

Ohio PERS NEWS

YOUR BENEFIT CONNECTION

News and information for active members of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Traditional
Pension Plan

Cost to purchase service credit increasing: Act now to complete a service purchase at current cost

Due to a combination of changes to Ohio retirement law and actuarial cost calculations, the cost to purchase some types of service credit is increasing to better represent the true cost of the benefit. However, you do have a window of opportunity to make a service purchase at the current cost if you initiate the

You will then have until July 7, 2018, to complete the purchase before the cost will be recalculated. If the purchase is not completed by July 7, 2018, any remaining service credit to be purchased will be calculated under the new cost calculation.

Your action is required

If you intend to initiate a service purchase prior to the July 7, 2013 deadline, please begin the process as soon as possible. Some service purchase types require paperwork from third parties and OPERS cannot intervene to obtain any necessary documentation from other entities. Please visit www.opers.org for a complete listing of requirements for each type of service purchase.

Note: The cost to purchase service credit previously refunded is not affected by these cost changes and no action is required.

Am I eligible to make a purchase?

You may be eligible to purchase service credit toward the calculation of your retirement benefit if you:

- Served on a school board
- Were granted a leave of absence
- Worked for a public employer outside the state of Ohio or for the federal government
- Served in the military

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purchase through post-tax payroll deductions or make a valid payment between **Jan. 7, 2013, and July 7, 2013.**

To initiate a payroll deduction, a valid *Service Purchase - Payment Option Form* (the last page of a cost statement) must be post-marked on or before **July 7, 2013** to OPERS.

To make a payment, the payment accompanied by the *Service Purchase - Payment Option Form* must be received by OPERS on or before **July 5, 2013** - the last business day prior to the end of the six-month period.



Ohio PERS NEWS – Your Benefit Connection is a quarterly newsletter providing news and information to more than 374,000 active members of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. An active member is anyone currently contributing toward an Ohio PERS retirement benefit. This publication allows us to communicate vital information concerning retirement benefits to our active members and also educate them on the services we provide.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

www.opers.org

1-800-222-7377

Monday - Friday

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

newsfeedback@opers.org

It is your responsibility to be certain that OPERS has your current address on file. If OPERS is not made aware of address changes, we cannot guarantee that you will receive important information pertaining to your OPERS account.

This newsletter is written in plain language for use by members of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. It is not intended as a substitute for the federal or state law, namely the Ohio Revised Code, the Ohio Administrative Code, or the Internal Revenue Code, nor will its interpretation prevail should a conflict arise between it and the Ohio Revised Code, Ohio Administrative Code, or Internal Revenue Code. Rules governing the retirement system are subject to change periodically either by statute of the Ohio General Assembly, regulation of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement Board, or regulation of the Internal Revenue Code. If you have questions about this material, please contact our office or seek legal advice from your attorney.

OPERS is not required to provide health care coverage to retirees or their dependents and will only do so at the discretion of the Board of Trustees.

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- Changed your OPERS retirement plan
- Served as an elected official
- Were injured and received a benefit from the Bureau of Workers' Compensation
- Were exempt from paying into OPERS while working in a position in which OPERS coverage was offered
- Had unreported service as a firefighter prior to May 1, 1991

Service purchases affected by cost increase

For service purchases initiated after July 7, 2013, members will be required to pay the actuarial cost for the following types of service purchases:

- **Additional service credit:** Elected and certain appointed officials are permitted to purchase an additional 35 percent service credit for every full-time year they serve. For instance, if they serve two, 4-year terms, they may choose to purchase an additional 2.8 years (0.35 x 8).
- **Exempted service:** This is service for a period of time in which the member was exempted from paying into OPERS while working in a position in which OPERS coverage was offered. For example, a student employed by a university may choose to be exempted from membership.
- **Out-of-state, federal or municipal service credit:** This service credit is for public employment while working outside of Ohio or for the federal government or a municipal retirement system.
- **Leave of absence I:** Up to one year of credit may be purchased at any time for authorized leaves of absence or resignation due to pregnancy or adoption of a child.
- **Leave of absence II:** This covers employer-approved leaves of absence. Members may buy service credit or contributing months if the purchase is completed within one year of the beginning of the period of leave.
- **Prior elected service:** This type applies to Ohio elected officials, who are not required to become OPERS members immediately after their election to public service. Rather, at a future date after membership is established, they can

cost to purchase service credit increasing

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purchase credit for completed service as an elected official occurring prior to July 1, 1991, that predates their membership in OPERS, provided they did not pay into Social Security.

- **Optional service:** This type refers to firefighter service occurring prior to May 1, 1991.
- **School board service:** This type refers to service as a school board member performed before June 30, 1991.
- **Military service:** This type refers to periods of active duty service in the military or Reserve/National Guard service. The cost to purchase active duty service will continue to be 50 percent of the full actuarial cost and the cost to purchase Reserve/National Guard service will be 100 percent of the full actuarial cost but, with the adoption of a new cost formula for determining liability, the cost of these purchases will increase.
- **Plan change service:** If you change from the Member-Directed Plan to the Traditional Pension Plan or the Combined Plan, or from the Combined Plan to the Traditional Pension Plan, in some instances, you may be able to use the vested portion of your Member Directed Plan account balance or your Combined Plan account value to purchase equivalent service in the Traditional Pension or Combined Plan. *To purchase this service credit, you must pay, in full, the entire amount owed or initiate a post-tax payroll deduction, within 180 days of your plan change effective date. Contact Member Services at 1-800-222-7377 for complete details regarding plan change service.*

Additional information about BWC and military service

Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC): Up to three years of service credit can be claimed for any period during which you were off the payroll because of an injury for which a weekly award through Workers' Compensation was received. If the request is received after July 7, 2013, you will have the option of purchasing the service.

Military service: Up to 10 years of free service credit may be granted if you left public employment for active duty in the armed forces (after a minimum of one year of contributing OPERS service) and returned to contributing status with OPERS, STRS, SERS, OP&F, HPRS or the Cincinnati Retirement System (CRS) within two years after discharge. You must establish one year of service credit upon your return to public employment. Military service occurring after Oct. 12, 1994 will no longer qualify for free service credit if the request is received after July 7, 2013, but may still be eligible for purchase.

An important note about health care eligibility

Please be aware that your service credit purchase will enhance your pension benefit at retirement but your purchase may not qualify as service credit applicable for health care eligibility and allowance.

Elected officials - denied salary

Elected officials whose salary is increased during a term of office and who are denied receiving the additional salary by reason of constitutional provision may make additional contributions. The additional contributions will be based on the amount the official would have contributed had the salary increase been received. The additional contributions will increase the official's earnable salary and, depending on the amount of the official's salary, the additional contributions may increase the official's service credit. Sub. Senate Bill 343 amended this provision to require that the official pay both the employee and employer contributions on the additional salary and restricted this payment to the period of the denied salary. After July 7, 2013, elected officials will no longer be able to make the payment at any time prior to retirement.

Log into your online account at www.opers.org to calculate the cost to purchase service under the new cost calculation for: additional; exempted; out-of-state, federal or municipal; leave of absence I and II; prior elected; school board; and military service. For all other types, please contact us at 1-800-222-7377.

Thinking about retiring?

Understanding retiree health care should be part of your decision making process

Changes to the OPERS retiree health care plan announced in 2012 will have an impact on eligibility and coverage costs for the majority of members planning to retire within the next several years.

If you are considering retirement, it is vital for you to have a clear picture of the differences between retiring before or after the various changes take effect.

For the most complete explanation of the changes affecting retirees, spouses and children, please refer to the *Comprehensive Guide to Pension and Health Care Changes for Current Members* available on our website, www.opers.org.

The website also features recorded presentations and videos as well as schedules and registration for live seminars, online webinars and one-on-one counseling (see pages 8-9). You can also estimate future health care costs using the online Health Care Planning Tool.

The health care coverage offered by OPERS may not be your only option for coverage in retirement. Now is the perfect time to educate yourself on the types of coverage offered by companies on the open market and even the health care exchanges created by the Affordable Care Act (available in 2014).

The Ohio Department of Insurance provides a wealth of insurance information for consumers on their website, www.insurance.ohio.gov. The site offers a tool kit specifically designed for Ohioans seeking health insurance. Another site that provides coverage and cost comparisons for a variety of carriers is www.ehealthinsurance.com.

If you are considering retirement, it is vital for you to have a clear picture of the differences between retiring before or after the various changes take effect.

Important Note about OPERS Forms and Publications for 2013

OPERS is working to update all forms and publications to reflect the plan changes that went into effect, Jan. 7, 2013, as a result of Sub. Senate Bill 343. When submitting a retirement or disability application or referencing benefit information, please be sure to check that the revision date is 2013. Also note that some forms and publications did not require updates and will not have a revision date of 2013. If you have questions about information in a form or publication, contact OPERS at 800-222-7377.

Coming in May 2013 - Your OPERS ID

A unique identifier to increase the security of your personal information

Starting in **May 2013**, OPERS will be increasing the security of your personal information by providing you with an OPERS ID. This unique identifier will serve as your secure identity with OPERS, and will be used in many instances from verifying your identity over the phone to submitting OPERS forms.

Your 11-digit OPERS ID will be issued beginning in **May 2013** and will be available to you on the home page of your online account and on correspondence you receive from OPERS.

This ID will remain with you throughout your entire OPERS membership. A field will be added to existing member forms for the OPERS ID however, the Social Security number (SSN) field will not be removed.

You will have the option to use your OPERS ID if you are not comfortable using your SSN, or you can continue using your SSN as your identifier.

Your 11-digit OPERS ID will be issued beginning in May 2013 and will be available to you on the home page of your online account and on correspondence you receive from OPERS.

Note: OPERS can still identify you by your SSN should you forget your OPERS ID.

OPERS achieves double-digit investment returns

Preliminary calculations indicate the OPERS Defined Benefit Fund earned 14.52 percent in calendar year 2012, while the OPERS Health Care Fund returned 13.75 percent. Investment returns are preliminary pending final review, and do not include private equity and real estate, which lag a quarter.

OPERS has attained an average annual investment return of 8.57 percent over the past 30 years, which is higher than the 8 percent actuarial return rate we use to meet our pension obligations.

As of Dec. 31, 2012, OPERS assets totaled \$80.3 billion, an increase of \$6.2 billion over the same date in 2011. As a result of 2012 investment returns and recently passed pension legislation, OPERS has achieved a funded status

of 80 percent and an amortization period of 25 years, well within the state-mandated 30-year funding period.

The OPERS 2013 Annual Investment Plan, now posted on our website, provides details about the coming year's investment outlook. It describes the strategic asset allocation, or the specific investment classes where we seek return, in both the Defined Benefit Plan and the Health Care Plan.

One of the highlights, which the OPERS Board of Trustees recently approved, is a 2.5 percent reduction in the public equity and fixed income allocations in both plans. This made room for 2 percent target allocations in each fund for additional risk parity investment and a new Global Tactical Asset Allocation.

Time limit for membership determination requests

New forms and deadlines as a result of legislative changes

OPERS provides benefits to members who have earned service credit under guidelines set in state law. Newly enacted Ohio Revised Code Section 145.037 governs the service credit eligibility of individuals hired as independent contractors or other classifications other than public employee for which no retirement contributions were or will be remitted to OPERS. Ohio R.C. Sec. 145.037 creates a specific window for individuals classified as such who may wish to request a membership determination.

In most cases, independent contractors and those who work in certain other employee classes do not earn membership in OPERS. However, in some cases OPERS members are incorrectly classified as contractors. These individuals have the opportunity to ask OPERS for a determination of membership and in some cases can claim unreported service time.

Legislative changes enacted under Sub. Senate Bill 343, created a one-year window from the effective date of legislation, which is Jan. 7, 2013, for individuals classified as contractors, or other employee classifications for

which retirement contributions were not withheld, to seek a membership determination from OPERS. No requests for determinations for personal services provided before Jan. 7, 2013, will be accepted after Jan. 7, 2014, unless individuals are able to demonstrate through medical records to the OPERS Board of Trustees' satisfaction, they were physically or mentally unable to submit the request before the deadline.

To help ensure compliance with the new provision, OPERS created two new forms for these individuals and employers (please see below for more information). To request a membership determination from OPERS, please complete the *Notice of Right and Request for: Determination for OPERS Membership* (Form PEDREQ) and return it to OPERS prior to the Jan. 7, 2014 deadline* (or alternative deadline within H.B. 67, if enacted - see next page for more details). Upon receipt of a properly completed form, OPERS will begin its review and may request additional information from the individual and/or public employer before making a membership determination.

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Notice of Right and Request for: Determination for OPERS Membership (Form PEDREQ):

Employers are required to send this form to the last known address of any individual who provided services prior to Jan. 7, 2013, as an independent contractor, or another classification other than a public employee, and for which no contributions were made to OPERS for the services. Employers must send these forms to the last address on record to any affected individual **not later than 60 days after Jan. 7, 2013** (or Sept. 7, 2013, if H.B. 67 is enacted). The form also states these individuals have **one year from Jan. 7, 2013**, to request a determination as to whether they should have been classified as a public employee eligible for OPERS membership for these services whether or not they receive notification. *If H.B. is enacted prior to March 7, 2013, this form will be changed to include the extended deadlines of Sept. 7, 2013 and Aug. 7, 2014.*

Independent Contractor Acknowledgment (Form PEDACKN): This form must be completed by any individual who provides services as an independent contractor, or another classification other than a public employee, on or after Jan. 7, 2013. The form must be completed **within 30 days of the date on which the individual commences the services**. The form requires the individual to acknowledge that the employer has notified the individual that he or she has not been classified as a public employee and that no OPERS contributions will be made on his or her behalf for these services. The individual may, **within five years of beginning the services**, request a determination as to whether he or she should have been classified as a public employee for these services. Employers must retain this form and forward a copy to OPERS. If an employer fails to retain the signed acknowledgment, the individual's right to request a determination will extend beyond the five-year time frame referenced above.

Time limit for membership determination requests

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For more information, or to obtain a membership determination form, visit www.opers.org, or contact OPERS Employer Outreach at 888-400-0965.

***Important Notice:** On Feb. 20, 2013, to address some employers' concerns about a relatively short notification window, the Ohio House of Representatives introduced House Bill 67, which would extend timelines currently within the law.

If passed as introduced, the bill would become law immediately upon the Governor's signature.

H.B. 67 would require employers to notify individuals of their rights to request determination of membership by Sept. 7, 2013. It would extend the time frame for individuals to request determinations to Aug. 7, 2014, with the exceptions previously noted.

Applying for a refund online

What you need to know if you are planning to refund your contributions

If you are planning to terminate employment under an OPERS-covered position and want to refund your contributions, you can apply for a refund of your account by simply logging in to your online account. The online account log in link is located on the upper right-hand corner of the opers.org home page. If you are registered, enter your user ID and personal identification number (PIN), and then click the log in button. If you do not remember your user ID and/or PIN, use the help link below the log in button or contact us by phone at 800-222-7377.

Once you have logged in to your account, select the "Apply for Refund" link from the online account menu and follow the steps.

In order to receive a refund of your contributions, you must apply for a refund after you have terminated public employment. State law requires that three months must elapse from your last day of public service before a refund can be made. This date is the date that is reported or certified

by your employer. However, you can apply for a refund any time after your last day of employment. By taking a refund of your account, you forfeit all service credit and future retirement benefits with OPERS. If you return to public employment before the refund is issued, you will not receive a refund of your account.

Once your refund application is processed and at least three months have elapsed from your last day of employment, your refund check will be mailed through the U.S. Postal Service. Refunds cannot be direct deposited.

While you are employed with an OPERS-covered employer, you cannot make any withdrawals or borrow against your account for any reason.

Unless you elect to roll over your account to another qualified retirement plan or IRA, your account may be subject to federal and/or state taxes. If you elect to roll over your refund into another qualified retirement plan

or IRA you will defer paying income taxes on the rollover amount until future distribution from the other qualified retirement plan or IRA is made. If you elect to roll over your refund to a Roth IRA, OPERS will not withhold taxes at the time of the refund, but will issue a *Form 1099-R* to be filed with your income tax return, which will indicate the full rollover amount as taxable income. OPERS is required to withhold federal taxes from the taxable portion of your account value if you do not roll the funds over to another qualified retirement plan or IRA.

For more information, please review the *Special Tax Notice Regarding Ohio PERS Payments*, which addresses your refund payment and direct rollover rights. This notice is available at www.opers.org, under the Legal tab, and when you apply for your refund online.

If you have questions regarding your individual tax liability, please contact a professional tax advisor, the IRS, or your state's department of taxation.

2013 Calendar of Education Seminars

OPERS offers in-person education seminars and webinars tailored to your specific retirement group (A, B or C). To determine which group you are in, visit www.opers.org. To register for a seminar or webinar, log into your online account or call 1-800-222-7377. Visit website, www.opers.org, and click on Seminar Options for the latest information.

Ready to Retire Pension and Health Care

Seminars for Group A - During these back-to-back seminars you will learn about important pension and health care changes that will impact your retirement.

During the pension seminar, you will learn how to calculate your OPERS monthly payment and what steps you need to take to apply for retirement.

During the health care seminar you will learn how to determine if you are eligible for health care and how the upcoming health care changes may impact your retirement decision.

Education Today for Retirement Tomorrow

Seminars for Group B and C - During this seminar you will learn tips on being proactive when preparing for your retirement, and key time line decisions you will have to make. You will also learn about eligibility for survivor and disability benefits and health care eligibility.

2013 GROUP A SEMINARS

Strongsville May 21 Nov. 5	Beavercreek June 4	Cambridge Sept. 10
Huron March 19 March 20	Canton June 11	Boardman Sept. 24
Toledo March 26 March 27	Reynoldsburg June 18	Mansfield Oct. 8
Cincinnati April 9	Glouster July 16	Rootstown Oct. 22
Findlay May 7	Granville July 30	Chillicothe Oct. 29
Athens May 14	West Chester Aug. 13 Aug. 14	Zanesville Nov. 13
	Dayton Aug. 27	Fremont Nov. 19

2013 GROUPS B AND C SEMINARS

Huron March 19	Strongsville May 21
Toledo March 26	Glouster July 16
Findlay May 7	Granville July 30
Athens May 14	West Chester Aug. 13

Annual statements Delayed schedule for 2013

Due to the passage and enactment of pension legislation, OPERS will be processing annual statements differently this year. We are in the process of retooling our systems to accommodate for changes brought about by the legislation, which has led to a delay in the production of annual statements.

This year statements will begin mailing in mid-April, by ZIP code, and will continue through May.

This year, you will continue to receive personalized information about your OPERS account, but in a scaled-down version of your typical statement. The abbreviated version will include your contributions, account value and service credit record for the year ending Dec. 31, 2012.

Remember, you can easily obtain your account information and retirement estimates by signing in to your online account at www.opers.org, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Stay in touch

Giving your latest contact information to your employer does not mean it is updated with OPERS. It is your responsibility to let OPERS know of any changes in your personal data including your address or beneficiary designation. By keeping your personal information current, you will receive accurate information from us in a timely manner.

The easiest way to make changes to your personal data is to access your account online at www.opers.org. Registration is quick and simple:

1. Go to www.opers.org.
2. Click on the Register Now button in the Access Your Account section (top, right corner of the home page). You will need your Social Security number and an active e-mail account.

Online educational tools and resources

Recorded Online Presentation: OPERS Comprehensive Guide to Pension and Health Care Changes for Active Members - This presentation was created to assist members with the information found in their respective *Comprehensive Guides to Pension and Health Care Changes*. It serves as a tutorial helping you grasp an understanding of the language and examples used within the guides. A PowerPoint slideshow is accompanied by an audio explanation, so the presentation is easy to follow.

Recorded Online Presentation: Impact of COLA and Health Care Changes - This video will provide you with important details regarding how your Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) will be calculated if you retire after Jan. 7, 2013. It also explains the upcoming changes to the OPERS health care program.

Recorded Online Presentation: Retirement Checklist - This video will provide you with important details of how to prepare for the retirement process.

Video Series on Pension and Health Care Changes - Video interviews with OPERS staff on key points concerning pension legislation and OPERS health care. Topics include, health care, age and service, cost of living adjustment (COLA), final average salary (FAS), changes to the benefit multiplier and reduction factors for early retirement.

Webinars - Live, interactive webinars allow you to view a presentation - and ask questions - without having to travel to seminar location. For a complete listing of times and topics, or to register for a webinar, visit www.opers.org.

Supplement your retirement income

OPERS Additional Annuity Program and Ohio Deferred Compensation

As you consider making the transition to retirement, many issues emerge. Among the most significant uncertainties is the question of retirement income – will it be enough? As you consider your retirement situation, can you answer that question? With the rising cost of living and health care, it's important to start saving now as an active employee. If you're uncertain that you'll have enough in retirement, you can supplement your mandatory contributions through two different programs. One is offered by OPERS and the other is through a Section 457 (b) deferred compensation program such as the Ohio Public Employees Deferred Compensation Program (Ohio DC).

OPERS Additional Annuity Program

The OPERS Additional Annuity Program is designed to supplement your retirement income. It provides an additional opportunity to invest money specifically for supplementing pension benefits. The program is an account, independent of your OPERS contributions, that allows you to deposit funds while you are a member of OPERS.

Your Additional Annuity deposits purchase investment shares in the OPERS Stable Value Fund. As you work toward retirement, your account is subject to the daily gains or losses of the Stable Value Fund and your potential earnings are tax-deferred until you retire or refund your account. After-tax deposits of at least \$15 may be made anytime with a personal check, money order or cashier's check payable to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. In addition to voluntary after-tax deposits, other retirement accounts may be rolled over to your Additional Annuity account. Once you have established an account, you may roll funds over to your OPERS Additional Annuity account with no maximum deposit limits.

Ohio Deferred Compensation

Ohio DC provides a tax-deferred, supplemental retirement income plan that can help bridge the gap between what you have and what you will need. Ohio DC is tax-deferred—the money that goes into your account comes out of your paycheck before State and Federal income taxes. Plus, the assets in your account, including any earnings, will

have the opportunity to grow tax-deferred until you decide to withdraw them—usually in retirement. Withdrawals will be taxed as ordinary income. Remember, there are no guarantees. Investing involves risk, including possible loss of principal.

Ohio DC does not pay commissions or use investments that charge front or back-end loads, and there are no surrender fees.

You may also take advantage of rolling your Traditional IRA, 401(k), 401(a), or 403(b) account into the Program. You may choose from a variety of investment options, including a stable value option, mutual funds, and professionally managed asset allocation portfolios to simplify investing.

Contact Ohio DC today. Visit www.Ohio457.org or call 1-877-644-6457 to enroll, check yearly deferral limits, or to get more information by using our planning tools.

For more information, visit www.opers.org to access our *Saving for Retirement* and *Additional Annuity Program* leaflets. The leaflets can be found under the heading of "Information Series Publications (leaflets)" on the member publications page.

If you have questions regarding a potential Social Security benefit, contact the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 or visit www.ssa.gov/gpo-wep/.

Please Note: Not all Ohio public employees are eligible to participate in the Ohio DC Program. Some employers have adopted other deferred compensation programs for their employees. Please check with your employer to confirm in which plan your employer participates.

Did you know?

The top three reasons workers give for not being financially successful are: 1. not saving enough (49 percent), 2. having too much debt (27 percent), and 3. not saving early enough (23 percent).

Board elects new leaders

Welcomes new member

The OPERS Board of Trustees voted longtime member **Cinthia Sledz** as chair of the Board and elected **Sharon Downs**, also a member for many years, as vice chair. Sledz has been the representative for miscellaneous employees since 2002 and is a librarian with the Cuyahoga County Public Library. She has been an OPERS member for approximately 22 years and is a member of SEIU District 1199. Downs has served on the Board since 1998 and is a member of PERI. Before being elected to the Board as a retiree representative, she was the designee from the Ohio Department of Administrative Services where she was a human resources manager.

Robert Smith also joined the OPERS Board as an investment expert appointed by State Treasurer Josh Mandel. It is Smith's second time on the Board. From 2004 to 2007, Smith served as an investment expert appointed by Governor Bob Taft. Smith is president and chief executive officer of Spero Smith Investment Advisers, is a member of the CFA Institute and holds an MBA from Duquesne University.

Congratulations to our new Board Chair Cinthia Sledz, Vice Chair Sharon Downs and new member Robert Smith.

Special Board Election

The Board is conducting a special election for one open position. Kimberly Russell has announced her resignation as college/university employee representative to the boards of OPERS and Ohio Deferred Compensation.

Russell's departure has created a vacancy that, by Ohio law, will be filled by an individual selected by the remaining members of the Board of Trustees.

The OPERS Board will elect the new member at the April meeting, and the new member's first Board meeting will be in May.

Ohio PERS Board of Trustees

The 11-member Ohio PERS Board of Trustees is responsible for the administration and management of Ohio PERS. Seven of the 11 members are elected by the groups that they represent (i.e., college and university non-teaching employees, state, county, municipal, miscellaneous employees, and retired members); the Director of the Department of Administrative Services for the state of Ohio is a statutory member, and three members are investment experts appointed by the Governor, the Treasurer of State, and jointly by the Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives and the President of the Ohio Senate.

Elected Board Members

Sharon M. Downs
Vice Chair
Retired Members

John W. Maurer
Retired Members

Vacant
State College and
University Employees

Matthew Schulz
State Employees

Cinthia Sledz
Chair
Miscellaneous
Employees

Ken Thomas
Municipal Employees

Helen Youngblood
County Employees

Statutory Board Member

Robert Blair
Director, Department
of Administrative
Services

Appointed Board Members

Vacant
Investment Expert
Governor Appointee

Robert Smith
Investment Expert
Treasurer of State
Appointee

James R. Tilling
Investment Expert
General Assembly
Appointee

Karen Carraher
Executive Director



Printed in Ohio on paper with a 10% post-consumer content

Get connected to OPERS for the most up-to-date information

PERSpective

PERSpective is a blog we have created to share our thoughts on important pension-related issues. Subscribe to *PERSpective* by clicking on the RSS feed logo on www.opers.org, or read it regularly at <http://perspective.opers.org>. You can also view PERSpective Videos, available at www.opers.org, that explain the major legislative changes and how they will affect OPERS members.

Facebook and Twitter

More than 5,500 members and retirees “Like” our Facebook page, which uses the name “Ohio PERS.” We also utilize a Twitter account under the name “ohiopers.” Facebook and Twitter messages are used to inform people of news, events and items of interest. Follow us on Twitter by searching @ohiopers and “Like” us on Facebook in order to receive updates from OPERS within your newsfeed.

Online Account Access

Sign up today for online account access and you can instantly view your current account value and service credit, update your address and personal information, designate beneficiaries, schedule a counseling session or register for a seminar, print an annual statement and apply for retirement - all from the convenience of your home, on your time!

eNewsNow

eNewsNow is our mass e-mail system that allows us to provide members and retirees with timely information more quickly and efficiently than ever before. To begin receiving these important e-mail alerts, register for or log in to your online account and update your contact information.