

# MEMBER'S REPORT

The quarterly newsletter for active and retired OP&F members and their survivors

Ohio  
Police  
& Fire Pension  
Fund



## RETIREES SHOULD PREPARE FOR UPCOMING OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIODS

The time for retirees and eligible dependents who receive a health care stipend from OP&F to review their health care plans for 2021 is just around the corner. This is your opportunity to make sure your health care benefits are keeping up with your needs. OP&F is again working with Aon and their partners, eHealth and YSA to help manage the stipend and reimbursement process.

The Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) for eligible retirees will be funded Jan. 1. The stipend amount depends on your Medicare status and dependents who may be eligible to participate (see the stipend chart included in this newsletter).

If you are a new retiree or if you believe you qualify for the OP&F health care stipend, complete and submit the Health Care Stipend Eligibility Form available on the OP&F website. For eligibility information, please refer to the health care section of the OP&F website.

*Pre-Medicare retirees:*

*Open enrollment dates: Nov. 1 through Dec. 15*

For retirees not yet eligible for Medicare, you can choose an individual or family plan through eHealth or the open marketplace. You can use your HRA to help reimburse health, prescription drug, dental and vision plan premiums, and other eligible health-related expenses such as copays, coinsurance and deductibles.

- The open HRA means it is not required that you maintain health plan enrollment through Aon. However, if you have a change in your plan premium, you will need to submit a claim form to update the recurring reimbursement. If you cancel coverage through Aon you will need to certify new coverage through OP&F.
- If you change your plan for 2021, you will need to make a premium payment to your new health care plan carrier before the January effective date. Also, with a new plan you will need to submit a new HRA reimbursement form and proof of payment to Your Spending Account (YSA) to initiate reimbursement.

*Get started today*

Log in to [retiree.aon.com/OP-F](http://retiree.aon.com/OP-F) to update or activate your personal Aon account. To enroll, select the Individual & Family link on the home page.

*Good to know*

If you would like to keep your existing coverage, there is nothing you need to do. As long as the plan is available in 2021, your policies will automatically renew. Be sure to check the plan details as benefits and costs may change. If you are considering different coverage, you have until Dec. 15 to change plans.

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# RETIREES SHOULD PREPARE FOR UPCOMING OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIODS (CON'T)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Keep in mind, if your health needs have changed, your coverage may need to change as well. New 2021 plans will be available Nov. 1, and we are pleased that eHealth is working to add additional plans in Ohio. When you renew or change plans through Aon and eHealth, licensed agents can help you decide on coverage and help get you enrolled.

Aon provides advisory services, online decision-making tools, educational information and enrollment assistance.

The Open Enrollment Period ends Dec. 15, so if you have questions please call 844-290-3674 (TTY 711), Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 9 p.m. EST.

## Medicare-eligible retirees

Open enrollment dates: Oct. 15 through Dec. 7

Now is your chance to review your Medicare coverage to make sure it meets your needs. It is a good idea to check at least once a year that your benefits cover your health care and medication changes.

You remain eligible for the OP&F health care stipend only if you maintain coverage through Aon Retiree Health Exchange. Use this money to help reimburse plan premiums and other qualifying out-of-pocket health expenses, such as copays, coinsurance and deductibles.

## Get started today

When you log in to your account at [retiree.aon.com/OP-F](http://retiree.aon.com/OP-F), you will see a newly enhanced plan overview that gives you coverage recommendations based on your updated health details. Plus, you can see how other plans compare to your current coverage—so you can find the plan that best matches your needs automatically. For even greater protection, check out the dental and vision plan options, too.

Aon gives you access to the same proprietary online tools that licensed Benefits Advisors use. You can get estimated out-of-pocket costs when you explore plans online—making it easier for you to manage Medicare.

## Good to know

- If you would like to keep your existing coverage, there's nothing you need to do. As long as the plan is available in 2021, your plan will automatically renew. Be sure to check the plan details as benefits and costs may change.
- If you keep your existing coverage, your HRA auto premium reimbursements will continue as is. Should your premium amount change for 2021, please contact Your Spending Account (YSA) to update the amount you receive.

## Want to shop for other coverage?

To learn about your plan options, shop online through the Aon website set up for OP&F members or contact Aon for assistance. If you change your plan for 2021:

- You may be required to answer health-related questions;
- You may need to make a premium payment to your new health care plan carrier before the January effective date; and
- You may have to wait for insurance company confirmation before HRA reimbursements begin.
- Medicare-eligible members and dependents must choose a plan through Aon to receive the OP&F stipend.
- Our priority is helping you manage your Medicare like a pro so you can decide confidently. The Annual Enrollment Period ends Dec. 7.
- If you have questions or would like to schedule an appointment to talk with a Benefits Advisor, call 844-290-3674 (TTY 711), Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 9 p.m. EST.

## PORTFOLIO -update-



<b>OP&amp;F's Investment Portfolio Value</b>	As of September 1:	End of July value:	End of June value:
	\$15.77 billion	\$15.45 billion	\$15.06 billion

\* values may be internally estimated



## **DATES FOR RE-SCHEDULED TRUSTEE ELECTIONS ANNOUNCED**

Trustee elections postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic will take place this fall. OP&F members will elect an active police representative, an active fire representative and a retired police representative to the Board of Trustees during elections in November. Currently, Daniel J. Desmond (Toledo Fire), Edward L. Montgomery (Columbus Police) and John L. Wainscott (Cincinnati Police, retired) hold these positions.

Desmond has been a trustee since being elected in 2014. Wainscott was elected to the Board in 2011. Montgomery is the longest-serving member of the Board, winning election for the first time in 2007.

A notice of election was mailed to police and fire departments and to retired police members on Sept. 8, and election materials, including nominating petitions, certificates of eligibility and election rules were posted to the OP&F website on that date.

Eligible members who intend to run for a position on the Board of Trustees must submit all required forms and information to OP&F no later than 4 p.m. on Oct 12.

Ballots will be mailed in late October with a deadline to return them by Dec. 1. The election results will be announced by Dec. 21. The new term for the trustees will begin Jan. 4, 2021. Members are encouraged to update address information with OP&F so that they receive election information and can cast their ballot.

## **RECORDING OF PRE-RETIREMENT WEBINAR AVAILABLE ONLINE**

If members who are nearing retirement are not able to participate in one of the Pre-Retirement Webinars this month (Oct. 6-8), a recorded version will be available at [op-f.org](http://op-f.org).

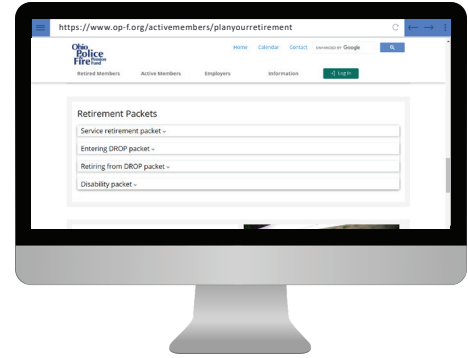
The webinar was designed to assist members approaching retirement eligibility or considering enrolling in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP). In addition to information on benefits and the retirement process, information is also included from OP&F's health care partner. The recorded webinar is posted under the Plan for your Retirement section of the website.

## RETIREMENT FORMS AND MATERIALS NOW BUNDLED ON WEBSITE

Several forms, notices and information are provided when an OP&F member has an appointment with a counselor to discuss retirement. With the pandemic, these appointments take place over the phone. While the materials can still be mailed, OP&F has now made it easier to access them online.

The necessary forms, guidebooks and other printed materials are now bundled for easy access on the Plan for Your Retirement page at op-f.org. The bundles include items needed for applying for a service retirement, entry into the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP), retiring from DROP and how to apply for disability benefits.

These items have always been on the OP&F website, but now are more convenient for members to view or print from one location.



## OP&F RETIREES TAKING ADVANTAGE OF EXTENDED REIMBURSEMENT DEADLINES

Retired members of OP&F have taken advantage of federally-extended deadlines to file 2019 health care reimbursements. The original March 31 deadline was extended three times, first to April 30, then Sept. 30, and now Dec. 31. This allows OP&F retirees who receive a health care stipend until the end of the year to receive reimbursements for qualified expenses from 2019.

From April 1 through Aug. 31, the extensions allowed OP&F retirees to receive \$667,590 in reimbursements.

## GET INFORMED ABOUT YOUR MEDICARE CHOICES

Get an in-person look at Medicare from the comfort of your own home. The Aon Retiree Health Exchange and OP&F are sponsoring free webinars every month in 2020 for members who are becoming eligible for Medicare.

These webinars are specifically for those that are retired and becoming Medicare eligible within the next six months. You may join one or all webinars. The webinars will include information on how and when to enroll. Below is the schedule for the webinars and instructions on how to participate.

To participate, follow these steps:

1. Visit webex.com
2. Select Join from the upper right area of the screen
3. Enter the meeting number, your name and email
4. If a meeting password is requested, enter Medicare1!

To access the webinar conference line, call 1-877-542-7993 (toll free). Please do not select "join video" when prompted. Each Webinar begins at 11 a.m. Eastern Time and lasts approximately one hour.

### **Tues, Oct. 20**

Meeting number and attendee access code: 598 625 775  
When prompted, enter the participant passcode: 598 625 775#

### **Tues, Nov. 17**

Meeting number and attendee access code: 597 940 998  
When prompted, enter the participant passcode: 597 940 998#

### **Tues, Dec. 15**

Meeting number and attendee access code: 597 887 137  
When prompted, enter the participant passcode: 597 887 137#



## NCPERS, PRUDENTIAL AGAIN OFFERING SPECIAL POLICY FOR ACTIVE OP&F MEMBERS

As a member of the Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund, you are automatically a member of the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS). NCPERS is one of the largest trade associations for public sector employees, serving approximately 21 million employees and retirees.

If you are an active OP&F member, you can apply for Group Decreasing Term Life Insurance coverage issued by The Prudential Insurance Company of America. This Public Employee Financial Protection Plan is designed specifically with OP&F members in mind.

The money your family receives can help pay the mortgage so they can continue to live in their home, or it can go toward the college education they deserve. It can be used to help settle final expenses, or it can help ensure your spouse can retire with dignity.

This affordable plan pays a maximum benefit in your younger years, when you need it more—during early family-building years when your needs are the greatest and your pension benefits are lower—and a gradually decreasing amount as you get older, when you may have greater savings and lower expenses.

Features include:

- A new Student Loan Protection Benefit.
- Guaranteed coverage—no medical exams required, and you can't be turned down.
- Flat rate of \$17/month that can even be carried throughout retirement.
- Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D) insurance at no additional cost.
- 24/7 coverage on or off the job.

- Estate Guidance Service.
- Waiver of Premium—If you are less than 60 years old and become totally disabled for at least nine months, your insurance may be continued without further premiums.
- Option to Accelerate Payment of Death Benefits—if you are terminally ill with a life expectancy of six months or less, you may receive up to 50 percent of your insurance benefits in advance.
- Coverage you can take into retirement if you were an enrolled actively at-work employee at time of retirement and will be receiving a retirement check.
- Dependents are automatically covered at no extra cost.
- Contact the plan administrator for details on these features.

This plan also includes coverage for your spouse or domestic partner and a flat benefit for all of your dependent children. The benefit amount will be paid to you in a lump sum upon an eligible dependent's death due to any cause. Spousal or domestic partner benefits are determined by your age at the time of your spouse's or domestic partner's death.

You may enroll now through Nov. 30, 2020. To learn more, watch a short video, or enroll online, visit [www.ncpersprotection.com](http://www.ncpersprotection.com). If you have any questions, contact the plan's administrator, Member Benefits, at 800-525-8056 for assistance.

This policy provides accident insurance only. It does not provide basic hospital, basic medical, or major medical insurance as defined by the New York State Department of Financial Services. This policy does not provide coverage for sickness.

## 2020 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS) FORM 1099-R



OP&F will be issuing the 2020 Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) Form 1099-R in January 2021 to members and beneficiaries who received a benefit payment related to service, disability, annuity, survivor, death, an active member withdrawal or the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP). In preparation of OP&F's year-end processes, all 2020 distributions will need to be processed and issued on or before Thursday Dec. 17.

If a member would like a DROP distribution for the 2020 tax year, be aware of the following deadlines:

- For a DROP distribution request for \$300,000 or more:
  - OP&F will need to be in receipt of your DROP Distribution Request Form by Nov. 17, in order to ensure the DROP distribution is issued by Dec. 17.
- For a DROP distribution request less than \$300,000:
  - OP&F will need to be in receipt of your DROP Distribution Request Form by Dec. 10, in order to issue the DROP distribution by Dec. 17.
- DROP Distribution Request Forms received after the cutoff dates may not be issued until after Jan. 1, 2021.
- OP&F will not be issuing any DROP distributions from Dec. 18, 2020 through Dec. 31.

Retrieve Form 1099-R online (or opt-out of the mailing)  
OP&F's website allows members to download the Form 1099-R for tax reporting purposes and avoid receiving

the form in the mail. This feature not only saves the cost of mailing the form but it is also environmentally friendly, convenient, and secure.

To opt-out of the mailing,

- Members must log into their account from the Member Self-Serve area of the OP&F website.
- Choose Document Preferences.
- Choose to opt-out of the mailing.
- Members must have an email address to use the opt-out feature.

Members can access the Form 1099-R by going to [www.op-f.org](http://www.op-f.org) and logging into their OP&F Member Self-Serve account. The Form 1099-R can be viewed and printed from the Member Documents link.

Only OP&F members who have a Member Self-Serve account can retrieve and print tax forms online. To register, go to [www.op-f.org](http://www.op-f.org) and click the link for Log In, in the upper right corner. Next, look for the Members link to register and follow the instructions on the screen.

OP&F recommends logging into the Member Self-Serve system after Jan. 31 to confirm you have all the Form 1099-Rs issued. If you have any questions, contact OP&F's Customer Service at 1-888-864-8363.

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**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6****Update tax withholdings**

To change the taxes being withheld from OP&F's benefit payments the IRS Form W-4P Withholding Certificate for Pension or Annuity Payments and the Withholding Certificate for Ohio State Income Tax are both available on OP&F's website. These forms are also available by calling OP&F Customer Service at 1-888-864-8363. If a member or beneficiary moves out of state, OP&F does not automatically stop the Ohio State withholding. Members and beneficiaries must submit a request, in writing, to stop Ohio tax withholding from their OP&F benefits.

**Update contact information with OP&F**

Members should be aware that OP&F's mail will not be forwarded if the address on file is not correct. Additionally, OP&F cannot fax a Form 1099-R to a member, beneficiary or to a third party without notarized authorization.

Notify OP&F if any contact information needs updated to ensure the timely receipt of Form 1099-R. OP&F offers several convenient ways to update an address:

- **Online:**
  - Go to [www.op-f.org](http://www.op-f.org) and click on Log In, then on Members Log In and follow the steps under Register.
  - Once an electronic profile is set up, the member demographics can be updated.
- **Mail:**
  - Send the updated information in writing or on a completed OP&F Change of Address form to OP&F at 140 East Town Street, Columbus, OH 43215.
  - OP&F's Change of Address form can be found online at [www.op-f.org](http://www.op-f.org) under Retired Members, then Member Forms.
- **Call:**
  - OP&F at 1-888-864-8363.
  - OP&F will be able to update any contact information over the phone.

**Update Address with the U.S. Post Office**

If the 1099-R will be mailed to a winter residence, please be sure to file a Change of Address form with the U.S. Post Office 10 postal days before delivery should begin.

**The U.S. Post Office's Change of Address form:**

- Can be filled out online at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) or by calling 1.800.ASK.USPS (1-800-275-8777).

- Is only good for six months even if the discontinue date is not filled in.
- OP&F recommends submitting the U.S. Post Office's Change of Address form at both U.S. Post Offices where permanent residence is and also at the U.S. Post Office where temporary residence will be.
- If there are problems with receiving mail, please contact the U.S. Post Office.

**A few reminders about Form 1099-R:**

- Receiving more than one Form 1099-R is not uncommon. Member's and beneficiaries may receive more than one Form 1099-R if they receive more than one benefit payment or they turned age 59½ during 2020.
- Health Care Stipends are not reported on Form 1099-R.
- Non-taxable income is reportable income. Benefit payments may or may not be taxable but they are still reportable to the IRS on Form 1099-R.
- OP&F cannot offer tax advice or financial planning services; therefore, please seek professional tax advice before making any decisions. Please contact the IRS directly for information on filing requirements at 1-800-829-1040.

**Also available on OP&F's website:**

- Federal Tax Reporting Information for OP&F benefit recipients.
- The Private Letter Ruling for on-duty disability retirees.





Toll Free: 1-888-864-8363  
General Information: (614) 228-2975  
Fax: (614) 628-1777  
TTY: (614) 221-3846  
E-mail: [questions@op-f.org](mailto:questions@op-f.org)  
Monday-Fridays 8 am-4:30 pm EST

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**PRUDENCE • INTEGRITY • EMPATHY**

*Securing the future for Ohio's Police and Firefighters*

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- Sept. 29-30 .....Board of Trustees meetings
- Oct. 6-8 .....OP&F Pre-Retirement webinars
- Oct. 12 .....Nominating petitions and materials due for trustee elections
- Dec. 1 .....Deadline for return of ballots for trustee elections
- Dec. 21 .....Trustee election results announced

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?**



If your email address is not on file, please send it to us at [questions@op-f.org](mailto:questions@op-f.org), or contact an OP&F Customer Service Representative at 1-888-864-8363. Members can also update their information securely online from the secure Member Self Serve web portal.

**SUSPECT DISABILITY FRAUD? CALL 844-FRAUD HOTLINE (844-372-8345)**