

## July 2018 eNews

### FY 2019 COLA Update: Approved!

On July 26, 2019, the FY 2019 state budget was signed into law, including the retiree COLA (Cost-of-Living Adjustment).

If you retired prior to July 1, 2017, and are otherwise eligible, Board staff were able to ensure the July 31st payment will include the COLA. The COLA allows an increase of 3% of thefirst \$13,000 of your annual benefit paid in monthly installments, effective July 1, 2018, for a maximum increase of \$390/year or \$32.50/month.

Board staff will review the final budget for any other retirement related provisions and we will update you in our August Retiree eNews Bulletin.

If you have direct deposit and have not elected to gogreen you will receive a July statement. We suggest you keep the statement as a record of your monthly benefit.

As always, you can view your statement online at <u>www.mass.gov/payinfo</u>. Your ID is on your statement below your name.

#### The MSRB *Retiree eNews Bulletin* Celebrates Its Fourth Anniversary!

July marks the fourth anniversary of the launch of the MSRB *Retiree eNews Bulletin*. Over the past four years, staff has worked diligently to provide important

## **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

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 37,420, which is more than half of our benefit recipients!

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. All past issues are available online for viewing at <u>http://www.mass.gov/treasury/retirement/for-</u> <u>retirees/msrb-retiree-enews-bulletin.html</u>.

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

# Congratulations to the Mass Retirees Association!





The MSRB wants to recognize the Retired State, County & Municipal Employees Association of Massachusetts on the anniversary of its creation. For 50 years, <u>Mass Retirees</u> has been at the forefront in improving the financial well-being of public retirees, most notable their pension and healthcare benefits.

State retirees make up most of the 52,000 members from all sectors. Mass Retirees stands out as one of the largest and strongest advocacy organizations in the state.

Click here to learn more about Mass Retirees!

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

**SUMMER TIP:** As we encounter summer days with sweltering heat, our air conditioners are going to be working harder than ever. To reduce energy costs and maintain healthy air quality it's important to take the time to change air filters and tune up your HVAC; you'll be rewarded with a clean peace of mind!

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.s tate.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.

Have you, or are you,

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 <u>MSRBCommunications@tre.state.ma.us</u>

We look forward to hearing from you!

## **Contact us:**

#### **Boston Office:**

Downtown Crossing One Winter Street, 8th Floor Boston, MA 02108

#### **Springfield Office:**

436 Dwight Street, #109A Springfield, MA 01103

Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Walk-In Counseling Hours: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Tel: 617-367-7770

**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 <u>website</u>.

Quick links: Visit our website: www.mass.gov/retirement

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