

MEMBER'S REPORT

The quarterly newsletter for active and retired OP&F members and their survivors

Volume 35 – Number 4 – Fall 2016



ANNUAL CHANGE PERIOD DATES

AKRON

Tuesday, October 4th
Hilton Garden Inn
1307 E. Market Street
Akron, Ohio, 44305

CLEVELAND

Wednesday, October 5th
Hilton Garden Inn East
700 Beta Drive
Cleveland, OH 44143

TOLEDO

Thursday, October 6th
Hilton Garden Inn
6165 Levis Commons Blvd.
Perrysburg, OH 43551

CINCINNATI

Tuesday, October 11th
Hilton Garden Inn
5300 Cornell Rd.
Blue Ash, OH 45242

DAYTON

Wednesday, October 12th
Hilton Garden Inn
3520 Pentagon Park Blvd
Dayton, OH 45431

COLUMBUS

Thursday, October 13th
Courtyard West
2350 Westbelt Drive
Columbus, OH 43228

PRESENTATION DATES, TIMES SET FOR ANNUAL CHANGE PERIOD MEETINGS

Detailed information regarding the 2017 health care plan sponsored by OP&F is available during the Annual Change Period meetings this October. This year sessions will be in six cities – Toledo, Cleveland, Akron/Canton, Cincinnati, Dayton, and Columbus. The presentations are hosted by UnitedHealthcare.

One meeting will take place at each location beginning at 10 a.m. Presentations will start at the beginning of each session for approximately one hour, followed by a one hour question and answer session. Free health screenings will be provided at each informational presentation. A representative will be available to provide blood pressure and glucose level screenings.

For members unable to attend one of the onsite meetings a teleconference will take place on Friday Oct. 14 at 1 p.m. EST. Dial in: (866) 216-6835 Participant Access Code: 263577. Please call and reference the "Ohio Police & Fire ACP Call." During this call, members can listen to the Annual Change Period presentation that was given at the seminars and can ask questions after the presentation.

The presentation shown at the meetings is also available on the OP&F website (www.op-f.org).

NEW UHC MEDICAL AND PRESCRIPTION ID CARDS TO BE MAILED

New UnitedHealthcare medical and prescription drug identification cards will be mailed to enrolled members in mid December because of the new co-pays approved for 2017. Prescription drug cards will include both the OptumRx and OP&F logos.

MESSAGE from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



John J. Gallagher, Jr.

Dear Members,

In the summer Member's Report, and again in this edition, we have outlined changes to our retiree health care plan. Along with the articles in our newsletter, information is posted to the health care page on our website, including answers to frequently asked questions. Customer service representatives at both OP&F and UnitedHealthcare have been briefed and are ready to answer questions you may have concerning the health care plan.

After learning about what will change, I'm sure many of you will next ask what does this accomplish? Simply put, it buys us time to investigate new funding sources for health care that hopefully will secure a reliable plan into the future. Unfortunately the changes adopted this summer are not a long-term solution.

An examination of our health care reserves show that without a new funding source there is only enough money available to sponsor a retiree health care plan for another nine years. The changes approved by our Board of Trustees are expected to lengthen this solvency period, but only by two or three years.

Now is not the time for us to sit and wait for an answer. We are actively talking with legislators to let them know our circumstances. Our health care consultants are doing additional research and we are reaching out to other retirement systems who are also struggling to fund a health care plan. We are also addressing the topic with national retirement organizations to raise awareness of retiree health care costs. OP&F is not alone with this issue. Public retirement systems nationwide are also facing questions on how to preserve their health care plans.

We will keep members informed on these pages as we continue to research new ideas and strategies. In terms of health care, our goal remains to offer an option for current and future OP&F retirees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Gallagher Jr."

John J. Gallagher, Jr.

LEGISLATION TO REPEAL WEP PULLED FROM CONSIDERATION

During remarks to the Ways and Means Committee on July 13, Congressman Kevin Brady of Texas announced that he is postponing consideration of H.R. 711, the Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act. The bill would have eliminated and replaced the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) within the Social Security Act.

The bill was introduced by Brady and co-sponsored by Rep. Richard Neal of Massachusetts. If passed, the bill would have replaced the WEP that severely reduces the Social Security benefits of workers who have pensions earned through employment not covered by Social Security.

"It never seemed fair to me that public servants who earn a pension at work and also in Social Security – whether it was a second job, summer job, or a second career – that they should be docked Social Security benefits," said Brady. "These are those who teach our child, those who keep us safe, those who race to our rescue when in need."

Brady continued, "This bill is about getting equal treatment for public servants. We need the community to come together on what they can all support or the consequence, unfortunately, is to see the current WEP harm people on a daily basis that frankly don't deserve being harmed. Meanwhile, we will postpone consideration of H.R. 711 until that agreement is found."

OP&F supports the repeal of the WEP and will continue to monitor the status of this legislation.

PORTFOLIO *-update-*

OP&F's Investment Portfolio Value 2016

End of August value	\$14.30 billion
End of July value	\$14.30 billion
End of June value	\$14.00 billion

OP&F HAS NO AFFILIATION WITH ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING OHIO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

A new organization formed to safeguard defined benefit pensions is seeking support and could be contacting Ohio public employees. Please be aware that OP&F neither endorses nor is affiliated with the organization named Protect Ohio Pensions.

Protect Ohio Pensions uses OP&F's acronym, along with abbreviations of other Ohio retirement systems in its communications, which may incorrectly imply that the retirement systems endorse or work with the organization. Again, OP&F is not associated with Protect Ohio Pensions. Additionally, OP&F has not released any member information – specifically addresses and phone numbers – to this organization.

FACTS ABOUT ZIKA VIRUS – FIGHT THE BITE

WHAT IS ZIKA VIRUS?

The Zika virus is a disease primarily transmitted by mosquitoes. The disease has historically occurred in Africa, Southeast Asia and islands in the Pacific Ocean. In May 2015, Zika virus was found for the first time in the Western Hemisphere in northeastern Brazil. The virus has since spread through much of the Caribbean, Central America and South America. There have been no reported cases of Zika virus disease transmission through mosquito bites in Ohio at this time. However, cases have been reported in travelers returning to the United States from Zika virus-affected countries. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) maintains an updated list of affected countries and territories as well as associated travel advisories on its website at www.cdc.gov/zika.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF ZIKA VIRUS INFECTION?

About one in five people infected with Zika virus will develop symptoms. Illness from Zika virus is usually mild, and most people feel better within a week. Symptoms of Zika virus include fever, rash, joint pain, conjunctivitis (red eyes), muscle pain and headache. Severe disease requiring hospitalization is uncommon, and deaths are rare.

HOW IS A ZIKA VIRUS INFECTION TREATED?

There is no specific treatment for a Zika virus infection. Treat the symptoms by getting plenty of rest, drinking fluids to stay hydrated and taking medications to reduce fever and pain such as acetaminophen. Avoid taking aspirin and other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications. If you are pregnant, contact your physician for additional follow-up.

HOW CAN I PREVENT BECOMING INFECTED WITH ZIKA VIRUS OR SPREADING IT TO OTHERS?

There is no vaccine to prevent Zika virus infections at this time. Preventing mosquito bites is the best defense against Zika virus infections and other mosquito-borne viruses.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM MOSQUITO BITES

- **Daytime is most dangerous**

Mosquitoes that spread chikungunya, dengue, and Zika are aggressive daytime biters. They can also bite at night.

- **Mosquito-proof your home**

Use screens on windows and doors. Use air conditioning when available. Keep mosquitoes from laying eggs in and near standing water.

- **Wear protective clothes**

Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants and use insect repellent. For extra protection, treat clothing with permethrin.

- **Use Insect repellent**

Look for the following active ingredients:
Deet, Picaridin, IR3535

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THESE WEBSITES

ODH Zika Virus Information: www.odh.ohio.gov/zika

CDC Insect Repellent Use and Safety: www.cdc.gov/westnile/faq/repellent

The above information was provided by the Ohio Department of Health.



NCPERS DECREASING TERM LIFE INSURANCE PLAN OPEN ENROLLMENT BEGINS OCT. 1

The annual open enrollment period for the Family Protection Plus Plan, a decreasing term life insurance plan, runs from Oct. 1 to Nov. 30. Active OP&F members are eligible to enroll in the plan sponsored by the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS) and issued by the Prudential Insurance Company of America.

This plan, designed as a supplement to retirement benefits, currently insures more than 100,000 public employee retirement system members nationwide.

Members may learn additional details about the plan by visiting nelpersfamilyprotection.com. Active OP&F members may enroll electronically using a secure enrollment log on at the website. Paper enrollment is also available upon request.

This policy provides accident insurance only. It does not provide basic hospital, basic medical, or major medical insurance as defined by the New York State Department of Financial Services. Additionally, this policy does not provide coverage for sickness.

PLAN AT A GLANCE

- Survivor benefits with no medical underwriting
- Survivor coverage at younger ages
- Accidental death and dismemberment benefits for the employee, paid for losses on or off the job
- Liberal amounts of insurance for every age
- Affordable monthly contributions
- Dependant life coverage for spouse and children automatically included at no additional cost
- Coverage continues into retirement
- Waiver of premium in the event of total disability, conversion privilege upon loss of eligibility or coverage
- Living benefit (benefits paid to terminally ill)

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR 2015 ARE NOW AVAILABLE



Both the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the popular annual report for OP&F's 2015 fiscal year are online at www.op-f.org/reports.

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report offers a detailed look at OP&F's financial and investment statements as well as member demographics. The popular report is an overview of OP&F's financial statements and a review of pension fund activities from the past year. In addition to the 2015 reports, those for the past five years are also available.

FORM 1099-R TO BE MAILED IN JANUARY

Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund (OP&F) will be issuing the 2016 version of the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) Form 1099-R in January to members and beneficiaries who received a benefit payment related to service, disability, annuity, survivor, death, an active member withdrawal or the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP).

If a member's current address is not on file the form will not be forwarded. Additionally, OP&F is not able to fax a Form 1099-R to a member, beneficiary or to a third party without notarized authorization.

In order to ensure that Form 1099-R is received on time, please contact OP&F if any contact information needs updated.

OP&F OFFERS SEVERAL CONVENIENT WAYS TO UPDATE AN ADDRESS:

- Online at www.op-f.org: Click on Member Self Serve Web and follow the steps under Register. Once an electronic profile is set up, member demographics, including mailing address, can be updated.
- Send the updated information in writing or on a completed OP&F Change of Address form to OP&F at 140 East Town Street, Columbus, OH 43215. OP&F's Change of Address form can be found on line at www.op-f.org under Members - Member Forms.
- Call OP&F at 1-888-864-8363 and OP&F will be able to update any contact information over the phone.
- If the 1099-R will be mailed to a winter residence, please be sure to file a Change of Address form with the United States (U.S.) Post Office 10 postal days before delivery should begin. This will help to ensure that the 1099-R will be received timely.

THE U.S. POST OFFICE'S CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM:

- Can be filled out on line at www.usps.com or by calling 1.800.ASK.USPS (1.800.275.8777).
- Is only good for six months even if the discontinue date is not filled in.
- OP&F recommends submitting the U.S. Post Office's Change of Address form at both U.S. Post Offices where permanent residence is and also at the U.S. Post Office where temporary residence will be.
- If there are problems with receiving mail, please call the U.S. Post Office at 1.800.275.8777

To change the taxes being withheld from OP&F's benefit payments the IRS Form W-4P Withholding Certificate for Pension or Annuity Payments and the Withholding Certificate for Ohio State Income Tax are both available on OP&F's website. These forms are also available by calling OP&F Customer Service at 1-888-864-8363. If a member or beneficiary moves out of state, OP&F does not automatically stop the Ohio State withholding. Members and beneficiaries must submit a request, in writing, to stop Ohio tax withholding from their OP&F benefits.

ALSO AVAILABLE ON OP&F'S WEBSITE IS:

- Federal Tax Reporting Information for OP&F benefit recipients.
- The Private Letter Ruling for on-duty disability benefit recipients.

A FEW REMINDERS ABOUT FORM 1099-R:

- This version of the form masks the first five digits of a member's Social Security number for security purposes. The electronic Form 1099-R sent to the IRS will have the Social Security number for matching purposes.

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SUSPECT DISABILITY FRAUD? CALL 844-FRAUD HOTLINE (844-372-8345)

A toll free number is available for members or the general public to report suspected disability benefit fraud. Substantiated allegations may result in the termination of benefits and referral to the proper authorities for prosecution. Receiving a disability benefit from OP&F does not mean an individual is prohibited from other employment; however they are prohibited from working in a police or firefighting position.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

- Health care deductions are not reported on Form 1099-R. Health care deductions are summarized on the member or beneficiaries' year-end benefit statement or the last benefit statement they received from OP&F. If the retirement benefit was finalized in 2016, the year-to-date total on the benefit statement started over at zero when the benefit switched from an interim payment to a final payment. The member or beneficiary will need to combine the health care deductions from both accounts to obtain their total health care deductions for the year. There may be other situations that require OP&F to start over from zero, please make sure to account for all months of premium payments.
- Receiving more than one Form 1099-R is not uncommon. Member's and beneficiaries may receive more than one Form 1099-R if they receive more than one benefit payment or they turned age 59½ during 2016.
- Non-taxable income is reportable income. Benefit payments may or may not be taxable but they are still reportable to the IRS on Form 1099-R. OP&F recommends that every recipient of Form 1099-R file a Form 1040 tax return with the IRS. OP&F cannot offer tax advice or financial planning services; therefore, please seek professional tax advice before making any decisions. Please contact the IRS directly for information on filing requirements at 1-800-829-1040.
- Members must opt-out by Dec. 31 to avoid receiving the mailing. OP&F will mail the Form 1099-R in late January. OP&F recommends on or after Jan. 31 logging into the Member Self-Serve Web to confirm you have all the Form 1099-Rs issued. If you have any questions contact OP&F's Customer Service at 1-888-864-8363.

MEMBERS MAY OPT-OUT OF 1099-R MAILING, RETRIEVE IT ONLINE

OP&F's website allows members to download the Form 1099-R for tax reporting purposes and avoid receiving the form in the mail. This feature not only saves the cost of mailing the form but is also environmentally friendly and convenient.

Members must choose to opt-out prior to Dec. 31 in order to not receive the mailing. The 2016 Form 1099-R will be mailed in late January to those not opting-out. Members can change their mind and again receive the document in the mail by changing their preferences at any time between February and December.

To opt-out of the mailing, members must log into their account in the Member Self Serve area of the OP&F website and choose Document Preferences. From this page members can choose to opt-out of the mailing. Members must have an email address to use the opt-out feature.

Member can access the Form 1099-R by logging on to the OP&F Member Self-Serve Web. The Form 1099-R can be viewed and printed from the Member Documents link.

Only OP&F members who are registered for the Member Self Serve Web can retrieve and print tax forms online. To register, go to www.op-f.org and click the link for Member Self-Serve Web in the upper left corner. Next, look for the register link and follow the instructions on the screen.

OP&F recommends on or after Jan. 31 logging into the Member Self-Serve Web to confirm you have all the Form 1099-Rs issued. If you have any questions, contact OP&F's Customer Service at 1-888-864-8363.



140 East Town Street
Columbus, OH 43215

www.op-f.org



Toll Free: 1-888-864-8363
General Information: (614) 228-2975
Fax: (614) 628-1777
TTY: (614) 221-3846
E-mail: questions@op-f.org
Business Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. EST

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Prudence • Integrity • Empathy

Securing the future for Ohio's Police and Firefighters

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Important Dates

- Oct. 18-19**Board of Trustees meetings
- Nov. 1**Board of Trustees Retreat
- Nov. 11**OP&F offices closed in observance of Veterans Day
- Nov. 15-16**Board of Trustees meetings
- Nov. 24-25**OP&F offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving
- Dec. 13-14**Board of Trustees meetings
- Dec. 23, 26**OP&F offices closed in observance of Christmas
- Jan. 2**OP&F offices closed in observance of New Years

DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

If your email address is not on file, please send it to us at questions@op-f.org, or contact OP&F Customer Service at **1-888-864-8363**.

Members can also update their information online from the secure Member Self Serve.

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