



Public Employee Retirees, Inc.™

Perspectives

Serving OPERS Members Since 1948

3rd Quarter 2023

Mission Statement:

To protect and preserve OPERS pension and benefits programs and advocate for changes that are in the best interest of PERI members, while providing value through communications and education of the membership through our districts, local chapters and external partnerships.

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Public Employee Retirees, Inc
-PERI



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A Message from Your Chair

by Richard L. Ross



On May 9th, for the third time in my life, I testified before a committee of the Ohio legislature to give testimony concerning pending legislation. I gave testimony before the House Pension Committee in support of House Concurrent Resolution 6, urging the Ohio legislature to urge the Ohio Congressional delegation to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), which penalizes those who have public pensions and would be entitled to Social Security from Social Security law.

After testimony was given, the bill was amended to also include eliminating the Government Pension Offset (GPO), which penalizes the spouses of those who received government pensions. The resolution passed the committee unanimously and awaits action by the whole house. Thanks to Representatives. Angela King and Phil Plummer for sponsoring the resolution and Rep. Bob Young, Chair; Rep. King, Vice Chair; and Rep. Mary Lightbody, ranking minority member of the House Pensions Committee, for passing this important measure.

I would like to thank Jim Douglas for accepting an appointment to be the 2nd vice chair when there was a vacancy. Jim has previously served as the District 3 representative. Due to health concerns, Jim has chosen not to run for that position.

I value his advice and wish him well in the future.

In September, I will be running for Chair, John DiPietro for Treasurer, and Merrill Asher for first Vice Chair, positions we already fill. Connie Dailey and Rick Lawrence, present district representatives, will fill the other Executive Committee positions after the September Annual Meeting. All five candidates are running unopposed. We all look forward to continuing advocating for you to preserve and defend the pensions we have all worked so hard for.

Please reach out to your former co-workers to join us in our mission. The greater our numbers, the more attention that OPERS, the Ohio legislature, and the Ohio congressional delegation will listen to us present our position for you. Presently, we represent approximately one out of every five OPERS beneficiaries.

Please also attend local chapter meetings to make your voice known and keep up with what PERI is doing for you.

Thank you for your service, your support, and your interest. We need and appreciate it, to do what we need to do for you.

Constitutional Changes were approved by members to open the membership up to current Ohio Public Employees and retirees.

Legislative Report

by Greg Bennett, Byers, Minton & Associates



Ohio Budget Update

At the time of this writing, our team at Byers, Minton & Associates is awaiting the final Ohio Main Operating Budget Conference Report to be finalized by House and Senate conferees for Fiscal Years 24-25.

The Ohio Senate recently passed its version of Ohio's main operating budget by a party-line vote of 24-7 following a 2,100-page omnibus amendment. Senate Republicans have touted the budget passage as balanced, trimming the size of state government, pursuing tax cuts and education reform, among many other initiatives. Meanwhile, Senate Democrats stated the Senate-passed budget is out of touch and not in balance with priorities that are "out of touch" with Ohioans across the state.

After likely non-concurrence by the House, select members from each chamber will meet in Conference Committee to sort out differences between the House, Senate, and Executive proposals. The final bill will be sent to the Governor for signing and line-item veto opportunity by June 30th at midnight, as required by Ohio's Constitution.

Ohio Elections

Ohioans will also head to the voting booth on August 8th for the Issue 1 special election, which would require any future proposed constitutional amendments to pass with at least a 60 percent supermajority threshold instead of the current 50 percent plus one requirement for approval. Issue 1 has seen several legal challenges as proponents believe the measure is necessary to prevent special interests from buying their way into Ohio's Constitution. Opponents of Issue 1 believe the quick turnaround toward the special election signals an effort to defeat a reproductive rights amendment proposal on November's ballot. As a reminder, July 10th is the deadline to register for the August special election. Both absentee by mail and early in-person voting begins on July 11th. Polls will be open on August 8th from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. For more information on Ohio's upcoming elections, please visit www.ohiosos.gov.

Pension-Related Statehouse News

On May 10th, the Ohio Senate passed SB 6 on another party-line vote (26-7), which would prohibit state pensions and other public institutions from investing for reasons other than returns and benefits. Specifically, the bill aims to stop investments based primarily on environmental, social, and governance policies. The bill sponsor, Sen. Kirk Schuring, said it is preventive rather than critical of existing investment practices in Ohio. The bill would still allow individuals with self-directed retirement plans to choose ESG funds.

The legislation is now before the Ohio House Financial Institutions Committee for further consideration.

Additionally, the Ohio House Pensions Committee passed HCR 6, sponsored by Representatives Phil Plummer and Angela King, and urges Congress to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). While the resolution will not directly impact the potential passage of federal WEP/GPO legislation, it signals to Congress from the Ohio House that a solution must be found to assist those affected by the federal law.

Federal Legislation – WEP/GPO

PERI continues to monitor the legislative activity around WEP/GPO repeal at the Federal level. As of this letter, HR 82 – Social Security Fairness Act of 2023 has 281 bipartisan congressional co-sponsors, including nine of Ohio's fifteen congressional delegation members. While it remains unlikely the legislation will pass as introduced initially, several members of committee leadership have hinted at reforming the complicated WEP/GPO formula to provide relief to those affected by the provisions.

As a reminder, HR 82 (as introduced) seeks to enact the following:

- This bill repeals provisions that reduce Social Security benefits for individuals who receive other benefits, such as a state or local government pension.
- The bill eliminates the government pension offset, which in various instances reduces Social Security benefits for spouses, widows, and widowers who also receive government pensions.
- The bill also eliminates the windfall elimination provision, which sometimes reduces Social Security benefits for individuals who also receive a pension or disability benefit from an employer that did not withhold Social Security taxes.
- These changes are effective for benefits payable after December 2023.

Note: The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) impacts people who benefit from Social Security and a government pension. The provision changes how the Social Security benefit is calculated, resulting in a lower benefit for those impacted. This can significantly impact those who rely on their pension and Social Security benefits for retirement.

IMPORTANT

Please notify PERI when a member is deceased so that we don't continue mailing to them. Either call us at (800) 247-7374 or email us at laurie@operi.org

A Message from Your Executive Director

by Lezlie Garcia



Peri Members,

I want to thank all of you for your continued support of PERI. We have been very busy at the state office following legislation and working on ways to increase our membership.

A few weeks ago, we sent our new retiree letters to over 7,000 recent OPERS retirees to gain additional voices for our mission. The dues mailings are one of our most significant expenses each year, becoming more noticeable with the increase in postage and printing costs.

If you know anyone receiving an OPERS pension, please help us spread the word about our association. There is power in numbers, and with over two hundred thousand OPERS recipients, we want to educate them on why we matter.

In May of this year, Protect Ohio Pensions, INC (POP5) sent their dues renewal to PERI members, and it has become apparent that many were confused by the mailing. To be clear, PERI does not affiliate with or endorse Protect Ohio Pensions (POP5). Our emails and social media posts have informed members about the difference between PERI and other retiree associations.

PERI began in 1948 as the Public Employee League of Ohio and later, was renamed Public Employee Retirees, Inc. (PERI). We have always advocated for the benefits of OPERS pension recipients regarding health care and COLA (Cost of Living Adjustments).

PERI is confident that your OPERS pension is secure with minimal risk of special interest groups, corporations, brokerage firms, or legislators changing the Ohio defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan. About twenty years ago, a few special interest groups sounded off with negative opinions regarding the defined benefit but that has not been a threat in OHIO since 2011. OPERS is against any actions to change your benefit plan, and we continually monitor legislation and listen for any attack in Ohio or any other pension state. Should any discussion be presented in Ohio, PERI holds a cash reserve to use as legal fees to fight for our members.

The adjacent column will provide you with the many actions PERI has taken from 2000 – 2023 and continue working on daily for our members. If you want to know more about what PERI has done before 2000, don't hesitate to contact our office at members@operi.org or call 1-800-247-7374, and we can pull information from other archives.

Know the difference from others... What is PERI? *What has PERI Done?*

2000-2010

- Lobbied for and won increased pension base-pay, and 5th ad hoc adjustment.
- Stopped attempts to convert our system from defined benefit to defined contribution.
- Exposed truth behind the “Buy Ohio” cover.
- Secured a permanent 3% COLA.
- Stopped political payoff legislation saving OPERS a potential 60-million-dollar loss.
- Stopped multiple political efforts to influence OPERS’ investments.
- Worked with OPERS on health care preservation.
- Exposed service credits as un-funded benefits.
- Exposed legislators’ contributor influence.
- Prevented employee category switches to gain early retirement.
- Gained unfunded liability study.
- Waged a major campaign to stop legislated use, and misuse, of our money.
- Stopped 1 billion dollars politically forced loss of pension funds.
- Secured full funding recommendation for future service credit purchases.
- Obtained full funding language in new legislation.

2011-2023

- Testified on H.B 153 against a 12% - 12% employer and employee contribution increase due to the decrease in employer contributions that would reduce the contributions to the fund.
- H.B 69 and S.B 3 Supported for all five retirement pensions to fiscally strengthen and adequately fund healthcare.
- Legislated against H.B 162, keeping pensions safe from forfeitures.
- Opposed HJR 6 (2015); A resolution requiring retirement systems to divest in certain companies.
- Urged US House to repeal GPO/WEP provisions.
- Opposed H.B 413 COLA, testified At House of Aging & Long-Term Care Committee
- Consistently opposed any proposed legislation that would create an unfunded liability for the system.
- Continued advocacy of the defined benefit plan program
- Opposed H.B 462, which would have allowed healthcare coverage for OPERS-LE if they fail requirements.
- Opposed H.B 326; allowing disability recipients to continue receiving benefits.
- Urged US House to repeal GPO/WEP provisions HR 82
- Appointed new legislative representative, Greg Bennett from Byers, Minton & Associates after John Gilchrist’s retirement.
- Proponent of HCR 6 to urge Congress to repeal the Windfall Elimination and Gov’t pension offset (WEP/GPO)
- Testified to the Ohio Pension Committee supporting HCR 6
- Proponent of SB 6 (ESG)
- **We keep a full-time lobbyist at the statehouse, Greg Bennett of Byers, Minton & Associates**
- **We are the only association that is focused exclusively on OPERS pension and benefits!**
- **We always advocate on behalf of the retiree.**



Medicare and Covid 19

The COVID-19 Public Health Emergency ended on May 11, 2023. This may affect your Medicare coverage for some services.

COVID-19 Testing

Original Medicare does **not** cover over-the-counter at-home tests as of May 11, 2023. Original Medicare **does** cover two other kinds of COVID-19 tests when the test is ordered by a physician or other health care practitioner. The two kinds of covered tests are PCR tests (which identify genetic material) and antigen tests (which are often called rapid tests). There is no out-of-pocket cost to you.

Medicare Advantage Plans must cover COVID-19 tests. However, there may be out-of-pocket costs as of May 11, 2023. Contact your plan to learn more about costs. Medicare Advantage Plans may also continue to cover over-the-counter at-home tests at no cost. Contact your plan to learn if this supplemental benefit is offered, and how to access it.

COVID-19 Vaccine

Original Medicare Part B covers COVID-19 vaccines and boosters, regardless of whether you have Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage Plan. You pay nothing for the vaccine or boosters.

Health officials recommend the COVID-19 vaccine and timely booster shots for maximum protection against the virus. Speak with your doctor if you have questions or concerns.

Bring your red, white, and blue Medicare card with you to your vaccination appointment, even if you have a Medicare Advantage Plan. If you do not have your card on you, your vaccine provider may ask you for your Social Security number so that they can look up your Medicare information.

COVID-19 Treatments

Monoclonal antibodies

Medicare covers certain monoclonal antibodies to treat COVID-19 for some people. You owe no cost-sharing (deducible, coinsurance, or copay) for covered treatments.

Inpatient and outpatient treatment

Medicare Part A covers medications you receive as a hospital inpatient. Medicare Part B covers medications you get from a health care provider as an injection or infusion. An example of an injected medication is Remdesivir. You may owe cost-sharing (deductible, coinsurance, or copay) for these treatments. Medicare Advantage Plans also cover these treatments. Contact your plan to learn more about costs.

Prescription drugs

Paxlovid is a medication used to treat COVID-19 that is available at the pharmacy. The government has paid for a certain amount of Paxlovid. While the supply of Paxlovid from the government lasts, you pay no cost-sharing. After the supply has been used, Part D covers Paxlovid. Paxlovid may be on your plan's list of covered drugs, or you may have to ask your plan to make an exception and cover the drug. You may owe cost-sharing (deductible, coinsurance, or copay).

Telehealth Benefits

Until December 31, 2024, Medicare covers telehealth visits whether you:

- Live in a rural or urban area
- Get the services at home or in health care settings

Medicare covers hospital and doctors' office visits, mental health counseling, and other visits via telehealth. If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan, it must cover telehealth services as well. Contact your plan to learn about costs and coverage.

After December 31, 2024, coverage for telehealth benefits may be more limited.

Contact the Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP) at the Ohio Department of Insurance at 1-800-686-1578, Monday-Friday, 7:30am-5:00pm, if you need help understanding what Medicare covers and how to access care.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS FOR YOU TO HAVE ON HAND

(800) 222-7377	OPERS
(844) 287-9945	Medicare VIA Benefits*
(833) 939-1215	Non-Medicare VIA Benefits*
(866) 591-1913	Aetna Vision
(888) 262-4874	Metlife Dental
(800) 633-4227	Medicare
(877) 556-4582	AMBA
(800) 772-1213	Social Security
(877) 644-6457	Deferred Comp
(800) 686-1578	OSHIIP

*If you need information concerning your HRA account or insurance, call VIA Benefits. If you have questions concerning your pension, please call OPERS.

Chapter News

DISTRICT 01



District 1 annual meeting crowd



Chris Thompson, District Representative with Tim Steitz, OPERS Board Member for Retirees.



District 1 speaker, Scott Judd from AMBA

DISTRICT 03



District 3 annual meeting crowd



District 3 annual meeting with Toth & Steitz



District 3 Chapter of the Year awarded to Greene County



District 3 had the Clark Shawnee 5th Grade Choir perform.



Chapter President of the year for District 3, P. Mackenzie, Montgomery County with District Rep, Doug Smith and PERI Treasurer, John DiPietro

DISTRICT 04



Annual Meeting: Speakers: John DiPietro, PERI Treasurer; Rosemary Dahmann, District 4 Representative; Bonnie Norris, AMBA area manager; Barbara Williams, Alzheimer's Association; Jackie Fugett, Warren County Chapter President; and Tim Steitz, OPERS Board Member.



Tim Steitz, OPERS Board Member presenting to District 4



Organizers of the District 4 annual meeting: Front row (L to R) Melodee Evans, Jackie Fugett, Ed Sauer Second Row (L to R) Sharon Patton, Dolly Firth, George Cherryholmes

Chapter News

DISTRICT 05



Mary Hybig, Administrator, Seneca County Area Transportation gave an overview of the services available through "SCAT" at the May 3 Seneca chapter meeting.



Crawford County PERI members enjoyed a nice box lunch from a local market before hearing about AMBA programs from AMBA benefits advisor Chuck Kinkopf at their May 11th meeting.



District 5 annual meeting



District 5 Connie & Rep Riordan McClain



Chapter 85 Crawford County chapter meeting



District 5 Brenda & Rep Riordan McClain



Marion chapter #75 members listening to Jessica Moon of Bacon, Roth and Moon discussing estate planning and protection of assets.



Chapter 84 Richland County Chapter Brenda Starr-Jude from the Mid Ohio Guardianship Services, Inc.

DISTRICT 05 CHAPTER OFFICER TRAINING



Twenty-two officers and guests from District 5 and eighteen from District 10 attended an Officer's meeting at the Golden Corral in Mansfield on Thursday April 27th.

District Representative Rick Lawrence opened the meeting with a reading about the Pledge of Allegiance originally performed by Red Skelton.

We discussed Officers duties, chapter management and best practices.

Guest speaker John DiPietro, PERI Treasurer, talked about chapter treasurer duties and appropriate utilization of chapter treasury fund. He also spoke about lobbying and some of the current issues. John graciously donated a flag again for a door prize!

Guest speaker Tim Steitz spoke briefly about OPERS investments and answered questions.

Doug Smith, PERI District 3 Representative introduced the new PERI logo wear. He even donated a shirt for a door prize!



Chapter News

DISTRICT 06



Chapter 1 Franklin County meeting



District 6 annual meeting crowd



District 6 Representative Bonnie Mitchell with Chapter Treasurer Joe



District 6 Legislative Rep. Greg Bennett and OPERS board member, Tim Steitz

DISTRICT 07



District 7 annual meeting



District 7 Rep Rich Spindler from AMBA



District 7 Representative Greg Ervin

DISTRICT 08



District 8 annual meeting speakers from left OPERS board member, Tim Steitz Executive Director, Lezlie Garcia Legislative Rep, Greg Bennett and Board Chair, Richard Ross



Chapter 45 Hocking County meeting



District 8 AMBA representative Andre Bussert



District 8 annual meeting



District 8 Chapter 45 Hocking County officers Karen Cottrill, Shirley Andy, Shelva McKinley, Narcie Stahr



District 8 OPERS board member Tim Steitz presenting and Executive Director, Lezlie Garcia holding the formula.

Chapter News

DISTRICT 09



Three of the speakers at District 9's annual meeting Tuesday May 2 at Mr. Lee's Restaurant in Cambridge pose for a group photo with all of the chapter officers present. PERI Administrative Assistant Laurie Frithiof and PERI Executive Director Lezlie Garcia are seated (fourth and fifth from the left, respectively) while OPERS Retiree Representative Tim Steitz is standing in back (upper right). All eight of the chapters in District 9 were represented with a total of 52 members attending.



District 9 Representative Jim Range



District 9 annual meeting



District 9 Joe Maddalon, Regional V.P with AMBA

DISTRICT 10



Chapter 89 Cuyahoga chapter meeting



Chapter 91 Cuyahoga chapter meeting

DISTRICT 11



President Walter Duzzny presented Christopher Mediate with the Ambassador Award for his informative presentation on strategies for tax planning for retirees. Pictured is Business Partner & wife, Leslie, Christopher & President Duzzny.



Chapter 63 Portage County chapter meeting



District 11 John Haught with incoming District 11 Rep Reggie Witsaman



District 11 annual meeting



District 11 President Walter Duzzny presents awards to Executive Director, Lezlie Garcia and Admin. Assistant Laurie Frithiof

PERI State Annual Meeting

Monday, September 18, 2023

Crowne Plaza Hotel • 6500 Doubletree Avenue • Columbus, Ohio 43229

Registration will be from 9:00 – 9:30 a.m.

You are invited to join us for the PERI State Annual Meeting which will again be held at The Crowne Plaza Hotel in Northeast Columbus on Monday, September 18th. The hotel is conveniently located just minutes off Interstate 71 and State Route 161. Features include free parking, a covered drop-off area outside the lobby, and sleeping rooms, if needed. Please provide them with the room code of PE6 when making a reservation by calling (614) 885-1885

Registration will be from 9:00 a. m. to 9:30 a.m. Coffee, tea and pastry will be available during that time. This year's meeting will be exciting. OPERS will present an educational session in the AM for all attendees followed by a 45-minute breakout session on 4 different topics of interest to retirees listed below.

These experts will talk about:

Shop Smart, Know Your Rights and Senior Scams

Protect yourself. Hear the latest from Katie Harper from the Office of the Attorney General on "Shop Smart, Know Your Rights" and "Senior Scams". Shopping safely in today's world of technology, and an update on the latest scams targeting seniors that the AG office has been seeing.

OSHIIP

OSHIIP Community liaison David Painter & OSHIIP staff will present the Medicare 101 Program with the most up to date information on Medicare.

We cannot guarantee your choices will be available, so we recommend if you come with other chapter members, you divide and conquer. The event will start promptly at 9:30 a.m. You will meet in the main ballroom for the OPERS educational presentation and then move to your 45-minute breakout session. After a 15-minute break, you will return to the ballroom for lunch.

After lunch, there will be two legislative guest speakers followed by the PERI business meeting where you will hear brief remarks from PERI Chairman, Richard Ross PERI Executive Director, Lezlie Garcia PERI Treasurer John DiPietro and a legislative report from PERI Legislative Counsel, Greg Bennett. The meeting will conclude with special door prize drawings. Come with great expectations for a rewarding time of learning and sharing with your fellow PERI retirees. **Registration is open on our website www.operi.org**, where you can pay with a credit card or mail your registration to our state office no later than September 8, 2023

Legislative Networking

Richard Ross and Greg Bennett present How does the legislature work? What works best to get a legislator's attention? The PERI legislative network. Who does what? The importance of grassroots lobbying, and how to organize a good campaign.

AMBA

Presenting chapter and member engagement with to increase participation and membership growth. Joe Maddalon and Richard Roland

Thank you to our Diamond Sponsors



Meal choices this year are:

Chicken Napa Valley

Chicken baked in a sweet and savory tomato, onion, and garlic sauce.

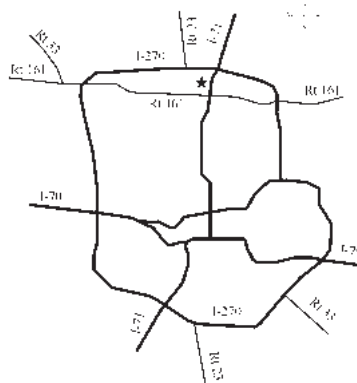
Meatloaf

Chef's own Selection of Quality Meats Baked to Perfection Served with Yukon Gold Mashed Potatoes and a Forrest Mushroom Brown Gravy

Vegetarian Lasagna

Lasagna noodles with vegetables & tomato sauce, no meat

All Plated Lunches are Served with Chef's Choice Selection of Potato or Rice, Seasonal Fresh Vegetables, Fresh Rolls & Butter, Freshly Brewed Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee, Iced Tea & Hot Tea

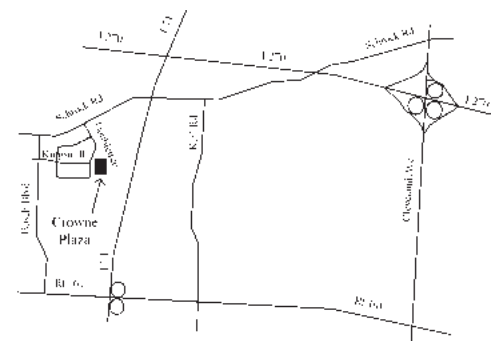


From I-270:

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.

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 the Crowne Plaza Hotel.



2023 Registration Form
PERI State Annual Meeting • Monday, September 18, 2023

Registration: \$35 per person
Registration deadline: Mon, Sept. 8, 2023.
We highly encourage registration on our PERI website (www.OPERI.ORG) with options to pay via credit card.
If you do not have computer access, please use the attached registration form, make checks payable to PERI and mail to PERI: 659 Park Meadow Rd, STE F Westerville, OH 43081

Each registrant, including spouses or guests, must fill out our registration form below. There are two forms on this sheet, and it may be copied. There must be a phone number included with the registration. If special seating is needed due to a wheelchair or walker note your request on the "Seating Request" line. We will do our best to accommodate requests, but it is not guaranteed.

Reminder to Chapters: Group forms submitted by chapters will no longer be accepted. Chapters can send one check for all their attendees, however, an individual registration form for each attendee must be filled out with their meal choice and breakout session choices listed. Thank you!

FIRST NAME: _____ M.I.: _____ LAST NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER (Required): _____ YOUR COUNTY: _____

MEAL CHOICE (Circle one): Chicken Napa Valley Vegetarian Lasagna Meatloaf

BREAK OUT SECTION CHOICES
Please insert a 1 or 2 to designate your choice on the line to the left of the session you would like to attend. Due to seating limitations from room to room, some sessions will fill quickly. Mail in your registration as soon as possible to ensure the best opportunity to obtain your preferred selections. For a description of sessions, check page 9.

____ Online Shopping/Scams Attorney General _____ AMBA-Membership/chapter involvement
____ OSHIIP _____ Legislative Networking

Check # _____ Check Amount \$ _____ If you would like to be seated with another attendee, please note who on the line below, and we will do our best to accommodate your request. Thank you!

****If we receive your registration after Sept 8th, we will not be able to accommodate the request.**

Seating Request: _____

FIRST NAME: _____ M.I.: _____ LAST NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER (Required): _____ YOUR COUNTY: _____

MEAL CHOICE (Circle one): Chicken Napa Valley Vegetarian Lasagna Meatloaf

BREAK OUT SECTION CHOICES
Please insert a 1 or 2 to designate your choice on the line to the left of the session you would like to attend. Due to seating limitations from room to room, some sessions will fill quickly. Mail in your registration as soon as possible to ensure the best opportunity to obtain your preferred selections. For a description of sessions, check page 9.

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Check # _____ Check Amount \$ _____ If you would like to be seated with another attendee, please note who on the line below, and we will do our best to accommodate your request. Thank you!

****If we receive your registration after Sept 8th, we will not be able to accommodate the request.**

Seating Request: _____

Please make sure you have completed the following steps: Or register at www.operi.org

1. Fill in your personal information (including phone number)	3. Choose a breakout session!
2. Selected a meal	4. Included your check

PERI Board of Trustees Candidates

PERI is governed by a representative body called the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees is comprised of five officers and eleven District Representatives. All officers, except for the Treasurer, are up for election every 2 years and can run for 2 terms. The Treasurer is up for election every 2 years and can run for 3 terms. Officers are elected by all PERI members. As these are uncontested races this year, you are under no obligation to return your ballot. If you would still like to do so, send it to the PERI office at 659-F Park Meadow Rd, Westerville, OH 43081. In order for your vote to count, all ballots must be received **no later than Friday, September 6th, 2023.**

RUNNING UNOPPOSED



RICHARD ROSS

For the office of Chair

Richard was President and/or Vice President of PERI Chapter 47, Morgan County from 2008-2014.

He was the District 8 Representative from 2014-2016 and the PERI Board Chair since 2021. He has been a Life member of PERI since 2007.

Richard earned his OPERS pension from being the Morgan County Law Librarian, Stockport Solicitor, Morgan County Prosecuting Attorney, and the Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Athens County.



MERRILL ASHER

For the office of Vice Chair

Merrill joined PERI in 2007 and became a Life member in 2008. He served as Legislative Officer

for Chapter 11, Shelby County from 2008-2012 and returned to that position from 2019 to the present. Merrill was appointed in September 2011 as District 2 Representative and elected to the position twice. He previously served on the PERI Executive Board as 2nd Vice Chair and presently is serving as Vice Chair.

Merrill was appointed to the Shelby County Board of Elections in 2008-the present.



RICK LAWRENCE

For the office of 2nd Vice Chair

Rick served on the PERI Board for 7 years as the District 10 Representative. During and prior to that,

he worked on many legislative issues and personally assisted members navigate the HRA/VIA Benefits process and Medicare. He is dedicated to helping fellow retirees make their retirement

a little bit easier.

Rick was employed by the Lorain County Sheriff's Department as a road Patrol Officer, K-9 Officer and Detective from 1979-1991.



CONNIE DAILEY

For the office of 3rd Vice Chair

Connie began attending her local chapter before retirement to network with retirees and to stay informed on retiree issues and concerns. She was appointed to the position of District 5 Representative in January 2015 and elected to the position from 2017-2023. She has served on a number of Board Committees, including the Audit, Nominating, Staff Compensation & Benefits and Education Committees. Connie was also involved in restructuring of the PERI office following the 2020-2021 internal audit.

Connie retired from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities in 2012 with 30+ years of service. She would like the opportunity to continue to work with PERI as a member of the Executive Board.



JOHN DIPIETRO

For the office of Treasurer

John was appointed to the position of District 3 Representative in April of 2016 and elected to the position from 2018-2021 when he was appointed to the position of Treasurer. He was elected as Treasurer by PERI members in 2021 to the present.

John joined the Miami Township Police Department in 1986 where he served as Patrol Officer, Detective, Corporal and Sergeant until retiring in 2013. He holds four certified Prevention Specialist credentials and is an active member of the Miami Valley Crime Prevention Association.

RUNNING UNOPPOSED

For the office of Chair **RICHARD ROSS**

For the office of Vice Chair **MERRILL ASHER**

For the office of 2nd Vice Chair **RICK LAWRENCE**

For the office of 3rd Vice Chair **CONNIE DAILEY**

For the office of Treasurer **JOHN DIPIETRO**

[] FOR ALL [] AGAINST ALL [] FOR ALL EXCEPT _____

CONSTITUTIONAL UPDATE

The Governance Committee reviewed the Constitution and The Board of Trustees is recommending a change to Article VI, Section 5 of the PERI Constitution. **Replace** *"The Chair may receive a salary. All other Trustees may receive a stipend for each meeting attended."* **Amend to** *"The Chair and the Treasurer may receive a salary. All other Trustees may receive a stipend for each meeting attended."*

[] FOR THE UPDATE [] AGAINST

PLEASE MARK THE BALLOT AND MAIL IT TO THE PERI OFFICE BY NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

PERI OFFICE: 659-F PARK MEADOW RD, WESTERVILLE, OH 43081



Public Employee Retirees, Inc.™

659-F Park Meadow Rd. • Westerville, Ohio 43081

NON-PROFIT ORG.
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3rd Quarter 2023 Newsletter!

PERI Board of Trustees



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District 1 Counties:
Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Williams, Wood

District 2 Counties:
Allen, Auglaize, Hardin, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, Shelby, Van Wert

District 3 Counties:
Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, Logan, Miami, Montgomery, Preble

District 4 Counties:
Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, Highland, Warren

District 5 Counties:
Crawford, Hancock, Knox, Marion, Morrow, Richland, Seneca, Wyandot

District 6 Counties:
Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Licking, Madison, Pickaway, Union

District 7 Counties:
Gallia, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Vinton

District 8 Counties:
Athens, Hocking, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Washington

District 9 Counties:
Belmont, Carroll, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Tuscarawas

District 10 Counties:
Ashland, Cuyahoga, Erie, Huron, Lorain, Medina, Summit, Wayne

District 11 Counties:
Ashtabula, Columbiana, Geauga, Lake, Mahoning, Portage, Stark, Trumbull