

From: Sharon Hoffbeck <sharonhoffbeck@gmail.com>
To: RPEA Members--All
Date: 21 Apr 2016
Subject: RPEA E-Board Report

Hi Everybody—

The E-Board had its monthly meeting on Tuesday, discussing a long agenda of projects that RPEA is currently working on. Here are some of the highlights:

1. In January 2016, RPEA filed a Declaratory Relief lawsuit against Commissioner Fisher and the State of Alaska. This lawsuit has a very narrow focus, asking the court to do two things:
 - a. Rule that the optional Dental/Vision/Audio plan (DVA) is a vested retiree benefit that is constitutionally protected just like the medical plan, and
 - b. Require that the state restore all Dental/Vision/Audio benefits to their 2013 levels.

We hope for a favorable decision by the end of the year. You can view pertinent court documents on the RPEA website, including the complaint and the state's answer—link below.

<http://www.rpea.apea-aft.org/>

2. ARM Board Appointment; The ARM Board (Alaska Retirement Management Board) is responsible for investing, managing and protecting our retirement trust funds. This board does an excellent job, and Sam Trivette has had a seat on the ARM Board for many years working tirelessly protecting our trust funds. Sam has been a member of RPEA since its inception, and has done an excellent job for all retirees, dedicating countless hours over the years.

Sam recently regretfully announced that he would have to step down from his ARM Board seat, returning to being a real retiree.

The RPEA leadership team would like to thank Sam for his years of dedication to his position on the ARM Board, and dedication to protecting and defending all retirees.

We would also like to welcome Rob Johnson, who has just been appointed by the Governor to the ARM Board seat that Sam is vacating.

Rob has practiced law in Alaska since 1974. He first came to Alaska as a forest fire fighter in the summer of 1969, and later as a summer law clerk in Fairbanks in 1973. After graduating from Stanford Law School in 1974, he accepted a position with the Attorney General's Office in Juneau. His substantial experience with governmental institutions and administrative law continued and developed during his years as an assistant attorney general, the director of petroleum revenue, and into private practice where he was the ARM Board attorney for many years.

Rob is now retired, a PERS beneficiary and has been working with RPEA for the past 2 years. We want to thank Rob for taking on this volunteer "opportunity"!

3. Communications Director: Liz Arend was recently appointed RPEA Communications Director. This is a critical position which includes managing the RPEA newsletter. Liz has a strong background in communications, and we are fortunate that she will be working with RPEA.

The RPEA newsletter is available via email, as well as in hard copy form. If you would like to help RPEA reduce operating costs, and you receive a hard copy of the newsletter in the mail, please consider switching to the electronic version which you will receive by email. Just send me an email to request that change.

4. Please continue to send me information about claim denials and problems resolving issues with Aetna, Moda Health or the Division of Retirement & Benefits (DRB).

If you are filing appeals, be sure to send them certified, or in such a way that you can track them, so you have proof of the date that the appeal reached Aetna, Moda or DRB. That is the date that starts the clock on the period of time they have to notify you of their decision. We have received complaints from retirees that appeal deadlines are not being met by Aetna and DRB.

Posted on the RPEA website is a document detailing how the appeal process works for medical and DVA appeals, including deadlines—link below. We plan to post a similar document detailing Long Term Care appeals within the next few months.

<http://www.rpea.apea-aft.org/>

5. S. 1651-H.R.973: Social Security Fairness Act of 2015:

The Social Security Fairness Act of 2015 is co-sponsored by Senator Lisa Murkowski and 23 other senators, but not Senator Dan Sullivan. Please email Senator Sullivan at <https://www.sullivan.senate.gov/contact/email> and ask him to sign on as a co-sponsor.

This bill will:

- Amend Title II (Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the Social Security Act;
- Repeal the government pension offset (GPO), and
- Repeal the windfall elimination.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE MEMBERSHIP

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