

JANUARY 2018 RETIREES

Congratulations to the following January 1, 2018 retirees:

Wanda Bertrand
Catherine A. Conlon
Tammy L. Davis
Ronnie Gathers
Maria G. Glenn
Mary P. Hampton
Regina Jackson
Clare L. Kelly



Rose Krasnow
Margaret K. Meadows
Sabrena Milam
Calvin R. Nelson, Jr.
Sgt. Brian D. Paulsen
Oscar A. Rodezno
Vilen Schwartz

FEBRUARY BOT MEETING



The next ERS Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for **February 6, 2018**, at **10 a.m.**, in the **ERS/Merit Board Conference Room**. For more information, please contact the Retirement Office at 301-454-1415 or visit the ERS website at <http://ers.mncppc.org>.

SURVIVOR BENEFITS

Although the death of a loved one can be a traumatic and stressful experience, it is important to be prepared for such an unfortunate life event. You may be able to ease some of your loved one's financial worries by advising them as to what retirement death benefits are available to them.

The death benefits for retired members range from a return of your account balance to a continuing monthly benefit to a spouse or other beneficiary — it depends on the retirement annuity option you elected at retirement. There is also a \$10,000 Post-Retirement Benefit payable to designated beneficiaries. This benefit is not life insurance. You should discuss its tax consequences with a tax advisor.

The Plan document dictates that your surviving spouse is automatically the primary beneficiary if you are an active (non-retired) member. In the absence of a surviving spouse, dependent children are automatically the designated beneficiaries. Please contact the ERS to speak with one of the Benefits Analysts if you have any questions about your death benefits.

Beneficiary designations should be reviewed and updated periodically to ensure that current information is on file, especially addresses for beneficiaries. If you have questions concerning your retirement benefits, or if you would like to request a revised beneficiary form, please call the Retirement Office at 301-454-1415.

CONDOLENCES

The ERS Board of Trustees and staff would like to extend their deepest sympathies to the family and friends of the following retirees who recently passed away:

- **Richard Bugeja** passed away on November 13, 2017. He retired from Montgomery County Parks on March 1, 1999 with 25 years of service.
- **Nathaniel C. Pendleton** passed away on December 5, 2017. He retired from Prince George's County Parks and Recreation on April 1, 2010, with 22 years of service.
- **Norma J. Tierney** passed away on December 13, 2017. She worked for Prince George's County Parks and Recreation for nearly 30 years before retiring on December 1, 1999.

ATTENTION ANNUITANTS



Reminders for current and prospective retirees:

- Changes for taxes, credit union, address, etc. must be made in writing. Change requests received by the 10th of the month will be made effective the first of the following month. The retiree or survivor's original signature is required.
- Do not forget to update your beneficiaries for the \$10,000 Post-Retirement Death Benefit. Please contact the ERS for a revised beneficiary form.
- The Northern Trust Company will mail 1099-R tax forms for the 2017 tax year at the end of January 2018.
- Benefit payments are effective the 1st of each month. If the first falls on a holiday or weekend, the payment is effective the next business day.
- Benefit verification requests can only be requested by the retiree or survivor. Please allow at least 2 business days for processing.
- Make sure you include a state tax withholding change request along with your address change request when you are moving from one state to another. Changes to state taxes are *not* automatic, even if the new state has no withholding requirement.
- The ERS strongly encourages retirees and survivors to sign up for direct deposit. The process of reissuing lost or stolen paper checks will not begin until 15 business days after the original check has been mailed by our custodian bank.

Please do not hesitate to call the ERS office at 301-454-1415 if you have questions about your benefit.