

## **OEA Retirement Systems Update**

### **Report to the OEA Board of Directors: February 2013**

### **Please distribute to other OEA members**

#### **OEA Endorses Correthers, McGreevy and Stein for Re-Election to STRS Board**

The Ohio Education Association has endorsed three candidates for re-election to the STRS Board. **Carol Correthers** is running for re-election to a seat on the Board representing active teachers. **Jim McGreevy** and **Bob Stein** are seeking re-election to seats representing retired teachers. The election for these three Board seats will begin in April.

**Carol Correthers** is a special education teacher from the Lorain City Schools. She has served on the STRS Board since 2009. Carol is committed to STRS continuing to provide secure and lasting pension benefits and access to quality health care.

**Jim McGreevy** is a retired teacher from Zanesville. He was elected to the STRS Board in 2009 and served as Chair of the Board in 2011-12. Jim is a former member of the OEA Board of Directors. During his tenure on the STRS Board, he has provided thoughtful, prudent leadership.

**Bob Stein** is a retired teacher from Strongsville. He was elected to the STRS Board in 2009. In addition to 27 years of teaching, Bob has broad investment and business experience. More information is available at [www.bobstein.us](http://www.bobstein.us).

OEA's endorsed candidates are committed to providing:

- Secure and lasting pension benefits
- Access to quality health care
- Prudent and experienced leadership

Look for your ballot from STRS in early April. OEA urges active (contributing) members to vote for Carol Correthers and retired teachers to vote for Jim McGreevy and Bob Stein.

#### **OPERS Posts Strong 2012 Returns, Announces Board Changes**

OPERS has announced a preliminary investment return of 14.52% for the pension plan during calendar year 2012. As of December 31, 2012, OPERS assets totaled \$80.3 billion, an increase of \$6.2 billion during the year. The annual actuarial valuation will not be presented until July. However, OPERS has estimated that the passage of pension legislation and favorable investment returns have placed the funding status of the plan at 80% with an amortization period of 25 years.

Robert Smith has joined the OPERS Board as an investment expert appointed by State Treasurer Josh Mandel. Smith had previously served on the Board from 2004 to 2007 as an appointee of Governor Bob Taft. Smith is President and CEO of Spero Smith Investment Advisors.

At the OPERS Board meeting in January, Cinthia Sledz was elected Chair of the OPERS Board and Sharon Downs was elected Vice Chair. Sledz represents miscellaneous employees on the Board and Downs is a retiree representative.

**Future SERS Retirees Must Enroll in Health Care Program for Medicare B Reimbursement**

SERS members who retire or begin receiving a pension benefit on or after January 7, 2013 must be eligible for Medicare Part B and be enrolled in SERS' health care coverage to receive a Medicare Part B reimbursement.

SERS currently reimburses eligible benefit recipients \$45.50 per month to help pay Medicare Part B premiums. Enrollees whose Medicare Part B coverage is cancelled, or have their Part B premium paid by any other source, are not eligible for the reimbursement. Reimbursement starts after SERS receives proof of Medicare Part B enrollment. Spouses and dependents are not eligible for this reimbursement.

Benefit recipients who are eligible for Medicare Part B and are already receiving a benefit before January 7, 2013 are not affected by this change.