



The Guardian

Mississippi Retired Public Employees' Association
Quarterly Newsletter

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District Directors

See page 2 for district directors and their contact information.

MRPEA Purpose: *To promote the health, well-being, quality of life, and financial interests of the members and retirees of the Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi (PERS).*



President's Message

Make Things Happen!

By Becky Cade

Your Mississippi Retired Public Employees' Association (MRPEA) Board of Directors (Board) kicked off the New Year with their first quarterly meeting January 11. The five primary committees – Networking, Legislative, Communications, Membership, and Organizational Review – all met and provided progress reports to the Board. A brief summary of each of those committee reports is provided on page 2 of this newsletter. I am so proud of the work of our committees.

MRPEA was founded in 1985 as a grassroots effort to help preserve and protect the Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi (PERS). I encourage each one of you to be a part of that ongoing grassroots effort by maintaining your active membership in MRPEA and by promoting our organization among the members and retirees of PERS. With your help, we can make things happen! Can we count on you?

You can help promote awareness of our organization and increase membership and strengthen our efforts to help you by doing any or all of the following:

- ✓ Liking/Following our Facebook page (Mississippi Retired Public Employees' Association);
- ✓ Inviting your Facebook friends and followers to like our Facebook page;
- ✓ Following us on Instagram @MyMRPEA;
- ✓ Sharing your quarterly newsletter with a friend or colleague who is a member of PERS, but not yet a member of MRPEA, and encouraging them to use the Membership Application on the back page of the newsletter to join MRPEA;
- ✓ Stopping by the MRPEA information booth at the State Capitol March 9 to show your support for MRPEA; and
- ✓ Attending the annual meeting July 11 and bringing a friend (or two) who is a member of PERS, but not yet a member of MRPEA.

MRPEA District Directors

District 1 – *Forrest, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Lamar, Pearl River, Perry, Stone*

Wynona Winfield
601-955-4525
wvsubeach@yahoo.com

District 2 - *Adams, Amite, Claiborne, Copiah, Franklin, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lawrence, Lincoln, Marion, Pike, Simpson, Walthall, Wilkinson*

Tony Byrne
601-431-2250
annetteb@cableone.net

District 3 - *Clarke, Covington, Jasper, Jones, Kemper, Lauderdale, Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott, Smith, Wayne*

Rhonda Yates
601-693-5340
rhondajyates@gmail.com

District 4 - *Hinds, Madison, Rankin, Warren, Yazoo*

Vacant

District 5 - *Attala, Calhoun, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Clay, Lowndes, Monroe, Montgomery, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster, Winston*

Doss Brodnax
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dossmar@bellsouth.net

District 6 - *Bolivar, Carroll, Grenada, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Leflore, Sharkey, Sunflower, Washington*

Preston Ratliff
662-897-4333
p_ratliff2000@yahoo.com

District 7 - *Alcorn, Benton, Itawamba, Lee, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Tippah, Tishomingo, Union*

Robert A. McNeil
662-680-9024
ramcneil@comcast.net

District 8 - *Coahoma, DeSoto, Lafayette, Marshall, Panola, Quitman, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tunica, Yalobusha*

Thomas E. Toney
thomasetoney@bellsouth.net

MRPEA Committee Reports

Networking

Chairman Mike Larsen reported that his committee is working toward developing a formal electronic communications network with MRPEA's strategic partners so that information can be shared efficiently and effectively among all affiliated partners. Larsen also reported that his committee will explore opportunities to expand the number of affiliated partners and to engage more actively with our partner organizations.

Legislative

Chairman Ed LeGrand reported that his committee continues to prepare for MRPEA Day at the Capitol (March 9). Handouts and light refreshments will be available for legislators and others who visit the MRPEA table. Legislative Committee members have already been visiting with legislators at the Capitol and plan to be a visible presence at the Capitol throughout the 2016 Legislative Session, monitoring bills and discussions related to PERS.

Communications

Bob Rhoads reported that the newsletter, *The Guardian*, has been redesigned. Rhoads also reported that the MRPEA website has been updated with the latest facts and figures from PERS, where applicable, and that the committee will be reviewing all pages on the website to determine the usefulness of the information provided. The committee has made a concerted effort to post more often on social media to increase awareness of our organization and to share information with our followers. Further, the committee has developed talking points for district directors to use when speaking with groups.

Membership

Chairman Howell Garner reported that his committee is seeking to increase membership in our organization and is considering the possible addition of regional or district meetings throughout the state. The committee plans to recruit both retirees and active employees through a variety of methods, including having a representative from MRPEA at various PERS-sponsored meetings across the state. The committee has mailed letters to inactive members who have not renewed their membership seeking their continued active participation.

Organizational Review

Chairwoman Ann Homer Cook reported that her committee has just begun the process of studying the organizational structure and the membership data system. The committee members believe that changes need to be made to both the organizational structure and the data systems for MRPEA to be successful in recruiting and retaining dues-paying members.



PERS News

Contact MRPEA

601-919-0670
mrpea@bellsouth.net
www.mrpea.org

Meetings and Events



MRPEA Day at the Capitol

March 9, 2016
12:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Capitol Rotunda

MRPEA Board Meeting

April 11, 2016
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Mama Hamil's

MRPEA Board Meeting

July 11, 2016
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Hilton Jackson

MRPEA Annual Meeting

July 11, 2016
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Hilton Jackson

Social Media



PERS Board Elections

The Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi (PERS) has mailed ballots to public school and community/junior college employees to elect their representative to the PERS Board of Trustees (Board) for a six-year term that begins May 1. The deadline for casting votes in this election is February 5 and the PERS Board will certify the results of the election at its February 23 meeting. Dr. Lee Childress, Corinth Public School District superintendent, is seeking reelection to this post. Candidate statements and bios are available on the PERS website, www.pers.ms.gov.

Retirees will participate in a retiree representative election in early 2017 due to the term expiration of Dr. Richard C. Miller in April 2017. That election schedule, once adopted by the PERS Board, will likely have nominations being accepted in late 2016.

Annual Projection Report

The projection results for PERS as of June 30, 2015, show that, with a fixed employer contribution rate of 15.75 percent of payroll and with an assumed annual rate of return of 7.75 percent, PERS will achieve a funding ratio of 80.6 percent in 2042. PERS' funding policy target is 80.0 percent by 2042; therefore, PERS currently remains on target for meeting its funding goal. Access the full report from the Financial Overview section of the PERS website.

PEER Releases 2015 Update on Financial Soundness of PERS

The Mississippi Legislature's Joint Committee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) has released its 2015 update on the financial soundness of PERS. This is the fourth in a related series of annual reports issued by PEER since December 2012 and provides a concise overview of where PERS stands financially. The report also includes an update on recent legal actions involving public pension plans in other states. Access the full report (#601) from PEER's website, www.peer.state.ms.us.

PERS Publishes CAFR

PERS has published its 2015 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year that ended June 30. This year's CAFR highlights significant administrative accomplishments that took place during the respective tenures of each of PERS' executive directors, both past and present. Visit PERS' website to review the 2015 CAFR.

PERS Publishes PAFR

PERS has published its 2015 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR), which is a brief, reader-friendly summary of the agency's CAFR. Visit PERS' website to review the 2015 PAFR, as well as their award-winning PAFRs from previous years.



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Brandon, MS 39047-5580

Prsrt Std
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 670
Jackson MS

Mail this form with check payable to: MRPEA, P.O. Box 5580, Brandon, MS 39047-5580

MRPEA Membership Application

MRPEA welcomes both retirees and active employees who are members of PERS into our membership.

- \$15 Annual Rate (August 1 – July 31) I would like to serve on an MRPEA Committee
- \$250 Life Rate I want to support MRPEA with the enclosed donation

Please print clearly.

Name: _____ **County:** _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **E-Mail:** _____