



MSRB



Retiree eNews Bulletin

July 2019 eNews

FY 2020 COLA Update

We are pleased to inform you that if you retired prior to July 1, 2018 and are otherwise eligible, the proposed 3% COLA (Cost-of-Living Adjustment) increase for eligible retirees of the State Employees Retirement System will be included in the July 31st pension payment. The COLA is 3% of the first \$13,000 of your annual benefit paid in monthly installments.

If you have direct deposit, and have not elected to **Go Green**, you will receive a statement in the mail as a record of your monthly benefit. You can also view your statement online at mass.gov/payinfo. Your ID is on your statement below your name.

The MSRB Retiree eNews Bulletin Celebrates Its Fifth Anniversary!

July marks the fifth anniversary of the launch of the MSRB **Retiree eNews Bulletin**. Over the past five years, staff has worked diligently to provide important and relevant information to our retired members. Our July 2014 inaugural issue was emailed to 22,645 retirees, survivors and/or beneficiaries. Since then, we are pleased to report that the number of current subscribers has grown to 40,424, which is more than half of our benefit recipients!

Did You Know?

You can opt out of mailed paper pension payment statements! Your full statements are accessible to you online via PayInfo. For details see below.

Go Green!

There is no better time than the summer to practice going green. Reduce paper usage by opting out of your mailed paper pension statements, which are easily accessible online at PayInfo! PayInfo makes it fast and easy to not only view your statements, but to have access to them whenever you want! The production of paper has a huge impact on our environment, so it's important we find ways to minimize it as much as we can.

Access your PayInfo statements here:

[PayInfo Login](#)

Once you're logged in, simply click the "Go Paperless Now!" button to opt out of mail-in statements and join us in going green!

Here is a link to the instructions if you need assistance:

[PayInfo Instructions](#)

Board staff has received a lot of positive feedback and, as we enter our next year of distribution, we hope that you, our retired members, continue to find this publication useful and informative. The past year's issues are available online for viewing at <http://www.mass.gov/treasury/retirement/for-retirees/msrb-retiree-eNews-bulletin.html>.

As always, your feedback and suggestions are welcomed and greatly appreciated. Thank you for reading the **Retiree eNews Bulletin!**

WEP Update

Congressman Richard Neal (D – MA), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, has recently stated that addressing the Social Security Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) is a top priority and that he is working on a proposal to tackle it. Chairman Neal and Congressman Kevin Brady (R – TX) have been working on creating a new WEP reform proposal that will provide relief to current and future public retirees. They also want the reform to address the concerns that arose from previous reform attempts.

“It is essential to understand the full impact on all beneficiaries before advancing any potential changes to Social Security,” Chairman Neal said in a recent letter to the Mass Retirees, referring to some of the earlier issues that prevented legislation from progressing. “I remain intently focused, as you are, on fixing the WEP as soon as possible and ensuring public employees in Massachusetts – and all across the nation – can retire with the security and dignity they deserve.”

While new WEP reform legislation is anticipated to be filed this summer, Chairman Neal wanted to make sure that public retirees were aware of his efforts in helping those who have been impacted by the WEP. The proposal, at this moment, will not be working on reform for the Government Pension Offset (GPO). The

UMass Boston Learning Program Designed for Adults Aged 50 and Older

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at University Massachusetts Boston is a learning program designed for adults aged 50 and older. OLLI offers courses, special-topic lectures, theatre outings, Boston Harbor cruises, field trips, and social events as part of their program to provide the 50 and older population with mentally stimulating activities. Most of these courses are taught by retirees, many of whom retired from UMass Boston faculty.

The OLLI courses are held at the Harbor Campus of UMass Boston, the Hingham Public Library, and the Thayer Public Library. Besides offering field trips and other social events, OLLI also is host to numerous Special Interest Groups (SIGs) that offer an opportunity for members to learn outside the classroom. There are nine different SIGs currently available: Art History, Book Group, Culinary Adventures, Stonewall LGBT, Women's Herstory, Campus Connections, Informal Writing, Meditation and Wellness, and Qigong Practice.

To join OLLI and learn about their membership fees and course availability, you would need to reach out to their staff at 617-287-7312 or visit their website at www.OLLI.umb.edu.

Did you receive this **Retiree eNews Bulletin** as a forwarded e-mail from a friend? If you are an MSERS retiree and would like to receive your own monthly **Retiree eNews Bulletin**, send your e-mail address to us at MSRBCommunications@tre.state.ma.us

Note: Please include your full name and either your MSRB I.D. or the last four digits of your Social Security Number,

GPO will be subject to separate legislation, according to Mass Retirees.

You can read Chairman Neal's full open letter to Mass Retirees on their website: www.massretirees.com

Is there something you would like us to communicate in an upcoming **Retiree eNews Bulletin**? If so, let us know!

Please e-mail your request and/or comments to

MSRBCommunications@tre.state.ma.us

We look forward to hearing from you!

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Walk-In Counseling Hours:
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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and request that we add it to our distribution list.

Have you, or are you, planning to move? If so, be sure to notify the Board of your address change! Retirees who already have summer and winter addresses on file with the Board can call us to request the address update. Otherwise, you'll need to notify the Board in writing. You can download our Change of Address form [here!](#)

Past issues of our newsletter publications can be found on our [website](#).

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