



HIGHWAY PATROL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

August 2021

Contact Us: 614.431.0781



"Our History Is Our Pride"

Update on Medicare Connector Project

The pre-enrollment season letter will be mailed on August 31st, to all HPRS beneficiary recipients that are Medicare-eligible. This letter will announce our partnership with Via Benefits, the nation's largest private Medicare exchange. This change in the way health care is obtained for Medicare-eligible participants will give access to a wide selection of health care plans, which may likely include lower cost options more suited to actual needs, rather than the one-size-fits-all plan currently provided. This change only affects Medicare-eligible retirees and Medicare-eligible covered dependents. It does not affect active HPRS employees until they retire, or retirees or their covered dependents who are not yet Medicare-eligible.

The open enrollment period will be October 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. The letter will provide the phone number to call to schedule enrollment. A co-branded website specific to HPRS will also be provided for those that may want to complete part, or all, of the process online. You can start looking at example plans that are available now by going to www.my.viabenefits.com. It is not uncommon for 30 or more plans being available to choose from, depending on your location. This is where the trained and licensed benefits

advisor at Via Benefits serves to help you, in selecting a health care plan that best meets your needs. As you go through this process, please utilize them, and get answers to all your questions.

If your spouse or dependent is currently under the age of 65 and enrolled in HPRS's retiree medical plan, he or she will not be affected by the coverage changes until he or she turns age 65 or becomes Medicare eligible. Once your spouse or dependent approaches age 65, he or she will also have access to the enrollment support offered through Via Benefits and will begin to receive information from Via Benefits when he or she reaches age 64. Until your spouse approaches age 65 he or she should continue to enroll or make changes to coverage by contacting HPRS.

A Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) is a tax-free account where HPRS will make contributions to those eligible for HPRS retiree health benefits and enrolled in a Medicare plan through Via Benefits. This contribution only applies to eligible retirees and surviving spouses, and a dependent will not have access to an HRA until the primary member is eligible for the HRA allowance. The HRA gives you flexibility in how your subsidy dollars from HPRS are used. You can be reimbursed from the HRA for medical and prescription drug coverage premiums and other eligible expenses. Participation in an HRA requires reimbursements be processed through direct deposit to your designated bank account; no paper checks will be issued.

Your HRA is a joint account for you and your Medicare-eligible covered dependent. This means you and your dependent will share the funding that you receive, similar to a joint checking account. The monthly amount provided in 2022 for a retiree is \$183.33, and \$91.67 for a survivor. Any unused funds remaining in your HRA at the end of the calendar year roll over to the next calendar year. Because the HRA is a reimbursement account, you must pay for your eligible expenses up front, then request reimbursement directly from Via Benefits. A married Medicare-eligible couple currently pays \$3,060 annually in premiums (\$255 per month). Rather than paying that amount in premiums to HPRS, the member will be provided with \$183.33 per month to purchase the plan that makes the most sense for the member and his/her spouse. This is a swing of \$438/month to the member's favor to go toward their premiums and other eligible expenses.

Although the majority will save on their overall health care expenses, some will spend more, primarily on prescription drugs. A Catastrophic Prescription Coverage Benefit (CatRx Coverage) is available to help with high out-of-pocket prescription drug costs, co-payments, and coinsurance, once a participant reaches the Medicare Part D catastrophic level of drug coverage. Via Benefits will provide more information about this additional benefit in your Funding Guide to Reimbursement mailing to you in early January 2022.

As a reminder, this change will require a different approach to budgeting for health care needs. Based on the plan you select, some expenses may occur earlier in the year until you hit out-of-pocket limits, etc., and then will be much less expensive the rest of the year. It is critical that you continue to shop for the most affordable prescription drugs, and not rely only on the prescription drug insurance alone. Resources such as GoodRx often provide a savings over the insurance rates.

Please review the materials that you will soon receive in the mail from HPRS and Via Benefits for additional guidance.

UPCOMING EVENTS

There are several retiree gatherings taking place on a regular basis. The details of these gatherings can be found on our website. I encourage you to check with the contact person to ensure they are being held as scheduled prior to traveling to the event.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol Retiree's Association has scheduled two of their main events for the year:

The Annual Meeting and Luncheon will take place Saturday, October 2, 2021, at the Aladdin Shrine Center, 1801 Gateway Circle, Grove City, OH 43123. Reservations are due by September 24th. The cost is \$20 per person, and you can download a reservation form from their website at www.oshpretiree.org/Index.html.

The Snowbird Reunion will be March 23-26, 2022, at the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary, in Lake Mary, Florida. The hotel is now accepting reservations at a special group rate of \$139.00. You are encouraged to take advantage of the early room reservation opportunity. Please continue to check the OSHPRRA website for more details as they are finalized.



Mandatory Face Coverings Required at OSP Academy

Effective August 23, 2021 all staff, students and visitors at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy will be required to wear masks. If a person does not have one, one will be provided to you. This mask requirement is regardless of your vaccination status. All are asked to understand these measures are being taken in an attempt to be proactive and ensure training at the academy is not impacted, suspended, or shut down in its entirety.

Actuarial Report

Foster & Foster Actuaries and Consultants presented the December 31, 2020, actuarial valuation for HPRS. The assumption and benefit changes approved produced a 22-year amortization period and a funded ratio of 70.2% for the pension system. The health care fund is projected to remain solvent until 2031. This cash flow projection does not take into consideration the changes that are being made for our Medicare-eligible population, which is expected to add to the solvency.

Employee contribution and allocation to the health care fund will remain at 14% and 0%, respectively. Eligible retirees will receive a 3% Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) in 2022.

Retiree Qualification

As a reminder, your qualification under the LEOSA rules is only good for one year from the date of qualification. This can be found in 18 USC 926C: Carrying of concealed firearms by qualified retired law enforcement officers. For example, if you qualified on May 1, 2020, then you must qualify on or prior to May 1, 2021.

The scheduled retiree qualifications at the Academy are:

- Wednesday, October 13, 2021, at 1300 hours

You must complete a Weapons Qualification Record (HP-15C), that includes your personal weapon information, and submit it no less than 14 days prior to the qualification date. Retirees must bring their Division-issued ID Card with them to the qualification, and the retiree must supply weapon(s) and ammunition. If you have any questions, please call the Academy, at 614.466.4896.



On June 17th Captain Cory Davies, board chair, presided over his last board meeting as he retired from the Ohio State Highway Patrol on June 18, 2021. Cory served on the HPRS board from 2001 - 2003 and from 2005 - 2021. We wish Cory well in his future endeavors.



On May 14, 2021 Sergeant Jeremy Mendenhall retired from the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Jeremy served on the HPRS board from 2013 - 2021. We wish Jeremy well in his future endeavors.



Kenneth Boyer served on the HPRS board as the Treasurer of State's Investment Designee from 2006 - 2021. We wish Ken well in his future endeavors.





Board News

On August 19, 2021, Tpr. Derek Malone (center) was sworn in as one of HPRS's newest board members. Sgt. (ret.) Michael Kasler and Tpr. Brice Nihiser were also sworn in as a result of being re-elected.

Additionally, Capt. Matthew Them was elected board chair and Maj. (ret.) Darryl Anderson was elected vice-chair.

HPRS Board of Trustees

Captain Matthew Them, *Chair*
Major (ret.) Darryl Anderson, *Vice-Chair*
Colonel Richard Fambro
Sergeant (ret.) Michael Kasler
Trooper Derek L. Malone
Trooper Brice Nihiser
Trooper Cynthia Wilt
Major (ret.) JP Allen, *Appointed Investment Expert*
Scott Richter, *Appointed Investment Expert*
Joseph Thomas, *Appointed Investment Expert*

Our office will be closed Monday, September 6, 2021 in observance of Labor Day.

Ohio Highway Patrol Retirement System

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