

THE NEWSLETTER

Issued by PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREES, INC.

Third Quarter 2003

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We welcome your
input and questions.

Contact us at:

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Legislative Report



John Gilchrist

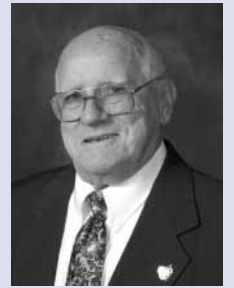
There has been a great deal of legislative activity of late on a number of bills that are of concern to PERI. Many of these bills either attempt to allow individuals to transfer into OPERS or allow them to transfer from OPERS to OPERS-LE. The main concerns relate to creating unfunded liabilities and putting further pressure on the Health Care Fund at a time when OPERS is contemplating cuts in health care benefits for retirees. As you are aware, we have been attending meetings at OPERS to come to grips with the financial problems facing OPERS's Health Care Fund. Because of double digit inflation in health care costs, declining investment returns, and an ever increasing retirement population that is living longer, OPERS's Health Care Fund is in financial straits and could run out of money by 2011.

The bills of concern include the following:

House Bill 32 would allow some 1400 University of Akron non-teaching employees to transfer from SERS to OPERS. Such a move is opposed by SERS because it will have a negative fiscal impact upon SERS' health care program. In addition, there is some indication from actuarial materials and from discussion held at the Ohio Retirement Study Council that such a move could create an unfunded liability for OPERS. More importantly, there has also been some discussion that OPERS might be asked

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A Message From Your President



William J. Kuhner, Jr.

This has been a very interesting year, to say the least.

The focus of our attention has been more on the long-term preservation of our healthcare benefits, than on defeating bad legislation.

That is not to say, that there is an absence of proposed legislation that would be harmful to our pension fund, and be assured that we have not lost our focus on those issues, but rather the OPERS healthcare program has undergone an extensive seven-month review, and we have been a vital part of that process.

There are several principles from which PERI has never varied: 1) Dues should be as low as possible, so that every retiree, regardless of income, can afford to join. 2) The long-term health of the pension fund comes before any request for benefit enhancements. 3) We need to protect our pension fund from outsiders who would raid its assets. 4) And, we need to keep any group from joining OPERS that would cause an unfunded liability.

While retirees, who belong to other retirement systems, lobbied for and received items like "the 13th Check", it

(continued on page 2)

THURBER, ROBINSON TAKE DISTRICT POSTS

Two PERI districts have new faces in leadership roles as Gerald Thurber takes over as District 1 Representative and Wirt Robinson assumes the top position in District 5

Gerald Thurber was appointed to replace Jack Wymer who is now 3rd Vice President of PERI. Thurber was elected to continue as District Representative at the recent District 1 annual meeting. He will be installed at the statewide PERI Annual Meeting to be held in Columbus in September.

Gerald Thurber is retired from Lucas County Job & Family Services and holds a BS degree in Communications from Southern Illinois University. Earlier in his career he was a news reporter and director in both radio and television.

Wirt Robinson, a former President of Chapter 75, was a 35-year employee of Marion Correctional Institute where he was a Correctional Supervisor at the time of his retirement. He is also involved in amateur radio and serving on his Masonic drill team. He replaces Floyd C. Smith who died February 3 after a long illness. Wirt Robinson was elected to this post at the recent District 5 annual meeting.

Legislative Report

(continued from page 1)

to help offset the loss incurred by SERS. If this course of action is pursued, PERI will strongly oppose the bill. We testified before the House Banking, Pension, & Securities Committee to express our concerns.

H. B. No.69 would allow employees of various county and independent agricultural societies to become members of OPERS. However, there are concerns, that these workers are not truly governmental employees. The federal laws under which OPERS operates provide that only governmental employees may be members of the retirement system. Allowing non-governmental employees to join OPERS could negatively affect OPERS' standing under the federal Employees Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), and with the Internal Revenue Service. There are also concerns that if these individuals are allowed to join OPERS, there will be others who will come forward requesting admission. These could include employees of convention bureaus and MRDD boards.

Three House bills would allow certain employees who are currently in OPERS to transfer into the OPERS Law Enforcement program (OPERS-LE). These transfers cause concern because the current contribution rates for OPERS are lower than the contribution rates for OPERS-LE. Also, those in OPERS-LE whose primary duties are preservation of the peace, protection of life and property, and the enforcement of law may retire at age 48 if they have 25 years of law enforcement service. Those other

A Message From Your President

(continued from page 1)

was PERI's adherence to principle number 2, that has helped OPERS keep our healthcare fund in better shape than any of the others.

At this point in time, no final decision has been made on the dollar changes required to keep the healthcare fund in good shape, but from all indications they will not be nearly as radical as those that the other retirement systems have had to make.

I realize that not knowing the details of the changes is very unsettling, but you can be somewhat comforted in the fact that OPERS's healthcare fund is not in dire straights, and the changes that are being considered

are designed to keep it that way.

As a passing thought, I know you know that newspaper articles are written so they will stir your emotions. Rarely, if ever, do they tell the whole story, so I would remind you to respond to them for what they are. When you come across articles, which refer to one of Ohio's pension systems, simply send them into our office, where we can sort the facts from the fiction.

We will continue working with OPERS, and members of the Ohio General Assembly, in our never-ending task of doing what we can to keep our pension and healthcare funds fiscally sound.

members of OPERS-LE whose primary duties are other than to preserve the peace, protect life and property, and enforce the law can retire at age 52 with 25 years of service.

The first bill is House Bill No. 101. It would allow municipal park rangers and township cadets to transfer from OPERS into OPERS-LE. Since the contribution rates for OPERS are lower than the contribution rates that are required to be paid into OPERS-LE, the bill provides a mechanism for equalizing the service credit of the rangers and cadets. Under this mechanism, credit for time in OPERS may be used only if the member does one of the following: (1) pay OPERS the difference between the total amount the member and employer paid as contribution to OPERS and the amount that would have been paid under OPERS-LE, plus interest; or, (2) accept a reduced amount of service credit. The problem with the transfer is that these individuals will be allowed to retire earlier and thus OPERS will be responsible for their health care in retirement for a longer period of time. This is an additional benefit that these individuals have not paid for and it will put an additional strain on the health care fund. The reduction in service credit or payment that they would be required to make in order to transfer only covers the pension portion of the retirement benefit and not health care. Thus, the transfer would create an unfunded liability for the Health Care Fund.

The second bill is House Bill No. 198. It would allow prison correction officers who are currently in OPERS to transfer into OPERS-LE. It would also allow them to purchase earlier service

credit and use it in OPERS-LE. Like the park rangers and township cadets, those transferring would be required to pay the difference in contribution rates or take a reduction in service credit. However, the same health care concerns discussed above would apply.

The third bill is House Bill No. 211. It would allow metropolitan housing authority police officers to transfer from OPERS into OPERS-LE. However, unlike H. B. No. 101 and 198, there is no provision in the bill requiring them to pay the difference between what they paid in contributions and what they would have paid or take a reduction in service credit. This bill would create an unfunded liability as it relates to both the pension and the health care benefits.

In addition to the above, there are two other bills that we have been monitoring, and they deal with re-employment restrictions placed on the ability of elected officials to retire, draw their pension, and return to the same elected position. This practice has been referred to as “double dipping” by the media. Under current law, an elected official can “double dip” if the elected official, not less than 90 days prior to the election, gives notice to the board of elections of his intent to retire before the end of the term.

House Bill No. 63 would repeal this provision and thereby prohibit an elected official from receiving a pension from OPERS while earning a salary for the same term or a subsequent term of the same office.

The other bill, House Bill No. 176, was amended into the budget bill

that just passed. It will allow an elected official to retire and then assume the same office and still collect his retirement benefit if, not less than 90 prior to the primary election, he files a written declaration of his intent to retire before the end of the term. Again, under current law, an elected official can retire and collect a retirement benefit if he gives notification of his intent to retire ninety days prior to the general election. The provision that just passed: changes current law by requiring notification 90 days prior to the primary election.

This same budget bill contains two other provisions of interest to PERI. One provision deals with “double dipping” by an individual who is in a position that is customarily filled by a vote of a board, commission, or legislative authority. Before that individual can retire and be reappointed to the same position, public notice must be given of the meeting during which the reappointment will be acted. Another provision in the budget bill, which was vetoed by the Governor, would have expanded the authority of the Ohio Inspector General to investigate the Ohio Retirement Study Council and the five retirement systems. The Governor stated he vetoed this provision because the retirement systems and the retirement council are subject to state ethics laws and the trustees that serve these entities owe a legally enforceable fiduciary duty to the beneficiaries of each system. Also, the Auditor and Attorney General serve as members of the boards and the Auditor has auditing authority over the systems. Consequently, investigation by the Inspector General is unnecessary.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE !!

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There are three items requiring a vote:

- The PERI annual dues and Lifetime fee amounts**
- The election of officers for 2004**
- The reorganized Constitution.**

Enclosed with this newsletter, you will find a ballot for each of the three items and a return envelope. Please make your selections and place the ballots in the envelope, affix postage, and mail.

Please do not include your Annual Meeting reservation, or any other information in the ballot envelope.

PERI DUES

One of the main principles that the Board of Directors has always held sacred is: keeping the Annual Dues and Life Time Membership Fees as low as possible. The idea behind the principle has been to make membership in PERI available to as many retirees as possible.

Since 1988, our annual dues have been \$7.50 and our Lifetime Fees \$90.00. In that same time period the cost of doing business has almost doubled. Just think of what has happened to the cost of postage, rent, printing, paper, and phone service during those 15 years.

After reviewing the history of our increasing costs, and the fact that we have had to draw increasing amounts from the Lifetime reserves to meet our yearly expenses, the Board saw the critical need to raise the annual dues to \$10.00 and the Lifetime Fee to \$100. This we did in 2003.

It had been so long since dues had been increased, no one recalled at the time that a conformation vote from the membership was also required by the constitution. When we recognized our error, we set up a special account for the difference of \$2.50 in annual dues and the \$10.00 in Lifetime Fees, and have been holding them in reserve until the membership had the opportunity to vote on the increase.

The Board is asking for your approval, on the enclosed ballot, to keep the Annual Membership Dues at \$10.00 per year, and the Lifetime Membership fee at \$100.

OFFICERS FOR 2004

Please see the ballot sheet for the list of candidates.

REORGANIZED CONSTITUTION

The PERI Constitution is printed on pages 5 to 8. Words or sentences that are crossed out indicate either a deletion, or a revision of the wording. Bold words indicate an addition.

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PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREES, INC.

Adopted September 26, 1995

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this Corporation shall be:
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREES, INC.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this non-profit, non-partisan Corporation shall be: to support and protect our retirement system and its benefits; to promote educational resources and programs for public employee retirees; to study and compare O.P.E.R.S. with other retirement systems; to acquaint the members with legislation pertaining to the general welfare of **Ohio's** public employee retirees; and to provide a means for the fellowship of its members.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: The membership of the Corporation shall be limited to those who are receiving retirement pensions and/or survivor or disability benefits from the **Ohio** Public Employees Retirement System of ~~Ohio~~.

Section 2. There shall be two types of memberships: Regular and Life.

Section 3. Regular Membership shall be granted to and held by those who have paid the required dues. Regular Membership shall be on a calendar year basis. (January 1 through December 31 or any part thereof).

Section 4. Life Membership shall be granted to and held by those who have paid the, then required, one time single payment. Life Memberships do not transfer to a surviving spouse.

ARTICLE IV: GOVERNMENT

Section 1: The Corporation shall be governed by the majority of its voting membership.

Prior to August 15, all members of record as of July 31 shall be notified in writing of all items requiring a vote. An official ballot or ballots shall be included with the notification.

Notification shall be considered satisfied by placement of the required material in the hands of the U.S. Postal Service.

The official ballots received at the Corporation's main office prior to 5 P.M. September 15 shall constitute the voting membership. Should September 15 fall on a Saturday or Sunday, the date will be extended to the ensuing Monday.

Section 2: ~~The operation of the corporation shall be overseen by a representative body, of elected or appointed members.~~ (To correct grammar)

A representative body, of elected or appointed members, shall oversee the operation of the corporation.

Section 3: The representative body shall be called: The Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of six (6) Officers and eleven (11) District Representatives.

ARTICLE V. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: The Board of Directors is to adopt by-laws and establish operating procedures for the Corporation, and shall have supervision of the affairs of the Corporation between, its Annual Meetings. It is to fix the hour and place of special and annual meetings, make proposals to the membership; promote, authorize, and charter local Chapters; develop and adopt criteria for Chapter operations; and perform such other duties as authorized by the Constitution.

Section 2: ~~Regular meetings of the Board of Directors, shall be scheduled by the Board of Directors.~~ (To correct grammar) **The Board of Directors shall schedule regular meetings.** Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President and shall be called by the President upon the written request of three (3) members of the Board of Directors.

Section 3: Directors (Officers and Representatives) are required to attend Board of Director meetings. (Amended 9/25/2001)

Section 4: A position on the Board of Directors shall be considered vacant when the member holding that position has died, resigned, or been removed for incapacity or absenteeism (absent from three (3) consecutive Board of Directors' meetings without the approval of the Board).

Section 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 individual's eligibility to be elected for three (3) consecutive terms. (Amended 9/25/2001)

Section 6: In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, a Vice-President, in order of sequence, shall take over the office and duties of President through the next Annual Meeting. **In such a case, the other Vice-Presidents would automatically move up one or more positions to fill any vacant position.**

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS

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. (Amended 9/25/2001)

Section 2: The President shall preside at all meetings, appoint all committees, except Nominating, be chairman of the Board of Directors, be chairman of the Executive Committee, and shall have such further duties as ordinarily pertain to an office of President.

Section 3. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Vice-Presidents shall chair at least one of the following committees: Chapter, Finance, Legislative, and Audit.

Section 4: The Secretary / Treasurer shall be responsible for overseeing the receipt and deposit of all monies paid to this Corporation, and shall ensure they are deposited in such depositories as the Board of Directors may direct and shall ensure they are disbursed as authorized by the Board of Directors.

He or she shall oversee the keeping of 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 is required~~ 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.~~ **The Corporation shall pay for the cost of the bond.**

He or she shall ensure that no funds are

distributed, except a small petty cash account, or no bills paid, unless the distribution, or payment, is approved by himself or herself, and the President.

In the case of absence or incapacity of the Secretary / Treasurer or the President, a Vice-President may grant his or her approval in his or her place. (Amended 9/25/2001)

Section 5. The Immediate Past President is to provide the input of history, experience, and wisdom to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors. He or she may take on other responsibilities, but is under no obligation to do so.

Section 6. The President ~~and Treasurer, at the discretion of the Board of Directors,~~ may receive a salary commensurate with the time required to carry out ~~their his or her~~ duties. All other Directors serve on a volunteer basis.

Section 7: A Vice-President, in order of sequence, shall preside and take over the duties of President in his or her absence.

ARTICLE VII: TERMS, QUALIFICATIONS, NOMINATIONS, ELECTION, AND APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

Section 1: The term for each officer position shall be one (1) year.

All terms, ~~except for the office of Treasurer,~~ commence at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting and run through the next Annual Meeting.

~~The term for the office of Treasurer commences on January 1 of the year following the election and runs through December 31.~~

No person shall hold the same officer position for more than three (3) consecutive terms.

No person shall hold more than one position on the Board of Directors at the

same time.

Section 2: Minimum qualifications for **Directors Officers:**

A. Member of PERI ~~and their local Chapter.~~

~~B. District Representatives must reside in the District they represent.~~ (Move to Article IX)

~~€ B. Nominees for the office of Secretary / Treasurer must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Board of Directors.~~

~~Ð C. 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, and 3rd Vice-President: one (1) year on the Board of Directors.~~

~~È D. President: Two (2) years on the Board of Directors.~~

Section 3: A Nominating Committee shall be established to receive nominations for all officer positions except the Immediate Past President.

The committee shall be comprised of one (1) member who is not a member of the Board of Directors from each even numbered district during the even numbered years, or one (1) member from each odd numbered district during the odd numbered years; and three (3) members of the current Board of Directors.

A District will select its member by a majority vote of the District's Chapter Presidents, and the Board of Directors will select its nominating committee members by majority vote of the Board.

The Nominating Committee shall select one of its Board members as Chairman.

Section 4: Names to be placed in nomination shall be submitted in writing, addressed to the Nominating Committee, in care of the Corporation's Main Office no later than June 1, and shall be accompanied

with the candidate's resume and a letter stating his or her willingness to serve if elected.

The Nominating Committee shall select no more than two candidates from the pool of nominees for each office and submit their names and resumes, no later than July 1, to the Board of Directors. The Ballot(s) shall then be distributed to the membership in the manner set forth in ARTICLE IV, Section 1.

ARTICLE VIII: DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Section 1: Each of the eleven (11) Districts is to elect a Representative to the Board of Directors.

Section 2: A District Representative is responsible for representing the members of his or her District at the Board of Directors meetings, for being a member of one or more of its Committees, and for providing overall leadership for the well being of the Organization.

Section 3: A District Representative is responsible for communicating with Chapter Presidents and Chapter Legislative **Chairmen Chairs** on matters ~~which that~~ pertain to the organization's goals and actions on legislative matters.

~~Section 4: District Representatives are required to attend Board of Directors meetings.~~
(Already in Section 3 of Article V)

ARTICLE IX: TERMS, QUALIFICATIONS, NOMINATION, ELECTION, AND APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES:

Section 1: District Representatives are elected to a two (2) year term.

District Representatives may be elected to the same office for no more than three (3) consecutive terms. (Amended 9/25/01)

Elected Representatives shall begin their term of office at the close of the **State** Annual Meeting at which they are installed. Appointed Representatives shall begin their service immediately following the Board of Director's Meeting at which they are installed. Representatives shall serve until their successors are elected, or appointed, and installed.

Section 2: Minimum qualifications for District Representatives: (Moved from Article VII)

- A. Member of PERI.**
- B. Reside in the District they represent.**

~~Section 3: Prior to March 15, the District Representative in each District, that is required to hold an election, is to establish a Representative Nominating Committee comprised of its Chapter Nominating Committee Chairperson or his or her alternate~~ **one member from each of its chapters. The District Representative is to set a time and location for the committee meeting, notify its members, and send a list of the names and member file numbers to the Corporation's main office.**

Section 2 4: The Chairperson for the Representative Nominating Committee shall be selected, by a simple majority vote, among the members of the Nominating Committee or in the case of a tie, by one flip of a coin.

Section 3 5: The five (5) even number Districts (2, 4, 6, 8, 10) shall hold elections for Representatives during the even number years. The six (6) odd numbered Districts (1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11) shall hold elections for Representatives during the odd numbered years.

~~The election shall be by ballot and held at the Annual District Meeting during the year requiring an election. A majority vote of the members present and voting shall elect a Representative.~~ (Made into Section 5)

Section 4: No later than April 1, names to be placed in nomination shall be submitted in writing to the Nominating Committee, and shall be accompanied with the candidate's resume and a letter stating his or her willingness to serve if elected.

No later than April 5, the Nominating Committee shall select no more than two candidates and submit their names to the District Representative.

Section 5: The election shall be by ballot and held at the Annual District Meeting, during the year requiring an election. A majority vote of the members present and voting shall elect a Representative. (Moved from Section 3)

~~Section 4 6:~~ **No later than seven days after the election,** the Chairperson of the Representative Nominating Committee shall forward the results of the election, **and the successful candidate's resume,** to the Corporation's main office to the attention of the Board of Directors.

Section 5 7: Should no candidate be nominated or elected by a District or should a vacancy occur between required elections, the Board of Directors may appoint a Representative, or call a special election to elect a Representative.

NOTE: The original Sections 6, 7, and 8 of this article are moved to Section 1 of Article IX

~~Section 6: District Representatives are elected to a two (2) year term.~~

~~Section 7: District Representatives may be elected to the same office for no more than three (3) consecutive terms. (Amended 9/25/01)~~

~~Section 8: Elected Representatives shall begin their term of office at the close of the Annual Meeting at which they are installed. Appointed Representatives shall begin their service immediately following the Board of Director's Meeting at which they are~~

~~installed. Representatives shall serve until their successors are elected, or appointed, and installed.~~

ARTICLE X: DISTRICTS

The State of Ohio shall be divided into eleven (11) Districts as follows:

District 1: Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Williams, Wood.

District 2: Allen, Auglaize, Hardin, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, Shelby, Van Wert.

District 3: Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, Logan, Miami, Montgomery, Preble.

District 4: Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, Highland, Warren.

District 5: Crawford, Hancock, Knox, Marion, Morrow, Richland, Seneca, Wyandot.

District 6: Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Licking, Madison, Pickaway, Union.

District 7: Gallia, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Vinton.

District 8: Athens, Hocking, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Washington.

District 9: Belmont, Carroll, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Tuscarawas.

District 10: Ashland, Cuyahoga, Erie, Huron, Lorain, Medina, Summit, Wayne.

District 11: Ashtabula, Columbiana, Geauga, Lake, Mahoning, Portage, Stark, Trumbul

ARTICLE XI: CHAPTERS

Section 1: Any group of ten (10) or more members of the Corporation may establish a local Chapter by:

A. Adopting the Corporation’s Chapter by-laws.

B. Electing, at least, the three (3) following Chapter Officers: President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

C. Making application with the Board of Directors by submitting a list of the founding members names and membership numbers.

D. Receiving a Chapter Charter from the Board of Directors.

Section 2: The Board of Directors may recall a Chapter’s Charter, upon a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote.

ARTICLE XII: DUES

The organization shall operate on the dues and fees collected, and on the interest or dividends derived there from.

Regular Membership dues and Life Membership fees shall remain the same as in the previous year unless a change is approved by a majority of the voting membership in the manner set forth in Article IV, Section 1.

ARTICLE XIII: LIFE FEE ACCOUNT

Life Membership Fees shall be handled separately from the Regular Membership Dues. They are to be deposited in a separate savings account or accounts referred to as Life Fee Accounts.

Investments shall be limited to: Certificates of Deposits in federally insured full service commercial banks located in the State of Ohio, and/or direct obligations of the United States Government. No investment shall carry a maturity date longer than two (2) years from its date of purchase.

Section 1. All income, whether interest or dividends, derived from Life Fees may be used for expenses by a majority action of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Principal Funds in the Life Fee Accounts or Life Fee Investments may be used for expenses by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XIV: AMENDMENTS

The Constitution may be amended with the ballot approval of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting membership in the manner set forth in Article IV, Section 1.

Section 1: Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by:

A. A petition signed by one (1) percent of the members of record as of April 1 with no more than one third (1/3) of the signers from the same District, or

B. A petition from two (2) districts, signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Chapter Presidents in each District, or

C. A petition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Board of Directors.

Section 2: Petitions to amend the Constitution, in addition to the required signatures, shall include the Article and section to be amended, all articles and sections referenced, and the proposed new wording.

Section 3: Proposed Amendments must be presented to the Board of Directors for signature certification and placement on the ballot no later than June 1 of the year in which a vote is to be taken.

ARTICLE XV: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern the Corporation in all cases which that are not inconsistent with this Constitution, its by-laws, or any special rules of order the Corporation may adopt.

PERI District Roundup

District 1

The Macomber Building in Toledo was the site of the District 1 annual meeting held June 9 with members from seven chapters in attendance.

The meeting included four speakers – **Christy Miller**, an Aetna Representative and **Mike Mussell**, from Medical Mutual, discussed medical coverage for retirees; **Jack Wymer**, PERI 3rd Vice President and former District 1 Representative, spoke on legislative actions being considered in the Statehouse in Columbus that may affect PERI members. **Tom Sherman**, OPERS Government Relations Officer, discussed various House and Senate Bills that would have an impact on OPERS.

During the meeting **Gerry Thurber** was elected as District 1 Representative and **Rupert Schweinhagen** was elected as the district’s Legislative Representative. Both men ran unopposed.

District 2



Among those attending the District 2 annual meeting were (l. to r.):
Jane Cron, Angie Muntzinger,
Joan Bollenbacher, Estella Nusbaum, Evelyn George,
Al Boos and Roger Schwieterman.

Mercer County hosted the District 2 annual meeting on May 13 in Celina with 127 retirees, spouses and guests present from eight surrounding counties. The Hopewell Grange served the luncheon. Chapter 13 President **Roger Schwieterman** served as the meeting’s master of ceremonies. District 2 Representative **Estella Nusbaum** gave the welcome and introduced the eight Chapter Presidents and their members.

Lowell Dock, past president, gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Also recognized was **Evelyn George**, Secretary/Treasurer of the PERI Board of Directors. **Al Boos**, long-time PERI member and current Legislative Chairman for District 2, introduced **Bill Winegarner**, PERI Administrator who was the meeting’s featured speaker. Winegarner’s presentation gave the attendees an in-depth overview on the current status of the health insurance program.



District 2 Representative Estella Nusbaum (left) chats with featured speaker Bill Winegarner, PERI Administrator.

District 5



The Scotch and Sirlain Party House was the site of the District 5 annual meeting on June 3 where 53 members from seven chapters attended the lunchtime gathering. **Wirt Robinson** was elected District 5 Representative. He succeeds the late **Floyd C. Smith** who died February 3.



The featured speaker was **Tom Sherman**, OPERS Government Relations Officer, who spoke on OPERS activities including investment funding and healthcare issues facing the organization and its retirees. **Bill Cook**, former District 5 Representative and current 2nd Vice President of PERI, served as host of the annual meeting.



PERI District Roundup

District 6



District 6 Officers (l. to r.): Norma Riggs, Union County #32 Secretary; Al Bartfay, Franklin County #1 President; and Margaret Remy, Pickaway County #41 Vice President.



Fayette County #40 Officers (l. to r.): Sylvia Hildreth, President; Ron Burkhard, Secretary; Helen Jones, Treasurer; and Gladys Whiteside, Vice President.

Members of District 6 held its annual meeting June 10 at 11 a.m. in Westerville at the MCL Cafeteria. Attending were 32 members from nine chapters. The featured speaker was **Susan Shockey**, an Ohio State University consumer science extension agent from Franklin County. She gave an enlightening presentation on the dispersement of non-titled possessions to heirs titled "Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate." **Joan Grube**, District 6 Representative, says members



Frank Laughlin of Licking County PERI brings everyone up to date on Chapter #23 activities at the District 6 Annual Meeting.

enjoyed all aspects of the meeting.

The meeting included the election of officers. They are: President **Al Bartfay**, Vice President **Margaret Remy** and Secretary **Norma Riggs**.

District 8

Members and guests of Muskingum County Chapter 47 recently toured the Phipp's Conservatory in Pittsburgh during its Spring Butterfly Exhibit. The group enjoyed a luncheon cruise on the riverboat "Gateway Clipper".

Upon returning to Ohio, they dined at Mehlmann's in St. Clairsville. **Edith Moyer**, the chapter's Social Activities Chairperson, reported that everyone returned home safely, tired and happy with their full day of exploring.



District 11

A crowd of 123 PERI retirees from seven active chapters of District 11 attended the May 15 annual meeting at the Ravenna Moose Club to enjoy a noontime Swiss steak lunch. Many attendees carpooled in passenger vans as they came to socialize and hear featured speakers **Lucille Critchfield**, PERI immediate past president, and

Tom Sherman of OPERS. Critchfield spoke on activities by PERI in Columbus on behalf of members and Sherman spoke on the many healthcare issues facing OPERS and the retirement community.

Becky Somerville, District 11 Representative, was unanimously reelected to serve a second two-year

term as the district's representative. She was unopposed for the position.

All attendees enjoyed the 50 door prizes and table favors given to all members and guests.

The **Ashtabula Chapter** extended the offer to host the 2004 annual meeting in their community.



Tuesday, September 23

Villa Milano

Columbus, Ohio

Registration is from 9 to 9:45 a.m.
Pastries, coffee and tea will be available during that time.

The business meeting will start at 10 a.m. and will feature reports from the PERI Administrator, Secretary/Treasurer, Legislative Counsel, and President. The Nominating Chariman will announce the new Officers for the remainder of 2003 through the Annual Meeting in 2004. To complete the program, we will have Mr.

Dan Drake, OPERS Director of Benefits and Mrs. Laurie Hacking, OPERS Executive Director as our keynote speakers.

Before and after the business meeting, we will have representatives from OPERS, Medicare, Medical Mutual, Aetna, Medco Health Solutions, Social Security, Ohio Department of Aging, Deferred Comp and the Ohio Department of

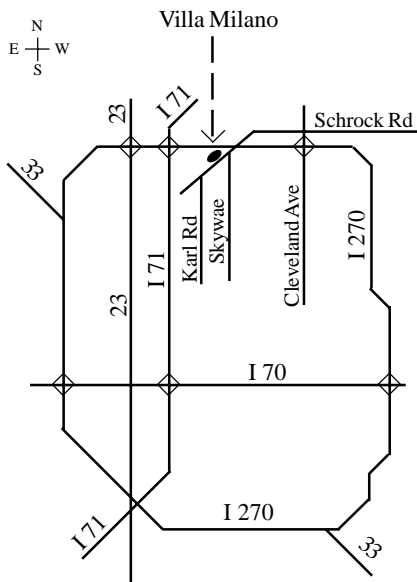
Insurance located at service tables to answer your questions. Lunch will be served after the business meeting. The meal choices this year will be Chicken Cordon Bleu or Broiled Orange Roughy, served with accompaniments and dessert.

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

PERI ANNUAL MEETING MAP

Villa Milano
1630 Schrock Road
(614) 882-2058

Take Cleveland Avenue north off of I-270. Go to the first intersection and turn left onto Schrock Road. Follow Schrock Road for approximately 2 miles to Villa Milano, which is on right (north) side of the street.



Annual Meeting
Tuesday, September 23, 2003

Registration: 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.
Business Meeting: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Luncheon: 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Information and instructions for filling out the Registration Form

Because meals have to be ordered and paid for in advance, **we need to receive your registration form and payment in full prior to 5 p.m., Friday, September 5, 2003.** Registration is \$20 per person. Please be aware 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.**

There will be Annual Meeting packets for you 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 will be no time to process your registration.

Registration Form for the PERI 2003 Annual Meeting

Please circle meal choice:

_____	_____	_____	Chicken	Fish
First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name		
_____	_____	_____	Chicken	Fish
First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name		
_____	_____	_____	Chicken	Fish
First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name		
_____	_____	_____	Chicken	Fish
First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name		

Your County Name _____ Number of Registrations: _____ x \$20.00 = \$ _____

Make check payable to PERI and mail to arrive no later than Friday, September 5, 2003.
DO NOT USE THE RETURN BALLOT ENVELOPE TO MAIL THE ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREES, INC.

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

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

www.operi.org

PERI Officers

William J. Kuhner, Jr. President
 Donald Moyer 1st Vice President
 Bill Cook 2nd Vice President
 Jack Wymer 3rd Vice President
 Evelyn George Secretary/Treasurer
 Lucille Critchfield Past President

PERI Staff/Advisors

William I. Winegarner Administrator
 Mary Ford Data Entry
 Laurie Frithiof Administrative Secretary
 Nancy Heath Bookkeeper
 John Gilchrist Legislative Agent
 Jim Fette Editor

District Representatives

Gerald Thurber	District 1	Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Williams, Wood
Estella Nusbaum	District 2	Allen, Auglaize, Hardin, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, Shelby, Van Wert
Ellsworth Szkudlarek	District 3	Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, Logan, Miami, Montgomery, Preble
Ramon Mick	District 4	Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, Highland, Warren
Wirt Robinson	District 5	Crawford, Hancock, Knox, Marion, Morrow, Richland, Seneca, Wyandot
Joan Grube	District 6	Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Licking, Madison, Pickaway, Union
Frank Vaughan	District 7	Gallia, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Vinton
Bev Calvert	District 8	Athens, Hocking, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Washington
Beverly Sycks	District 9	Belmont, Carroll, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Tuscarawas
Leland Coddling	District 10	Ashland, Cuyahoga, Erie, Huron, Lorain, Medina, Summit, Wayne
Becky Somerville	District 11	Ashtabula, Columbiana, Geauga, Lake, Mahoning, Portage, Stark, Trumbull

Please remember to inform us if you move.

You can call us at (614) 891-6868 or (800) 247-7374

or you can write us at PERI; 659-F Park Meadow Road; Westerville, Ohio 43081

*For information on becoming involved in a Chapter near you,
 call PERI at
 (614) 891-6868 or (800) 247-7374.*