



MSRB



Retiree eNews Bulletin

FEBRUARY 2024

Retirement Board Welcomes Joanne Goldstein as New Board Member!

Former state Labor and Workforce Development Secretary **JOANNE GOLDSTEIN** is joining the Massachusetts State Retirement Board. Treasurer Deborah Goldberg appointed Ms. Goldstein on January 25, 2024, to serve as a board member for a three-year term. Goldstein served as secretary during Gov. Deval Patrick's administration and, before that, was a union-side labor attorney and chief of the Fair Labor Division in the attorney general's office when it was led by Martha Coakley.

Welcome, Board Member Goldstein.

2023 IRS Form 1099-R Update

The 2023 Form 1099-Rs were mailed at the end of January and are now viewable on your PayInfo account.

Please note: Although this is a handy item to have available for reference, the copy on PayInfo is not considered an official Form 1099-R. Therefore, hold on to the original hard copy that was mailed to you.

If you did not receive your Form 1099-R, you can call our office at (617) 367-7770 to request a duplicate.

Remembering Ralph White, Former State Retirement Board Member



Sadly, the State Retirement Board recently said goodbye to our friend and colleague Ralph White. Mr. White previously served as an elected member of the State Retirement Board for over 20 years and was a founding member of the Pension Reserves Investment Management (PRIM) Board.

In 1968, Mr. White founded the organization Mass Retirees, which continues to work on behalf of Massachusetts state and municipal retirees. He was dedicated to public service and worked tirelessly and selflessly to better the lives of others.

The Board greatly appreciates everything he has done for the retirement system and our members, and he will be greatly missed. [Click here to read an obituary for Mr. White.](#)

Important reminder for retirees who turned age 59 ½ during 2023: you would have received TWO Form 1099-Rs. The retirement allowance paid up until the month before you turned age 59 ½ will be reported on one Form 1099-R using distribution code 2. The retirement allowance paid for the remainder of the year will be reported on a second Form 1099-R using distribution code 7. Information from both forms should be used for tax reporting purposes. You will also receive two Form 1099-Rs if you received a partial refund in addition to your retirement benefit.

Additionally, due to the technical limitations of PayInfo, it can only display one Form 1099-R. PayInfo displays Form 1099-Rs for members who received a monthly benefit in 2023. It does not display refund Form 1099-Rs.

For more information about your 2023 Form 1099-R, [please visit our Understanding Your Form 1099-R webpage.](#)

Program for All-inclusive Care (PACE) for the Elderly

MassHealth provides many different resources for individuals in the Commonwealth. One of these is the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), which is co-administered by Medicare. PACE is a service that provides a variety of medical, social, recreational, and wellness services for eligible participants.

PACE is modeled on the idea that most elders, people with disabilities, and their families would choose to receive care in their homes as opposed to a nursing home or facility if they were given a choice to do so.

IRS Warns Tax Season is Prime Time for Phone Scams

Tax season is upon us once again, and scammers are working hard to peddle their scams. In an article from December 2023, the IRS reminds taxpayers to be aware that criminals continue to make aggressive calls posing as IRS agents in hopes of stealing taxpayer money or personal information.

This article from the IRS is a timely reminder for us all to be cautious as we conduct our daily lives. If it smells like a skunk, it probably is a skunk. Trust your gut feeling! [Click here to read the full IRS News Alert!](#)

What to Do When a Benefit Recipient, Option C Beneficiary, or Current Active State Employee Passes Away

When a retiree or beneficiary passes away, it's essential to notify the Retirement Board as soon as possible. You can review the specific steps on the State Retirement Board's [Survivor Benefits webpage.](#)

If you designated an Option B beneficiary at the time of retirement, you can change your beneficiary to someone new at any time by completing and submitting a [Beneficiary Change Form.](#)

If the decedent was still employed or passed away after separating from service and left funds on account with the Retirement Board, the In-Service Member Death procedure will be followed.

If the decedent was an Option C Beneficiary, the member's benefit will be

Individuals do not need to be enrolled in MassHealth to enroll in PACE. However, MassHealth membership may pay for PACE premiums. PACE has Medicare Part-D prescription drug coverage, an Interdisciplinary Team of caregivers, and covers preventative care. An individual must meet specific eligibility criteria, such as being 55 or older or being certified by the state as eligible for nursing home care. [You can read more about eligibility here.](#)

To learn more about PACE and what it has to offer, [be sure to visit their website.](#)

Is there something you would like us to communicate in an upcoming **Retiree eNews Bulletin**? If so, let us know!

Email your request or comments to MSRBCommunications@tre.state.ma.us.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Contact us:

Boston Office:

Downtown Crossing
One Winter Street, 8th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Springfield Office:

436 Dwight Street, #109A
Springfield, MA 01103

Tel: 617-367-7770

Note: MSRB phones are answered Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except on state holidays.

popped up to Option A after receipt of the beneficiary's death certificate. The Option A benefit amount will be what the retired member would have received on their retirement date, plus any cost-of-living adjustments. The new, higher amount is paid to the retiree as of the date of the beneficiary's death.

You may read about the pension Option Selections [by clicking here.](#)

Have you recently updated your email?

If you received this email to an old email account or have recently updated your email address, be sure to let us know so we can update your information! You can email msrbcommunications@tre.state.ma.us to request that your email be updated. Please include your full legal name, MSRB ID, or the last four digits of your SSN, old email address, and current email address.

Past issues of our newsletter publications can be found on our [website.](#)

Quick links: Visit our website: mass.gov/retirement

Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/mass.state.retirement

Follow us on X @MassStateRet: x.com/massstateret