



HIGHWAY PATROL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

November 2021

Contact Us: 614.431.0781



"Our History Is Our Pride"

Medicare Connector Update

We are about half-way through the enrollment period, and 80% of our members that were required to access health care through the Medicare Exchange for 2022 have selected a health care plan. Overall, the transition is going well. If you are currently enrolled in the Aetna Medicare Advantage plan through HPRS and have not had contact with VIA Benefits, please contact them as soon as possible at 833.431.1358. Certified letters will be sent soon to all that have not responded.

As a reminder, retirees that are Medicare-eligible must choose a health care plan through Via Benefits to be eligible for the Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA). If you choose only a prescription plan you will not qualify for an HRA. Also, the reimbursement will not be available until 1/1/2022, more information will soon be distributed about the process.

Although you may choose a plan with dental and vision coverage, you do not have to give up your dental and vision coverage through HPRS. If you do not want to keep your dental and vision coverage through HPRS, please contact us immediately.

As expected, the enrollment phone call has been lengthy for most of our members and certainly not enjoyable. The average phone call to enroll lasts 48 minutes. This is an average of course, and we are aware some have been much longer. Please expect to spend at least 45 minutes per person for an enrollment call. This is an important decision and the time necessary to make the proper choice should be anticipated. We have received many calls of support and appreciation. Thank you for your continued patience and understanding.

Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program

The Ohio Department of Insurance has a resource available for Medicare beneficiaries for anyone that wants to learn more about the Medicare insurance available to them. The Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP) provides free, objective health information, to include individualized Medicare counseling, specifically for Ohioans. OSHIIP is available Monday - Friday, 7:30 am - 5pm, at 1.800.686.1578 or online at insurance.ohio.gov. Also, online virtual counseling appointments are available at <https://www.ohiomedicarecounseling.as.me/>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 34th Annual Snowbird Reunion will be March 24-26, 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. More details can be found on our website.

Extra Social Security Wage Credits for Military Service

From 1957 through 2001, if you had military service earnings for active duty (including active duty for training), you may have extra Social Security wage credits added to your earnings record. These extra earnings credits may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit.

Here's how the special extra earnings are credited on your Social Security record:

- From 1957 through 1977, you are credited with \$300 in additional earnings for each calendar quarter in which you received active-duty basic pay.
- From 1978 through 2001, for every \$300 in active-duty basic pay, you are credited with an additional \$100 in earnings up to a maximum of \$1,200 a year.

In January 2002, Public Law 107-117, the Defense Appropriations Act, stopped the special extra earnings that have been credited to military service personnel.

Also, if you enlisted after September 7, 1980, and didn't complete at least 24 months of active duty or your full tour, you may not be able to receive the additional

earnings. Additional information can be found at <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/military.html>.

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, 2021, then you must qualify on or prior to May 1, 2022.

The upcoming scheduled retiree qualifications at the Academy are:

- Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at 1300 hours
- Wednesday, April 4, 2022, at 1300 hours
- Wednesday, June 10, 2022, at 1000 hours
- Wednesday, August 10, 2022, at 1300 hours
- Wednesday, October 12, 2022, at 1300 hours

As a reminder, you must complete a Weapons Qualifications Record (HP-15C), that includes your personal weapon information, and submit it to Melissa Fellure at mjfellure@dps.ohio.gov 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.

Important Numbers For You To Have On Hand

HPRS	(614) 431-0781
VIA Benefits*	(833) 431-1358
Medicare	(800) 633-4227
Medical Mutual of Ohio	(877) 520-6729
Express Scripts**	(866) 472-6249
Aetna Vision	(877) 973-3238
Delta Dental of Ohio	(800) 524-0149
Social Security	(800) 772-1213
Ohio Deferred Compensation	(877) 644-6457
OSHIIP	(800) 686-1578

*VIA Benefits currently services Medicare-eligible beneficiary recipients only, for health care and prescription coverage. For those not yet Medicare-eligible, health care coverage is provided by HPRS through Medical Mutual of Ohio (MMO).

**Express Scripts coverage through HPRS for non-Medicare enrollment.

Our office will be closed:

- December 24th - Christmas Day (observance)
- December 31st - New Year's Day (observance)

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