last name	Chicken	Fish
first name	initial	last name	Chicken	Fish
first name	initial	last name	Chicken	Fish
first name	initial	last name	Chicken	Fish

**Please Circle Meal**

County \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Registrations with out meals: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00= \$\_\_\_\_\_

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

Make check payable to PERI and mail to arrive no later than Friday, September 7, 2001.

“DO NOT MAIL WITH THE BALLOT” Your packets will be at the RegistrationDesk.

