



MONTANA PUBLIC EMPLOYEE
RETIREMENT ADMINISTRATION

DIRECTIONS for Retired Members

◆ 100 North Park Avenue PO Box 200131 Helena MT 59620-0131 ◆ (406) 444-3154 or (877) 275-7372 ◆ mpera@mt.gov ◆ Fax (406) 444-5428 ◆

Governor
Steve Bullock

Dear Retirees,

Public Employees'
Retirement Board (PERB)

2013 is here! Last year was a very busy year, between getting ready for the legislative session and all of our other projects. Here is a quick rundown of what we are working on:

Board President
Scott Moore
Active Public Employee
Miles City, MT
Appointed 4/1/2010
Term Expires 3/31/2015
mperb.smoore@gmail.com

2013 Legislation

With the 2013 legislative session starting January 7, pensions are a hot topic. It is certain we will see many options proposed regarding the pension systems. **We'd like to encourage all our retirees to make your voice heard!** You can contact your legislator to let them know your opinion about how important retirement is. Hearing from you has a tremendous impact and can help us preserve pensions for all of our members and their families. You can get in touch with your legislator by going to <http://leg.mt.gov/css/default.asp>.

Board Vice-President
Terrence Smith
Active DC Plan Member
Bozeman, MT
Appointed 4/1/2009
Term Expires 3/31/2014
mperb.tsmith@gmail.com

Replacing Our Computer System Continues

Our goal at MPERA is to provide our members and employers with the best possible customer service. Our ongoing project to replace our current computer system is proceeding on schedule. If everything goes as planned, it will take a little over 2 more years to complete! The project is taking place over several phases. Currently we are:

- scanning member account files;
- cleaning up our current database; and
- working with our contractor to design a system that will best suit our system needs and the needs of our members.

When it is complete, our new system will provide faster and easier service for members and employers.

Bob Bugni
Investment Management
East Helena, MT
Appointed 12/13/2011
Term Expires 3/31/2014
mperb.bbugni@gmail.com

Helping You Stay Informed!

Being informed is crucial. We've implemented several ways for you to get important retirement information.

- Our website is the best place to start. It hosts the Executive Director's Blog, legislative information during the session, press releases and various educational webinars. Check it all out at mpera.mt.gov.
- You can also find us on Facebook! Our Facebook page keeps you updated on what's happening here at MPERA and provides links to other important information.
- MPERA Directions newsletters. Did you know they are also posted on our website?
- If you have any questions or concerns, the board members' email addresses are available to the left. Feel free to send them your thoughts on retirement!

Our continued mission is to give you the best service possible. ◆

Darcy Halpin
Retired PERS Member
Belgrade, MT
Appointed 4/21/2008
Term Expires 3/31/2013
mperb.dhalpin@gmail.com

Dianna Porter
Member at Large
Butte, MT
Appointed 4/8/2008
Term Expires 3/31/2013
mperb.dporter@gmail.com

Melissa Strecker
Active Public Employee
Missoula, MT
Appointed 6/26/2012
Term expires 3/31/2017
mperb.mstrecker@gmail.com

Timm Twardoski
Member at Large
Helena, MT
Appointed 4/1/2011
Term Expires 3/31/2016
mperb.twardoski@gmail.com

MPERA
Executive Director
Roxanne Minnehan

Official publication of the
Montana Public Employee
Retirement Administration.

Should any information in this
newsletter conflict with statute or
rule, the statute or rule will apply.

YOUR 1099-R IS COMING!

Your 1099-R will be mailed to you during the last week of January. Please make sure we have your current address. Please be aware that if you have plans to be away, the post office will not be able to forward it to you. If you do not receive your 1099-R, you can contact us to request one.

The 1099-R lists the total amount of health insurance deducted from your retirement benefit during 2012. The federal Pension Protection Act of 2006 permits eligible retired public safety officers to exclude up to \$3,000 of their qualified health insurance premiums from their gross taxable income each year, as long as the premiums are deducted from their retirement benefit. Consult your tax preparer or advisor for more information. ◆

RETURNING TO WORK?

Are you thinking about going back to work? As you consider your options, please be aware your pension benefit may be affected.

General Requirements

If you go to work for a private company or a public employer not covered by a PERB-administered retirement system, there is no limit on how much you can earn or hours you can work. Your retirement benefit will not be affected. The only exception is for some disability retirees.

Retirees of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS), the Sheriffs' Retirement System (SRS) or the Firefighters' Unified Retirement System (FURS), are subject to certain restrictions on re-employment.

Specific Limitations for PERS Retirees

If you are a PERS retiree, you must have a break in employment for **at least 90 days** before returning to a PERS-covered position and no prior arrangement to return to work. You are also limited to working 960 hours in any calendar year.

For PERS members under the age of 65 - your benefit will be reduced \$1.00 for each \$1.00 earned from PERS employment in excess of 960 hours. Only the hours you are paid to work will count toward the 960-hour limit. The limit applies to each calendar year and MPERA will reduce your benefit only if you exceed the limit.

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For PERS members who are age 65 to 70½ - the limit is either the 960 hours or an earning limitation, whichever is higher. The earning limitation is equal to your Highest Average Compensation (HAC), minus your benefit received, adjusted for inflation. The sum of your retirement benefit and all PERS-associated earnings must be less than the earnings limitations. PERS-associated earnings include all income from the employer whether or not the position is covered by PERS. Earnings that you have from other sources will not apply to the limit. Both limits apply to a single calendar year and only reduce benefits for those years that your hours or earnings exceed the limit. Your benefit will be reduced \$1.00 for each \$1.00 earned from covered employment exceeding the limit.

For PERS members over the age of 70½ - there are no limits restricting the earnings or hours.

Specific Limitations for SRS Retirees

If you are an **SRS** working retiree, you are limited to working in an SRS-covered job for 480 hours in any calendar year. If you exceed the 480 hour limit, you must become an active, contributing SRS member.

If your earnings exceed \$5,000, your monthly retirement benefit will be reduced \$1 for each \$3 earned in excess of \$5,000 per calendar year.

Specific Limitations for FURS Retirees

As a **FURS** working retiree, you are limited to working 480 hours in a FURS-covered position in any calendar year. If you exceed the 480 hour limit, you must return to active service. ♦

DIRECT DEPOSIT IS FAST, SAFE AND FREE!

Would you like to receive your retirement benefit the fastest way possible? Then sign up for direct deposit! Visit mpera.mt.gov and click on the link inside the Retirees box in the bottom-middle of the page. It will bring up a form that you can print out, complete and send to us.

Here's how it works: your benefit payment is distributed the last working day of the month. If you receive your benefit by paper check, this means the check will be mailed on the last working day. Due to mail time, you may not receive your check for several days.

If you receive your benefit by direct deposit, your benefit will be deposited into your account on the last business day of the month. So what are you waiting for? Sign up today! ♦

SUBSCRIBE TO MPERA'S E-NEWSLETTERS!

To sign up, simply go to our website at mpera.mt.gov and in the Press Room box on the upper left side, select "Newsletters". Choose the newsletter(s) you wish to sign up for and enter your email address and your name. You will then receive notification when MPERA publishes a new newsletter on our website. It's that easy! ♦

CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Retiree Database Assistant

Kristy Klein.....444-9169

Retiree Database Assistant

Jeanette Roberts.....444-5451

Retiree Database Support

Alvina Davis.....444-5455

PERS, JRS, SRS & GWPORS BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION UPDATE – OPTION 1 AND OPTION 4 RETIREES

There are some circumstances in which you cannot change your designated beneficiary(ies) or contingent annuitant(s):

- If your beneficiary or contingent annuitant has been granted the right to this designation in a family law order, as defined in § 19-2-907, MCA.
- Following a recent Supreme Court decision, if you are subject to a valid temporary restraining order issued in a proceeding for dissolution of marriage or legal separation under § 40-4-121(3), MCA, and you have designated your spouse or a child for whom support may be ordered. If you are involved in a proceeding affecting your marriage, child custody or child support, you may wish to consult your attorney before requesting a change to your beneficiary or contingent annuitant.

If you do not have any of the above named restrictions, you can change your designated beneficiary(ies) or contingent annuitant(s). ♦

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