



MSRB

Retiree eNews Bulletin

MARCH 2021

Board Member Election Results

The State Retirement Board ("Board") completed its regularly scheduled Board Member Election on Friday, March 19th.

The Board is pleased to announce that Theresa F. McGoldrick, Esq. was re-elected to another three-year term as one of two elected members of the Retirement Board.

16,165 (10.74%) MSERS members voted. The election results were certified and the results are as follows:

Candidate	Votes
Theresa F. McGoldrick, Esq. (Incumbent)	13,487
Beth McGlory	2,678



Theresa F. McGoldrick, Esq.

Thank you to all who took part in this election!

Board Member Re-Appointed

The State Retirement Board voted unanimously to re-appoint Archibald "Archie" Gormley as its fifth member. Mr. Gormley is a retired Brockton firefighter and a current Legislative Agent for Brockton Firefighters Local 144.

Ahead of the March 25, 2021 Board meeting, Treasurer Goldberg swore in Mr. Gormley for another three-year term.



Archibald "Archie" Gormley

Financial Wellness Program for State Employees and Retirees

In December, 2020, the State Treasurer's Office launched the [Financial Wellness Program for State Employees and Retirees](#). Since then, countless public servants have signed up for the program's main offering, [Enrich](#). Enrich is a state-of-the-art financial education portal that

GIC Annual Enrollment

The Group Insurance Commission's (GIC) Annual Enrollment period will be held April 7 - May 5, 2021. During this time you can review your health, dental and life insurance benefit options and compare plan offerings. The Benefit Decision Guides are available to view on the GIC website at <https://www.mass.gov/lists/gic-benefit-decision-guides>.

If you have questions about your GIC health and other insurance benefits or premiums, please contact them direct at 617-727-2310 and select option # 2 or complete their online [Contact the GIC](#) request form. Thank you.

Homebound COVID vaccination effort begins March 29, 2021

As recently announced by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, individuals who face significant difficulties getting to a pharmacy, health care center or one of the state's mass vaccination sites, those who require an ambulance or two-person assistance to leave home, and those who could not leave home for medical appointments before COVID-19 will qualify to receive doses where they live.

Homebound residents or their loved ones can call 1-833-983-0485 to begin the process of scheduling an in-home vaccine appointment. The line will be open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., available in English and Spanish and with translators available for other languages.

Those who are not eligible to receive a shot at home will be instead connected with other resources such as the [2-1-1 call center](#) to schedule a vaccine appointment.

provides personalized content, tools, and webinars to help you make informed decisions on major life events.

If you want expert financial advice on protecting your identity, purchasing insurance, buying a car, or any other decision around money, [sign up here!](#)

Treasurer Goldberg's Veterans' Bonus Division launches online application for Welcome Home Bonus

The Office of the State Treasurer, Veterans' Bonus Division has launched an online application for the Massachusetts Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) Welcome Home Bonus. Massachusetts servicemembers and veterans can now apply online to streamline the application process and expedite bonus payouts.

Welcome Home wartime bonuses are awarded to servicemembers who lived in Massachusetts for at least six months immediately prior to entering the military and served on or after September 11, 2001. Qualified applicants can receive bonuses for their active service and deployments in support of the Global War on Terrorism. In 2018, \$1.2 million in bonuses were awarded to Massachusetts veterans. For more information, go to: <https://www.mass.gov/news/treasurer-goldbergs-veterans-bonus-division-launches-online-application-for-welcome-home-bonus>

2020 Federal and State Tax filing and payment deadlines for individuals extended to May 17!

The federal Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

Scammers target veterans, reserve, and active-duty personnel

A recent article from AARP warned that military veterans and retirees have been increasingly targeted by scammers and fraud. In an FTC report from 2020, it's estimated that military veterans and retirees faced up to \$66 million in losses.

A large portion of these losses are reported to be imposter scams, in which an imposter poses as another individual (government employees, family, romantic interests, etc.) to steal money or sensitive data. The article suggests some advice to make sure you don't fall victim to scams.

- Check your credit statements and credit reports frequently to make sure you are aware of any unauthorized charges or misuse of your personal information.
- Never reply or react to an urgent request for money by buying gift cards, reloadable VISA cards, or sending a money transfer.
- Research ways to spot scams and safeguarding your identity. The Federal Trade Commission offers resources on avoiding scams and provides ways to report them, [click here to view](#).

Always be careful with your personal data when you are interacting with another person, and never give your social security number, financial information, or other personal data to someone else. You can read the full article here:

<https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/info-2021/military-veterans-ftc-report.html>.

Some AARP tips to help scam-proof your life during a

announced that the federal income tax filing due date for individuals for the 2020 tax year will be automatically extended from April 15, 2021, to May 17, 2021.

According to a press release from the IRS, the deadline postponement only applies to individual federal income returns and tax payments otherwise due April 15, 2021. It does not apply to state tax payments or deposits or payments of any other type of federal tax. [Click here to read the full press release](#).

Likewise, the Commonwealth has announced the extension of the 2020 state individual income tax filing and payment due date from April 15, 2021 to match the recently-updated May 17, 2021 deadline for filing federal individual income taxes. [For more information, click here](#).

The Massachusetts State Retirement Board wishes everyone a healthy Spring season!

Did you receive this ***Retiree eNews Bulletin*** as a forwarded email from a friend? If you are an MSERS retiree and would like to receive your own monthly ***Retiree eNews Bulletin***, send your email 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, and request that we add it to our distribution list.

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 or comments to MSRBCommunications@tre.state.ma.us. We look forward to hearing from you!

pandemic

With many individuals staying home during the pandemic, it's essential to make sure you are protected from individuals looking to steal your data or financial information. AARP published an article containing valuable tips to potentially protect yourself from those wishing to scam you, and we'd like to share them with you!

Tips include, being careful when shopping online, being wary of strange emails, texts, and calls, updating your computer's anti-virus and anti-malware software, and others.

You can read more about their tips and suggestions here:

<https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/info-2020/scam-proof-your-life-during-coronavirus.html>.

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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Note: Our offices remain closed to the public. MSRB phones are answered Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. If you call our office outside of these hours, you will be prompted to leave a message. Board staff will return your call as soon as possible, and thanks you for your patience.