

Retiree Connection

Published for Retired Members
of the State Employees' Retirement System.

Spring 2019 ♦ Volume 14 Issue 1

Applications Now Being Accepted to Host Scam and Fraud Prevention Workshops Across Massachusetts

The series aims to educate senior citizens on financial protection topics.

The State Treasurer's Office of Economic Empowerment, in a public-private partnership with People's United Bank and the Financial Planners Association, is now accepting applications to host workshops for the 2019 Scam and Fraud Prevention program.

The program aims to educate individuals on the dangers of financial scams that frequently target the elderly, and provide them with opportunities to identify and avoid financial exploitation.

"People's United Bank is proud to partner with State Treasurer Goldberg's Office of Economic Empowerment in providing Financial Literacy workshops throughout the Commonwealth to senior citizens," stated Grace H. Lee, FVP, Director of Government Banking at People's United Bank. "People's United Bank's Preventing Financial Exploitation workshop educates the general public, but especially senior citizens on how to recognize and prevent common types of fraud, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation."

Host a Workshop Near You

To request a workshop near you, email us at empowerment@tre.state.ma.us.



A Message from the
Office of State Treasurer
Deborah B. Goldberg

In this edition of Retiree Connection, I am very pleased to announce that the State Treasurer's Office of Economic Empowerment, in partnership with People's United Bank and the Financial Planners Association, is now accepting applications to host workshops for the 2019 Scam and Fraud Prevention program.

These workshops educate senior citizens on a variety of financial protection topics. The elderly are the most frequent targets of financial scams and fraud. I am grateful for the continued partnership with Peoples and FPA, and for the opportunity to educate seniors about potential financial exploitation.

Sincerely,

Deborah B. Goldberg,
Treasurer and Receiver General

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Working in Retirement - Reminders (§91)

As we move into the middle of the calendar year, we wanted to remind our retirees of the various annual earnings limitations for those of you who are working in the public sector in Massachusetts while receiving your monthly retirement payment.

MSERS members who are retired under a regular superannuation retirement can earn the difference between what the retiree would be making if they were still working and their pension. Then, after you are retired for one full calendar year (January-December), that dollar amount limit may be increased by an additional \$15,000. Additionally, you also have an annual hourly limit and may not work beyond 960 hours a year.

For example, if you were still working and earning \$40,000 annually, and your pension is \$20,000 per year, and you have been retired for more than one full calendar year, you may earn up to \$35,000 per calendar year or work up to 960 hours, whichever comes first. Your employment must cease when either limitation is reached, or you can waive your retirement allowance. Also, a retiree may not waive the receipt of a retirement allowance to avoid the application of the annual earnings limits. Please note: per Massachusetts General Law (M.G.L.), c. 32, §91, any earnings above the limits must be paid back.

In addition to complying with the above limitations, all disability retirees, including those receiving either an accidental or ordinary disability benefit, are required by law (M.G.L. c. 32, §91A) to submit a statement of any earnings to the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission ("PERAC"). PERAC mails an Annual Statement of Earned Income every January to all disability retirees. It must be completed and returned to PERAC on or before April 15th to be deemed in compliance. Be sure to include all appropriate W-2 forms, 1099-R forms, and any other requested tax forms or proof of income.

After these statements are completely filed and processed or if members fail to file their earnings statements, PERAC will provide information to the State Retirement Board of those retirees PERAC believes are not in compliance. The Board will then notify members of the steps that must be taken to become compliant or to contest PERAC's determination of excess earnings. For more information related to earnings limits for public retirees working in retirement, please visit PERAC's website:

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/working-receiving-a-public-retirement-benefit>.

Treasurer Goldberg Reappoints Patricia Deal

Treasurer Deborah Goldberg reappointed Patricia Deal to the State Retirement Board for a 3-year term.

Ms. Deal serves as the Board's Appointed Member and is the retired Treasurer of the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust.

The Board's elected members are Theresa McGoldrick and Frank Valeri.

Its Chosen Member is Archie Gormley.



Treasurer Goldberg and Patricia Deal

Cellphone Text-to-9-1-1 is Now Available in Massachusetts

Text-to-9-1-1 is deployed across Massachusetts.

When a citizen sends a text message to 9-1-1, it will be routed to an emergency call center based on the location information provided by the cellphone carrier. For this reason, it's very important that if you send a text message to 9-1-1, you should make every effort to text your location, such as the address or the name of the town.

It's important to note that messages sent to Text-to-9-1-1 may not go through because the service is not available in your location. Whenever possible, you should always make a voice call to 9-1-1 during an emergency.

For more information, visit the State 911 Department website at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/state-911-department>.



MSRB

Retiree eNews Bulletin

Subscribe Today!

Did you know that the Board's Communications staff publishes a monthly electronic *Retiree eNews Bulletin*? Each issue is filled with the latest benefit news and updates.

If you are a MSERS retiree and would like to receive your own monthly *Retiree eNews Bulletin*, please send your e-mail address to us at MSRBCommunications@tre.state.ma.us.

Please Note: Please be sure to include your full name and either your MSRB I.D. Number, or the last four digits of your Social Security Number so that we can properly identify you.

Upcoming Changes to Your Monthly Benefit

June 2019

Some of you may notice changes to your monthly benefit this upcoming June due to health insurance benefits. Because health insurance benefits are paid for a month in advance, you may see any changes to your monthly health insurance premium deduction beginning with your June benefit. To view the new rates or for more information, go online to www.mass.gov/gic.

July 2019

Also, if you have been receiving benefits for a full fiscal year (since before July 1, 2018) and are otherwise eligible, pending Legislative approval, you may see a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) beginning with your July 2019 benefit payment. A 3% adjustment would be applied to the first \$13,000 of your benefit payment. For COLA updates, visit our website at mass.gov/retirement. Please note, members who started receiving benefits on or after July 1, 2018, are not eligible for the COLA until next fiscal year.

Please note: most benefit recipients will receive a monthly statement for June and July.

Social Security WEP (Windfall Elimination Provision) Repeal Update

The Bill, H.R. 6933 - Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2018, was referred to the Subcommittee on Social Security on October 10, 2018, and no further action has occurred since then.

Specific details are posted on Congress.Gov. You can follow the Bill's progress by visiting <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/6933/actions>.

This Legislation is being closely followed, and advocated for, by The Retired State, County, and Municipal Employees Association.

Their most recent update can be viewed on their website at www.massretirees.com.

MSRB 2019 Staff Stats

MSRB staff continues to make progress on thousands of pending benefit requests submitted to the State Retirement Board:

Since January 1, 2019:

- nearly 1,200 new retirement benefit requests have been processed,
- 50,315 phone calls and 29,078 emails were received (not including those direct to staff), and
- 2,264 walk-ins were counseled in our Boston and Springfield offices!

Board staff appreciates everyone's patience and understanding during these busy times.

Your State Pension Fund

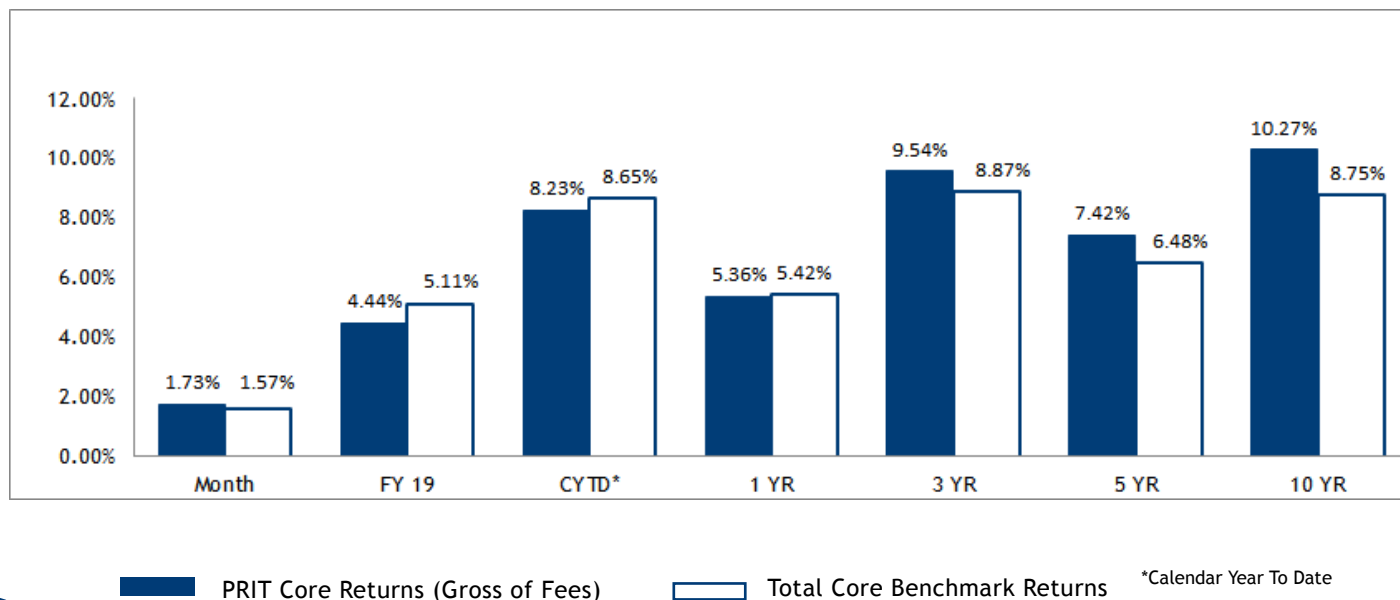
PRIM Board Update as of April 30, 2019

Pension Reserves Investment Trust (PRIT) Fund Assets:

\$74,103,468,000

State Employees' Retirement System (SERS) Net Assets:

\$28,072,918,444



A Note About PRIT Fund Updates

The PRIT Fund updates are courtesy of the PRIM Board. Due to limited space, we can only provide a condensed version of fund updates. For full quarterly updates and more detailed information about the PRIM Board, please visit their website at www.mapension.com.

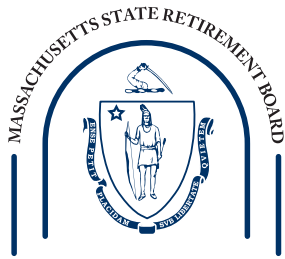
1960s Television Word Search Puzzle

For this **Retiree Connection**, we wanted to try something new and hope you enjoy it! Check out our television word search puzzle below to see if you can find the names of hit television shows that aired throughout the '60s!

S D T Q E D D K U D H K V N Y
E L J H P D C C O D M J O E L
V B E S E H I C C A L S D K I
T L A G I O T S Z R D Z A O M
H Y A P N O D N N N G V L M A
E I S S R A A D A O H O L S F
W O T W S N S D C T R D A N E
A D H M O I R E I O F I S U H
L O Y B K O E U I X U G H G T
T K B X F A H K J L A P T C N
O D T D K A J O K B R T L W I
N Y N J G Q A Z X H N A P E L
S A S Y A D Y P P A H F H B L
S C O L U M B O D F H R H C A
T H E B R A D Y B U N C H Z M

Word Search Legend

ALLINTHEFAMILY	IRONSIDE
BONANZA	KOJAK
CHARLIESANGELS	LASSIE
CHIPS	SANDFORDANDSON
COLUMBO	TAXI
DALLAS	THEBRADYBUNCH
DOCTORWHO	THEODDCOUPLE
GUNSMOKE	THEWALTONS
HAPPYDAYS	



2019

Massachusetts State Retirement Board Pension Check Calendar

Direct Deposit of your monthly benefit occurs on the last business day of the month. Paper checks are mailed two business days prior to the direct deposit date.

Month	2019 Mail Dates	2019 Direct Deposit Dates
January	Tuesday, 1/29	Thursday, 1/31
February	Tuesday, 2/26	Thursday, 2/28
March	Wednesday, 3/27	Friday, 3/29
April	Friday, 4/26	Tuesday, 4/30
May	Wednesday, 5/29	Friday, 5/31
June	Wednesday, 6/26	Friday, 6/28
July	Monday, 7/29	Wednesday, 7/31
August	Wednesday, 8/28	Friday, 8/30
September	Thursday, 9/26	Monday, 9/30
October	Tuesday, 10/29	Thursday, 10/31
November	Tuesday, 11/26	Friday, 11/29
December	Friday, 12/27	Tuesday, 12/31

Main Office: One Winter Street, 8th Floor, Boston, MA 02108. Phone: 617-367-7770 Fax: 617-723-1438 Toll Free (within MA): 1-800-392-6014
Regional Office: 436 Dwight Street, Room 109A, Springfield, MA 01103. Phone: 413-730-6135 Fax: 413-730-6139
mass.gov/retirement



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
State Retirement Board
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We Want to Hear from You!

Please send any comments you have about our newsletter to the editor at pdaddona@tre.state.ma.us or by mail to our Boston office. Please include your name and address. At the discretion of the editor, selected items may be re-printed in future issues, and edited for clarity and space.

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REMINDERS

- The 2019 Pension Paycheck calendar is also posted online at mass.gov/retirement!
- Stay up-to-date with the *Retiree eNews Bulletin*, which is emailed every month! Email your subscription request to MSRBCommunications@tre.state.ma.us.

State Retirement Board

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Related Agencies

SMART Plan Service Center
1-877-457-1900

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You Served the Commonwealth... We Serve You!