

STRS NEWS

From March through June each year, STRS Ohio staff discusses proposed health care program premiums and plan changes for the upcoming calendar year with the State Teachers Retirement Board. As in previous years, the Retirement Board and staff must take into consideration health care cost trend rates per year, plus plan enrollees' use of services and claims experience — while trying to stretch available health care program dollars as much as possible. For calendar year 2012, the following has been determined:

- **Reductions to the premium subsidy received by benefit recipients enrolled in the health care plans will be phased in during the next four years.** This will be done by reducing the “years of service” multiplier to 2.1% from the current 2.5%. To help members adjust to the change, it will be phased in at a rate of 0.1% per year, beginning in 2012 and continuing through 2015. For 2012, the multiplier will be 2.4%. As an example: A benefit recipient with 30 or more years of service currently pays 25% of the premium cost; STRS Ohio pays 75% (30 years x 2.5% = 75%). Under a 2.4% multiplier, STRS Ohio will pay 72% of the premium cost in 2012 (30 years x 2.4% = 72%) and the benefit recipient's portion will be 28%. By 2015, a benefit recipient with 30 or more years of service will pay 37% of the premium cost.
- **The 2012 premiums for the regional AultCare, Kaiser and Paramount health care plans will reflect the first year of a four-year phase-in to standardize the portion paid by enrollees across all plans offered by STRS Ohio.**

- This results in a lower subsidy for each of the next four years, as about 6,600 enrollees transition to a subsidy based on the cost of their plan. While there will be significant increases in premiums during the next four years, these plans are projected to remain less expensive than the comparable Medical Mutual Plus Plan.

Changes in the premium subsidies for all plans in the STRS Ohio Health Care Program should preserve an additional \$22 million in the health care fund in 2012 and more than \$85 million annually once fully implemented.

- **In calendar year 2012, enrollees who are eligible for Medicare Part B only will now be able to participate in the Aetna Medicare Plan (PPO).** About 7,800 Medicare Part B only enrollees will benefit from the lower monthly premiums provided by the Aetna Medicare Plan (PPO). Previously, these individuals had to choose between the Medical Mutual Plus Plan, Medical Mutual Basic Plan or a regional plan. The Aetna Medicare Plan (PPO) offers a number of enhanced benefits for its enrollees, including: a \$1,500 maximum in out-of-pocket costs that *includes* the \$500 deductible and all medical copayments and coinsurance; low office copayments of \$15; ability to see virtually any physician/provider who accepts Medicare; and gym memberships at participating fitness centers. Medicare Part B only enrollees currently participating in the Medical Mutual Plus Plan will be moved automatically to the Aetna Medicare Plan (PPO) for 2012. Enrollees who do not want this plan may move to the Medical Mutual Basic Plan or one of the regional plans, if applicable, during open enrollment.

You can contact STRS for more information at 1-888-227-7877 or email www.strsoh.org.

Visit We Are Ohio's Website



Repeal of SB 5 will be on the ballot this November!

The Ohio Secretary of State made the announcement July 21. The response to repeal SB 5 far exceeded any signature collection drive in Ohio history. "This history making, grassroots campaign, continues to prove SB 5 is a bad bill that was passed by extreme politicians who are out of touch with hardworking Ohioans," said Melissa Fazekas, spokeswoman for We Are Ohio. Thousands of hard-working volunteers collected more than 1.3 million signatures. We Are Ohio has created an online map by county that shows the total number of signatures validated and collected. Visit www.weareohio.com and scroll over your county for more information.

Now we know. There will be an effort to keep Senate Bill 5 on the books by an anti-worker group led by a corporate lobbyist aligned with Gov. John Kasich, House Speaker William Batchelder and Senate President Tom Niehaus. **They will be well-funded, but we have the numbers.**

We Are Ohio needs your help. We want to prove that supporters like you are doing more than working tirelessly to collect signatures, you are also contributing to the campaign.

[Will you contribute to We Are Ohio today and help us send a message that we are grass roots powered and funded by hard working people like yourself?](#)

Kasich, Batchelder and Niehaus are going to work with special interests to continue this unfair attack on employee rights and worker safety. Unlike their anti-worker group, We Are Ohio is a citizen-driven, community-based, bipartisan coalition that has come together.

[Please give whatever you can to We Are Ohio today.](#) Your contribution demonstrates that our movement is broad-based and citizen driven. The facts aren't going to change. Senate Bill 5 is an unfair attack on police officers, firefighters, teachers, nurses and others who serve and protect our communities. The bill will be devastating to local economies in small and large towns across Ohio. It does not create one job.

[If you feel strongly and want to help us defeat this anti-worker effort, then please contribute whatever you can today to We Are Ohio.](#) Please contribute today and join our growing base of hard working Ohioans who are proving this is a broad-based grass roots effort by donating to our cause.

[The OEA-R Advisory Council and caucus is encouraging retirees to donate \\$54 \(the amount of the dues assessment\) to the We Are Ohio group to support the SB5 referendum.](#) The link below will allow you to make a donation via credit card.

https://wfc2.wiredforchange.com/o/8808/donate_page/contribution

If you prefer to write a check the following information is required: First Name, Last Name, Employer (N/A), Occupation (Retired), Address, City, State, Zip. Checks may be mailed to: We Are Ohio, 545 East Town Street, Columbus, OH 43215.

Want to be an OEA

Representative Assembly Delegate?

Declaration of Candidacy forms are now available by contacting Carol Price at pricec@ohea.org or by calling 1-800-282-1500.

OEA-R NEWSLINE

SERS

Investment Report

Two recommendations for hiring new hedge fund managers were discussed. Astenbeck Offshore Commodities Fund is a tactical trading fund that invests in commodities using demand and supply analysis. This fund invests primarily in energy and metals. Yannix Management, LP trades global agricultural commodities. Their strategy focuses primarily on grains, meats and soft commodities with a secondary focus on agricultural energies (biofuels). It was recommended and accepted that both firms would receive a maximum investment of 0.75% of Total Fund Assets.

At the June meeting, there was discussion of an education program that would be available to Board members or Staff that would not require travel. At this meeting the following was presented: Tim Steitz, education chairman for the Columbus CFA Society researched what may be available through the CFA Institute. CFA Institute offered a proposal that includes webcast passes good for 12 months plus copies of [A Primer for Investment Trustees](#) at no additional charge. The webcast demonstrations include presentations of private equity, venture capital with 24 lessons. Topics include 15 subject areas along with society presentations and CFA conferences. It is believed this will improve understanding of investment processes, will be cost effective, convenient, flexible, improve communication. The Investment Education Program will offer the Board and Staff the opportunity to browse the CFA Institute offerings, request information and receive investment Staff content recommendations. There are more than 11,000 publications available with a wide range of topics including books, codes and standards, periodicals, newsletters, research papers and other publications.

Monthly Report to the Board

The total fund value at May 31, 2011 was \$10.64 Billion. SERS' total fund complied with the Board's Investment Objectives and Policies at month end except for Global Equities which was outside the range by 1.3%.

***SERS can be contacted at www.ohsers.org
or at 1-800-878-5853.***

OEA-R STATEWIDE FALL CONFERENCE

September 14, 2011

STRS Building, 7th Floor
275 East Broad Street
Columbus OH 43215

Speakers include OEA Officers Pat Frost-Brooks, Bill Leibensperger and Jim Timlin, and OEA Executive Director Larry Wicks. OEA Lobbyist Robert Davis will give a legislative update.

Greg Nichols, STRS Director of Health Care Services, will speak on health care issues followed by questions and answers. Other sessions will include "Jest for Health," a humorous presentation, and an address by a representative from the Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans, an organization with whom OEA-R is affiliated.

REGISTRATION: 9:30 a.m.
PROGRAM: 10:00 a.m.
LUNCH: 12:15 p.m.
CONCLUSION: 3:00 p.m.

Note: Parking is provided at the STRS building.

Complete and return registration form (below) and \$15.00 registration fee by September 7th in order to be eligible for door prizes. You will be notified by email once your payment is received. Mail form and payment to:

**OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
STATEWIDE FALL CONFERENCE
5026 PINE CREEK DRIVE
WESTERVILLE OH 43081
ATTN: BILL OTTEN**

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____
EMAIL ADDRESS _____
OEA DISTRICT _____

OEA-R NEWSLINE

ECOEA: The annual ECOEA-R "Not Back to School" Lunch will be held Wednesday, August 24 at 11:30 at Mulligans Restaurant in the Belden Village area of Canton. Reservations are due to Carol Kinsey by August 20. Contact info is Cskinsey@aol.com or 330-495-2318.

CENTRAL: Lee Schreiner, retired Southwestern City School gifted educator, will be the retired representative from Central OEA/NEA to the OEA-R Advisory Council beginning September 1, 2011. He takes Vivian Brown's place who served for 7 years. Russell Hightower has been hired by Central OEA/NEA as a Communications Director. He will be helping Lee and the retired committee to get the retirees organized. If you are interested in being involved, contact the Central website at www.centraloea/nea.org.

CAPITAL: CEA-R members are holding a garage sale in August. This popular event allows teachers to buy teaching supplies at a very low price and to sell their not needed any longer supplies. Newly retired teachers find this a good way to sell their teaching supplies. Letters from CEA-R and OEA-R are sent to newly retiring teachers welcoming them to retirement and outlining the benefits of joining the retired organizations.

Our Mission Statement

OEA-Retired is dedicated to meeting the needs of its members, providing member involvement within OEA, and supporting public education.

2010-2011 Officers

David Bowen
President

John Hoyes
Vice-President

Marti Huss
Secretary

Homer Adams
Past President

**OEA-R Newsline is the official
publication of OEA-Retired.**

Bill Sears, Editor

Volume 30 Issue 2 Summer 2011

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Columbus, Ohio
Permit No. 1182

225 East Broad Street, Box 2550, Columbus, OH 43216

OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION