Local contribution rates certified for 2009

Who should read this notice
Finance directors and others responsible for processing retirement contributions to OPERS

Situation overview
As required by the Ohio Revised Code, the OPERS Board of Trustees has certified employee and employer contribution rates for all local division employers for the calendar year 2009. These rates will be in effect from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009.

As provided for in the Health Care Preservation Plan, increases for employee contribution rates were phased in to the statutory maximum through 2008. The stepped increases were phased in over a longer period of time for employers in the law enforcement and public safety classifications. Therefore, the following rates for 2009 reflect an increase in the public safety and law enforcement employer contribution rates—incremental increases will continue through 2011 for those groups.

What you need to do
Please be aware of the retirement contribution rates that will become effective for all pay periods ending on or after January 1, 2009.

The 2009 employee retirement contribution rates will be:

- Local 10.00%
- Public Safety 10.10%
- Law Enforcement 10.10%

The employer contribution rates for 2009 will be:

- Local 14.00%
- Public Safety 17.63%
- Law Enforcement 17.63%

Please note, salary must be reported when it is earned, not paid. This means you must report, each month, all pay periods that end in that month—regardless of when the employee’s pay date falls. Therefore, if your last pay period in 2008 has an ending date in 2009, the retirement deduction for this entire pay period must be taken at the higher 2009 contribution rate. Conversely, if the last pay period in 2008 has an ending date in 2008 but is paid to employees in 2009, the 2008 rate would apply.

(More information on back)
Why this is important
Accurate reporting and remitting of retirement contributions is important to provide correct service credit in the retirement system for your employees.

Changes to the Employer Manual
To accurately reflect the employer contribution rate increases for employees in the law division, the Employer Manual has been updated on the opers.org website. Those employers who maintain a hard copy should print pages 3.1 – 3.4.

Who to contact for more information
After you review this Employer Notice, contact your Employer Outreach representative with questions or comments at 1-888-400-0965 or via the Internet at employeroutreach@opers.org.