

Delaware Public Employees' Retirement System NEWSLETTER

Retiree Edition

July 2018

Pension Adjustments

Senate Bill 236 passed the second session of the 149th General Assembly, which concluded on June 30, 2018. It provides for a one-time supplemental payment for retirees whose effective date of retirement was on or prior to July 1, 2018.

As of November 1, 2018, there will be a \$400 one-time supplement for retired members of the State Employees', New State Police, and Judicial Pension Plans (not the Closed State Police plan). This increase will be reflected in the monthly pension benefit payment on November 30, 2018.

The purpose of SB 236 is to provide a one-time supplement to employees and retirees, but the intent of the legislation is that an individual should not receive more than one supplement payment. So if you are an active employee that receives a supplement payment you will not receive the retiree supplement, unless you are receiving a survivor pension.

The Closed State Police Plan Post Retirement Increase is 2.15% and will be included in the July 31, 2018 benefit payment.

Upcoming Pension Benefit Check Dates:

Pension benefits are payable on the last working day of each month, with the exception of December. The schedule for the balance of 2018 is as follows:

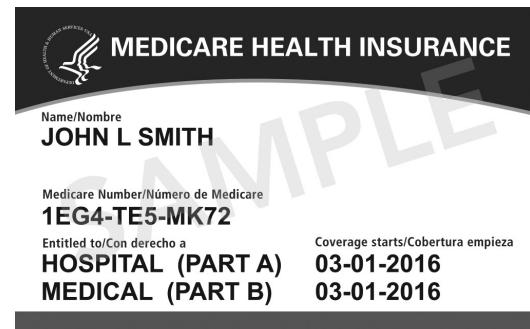
Friday, August 31, 2018	Friday, November 30, 2018
Friday, September 28, 2018	Friday, December 21, 2018
Wednesday, October 31, 2018	

The Pension Office will be closed on the following dates:

Labor Day	Monday, September 3, 2018
Election Day	Tuesday, November 6, 2018
Veteran's Day	Monday, November 12, 2018
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 22, 2018
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday, November 23, 2018
Christmas Day	Tuesday, December 25, 2018

New Medicare Cards Are Coming!

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) began mailing new cards to all enrolled members starting in April 2018. A new and unique Medicare Beneficiary Identification (MBI) number will replace Social Security numbers printed on Medicare cards in order to protect your identity. You should receive a new card within the next year based on the state in which you reside. You do not need to request a new card as it will automatically be sent to you as long as your address is current on your Social Security account. Your Medicare insurance coverage and benefits will remain the same. You should use the new card once received, destroy your old card containing your Social Security number, and inform your health care providers of your new number.



You do not need to send the Office of Pensions a copy of your new card if you are already enrolled in the State sponsored Highmark Delaware Medicare supplemental plan.

Pensioners and dependents just enrolling in Medicare, or the supplemental plan, must submit a copy of the card in order for the enrollment into the Special Medicfill supplemental plan to be processed. It is important that you include your unique pension ID number or the pensioner's Social Security number on the card copy in order for the new enrollment to be processed. To learn more information pertaining to your Medicare card and benefits visit Medicare.gov.



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Website Makeover

The Office of Pensions released a 'new look' to our website on June 25, 2018.

We've updated the site with a new color theme throughout. You will also notice some changes to the 'homepage' so that important information is more readily displayed. Across the top of the page, in a horizontal fashion, you will find areas for Active Members, Retirees, and Employers, as well as other Information and Resources. On the right side of the page are additional items of importance to our customers.

As we are a State agency, certain improvements were made so that our site has a 'common look and feel' (CLF) to other

State of Delaware agencies. This CLF is found at the very top and bottom of our homepage. The top area is where you find a link to Delaware.gov, other Agencies, and information links for the State of Delaware. The bottom of the page, known as the footer, has common information specific to the Office of Pensions site.

The website has the ability to adjust the size and look depending on the device you use to view the site. As you view our site on a traditional computer, tablet or even a smartphone, the presentation will adjust to give you the best viewing experience on that device.



Phone Scams

The Office of Pensions recently received a call from a pensioner stating they had received a scam call. The caller stated that their caller ID showed Pension Benefits and that they let the call go to their voicemail. The message stated that they were from "Pension Benefits" but did not identify any State or company and wanted to reach them about something pension related. The pensioner called the number back and one of the first things they asked for was their Social Security Number. The pensioner realized it was a scam and immediately hung up.

According to the "Federal Trade Commission", every year thousands of people lose money to telephone scams – from a few dollars to their life savings. Scammers will say anything to cheat people out of money. Some seem very friendly – calling you by your first name, making small talk, and asking about your family. They may claim to work for a company you trust, or they may send mail or place ads to convince you to call them.

If you get a call from someone you do not know who is trying to sell you something you hadn't planned to buy, say "No thanks." And, if they pressure you about giving up personal information – like your credit card or Social Security Number – it's likely a scam. Hang up and report it to the Federal Trade Commission. For more information please visit the Federal Trade Commission's Website at www.consumer.ftc.gov.

