



Highway Patrol Retirement System

Newsletter

March 2012

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HPRS's Strategic Planning Process Begins:

On February 8, 2012, sixty-four members (34 Retired and 30 Active) of the Highway Patrol Retirement System met at the Patrol Academy to begin the process of developing the system's first strategic plan.

Director Tom Charles, Colonel John Born and HPRS Executive Director Mark Atkeson opened the meeting at 10:00AM and stressed the importance of having a strategic plan in place to address pending legislative pension reform, the rising costs of health care and to protect the sustainability of the retirement system.

Col. (Ret.) Tom Rice, serving as a consultant to HPRS, lead the participants thru the first stages of the planning process and the development of values (Integrity, Transparency, Loyalty, Adaptability and Fiscal Responsibility) that will serve as the foundation upon which the HPRS System will perform.

The planning group also established additional dates for future meetings: March 21, April 4, May 2, and June 6, 2012. All members of HPRS are welcome to attend

future meetings regardless of not attending the first meeting or any subsequent meeting. All future meetings will be held at the Patrol Academy starting at 10:00AM and ending at 3:00PM. The April, May and June meetings were purposely scheduled on "Bean Day" to have as many retirees as possible attend.

Please send an RSVP at least 3 days in advance to Col. Rice (trice@ohprs.org or 614-430-3553) to confirm your attendance at any of the meetings you plan to attend.



Upcoming Events:

Reminder: Colonel John Born has re-established a designated "Bean Day" at the Academy. Bean Day will be held the first Wednesday of each month. Please come and join your fellow retirees.

Snowbird Update

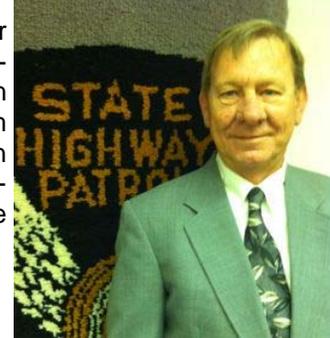


On March 1-4, 2012, the 25th annual Snowbird Reunion was held at the LaQuinta Inn and Suites in Clearwater, Florida. Over 100 retirees and spouses were in attendance. A number of people took advantage of the golf outings at the Eagle Golf Course. A pizza party was hosted on Friday night followed by the banquet and program on Saturday afternoon. Thanks go out to Don and Trudy Robbins and Denny and Barb Bueno for their efforts in hosting this year's event!



Meet our new Chief Financial Officer, Wayne Warner

On January 30, 2012, Wayne Warner became the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for the Highway Patrol Retirement System (HPRS). Prior to his employment with HPRS, Wayne served 27 years with the Highway Patrol and retired in 2000 as Commander of the Fiscal Services Section. Since his retirement from the Patrol, Wayne has worked as an administrator for several large townships in Central Ohio. Wayne's experience in budgeting, policy and procedure development, and financial administration will serve him well in his new position, and we welcome him as part of the HPRS management team.



Wellness Benefits

All retirees and their spouses that are covered on our medical plan (primary or secondary) are eligible to receive a Comprehensive Wellness Exam, which can be received every 2 years. It is administered at OhioHealth Westerville Medical Campus only. To schedule an appointment contact Gina Closser at 614.566.2222 ext. 4794 or Shaneice Rash at ext. 4707.

As many of you know, PrevaHealth closed December 31, 2011. A replacement to the vascular scan they provided is being researched. HPRS will inform you as soon as we have something in place.

Future Newsletters

Beginning with this issue and going forward, we will be publishing one newsletter that will be for active members and retirees both. While some of the information may not be pertinent to both groups we feel it is important to keep everyone fully informed.

Need Care While Away From Home?

No one likes to get sick or hurt while traveling, but rest assured that if you do, you can still receive care from high quality, in-network providers and facilities even if you're outside the state of Ohio. If you get sick or are in an accident while away from home, call the network phone number on your Medical Mutual identification (ID) card that corresponds with the state in which you are traveling. Or you can call Customer Service at 877.520.6729.

If you have Internet access while trav-

eling, visit MedMutual.com and use the Provider Search tool. Choose a provider type (e.g., medical doctor, medical facility, pharmacy) and the state in which you will receive services. You will then be asked to choose a network, which you will find on your ID card. If the state you select to search is not in the SuperMed Network, you will automatically be re-directed to the website of the network that we partner with in that state. Medical Mutual partners with existing

networks throughout the country to ensure you have access to quality doctors and hospitals no matter where you live or travel.

If you need to be admitted to a hospital, be sure to call the prior approval number on your ID card for prior approval on your stay for medically necessary services. If it is a medical emergency, go to the nearest emergency room, or if necessary, call 911.



DROP Rollover into Ohio Deferred Comp

There has been confusion surrounding DROP moneys that have been rolled into an Ohio Deferred Compensation (ODC) 401a rollover account upon termination of employment with the OSHP. Some retirees have been told that money withdrawn from this account prior to attaining age 59 ½ would be subject to a 10% IRS penalty. This is not correct for our membership.

We met with the executive director and finance director of ODC who assured us that the law enforcement exemption applies to OSHP DROP participants as well as Ohio Police and Fire DROP participants. Once you attain the age of 50, you are exempt from IRS penalty for disbursements from your rollover account.

ODC has reviewed all of our accounts and flagged them as belonging to a "public safety officer". Because this was a manual process, an account may have been missed. When looking at your 2011 Form 1099-R from ODC, Box 7 (Distribution Code(s)) should exhibit a "2" if you are age 50-59. This identifies your distribution as being "early distribution, exception applies (under age 59 ½)". If Box 7 shows anything else, please contact ODC at 1-877-644-6457 to request an amended 1099-R. Keep in mind, any disbursements you take throughout the year are subject to federal income tax withholdings which will be indicated in Box 4 of your 1099-R.

When talking to an ODC service center representative, identify yourself as a member of HPRS. If you believe you are receiving information in error, ask to speak to a supervisor. ODC wants to provide our membership with accurate information and quality customer service.

As a DROP participant, you have options on how you want your DROP disbursement(s) to occur once you officially retire from the OSHP. Please contact the HPRS office for more information.

2012 Pension Deposit Dates

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Friday, April 20, 2012

Monday, May 21, 2012

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Friday, July 20, 2012

Monday, August 20, 2012

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Monday, October 22, 2012

Tuesday, November 20, 2012

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Lexapro

A generic version of the popular depression drug Lexapro is expected to launch on February 29, 2012. Express Scripts is going dispense Lexapro tablets as the 'house generic' from its mail order pharmacy.

The term "House Generics" is used to describe the scenario when Express Scripts pharmacy processes a brand name drug as a generic. In these cases, the patient receives the brand name drug at their generic co-payment, and the drug is adjudicated as a generic.

Important things to know about House Generics:

The drugs included in the House Generics program are subject to change. As such, the prescription may be filled as generic in the future.

House Generics applies to mail order claims only.

PTA Consultant's Report

Last year, the Ohio Retirement Study Council (ORSC) contracted with Pension Trustee Advisors (PTA) to perform a comprehensive actuarial review of all five Ohio pension systems in order to advise the Council on pension reform plans currently in pending legislation (S.B.3 and H.B.69.) This review has not been completed, but it

is well underway and is expected to be complete by June. HPRS has been in regular contact with PTA principals providing information and history to ensure an accurate review. Information will be forthcoming as it is provided.





Health Care Funding Meetings

Affordable health care is critical for all of us. Unfortunately, our HPRS Health Care Fund has suffered the effects of the market downturn of 2008 and has not fully recovered. In order to ensure affordable health care for future years, we must address the funding status of our Health Care fund. To that end, the Board has created a Special Committee on Health Care Funding.

Major (ret.) Darryl Anderson chairs the committee, which has met several times. Most recently, we engaged the services of Brian Murphy, an actuary who specializes in public pension solvency issues. On February 2nd, Brian gave a three-hour presentation on the status of our health care fund as well as an overview of the risks and levers facing our system. At the current rate of expenditures exceeding revenue, our health care fund will not be solvent in the long-term without changes to our plan.

We will continue to conduct special meetings to formulate and discuss our options, and present alternatives to the Board later this year. It is important you are informed on what is occurring with your health care benefits. Your input is especially important during these meetings!

The next meeting is on March 15th at 1:00 pm, at the OSHP Academy. Email and phone tree messages have already gone out, and we have set up remote conference sites at each district headquarters. Future meetings will be announced at that time.

Questions, comments or concerns regarding the Special Committee on Health Care Funding should be addressed to Trustee Anderson at dla0321@gmail.com; or by calling him at 614-588-9035.

What Is the Medicare Part D Late Enrollment Penalty?

The late enrollment penalty is an amount added to your Part D premium. You may owe a late enrollment penalty if, at any time after your initial enrollment period is over, there is a period of 63 or more days in a row when you don't have Part D or other creditable prescription drug coverage. (Creditable prescription drug coverage is a plan that pays at least as much as a standard Medicare prescription drug plan).

If you are assessed the Part D Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA), the Social Security Administration will notify you. You will be responsible for paying this extra amount in addition to your plan premium. You will either have the amount withheld from your Social Security benefit check or billed directly by Medicare or the Railroad Retirement Board. Do not pay Aetna Medicare Advantage the Part D IRMAA.

How to Avoid the Late Enrollment Penalty

Join a Medicare drug plan when you're first eligible. You will not have to pay a penalty, even if you've never had prescription drug coverage before.

Do not go 63 days or more in a row without a Medicare drug plan or other creditable coverage. Your plan must tell you each year if your drug coverage is creditable coverage. You may get this information in a letter or in a newsletter from the plan. Keep this information, because you may need it if you join a Medicare drug plan later.

Tell your plan about any drug coverage you had if they ask about it. When you join a Medicare drug plan, the plan will send you a letter if it believes you went at least 63 days in a row without other creditable prescription drug coverage. The letter will include a form asking about any drug coverage you had. Complete the form and return it to your drug plan by the deadline in the letter. If you do not tell the plan about your creditable drug coverage, you may have to pay a penalty.

How much is the Part D Penalty?

The cost of the late enrollment penalty depends on how long you went without creditable prescription drug coverage.

2011 Membership Satisfaction Survey shows need for improvements at HPRS

From November 14, 2011, through December 15, 2011, HPRS conducted a "Member Satisfaction Survey" of all members of HPRS. The last satisfaction survey - that only surveyed retired members - was conducted in June of 2003. All retired members with internet connectivity were asked to complete an electronic survey while active members were provided a survey through the Patrol's Virtual Roll Call electronic portal. Retired members without connectivity (approximately 350) were mailed a copy of the survey with a self-addressed stamped envelope. A total of 676 retired members (57.4%) and 305 active members (20%) completed the survey.

Although the 2011 retired survey results were very good in terms of: Responsiveness to requests; Friendliness of service; Timeliness of service; Accuracy of information; Willingness to search for answers; Level of knowledge and Customer service, the 2011 results were not on par with the same attributes surveyed in 2003. Some attribute scores dropped as much as 30 points. To make a long story short we must improve service to retired members.

The retired survey also indicated that an ever-increasing percentage of retired members obtain more information about the System from the website than the newsletter and over 84% of those responding believe they receive a sufficient amount of information. Use of the HPRS website increased from 2.6% in 2003 to 18% in 2011.

The 2011 active member survey was the first time a satisfaction survey was conducted. Although only 305 active members responded, that number - in a population of 1500 members (20%) - was sufficient to establish a 95% confidence rate that the responses received were representative of the population.

Seventy-four percent of active members read the newsletter and eight-five percent find it helpful with almost ninety percent responding the frequency the newsletter is published is acceptable. Eight-eight percent find it easy or moderately easy to navigate the website and sixty percent have registered on the website and created a log in ID. Sixty-nine percent believe they are receiving sufficient information about health care and eighty-eight percent reported access to the HPRS office as very accessible or moderately accessible. Eighty-six percent are very satisfied or moderately satisfied when they contact the HPRS offices.

Executive Director Mark Atkeson and the HPRS staff have made a total commitment to once again return to the levels of performance and trust as reflected in the 2003 survey. In-service staff training on: Values, Guiding Principles, Communication, Responsiveness, Quality service and Performance have already begun and will continue for the next several months. Director Atkeson appreciates the time and effort given by those who completed the 2011 survey and commits that HPRS will continually strive to improve the office's delivery of services and performance to all members.

Connection Corner

Emails

While emails are a convenient and fast way of communication, please keep in mind they may not be secure. For your own security, please do not include detailed personal information such as your social security number, date of birth, or HPRS log in passwords. If it is necessary to communicate your social security number, only include the last four digits.

Want to connect? There are various informal retiree gatherings going on around the state! See below for locations and contact information if you'd like to attend.

New Philadelphia—2nd Tuesday of the month
Buehler's Food Market, 417 S. Broadway, at 0930 hours.
Contact: Lieutenant Eric Escola, 330-339-2072

Zanesville—Quarterly at the Golden Corral
3761 North Point Dr., Zanesville.
The 1Q 2012 meeting date is not set yet.
Contact: Lieutenant Steven Rine, 740-453-4972.

Logan—1st Wednesday of the month (Breakfast)
Jake's Steak House
Contact: Steve Belyus, 740-698-0306



From the Director

On January 2, 2012, I had the privilege to become your executive director of our retirement system. Hopefully, you have read the news on the hiring of Captain (ret.) Wayne Warner as our new Chief Financial Officer. He will also become the Chief Investment Officer once he is certified. We, and our staff, are committed to providing quality service to our membership and stability to our system.

One of the main issues we will be focusing on this year is pension reform legislation. There has been no movement to date, but we are

expecting legislation to be introduced sometime later this year. As we go forward, I will do my best to keep you informed on legislation and health care issues that may have an impact on our system. I encourage you to get involved in the Strategic Planning meeting currently in progress under the direction of Colonel (ret.) Thomas Rice and the Special Committee on Health Care Funding headed up by Major (ret.) Darryl Anderson.

We will use email, the newsletter, and the automated phone tree to disseminate important information.

We also want to improve and update our website with the latest information. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 614-430-3557 or email me at matkeson@ohprs.org.



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Mark Atkeson, Executive Director

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Email: system@ohprs.org

We're on the web!

www.ohprs.org

***Our office will be
closed on —***

***May 28
(Memorial Day)***



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