



# PSPRS Local Board Newsletter

“The way to learn is to begin” - Unknown

## In This Issue:

Schedule of Local Board “Spotlight” Topics



Schedule of Local Board “Question and Answer Sessions”



Announcement  
IRS Rules on Normal Retirement Age



A Message from the PSPRS Benefits Department



A Message from the PSPRS Active Members Department



Temporary Disability



Staff Profile - Joann Lowey



Survey Question of the Month

## INTRODUCTION TO THE LOCAL BOARD NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Local Board Newsletter. The mission of this monthly publication is to provide better local board educational tools and increase the level of communication between the local boards and the PSPRS. In the months ahead we will cover a myriad of topics, all intended to help us better assist our members as they work toward, and ultimately move into retirement.

Don Mineer - Local Board Training Coordinator

## SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING LOCAL BOARD TRAINING “SPOTLIGHT TOPICS”:

*These meetings are held at the PSPRS office (\*Unless otherwise indicated). For those not able to attend, the most popular topics will be offered again in the near future. Check our website and this newsletter for more information.*

*If you would like to sign up for one of the following Local Board seminars, send an e-mail to don@psprs.com.*

September 16, 2008	Disability Procedures 10 AM
October 27, 2008	General Local Board Conference (Phoenix) 9 AM *To be held at 5033 N 19th Ave Phoenix AZ
November 18, 2008	Local Board Duties and Responsibilities 10 AM
December 9, 2008	How to Calculate Normal, Survivor, & Disability Retirements 10 AM
January 20, 2009	Contributions, buybacks, transfers 10 AM

## SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING LOCAL BOARD TRAINING “QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSIONS”:

*These meetings are held at the PSPRS office and space is limited. Check our website www.psprs.com and this newsletter for more information.*

*If you would like to sign up for our local board question and answer sessions, send an e-mail to don@psprs.com*

September 11, 2008	10 AM
October 9, 2008	10 AM
November 13, 2008	10 AM



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### ANNOUNCEMENT: IRS ISSUES FINAL REGULATIONS REGARDING NORMAL RETIREMENT AGE

You may have heard that the IRS has issued final regulations regarding the definition of normal retirement age which could impact members of PSPRS, CORP and EORP. The IRS has asked for comments on the new regulations, which are scheduled to become effective for PSPRS, CORP and EORP on July 1, 2009. Public pension plans and lobbying organizations across the country have requested that the IRS provide clarification regarding the impact of the final regulations, and that the IRS delay their implementation date. Our outside counsel is part of this effort.

As soon as more complete and final information is provided by the IRS, we will publish it in the Local Board newsletter and post it on our website. In the meantime, there are no plans to change the provisions relating to normal retirement age for PSPRS, CORP or EORP.

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PSPRS BENEFITS DEPARTMENT

Please remember to send in your original signed minutes from your local board meetings even if you email them in advance. Also, be sure to identify the name of your board (employer name) on the Minutes header.

The retirement forms and spreadsheets are currently under revision to be in compliance with the new legislation which will become effective on September 26, 2008. The forms will be dated 9/08. We will have them posted on our website and ready to use on September 26, 2008.

Our benefits department has recently gone through some organizational changes. These changes should help improve our ability to provide timely help and guidance to our local boards. The team members are:

- |               |                                 |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Susanne Dobel | Member Services Director        |
| Bonnie Brown  | Benefits Manager                |
| Joann Lowey   | Benefits Team Leader            |
| Tara Smith    | Benefits Specialist             |
| Robert Ortega | Benefits Specialist             |
| Della Hieb    | Benefits Specialist             |
| Lilian Leung  | Benefits / Insurance Specialist |



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PSPRS ACTIVE MEMBERS SERVICES DEPARTMENT:

The Active Members Department is focused on the concerns of those employees who are actively contributing to the retirement plans and they assist new employers who want to join the plans through joinder agreements. They are the department to contact with questions on membership issues such as eligibility, contributions, service purchases, service transfers, account information updates and refunds. The team members are:

Susanne Dobel	Member Services Director
La Dawn Toger	Member Services Team Leader
Sherry Saltsman	Member Services Team Leader
Connie Vasquez	Active Member Specialist
Dorothy Miller	Active Member Specialist
Tony Jenkins	Active Member Specialist
Cathy Gonzalez	Active Member Specialist

## TEMPORARY DISABILITY (PSPRS ONLY)

A temporary disability is payable for a total of 12 months. To prevent any delays in continuing pension benefits from a temporary disability to an accidental or an ordinary disability, provided your board finds the member eligible, it is recommended that your board work with the member prior to the expiration of the 12 monthly payments

It is important that the member understand that if your board does not find the member eligible for an accidental or an ordinary disability pension that there may not be any contributions left on account for the member to withdraw or transfer. All pensions are paid first by using the member's contributions on account, before going to the employer's funds and the PSPRS funds.

The temporary disability is considered a work-related disability and therefore is tax-exempt. Although the benefit is tax-exempt, we still require members to fill out federal and state tax forms (W4-P and the A4-P) indicating whether or not they want taxes to be withheld.



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A member will receive one-twelfth of 50% of the annual compensation the applicant received immediately prior to the date the disability was incurred

For a complete checklist and further guidance on how to process the application, please see our Retirement Instruction Manual located at [www.psprs.com](http://www.psprs.com) under the Employer section in the Forms listing.

### STAFF PROFILE - JOANN LOWEY - BENEFITS DEPARTMENT

Joann is currently in the Benefits Department as Team Leader, handling DROP, Reverse DROP, and Corrections Officer Retirements. Joann Lowey has worked with PSPRS for nearly 14 years. She started in the finance department as the accountant for 8 of those years.

### SURVEY QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

To assist us in our planning, we are asking for your responses to the following:

Would your board like to have the ability to use model policies for issues like board member elections, board member attendance issues and disability retirements? YES or NO? Your comments are welcomed.

If inspections and audits of your board were offered to assist in compliance with the statutes would you request this service? YES or NO? Your comments are welcomed.

please respond to: [don@psprs.com](mailto:don@psprs.com)

### WHAT CAN I EXPECT IN FUTURE ISSUES?

In future newsletters, we will share information about:

- ♦ Procedures and forms to implement new legislation that allows the purchase of service time from Rural Metro Fire
- ♦ Online employer contributions
- ♦ Online membership form input

Stay tuned!