

# THE NEWSLETTER

Issued by PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREES, INC.

## Third Quarter 2014



### Legislative Report

by John Gilchrist

The Ohio General Assembly has recessed for the summer and is not expected to return until the fall. They may convene for a short session in late September through early October, but more than likely, they will not return until after the November election. What follows is a status report on a number of proposals that we have been following of late.

House Bill No. 442 would require OPERS to provide health insurance benefits for surviving spouses and dependents of police officers, correction officers, and firefighters killed in the line of duty. The bill would actually affect OPERS, OP&F, and SHPRS. As it relates to OPERS, the bill requires health insurance benefits for the surviving spouse and dependents of an

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### A Message From the Chairman

by Bev Calvert



When you receive this copy of the PERI Newsletter, many summer activities will be coming to an end. Some of you will just be returning home from vacations, as children and grandchildren start back to school, enter college, or begin a new career.

At PERI we will be looking forward to our Annual State Meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup>. PERI officers will be bringing you up to date on our activities over the past year, and the leadership from OPERS will be there to explain the present financial status of your pension fund and their projections for the future.

The details of implementing the new health care delivery program in 2016 should almost be completed by that time, but OPERS first needs to get us through open enrollment for 2015 which occurs in October of this year.

During this past year, we were thankful no major legislation was proposed that would have caused damage to

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### INSIGHT FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

by William I. Winegarner

#### Now is the time

Now is the time for retirees to show their appreciation to the members of the OPERS Board of Trustees, who had the foresight and courage to make the required changes to the pension plan and health care program to save OPERS supported health care from absolute elimination.

I know there are retirees who are still proclaiming that OPERS doesn't care about families, or the elderly, or that retirees have been thrown under the bus, or that there is no reason to change from the group plan, or that utilizing the services of a connector company somehow disconnects members from the protection of the retirement system.

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**PERI  
ANNUAL  
MEETING**

**MONDAY  
SEPT 29**

**SEE PAGE  
10-11**

Public Employee Retirees, Inc.  
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Partners in Retirement

## A Message From the Chairman

by Bev Calvert

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our pension system or benefits. Let us hope they don't come up with anything this fall. As always, Mr. Gilchrist and Mr. Winegarner have kept the board well informed as to any potential legislative problems that might occur.

Ohio PERS retirees are so fortunate to have an association such as PERI. When I think about PERI, many times I do so in terms of the strengths of our association. We are unique from other similar associations in the fact that we are completely focused on our purpose and mission, which is to support and protect our pension system and benefits. Our primary ways of protecting our retirement system are by not being caught by legislative surprise, educating our members about pending legislation and encouraging them to talk with their legislators.

The core operation of PERI stems from our Westerville office. Bill Winegarner, Administrator; Laurie Frithiof, Administrative Secretary; and Nancy Heath, Bookkeeper/Newsletter Layout conduct the day to day business of our association.

Our administrator works with the board and senior staff of OPERS to communicate the concerns of our members. He also works with our legislative counsel, John Gilchrist, who covers the Statehouse and works with legislators. During his 21 years at PERI, Bill has developed a great network of individuals who know and understand all aspects of pensions and legislative procedures. His 50 plus years of business ownership and management provides PERI with a background of knowledge hard to find in not-for-profit associations such as ours.

Laurie is the "go-to" person. Laurie handles the phones. Her general knowledge of all aspects of OPERS retirement enables her to answer questions from members seeking help on all kinds of issues including health care, prescriptions, retirement, chapters, and meetings. In addition to posting memberships and functioning as the board's recording secretary, she collects and distributes vast amounts of information to our district representatives and chapter officers.

Nancy is our eyes and ears on tracking all things PERI. Rules prevail in Nancy's world; those of the federal, state, and local governments, along with tracking all the income and verifying all the expenses generated by PERI. Having worked or chaired six different audit committees over the years, I can attest to the detail that Nancy provides as our bookkeeper. In addition, Nancy serves PERI as our Newsletter layout artist, and in her "spare" time backs up Laurie on the phones.

As I mentioned above, John Gilchrist, who has been our Legislative Counsel since 1986, works with the General Assembly and reports to the PERI Board on activities occurring at the State House.

Our administrator and legislative counsel are the primary gatherers and disseminators of the information upon which the PERI board relies. Chapters and individual members also provide their insight to the board through emails and phone calls to the office or through their district representatives.

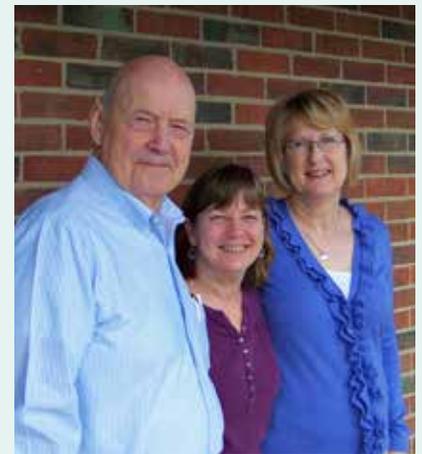
District representatives are elected by the PERI members residing in one of the eight counties that make up the district. Each representative is responsible for bringing their member's perspective to the board meeting deliberations, and for helping to provide guidance and leadership education for their local chapter officers.

The Board of Trustees is made up of an Executive Committee of five officers, and 11 District Representatives.

The Executive Committee consists of the Chairperson, Vice-Chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, and Administrator (non-voting). Each member of the Executive Committee has years of experience as a district representative and chairs at least one of the standing committees. The purpose of the Executive Committee is to approve recommendations made by the administrator or committees and to submit their recommendations to the board of trustees for final action.

All policy decisions for PERI are made by the Board of Trustees and carried out under the direction of our administrator.

I realize that this is a very simplified scope of PERI's structural workings. The message that I want to convey is that what makes PERI unique, is that we are people voluntarily working with and for Ohio PERS retirees to accomplish one common goal: protecting our pension system, and the benefits it provides for all retirees, present and future.



Left to right: Bill, Nancy, Laurie

## Legislative Report

Continued from page 1

OPERS law enforcement officer or correctional officer killed in the line of duty. Benefits for defendants will be required to be paid until the dependent attains age 18 or until age 22 if a full-time student. For a surviving spouse who becomes eligible for Medicare Parts A and B, OPERS would then be required to provide additional coverage through a Medicare Supplement policy and to pay the associated premiums. For a surviving spouse who is not eligible for Medicare Part A, PERI is to enroll the spouse in Part A or provide equivalent coverage.

PERI has concerns with the funding source because of the changes OPERS has been making relative to its offering of health care benefits for retirees and especially spouses. We take no position on the intent of the bill, but PERI has concerns that the benefits provided in the bill will be the financial responsibility of OPERS. In short, we are seeking a different funding source.

Status: the bill is in the House Health and Retirement Committee and has had sponsor testimony.

There is a package of four bills House Bill 321, 322, 323 and 324 designated as the DataOhio initiative—the stated goal of which “is to coordinate useful information so that political subdivisions can compare like data, thereby promoting transparency and efficiency.”

PERI is monitoring these bills for their possible impact on OPERS. Status: The bills have been reported out of the House State and Local Government Committee.

Another bill we are monitoring is H. B. No. 285 which deals with reemployed retirees. The bill provides that an individual retiring after the effective date of the bill and who is re-employed as a public employee will not receive the pension portion of the retirement allowance for the period of employment.

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## INSIGHT FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

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I could understand some of these statements, if factual information were not abundantly available; however, it is. OPERS meetings are open to the public. These people who are so intent on demoralizing their fellow retirees with partial or inaccurate information could have attended the meetings, but they didn't. It is even worse when these naysayers are members of PERI. We have been explaining the causes for the erosion of the solvency of the health care fund since 1999. We have kept you up to date on the legislative inactions that damaged the retirement system's ability to resolve many of the situations earlier. We, including the state office, districts, chapters, and legislative networks have worked hand in hand with OPERS to get the General Assembly to quit stalling and to enact needed pension reform to help shore up the health care fund.

I have written numerous articles in our newsletters explaining the situation confronting OPERS. In short, health care was costing 1.6 billion dollars per year and there was only 10 billion dollars left in the fund. Someone had to do something. By the way, these figures are all public record. They are independently audited and reviewed by the Ohio Retirement Study Council. So when the doom and gloom members say that the OPERS figures were just made up, you will have to decide if they, or the audited financial records, are stating the truth.

I apologize to those of you who have not been exposed to all of the negativity of some retirees, but it was necessary for me to clear the air, for those who have. I also want you to know that the vast majority of our retirees realize that changes had to be made, and they are very thankful that there were men and women with the courage to make the tough decisions.

As I have explained in previous articles, it first became apparent (1999) that the OPERS health care plan was going to be in jeopardy, the OPERS leadership staff began warning their board of the eminent need for change. Not wanting to panic or to make radical changes, the board originally directed the staff to develop a health care preservation plan (HCPP) that would institute small measured changes with which the board felt they could live. After months of meetings that included input from health industry experts, retirees and stakeholder groups (PERI was involved in every meeting), the OPERS board approved HCPP 1.0. After that came a few minor

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Please remember to inform us if you move *or if you change your email address*

You can write, call, or email us

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(614) 891-6868 • (800) 247-7374 • email: [office@operi.org](mailto:office@operi.org)

## Legislative Report

Continued from page 3

Status: the bill is in House Health and Aging and has not had a hearing.

As previously reported, we testified in opposition to H. B. No. 162, a bill that would add extortion and perjury and certain federal offense to the current list of offenses that may result in the forfeiture of retirement benefits when committed by certain individuals. The bill was unanimously voted out of committee, unanimously passed the House, and received the stamp of approval from the Ohio Retirement Study Council.

Again, we opposed the bill under the principle that moneys held in OPERS are not public funds. Public employees, who were paid with tax dollars, earned it, but once earned and deposited into the retirement system, it became private funds, held in their behalf and should not be used for anything but retirement and disability benefits. In short, PERI believes that the moneys in OPERS and the other four retirement systems should not be used by the legislature for purposes or activities unrelated to pensions or benefits.

In the recent past PERI has opposed some very significant legislative proposals on the grounds that the money in the systems is no longer public moneys. PERI opposed a legislative proposal that would have required the five systems to divest certain investments in companies doing business in

Iran. PERI testified in opposition contending that OPERS is a quasi-public entity that serves as a fiduciary of the moneys; that the moneys are being held in trust; and that the moneys are not taxpayer moneys anymore. Since the funds are not public money, PERI contended that they should not be used by the legislature in an attempt to influence foreign policy as it related to Iran and Sudan.

PERI opposed another piece of legislation that contained the so-called "Buy-Ohio" provisions that would have required the five retirement systems to use Ohio brokers for 70% of their equity and fixed-income trades. Under another provision, if a retirement system desired to contract with an investment manager to manage fund assets, not less than 50% of the assets contracted out would have to be with Ohio investment managers. Again, PERI asserted that the moneys are held in trust and to require the moneys to be used for purposes other than for the benefit of members would violate the board's fiduciary duty to discharge its duties solely in the interest of participants and beneficiaries. I should state that the Association believes that with all things being equal, the systems should support Ohio businesses. In addition, the Association ultimately supported the provision when it was amended to require the systems to have as a goal the use of more Ohio brokers and money managers in the investment of their assets.



## Election Information

PERI is governed by a representative body called: The Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees is comprised of five (5) Officers and eleven (11) District Representatives.

District Representatives are up for election in their districts every other year for terms of two years.

All Officers, except for the Secretary/Treasurer, are up for election every year for 1 year terms. The Secretary/Treasurer is up for election every two years for terms of two years. Officers are elected by all members.

The Secretary/Treasurer is not up for election in 2014, therefore we only have four positions for the membership to consider. It takes considerable experience to fill these positions and consequently most positions are rarely contested. Please review and mark whether or not you are for or against each of the candidates. Once completed, insert your ballot into the enclosed envelope and mail.

In order for a ballot to count, it must be received at the Corporation's main office prior to 5 P.M. September 19, 2014.



Please...Use the ballot envelope to send ballots only...**DO NOT include your annual meeting reservation, or any other information in the ballot envelope.**



## FOR THE OFFICE OF CHAIRPERSON



**Beverly (Bev) Calvert**

Bev Calvert is a Lifetime member of PERI. In 2002, she was elected District 8 Representative. She served in that position through 2005. Under her guidance the District excelled in chapter officer trainings, improved meetings, and membership participation. Bev was elected 3rd Vice-President for 2006, 2nd Vice-President for 2007; 1st Vice-Chair for 2008-2010; Vice-Chair for 2011-2013; and Chairman in 2014.

Bev began her public employment as a secretary to the ODOT Design Engineer, moved up to Administrative Assistant, and eventually became the Equal Employment Coordinator for ODOT. In her chapter, Bev served as the Chapter Vice-President, Membership Committee chairperson, and assisted in the chapter's financial audits. As a PERI Board member, she has served on the Legislative, Chapter-Growth and Education, Constitution, and Audit, Committees; and has also chaired the Legislative, Audit, Trustee Education, and Constitution Review Committees.

## FOR THE OFFICE OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON



**Phil Roberts**

Phil Roberts graduated from Ohio University with a degree in civil engineering. He retired with 40 years of service credit from the Meigs County Engineer's office and the Ohio Department of Transportation.

Upon his retirement, Philip joined PERI and his local chapter in Gallia County. He first was appointed to the PERI Board of Trustees in 2007 to fill an unexpired term, and was elected in 2008, 2009, and 2010 by the members of District 7 to represent them on the PERI board. Mr. Roberts was elected 1st Vice-Chair in 2011, 2012, and 2013; and has been the PERI Vice-Chair in 2014.

Mr. Roberts has been a member of the Chapter Growth and Education, Constitution and Bylaws, Finance, Continuing Education, and Audit committees and has been the chair of Legislative Committee for the past several years.

## FOR THE OFFICE OF 1ST VICE-CHAIR



**Dorothy (Dot) Silver**

Dot Silver, upon retiring, became a member of PERI and her local Chapter in Auglaize County. She served as its Vice-President and President over a six year period.

Ms. Silver is a graduate of St. Rita's School of Nursing and holds a Certificate in Management from Wright State University.

Dot served the members of District 2 as their elected representative from 2009-2012. The state membership elected her 2nd Vice-Chair In 2013, and in 2014 she was elected to the position of 1st Vice-Chair.

Ms. Silver has been a member of the Legislative, Audit, and Nominating committees; and has served as the Vice Chair of the Finance Committee, and Chair of the Continuing Education and Audit Committees.

## FOR THE OFFICE OF 2ND VICE-CHAIR



**Franklin Thomas**

Franklin, a native of Geauga County, received his engineering degree from Case Western University. He retired in 2003 after 32 years on the staff of the Stark County Engineer's office as a civil engineer.

Franklin and his wife relocated to Butler County, where Franklin joined PERI and the local PERI chapter. The members of the chapter first elected him to the position of Treasurer and then to the position of President.

During the years 2008-2013, Mr. Thomas was first appointed, and then elected, by the members to the position of District 4 Representative. He was elected by the state membership to the position of 2nd Vice-Chair in 2014.

As a member of the Board, Franklin has served on the Education, Legislative, Constitution, Finance, and Audit Committees; and has served as the Chair of the Continuing Education Committee.

The Ohio Public Employees Retirement System is pleased to partner with PERI and provide news and updates concerning OPERS health care coverage within your PERI Newsletter. If you have questions or need further information, please contact OPERS at 1-800-222-7377.

## **OPERS is changing the health care plan for Medicare eligible retirees in 2016 – and for very good reasons**

**A message from Karen Carraher, OPERS Executive Director and Marianne Steger, OPERS Health Care Director**

We know you have many questions about how the OPERS health care plan will change when we transition eligible participants to the Medicare Connector in 2016. Few things are as important as our health. Knowing this, OPERS takes our responsibility as a retiree health plan sponsor very seriously. We make every decision regarding the health care plan with the good of the Retirement System and OPERS retirees foremost in our minds.

Because health care can be an emotional topic and change is often intimidating, it's only natural that some have voiced concern about our introduction of a Medicare Connector in 2016. Please be assured that a Medicare Connector is the best solution for the continuation of OPERS retiree health care and increased choice and affordability for retirees.

**Although OPERS is transitioning our Medicare population to a Connector, we will be an active part of the transition process. OPERS will stand behind the work of the Medicare Connector we choose and will be available to retirees should any problems arise throughout the process.**

Please keep in mind this information relates to OPERS retiree health care in 2016. In 2015, the health plan will operate in the same way it has for many years. In August, OPERS will release a mailing to all Medicare-eligible retirees containing a bulletin specific to changes to the health plan in 2015 and a separate document addressing details of the transition to the Medicare Connector in 2016. Our aim is to minimize confusion by allowing you to read about the plan for each year side by side and better understand the differences. In September, you will receive your annual health care open enrollment packet for 2015.

**We know change can be difficult, but we are dedicated to ensuring a successful transition and to being available to you during this important time. Watch your mail for publications and announcements and visit our website at [www.opers.org](http://www.opers.org) to access the OPERS health care video series and the OPERS blog, PERSpective, for the latest information.**

## **Why does the OPERS health care plan need to change?**

### **The current health plan could not be sustained**

Although OPERS retiree health care is not a guaranteed benefit, we are committed to being proactive and offering a quality health care plan for as long as we are financially able. During the development of our recent pension changes, we learned that we would not be able to sustain the health care program in its current format for more than 10 to 14 years.

In order to continue offering retiree health care coverage, OPERS made a number of changes to the plan including the introduction of a Medicare Connector. Our projections indicate that the plan changes will allow our health care plan to be sustainable into the foreseeable future.

### **Individual Medicare plans are less expensive than group plans**

While it may be hard to believe, plans offered through the individual Medicare market are more affordable than employer-sponsored, group Medicare plans. The OPERS Humana/Express Scripts Medicare Advantage Plan costs nearly \$400 per month. A 74-year old retiree can buy a Medicare Supplement Plan F (the medical plan with the highest level of coverage) for less than \$200 per month. Purchasing a drug plan for most retirees will cost an average of only an additional \$39 per month.

### **Individual Medicare plans can offer more comprehensive coverage**

The most popular individual Medicare plan is a Plan F Medicare Supplement Plan. Plan F provides more comprehensive coverage than the current OPERS group Medicare plan and it is offered at a lower rate than OPERS would need to charge for a comparable plan. Retirees selecting this plan will have no deductibles or office visit costs. Retirees who select a supplement plan, such as Plan F, will also need to select a separate drug plan tailored to meet their specific prescription drug needs.

## What is a Medicare Connector?

A Medicare Connector is a company that helps retirees enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B select a plan to supplement the coverage provided by traditional Medicare. A Medicare Connector employs licensed benefits advisors whose job it is to assist retirees in selecting a well-matched individual Medicare plan for themselves and their spouse if applicable.

OPERS will provide eligible retirees with a monthly Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) allowance to use toward the premium for their choice of individual Medicare plan. Any remaining allowance can be used towards the cost of Medicare Part B premiums, a spouse's premium, out-of-pocket medical expenses or future health care costs.

### Why use a Medicare Connector?

If OPERS decided not to use a Medicare Connector and continued offering a plan similar to the current Humana plan, most retirees would see significant increase in their costs. These increases could reach as high as \$200 per month by 2018 when the health care changes are complete. Using a Medicare Connector minimizes the financial burden on retirees and restores their individual purchasing power and choice.

## OPERS announces the Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) Allowance amount for the Medicare Connector

**Most retirees will receive an HRA allowance of \$337 a month.**

The amount of your HRA allowance depends on your years of service and your age when you first enroll in the OPERS health care plan. The monthly HRA allowance amount will range between \$229 and \$405 with more than 90 percent of current retirees receiving \$337. By early next year, each retiree enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B will receive a personalized allowance statement explaining what he or she will be eligible to receive. We anticipate most retirees will have remaining allowance funds they can apply toward Medicare Part B premiums, a spouse's premium or other eligible health care expenses.

### How will I get my monthly Connector allowance?

OPERS will provide your allowance through a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) so that you can receive this money on a pre-tax basis. This requires you to pay your premium first and then seek reimbursement from your HRA. If we did not have you pay first and then seek reimbursement, we would be required by the IRS to tax your allowance. There will be auto-reimbursement options available that will minimize the length of time between paying your premium and receiving your reimbursement.

Additionally, if you currently have a portion of your health care premium deducted from your monthly OPERS pension check, these deductions will cease.

## When will all these changes occur?

In fall 2015, OPERS retirees enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B will have the opportunity to select a health care plan that best meets their individual needs and budget via the OPERS Medicare Connector. Retirees will receive personalized help with choosing a plan that is right for them.

**OPERS is committed to keeping you informed and prepared for each stage of the transition to the OPERS Medicare Connector in 2016. The July OPERS Retiree newsletter will include an insert providing more information. In August, you'll receive a brochure outlining more comprehensive details about how the Medicare Connector will work.**

# Chapter Round-up

District 2 annual district meeting in Lima Ohio on June 23. The Allen County chapter hosted the meeting of 180 attendees. House of Representative from the 84th district, Mr. Jim Buchy, was present along with Laura Herr and Mike Mussell from OPERS, speaking on Healthcare changes.



The District 4 Annual Meeting was held July 7 at the Fairfield Pavilion in Butler County. The guest speaker was John Francescon assisted by Laura Herr, from OPERS, who addressed upcoming changes in healthcare coverage. Also at the meeting Rosemary Dahmann was elected District 4 representative for 2015-2016.



# Chapter Round-up



PERI Chapter 31, Henry County Officers took time to pose for a picture before their chapter meeting. Pictured (left to right) are Vice President Arlene Agler, President Rupert Schweinhagen, Secretary Bill Rohrs and Treasurer Betty Huddle.



Pictured above are PERI District 10 Chapter Presidents. Front row (left to right): Boyd Marsh, Summit County Chapter 21; Julia Jones, Ashland County Chapter 65; Joan Thesling, Medina County Chapter 38; Diane Stahl, Erie County Chapter 60; Sue Steingass, Wayne County Chapter 70. Back row (left to right): Dennis Tellep, Cuyahoga County Chapter 95; Stanley Wojdyla, Lorain County Chapter 83; Bill Ommert, Huron County Chapter 87; and Neal Perrine, Cuyahoga County Chapter 91. Absent: Norene Tokar, Cuyahoga County Chapter 89.

Pictured on the right are District 10 Chapter Officers.



The District 10 annual meeting was held on Tuesday July 8th and was hosted by Huron PERI Chapter 87 at the Norwalk Eagles Post 711. Over 150 attendees heard from speakers from OPERS, Humana, Medical Mutual, State Representative Terry Boose and Senator Gayle Manning.



## INSIGHT FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

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changes, but then reality sank in. If the health care plan was going to survive, radical changes had to be made to it, and to the pension plan of future retirees.

To explain the amount of health care research, review, and evaluation the staff and board of OPERS went through over the past 10 years would require books full of detail. During this same period, OPERS was dealing with an extraordinary onslaught of media, political and legislative attacks on the entire concept of public pension plans. Suffice it to say, that what OPERS has accomplished has been nothing short of monumental.

Retirees can be especially thankful for their representative on the OPERS board, Sharon Downs. She has worked tirelessly to make sure the interests of retirees were taken into account, during the development of the new health care plan. I can't stress enough how vital she will be for us, as the new health care delivery system is implemented.

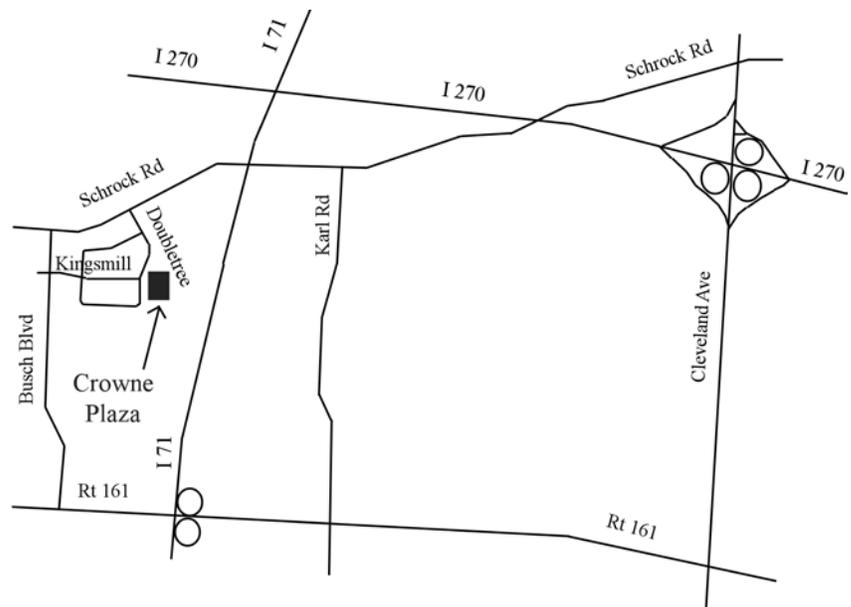
Getting back to the topic of my opening paragraph, all of us owe a great deal of gratitude to the OPERS staff and board for saving the OPERS health care plan for retirees now and into the future. During the development process, they suffered much maligned and criticism; however, they stood firm and in spite of it all have delivered to us health care insurance support, that is as good as, and in most cases better than, what we have now. [See the health care plan update elsewhere in this newsletter and on the OPERS website.]

PERI certainly thanks them for all that they accomplished, and personally, I think it would bless you, and them, if you would also take a moment to write and express your appreciation for what they have accomplished for us.

## PERI ANNUAL 2014 MEETING MAP

Crowne Plaza Hotel

6500 Doubletree Avenue • Columbus, Ohio 43229 • (614) 885-1885

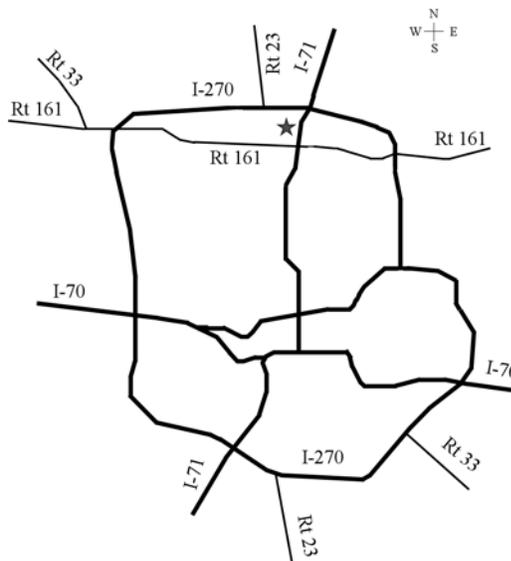


### **From I-71:**

Exit onto Route 161 and head west.

Turn right onto Busch Blvd.

Turn right at third traffic light onto Kingsmill Pkwy which will deadend at Crowne Plaza Hotel.



### **From I-270:**

Exit onto Cleveland Ave North.

Go to the first intersection and turn left (west) onto Schrock Rd.

Follow Schrock Road for 2-1/4 miles to Busch Blvd.

Turn left onto Busch Blvd.

Turn left at first traffic light onto Kingsmill Pkwy which will deadend at Crowne Plaza Hotel.



# 2013 - 2014 PERI Board of Trustees

## PERI Officers

**Bev Calvert • (740) 373-4917**  
*Chairman*

**Philip Roberts • (740) 379-2200**  
*Vice-Chair*

**Dorothy Silver • (419) 394-4527**  
*1st Vice-Chair*

**Franklin Thomas • (513) 858-3573**  
*2nd Vice-Chair*

**Marlene Bond • (740) 658-3673**  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

## District Representatives

**John Sanderson • (419) 335-7738**

District 1 Counties:

*Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Lucas,  
Ottawa, Sandusky, Williams, Wood*

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District 2 Counties:

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Paulding, Putnam, Shelby, Van Wert*

**Jim Douglass • (937) 533-0843**

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Clinton, Hamilton, Highland, Warren*

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Morrow, Richland, Seneca, Wyandot*

**Boots Sheets • (740) 524-4684**

District 6 Counties:

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**Carolyn Waddle • (740) 533-9376**

District 7 Counties:

*Gallia, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs,  
Pike, Ross, Scioto, Vinton*

**Joyce Ramey • (740) 342-2625**

District 8 Counties:

*Athens, Hocking, Monroe, Morgan,  
Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Washington*

**John DeBonis • (740) 695-4320**

District 9 Counties:

*Belmont, Carroll, Coshocton, Guernsey,  
Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Tuscarawas*

**Thomas George • (440) 734-8177**

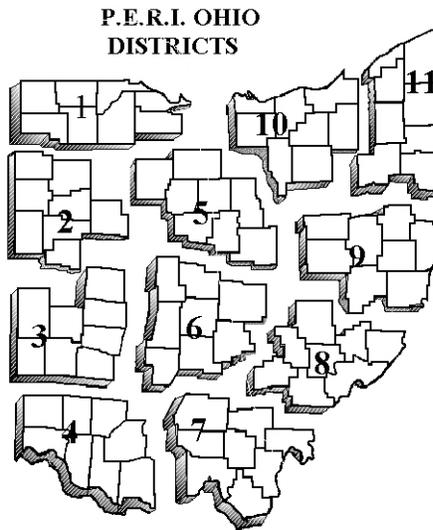
District 10 Counties:

*Ashland, Cuyahoga, Erie, Huron,  
Lorain, Medina, Summit, Wayne*

**John Haught • (440) 352-7134**

District 11 Counties:

*Ashtabula, Columbiana, Geauga, Lake,  
Mahoning, Portage, Stark, Trumbull*



## PERI Staff / Advisors

**William Winegarner**  
*Administrator*

**Laurie Frithiof**  
*Administrative Secretary*

**Nancy Heath**  
*Bookkeeper / Newsletter Layout*

**John Gilchrist**  
*Legislative Counsel*

**Visit our web site • [www.operi.org](http://www.operi.org)**

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Current Legislative Information  
District & Chapter Contact Information  
Newsletter Archives

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