



PSPRS PAS April Newsletter

NEW 'STARS' SYSTEM TO HONOR MEMBERS, EMPLOYERS



Until recently, the most significant agency infrastructure investment in the history of PSPRS, has been known simply as the acronym PAS. The bland, nondescriptive title is replaced with STARS as the result of PSPRS staff contest with more than 80 proposed titles from staff members. STARS, standing for Serving Those Active and Retired Serving others, was the winning entry submitted by PSPRS Local Board Relationship Manager Joann Lowey, who plays a key role helping employers prepare for this transition.

“The STARS system will revamp and modernize all of our portals and improve the look, feel and features of the tools that our stakeholders will use every day,” said Deputy Administrator Mike Smarik. “STARS is a fitting tribute to not only our members’ service to Arizona but to the employers and support networks that work on behalf of first responders, corrections officers, elected officials and the judiciary.”

Staff submissions to rename the PAS were evaluated by PSPRS management and the submission by Lowey, who has spent almost 30 years working for PSPRS, was selected among four top contenders. Future communications regarding the pension administration will refer to STARS.

UPCOMING HEALTHCARE FILES DUE DATE

Employers who provide retiree healthcare requiring pension deductions or make requests to PSPRS for health subsidy payments on behalf of retirees – and plan to remit these requests via batch file imports – will need to submit their test files beginning in May.

Testing of the files will focus on ensuring that the structure of the file import meets specifications. The specification document is available on [PAS project webpage](#).



GET SET UP FOR ACH PAYMENTS NOW



PSPRS continues to reach out to employers to establish electronic ACH payment connections to allow PSPRS to remit payments to employers for retiree healthcare premiums and retiree healthcare subsidies. This is a quicker and more efficient way for our office to send payments to employers. As PSPRS transitions to the new PAS, any payments that require a check to be printed will no longer be handled in-house. Any payments made by check will be processed

directly by our bank, which could add time to employer receipt of payment. We encourage employers to get set up now with an ACH payment process. For more information, reach out to our health insurance team at insurancegrp@psprs.com.

CONTRIBUTION REMITTANCE EXPLAINED AT CONFERENCE

In the new PAS employer self-service portal, employers will have the ability to remit contribution information through batch file import and manual reporting.

PSPRS Member Services Director Robert Ortega [provided employers a glimpse of what they can expect at the recent PSPRS Employer-Local Board Conference](#). The entire reporting and payment processes will be centralized in this portal while PSPRS will no longer be using the Well Fargo e-bill portal for payments.

At PAS go-live, employers will need to establish their payment accounts within the new portal. We encourage all our employers to begin using electronic payments for their contribution payments. The new automated process will calculate interest on late reporting or payments. Paying by check may delay PSPRS receipt of payment, which will increase employers' probability of having interest/fees applied to their contribution payment.



JOIN THE BI-WEEKLY PAS CALLS



The bi-weekly employer calls are hosted on Zoom. The next call is **Wednesday, April 10 at 1 p.m.** PSPRS shares key information, such as changes to policy, payment and processing, and allows time for employer questions.

- Zoom link: [Click to join meeting](#)
- Dial-in number: +1 (602) 753-0140
- Meeting ID: 934 4033 4774
- Passcode: 994068

RESOURCES

[March 2023 PAS Project Overview Presentation](#) (YouTube Video)

[Review Your Employer Group Number/PAS Point of Contact](#) (pdf)

[Contribution Import File - Errors and Warnings](#) (pdf)

[Demographic Import File - Errors and Warnings](#) (pdf)

[Health Insurance Field Values](#) (pdf)