

RETIREE NEWS

A Publication of the Parochial Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana

ISSUE NO. 19

JULY 2018

BOARD UNABLE TO GRANT COLAS TO RETIREES

In accordance with R.S. 11:243, the Board of Trustees may only grant a COLA to retirees age 62 and older every two years if sufficient excess investment returns are earned. Investment returns must exceed 7% and they must be sufficient to fund the COLA granted. Because a COLA was granted effective January 1, 2018, another COLA could not be granted in 2019 regardless of the investment earnings of the plan.

It is important to understand that increases are not guaranteed. The results of the actuarial valuation for the year ending December 31, 2018 will determine if another COLA could be granted in two years.

PROMPTLY REPORT DATES OF DEATH

It is important for your family to contact the retirement system to stop payment of retirement funds, if applicable, in the event of your death. We recommend that you inform your family and/or the executor of your estate about contacting the Parochial Employee Retirement System (PERS) immediately upon your death.

If your family continues to collect retirement funds after your death, they could face criminal charges. Therefore, it is important to contact the Parochial Employee Retirement System to ascertain whether pension benefits should be terminated or continued. Please note that Louisiana Revised Statute § 14:67 makes it a felony to steal \$1,000 or more. The penalties for theft include up to twenty years in prison and fines of up to \$50,000. Additional charges such as illegal transmission of monetary funds over the wires and from one financial institution to another could lead to additional penalties including more jail time. It would be unlawful for your family member to continue to receive your pension benefits if those benefits are not payable to your family member directly.

Currently, the Louisiana State Police is investigating cases where family failed to notify the Parochial Employee Retirement System of a retiree's death and continued to collect pension benefits payable to the retiree. Proper reporting of dates of death can insure that these investigations need not be pursued. Contact PERS at 225-928-1361 if you have information to report.

DID YOU KNOW?

As of December 31, 2017, the Parochial Employees' Retirement System had 8,156 retirees receiving monthly benefits!

PAROCHIAL RETIREMENT BENEFITS NOT SUBJECT TO LOUISIANA STATE INCOME TAX

On occasion, we receive calls from retirees with questions concerning state taxes on their retirement benefits. State law provides that benefits from the Parochial Employees' Retirement System are not subject to state income tax. If your tax preparer or the State's Revenue Office need more information on this, direct them to Louisiana Revised Statute 11:1905.

LIMITATIONS EXIST FOR RETIREES RETURNING TO WORK

When a retiree of this retirement system returns to work for a participating employer, statutory limitations exist. Before you accept a job from an employer that participates in this retirement system, you should contact our office to review the limitations that may affect your benefit.

DELIVERY OF MONTHLY BENEFIT CHECKS

It is important for retirees who choose this method of payment to understand that our checks are delivered by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS). Each month our staff prepares these checks to be delivered to the post office on the last business day of the month. Once the checks are delivered to the post office, we no longer control delivery. It is at this point that the post office takes control of the delivery of the checks. Possible changes to the delivery schedule for the USPS could impact the delivery of all mail, including retirement checks.

Our policy requires that we allow the USPS 10 business days to deliver retirement checks. Only after 10 business days have elapsed will we place a stop pay on the lost check and issue a replacement check.

We understand the importance of prompt receipt of your benefit payment. You can be assured that all benefit checks are delivered to the post office on the last business day of each month and are mailed first class.

If you would like to begin receiving your monthly benefit by electronic deposit, please complete the form included in this newsletter and send to our office for processing. More information on electronic deposit is included in the previous article.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: We encourage you to visit our website, www.persla.org. This site contains information for retirees, active members and employers. Retirees can access forms to sign up for electronic deposit, change an address, or complete a new Federal withholding form (W-4P). You can also view and download copies of our newsletters from the website.



ELECTRONIC DEPOSIT OF MONTHLY BENEFIT CHECKS

Electronic deposit is a service that is offered to retirees as a means of reliable and timely payment of their monthly retirement benefits. Currently, nearly 80% of our retirees utilize this method of payment. There is no charge by Parochial for this service and many banks offer free checking if you agree to the use of electronic deposit for payroll purposes. Direct deposit is a good deal for nearly everyone. Gone are the fears of stolen checks, the demands of taking the check somewhere to be cashed or deposited, and just the general uncertainty of wondering if something has happened or will happen to your check.

If you are not already utilizing electronic deposit, please join the majority of our retirees who use this service. Simply complete and return the following form with a voided check attached to our office. If we receive your request by the 15th of the month, we will be able to make your deposit electronically on the 1st of the following month. If this form is received later than the 15th, we may not be able to make the change to electronic deposit by the first of the following month.

**IF YOU ARE ALREADY RECEIVING YOUR BENEFIT BY ELECTRONIC DEPOSIT,
THEN YOU DO NOT NEED TO COMPLETE THIS FORM.**

PAROCHIAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF LOUISIANA APPLICATION/AUTHORIZATION FOR ELECTRONIC DEPOSIT OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS

I hereby authorize the Parochial Employees' Retirement System, hereafter called THE SYSTEM, to initiate credit entries and to initiate, if necessary, debit entries and adjustments for any credit entries in error to my account (select one):

Checking

 Savings

indicated below and the depository (bank) named below, hereafter called **DEPOSITORY**, to credit and/or debit the same to such account.

DEPOSITORY (BANK) NAME: _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
 BANK TRANSIT/ABA# _____ MY ACCOUNT NUMBER _____

This authority is to remain in full force and effect until THE SYSTEM has received written notification from me of its termination in such time and in such a manner as to afford THE SYSTEM and the DEPOSITORY a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

NAME _____ SOCIAL SECURITY # _____
PLEASE PRINT

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Retirees Phone No: _____ Alternate Phone No: _____

**IN ORDER FOR THIS APPLICATION TO BE ACCEPTED AND TO CONFIRM ACCOUNT NUMBERS,
WE MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING:**

- **FOR CHECKING** - A "VOIDED" CHECK FROM YOUR PERSONAL CHECKBOOK WHICH MUST INCLUDE YOUR "PRE-PRINTED" PERSONAL INFORMATION (ie=Account Name, Address, etc) THE MEMBERS NAME MUST BE INCLUDED ON THE CHECK AS WELL AS THE CHECKING ACCOUNT AS A SIGNEE!! **WE DO NOT ACCEPT ANY CHECKS, ESPECIALLY COUNTER CHECKS, WITH "HAND PRINTED" PERSONAL INFORMATION. PLEASE DO NOT SEND A DEPOSIT SLIP FOR A CHECKING ACCOUNT**
- **FOR SAVINGS** - A "DEPOSIT SLIP" WITH "PRE-PRINTED ACCOUNT INFORMATION
- **IF YOU CANNOT PROVIDE A COPY OF A VOIDED CHECK OR DEPOSIT SLIP AS REQUESTED, YOU MAY REQUEST YOUR BANK TO PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION ON THEIR BANK LETTERHEAD AND HAVE IT FAXED TO US AT 225-923-0933.**

*****PLEASE NOTE:** A NOTARIZED "POWER-OF-ATTORNEY" IS REQUIRED ON ACCOUNTS WITH SIGNEES OTHER THAN THE MEMBER AND HIS/HER SPOUSE. (Please send with this application)

**** These forms can be provided for your convenience upon request to our office ****

SCHEDULE OF MONTHLY MAILING DATES FOR BENEFIT CHECKS

Below is a schedule of mailing dates for the coming year.

| CHECKS DATED: | WILL BE MAILED: | ELECTRONIC DEPOSITS SHOULD BE CREDITED BY MIDNIGHT ON: |
|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| August 1, 2018 | July 31, 2018 | August 1, 2018 |
| September 1, 2018 | August 31, 2018 | September 4, 2018 |
| October 1, 2018 | September 28, 2018 | October 1, 2018 |
| November 1, 2018 | October 31, 2018 | November 1, 2018 |
| December 1, 2018 | November 30, 2018 | December 3, 2018 |
| January 1, 2019 | December 31, 2018 | January 2, 2019 |
| February 1, 2019 | January 31, 2019 | February 1, 2019 |
| March 1, 2019 | February 28, 2019 | March 1, 2019 |
| April 1, 2019 | March 29, 2019 | April 1, 2019 |
| May 1, 2019 | April 30, 2019 | May 1, 2019 |
| June 1, 2019 | May 31, 2019 | June 3, 2019 |
| July 1, 2019 | June 28, 2019 | July 1, 2019 |

TIPS FOR RETIREES ON ELECTRONIC DEPOSIT

- If you change banks, please have your new bank fax your new bank routing number, your new account number, the names of the signees on the account, along with your Social Security number to our office (225-923-0933). If possible, do not close an old account until after the 1st of the month to allow your current electronic deposit to be processed.
- Electronic payments are processed 4 days prior to the end of the month. Any changes need to be reported to our office by the 20th for us to have sufficient time to make all changes.
- If you have someone other than a spouse listed on your checking or savings account, we will require a Power of Attorney signed by the retiree and the individual listed on the account in the presence of a notary. This Power of Attorney form is available on the website under Retiree Forms.

KEEP YOUR ADDRESS CURRENT

In order to contact you, we must have a current address on file. Please keep your mailing address current so that you will receive correspondence from our office in a timely manner.

Checks issued by this office are not able to be forwarded by the post office. If you change your address with the post office, but fail to do so with our office, your check will be returned to Parochial where it will be held until you provide written notification of your address change. A separate notice of an address change must be submitted to the retirement system before we can update your records.

A correct address is also required to assure the timely delivery of the annual Retiree Newsletter and Federal Form 1099-R. If your address has changed, you can utilize the Change of Address Form included in the newsletter to update your records with us. If your address has not changed, then you do not need to complete this form.

RECENT BENEFIT AUDIT

Our office recently conducted a benefit audit of our retirees. If you received a letter from our office, we asked that you certify your address in the presence of two witnesses. This audit will be performed each year in an effort to maintain an accurate record of those receiving benefits.

As a result of this audit, we have received many changes of address that had not previously been submitted to our office. Please utilize the form on the last page of this newsletter to update your address. Just because you receive your benefit by electronic deposit does not mean that we do not need to be informed of a change of address.

WRITING TO OUR OFFICE

On occasion, you may need to contact our office to request information or to report a change. When writing to our office, please include your name, your Social Security number, your phone number and your return address on your letter. With this information included on your correspondence, we will be able to contact you with a response.

QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE

The Parochial Employees' Retirement System does not handle life and health insurance for retirees. These benefits, if available, are handled through your former employer. Please direct any questions you have concerning life or health insurance to your former employer's human resource office.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

We encourage you to visit our website, www.persla.org. This site contains information for retirees, active members and employers. Retirees can access forms to sign up for electronic deposit, change an address, or complete a new Federal withholding form (W-4P). You can also view and download copies of our newsletters from the website.

RETIREE NEWS
PAROCHIAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
OF LOUISIANA
PO BOX 14619
BATON ROUGE LA. 70898-4619

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE PAID
BATON ROUGE, LA
PERMIT NO. 55

RETIREE CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

PLEASE CHANGE MY MAILING ADDRESS:

NAME: _____ SSN: _____
PLEASE PRINT

OLD ADDRESS:

NEW ADDRESS:

STREET OR PO BOX

STREET OR PO BOX

CITY ZIP

CITY ZIP

RETIREE'S CURRENT TELEPHONE NUMBER (_____) _____

NAME OF NEAREST RELATIVE: _____ PHONE NO: _____

SIGNATURE OF RETIREE: _____ DATE: _____

RETIREE NEWS is a publication of the Parochial Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana, located at
7905 Wrenwood Blvd, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809.

Telephone: (225) 928-1361 Fax: (225) 923-0933 Website: www.persla.org