

DECEMBER 2019 RETIREES



Best Wishes in retirement to **Nelson Bugtai, Shivdayal Deonarain, Danny R. Fields, Steven W. Lowe** and **Kathleen A. Reilly**. They retired from the Commission effective December 1, 2019.

MEMBERS' ANNUAL STATEMENTS – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The 2019 ERS Annual Statements mailing will soon commence. The statement includes information about your retirement account balance, credited service and Normal Retirement Date as of June 30, 2019. Be sure to carefully review your statement and save it for your records.

You make bi-weekly contributions to the ERS based on the contribution percentage specified for your plan. These contributions and interest at 4.5% per year make up your account balance. Your account balance is usually paid back to you, by way of your monthly retirement benefits, within the first three years of your retirement.

Credited service may include employment as a participant in the ERS, in another governmental plan, or in the uniformed services of the U.S.; credit awarded while on long-term disability; or credit for unused sick leave. However, any adjustments made to your credited service after June 30, 2019 will not be reflected on the 2019 Annual Statement.

The following information may be helpful to know when reviewing your statement:

Terminology:

- *Average Annual Earnings* - the highest average base pay over any three (Plans A, B, C, and D) or five (Plan E) consecutive years of credited service.
- *Credited Service* – the total period of years and months of completed service as credited under the terms and conditions of the ERS.
- *Normal Retirement Date* – the date a member may retire with full benefits. Eligibility requirements vary by Plan.
- *Stepdown Date* - the date when participants of Plans B and E are eligible to receive full Social Security retirement benefits and when the monthly annuity from the ERS is reduced. The annuity for participants of Plans B and E is integrated with Social Security retirement benefits. Many defined benefit plans integrate Social Security to determine plan benefits.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- Q.* I should have more credited service than what is on my statement. Why is there missing service?

A. Participants who had periods of leave without pay (LWOP) may have less credited service due to missing contributions. Long-term disability (LTD) participants may have less credited service due to pending certification from the Health and Benefits Department or because they have reached their normal retirement date and are no longer eligible for free credited service. Some members may have understated credited service because their transfer of service from another retirement system or other credited service adjustment was processed after June 30, 2019.

Q. My statement shows that I became eligible for normal retirement effective July 1, 2019. Is this correct?

A. The annual statement reflects a participant's eligibility as of June 30, 2019. Any active member who is eligible for normal retirement on or before the benefit statement effective date will have July 1, 2019 listed as a retirement date. July 1, 2019 is a default date that allows the statement to reflect the continual accrual of credited service, including earned and unused sick leave.

Q. Can I withdraw my retirement contributions from this ERS account?

A. A Plan member may not withdraw his/her contributions except upon termination of employment.

Q. Does the Commission contribute?

A. The Commission makes contributions to the Trust Fund that are actuarially determined to provide for benefits under the ERS. The Commission's contribution is not reflected in your individual account balance.

General information about ERS benefits, including the *Popular Annual Financial Report* (PAFR), *Summary Plan Description* (SPD) and *Summary of Material Modifications* (SMM) can be viewed on the ERS website: <http://ers.mncppc.org>. You may contact the Retirement Office if you have additional questions after reviewing your statement and the PAFR, your plan's SPD and the SMM.

BOT MEETING



The next ERS Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for **January 7, 2020, at 10 a.m.**, in the **ERS/Merit Board Conference Room**. For more information, please contact the ERS at 301-454-1415 or visit the ERS website at <http://ers.mncppc.org>.

CONDOLENCES

The ERS Board of Trustees and staff would like to extend their deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Commission retirees **Jeanette E. Jones** and **Robert B. Lush**.

Ms. Jones passed away on October 17, 2019. She worked for the Prince George's County Planning Department for over 13 years. She retired on October 1, 2001.

Mr. Lush retired on April 1, 2010 after 27 years of Commission service. He passed away on November 13, 2019.

ERS CONTACT INFORMATION

Employees' Retirement System
6611 Kenilworth Ave., Suite 100, Riverdale, MD 20737

Phone: 301-454-1415

Mail Stop: EOB, Ste. 100

Fax: 301-454-1413

Email: contacters@mncppc.org

ERS Website: <http://ers.mncppc.org>

Office Hours

Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



(Some services are by appointment only)

We encourage our members to contact us with any questions and/or comments about the ERS plans and services. We look forward to serving you in the upcoming year.