

New Board Member

By Patty Mott, Board Member

John McEwen, AMRPE board member and Treasurer is leaving our Board. John has worked tirelessly since 2006 to bring AMRPE where we are today. A big **THANK YOU** to John for his hard work and dedication to AMRPE. James Driggers will take over John's financial duties as our new Treasurer. Filling John's spot as a board member is Connie Welsh. Connie managed the State Employee Health Plan for a decade as the Administrator of Health Care and Benefits Division. Most recently, Connie managed the Montana University System 's employment benefit and pension plans.

WELCOME Connie!

Good news, there is no current need to raise dues or ask for donations. Our finances are on solid footing thanks to the growth in our membership and minimal expenses. Our lobbying costs are down because the spotlight on public pension plans in the 2015 and 2017 legislative sessions was not as intense as previous sessions i.e. there were fewer and less controversial bills to follow. We are in good shape to meet future lobbying and legal challenges. Our financial reports are available on our website at amrpe.org.

Association of Montana Retired Public Employees
PO Box 603, Helena, MT 59624

OVER 2,500 MEMBERS STRONG!

*Association of Montana
Retired Public Employees*



*To enhance and protect
pensions and other benefits
for retired Montana Public
Employees.*

January 2018

Newsletter
Newsletter



2018 Health Benefit change from the desk of.....

Amy Jenks, Bureau Chief,
Department of Administration,
Health Care & Benefits Division (HCBD)

Prior to January 1, 2018, when a retiree passed away, his/her dependent's State of Montana Benefit Plan (State Plan) coverage terminated at midnight on the date of the retiree's death.

Effective January 1, 2018, the State Plan has changed its termination process slightly, covered survivors of deceased retirees will continue to be covered by the State Plan, but will now be covered until midnight of the last day of the month in which the retiree passes away.

After State Plan coverage ends, covered surviving dependents are eligible for 36 months of COBRA

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coverage under the State Plan starting at 12:01 a.m. the date after State Plan retiree coverage terminates. If the survivor(s) is not Medicare eligible they are also eligible for the State Plan survivor benefit until they become Medicare eligible starting at 12:01 a.m. the date after the State Plan retiree coverage terminates.

Questions regarding State Plan coverage should be directed to HCBD at (800) 287-8266, (406) 444-7462, TTY (406) 444-1421, or benefitsquestions@mt.gov.

Surviving dependents who are Medicare eligible are encouraged to review their insurance options with an insurance professional trained in Medicare supplement and Medicare advantage plans. Montana State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) is a free health-benefits counseling and advocacy service for Medicare beneficiaries and their families or caregivers. SHIP can be reached at (800) 551-3191.

2018 Membership Drive By Patty Mott, Membership Chairman

AMRPE's 2018 NEW Membership Drive was a success with the addition of 139 recently retired public employees. This year AMRPE offered a one-year free trial membership. Many of the new members also purchased subsequent one, two, three year or lifetime memberships. Welcome new members and thank you for your support!

It is important that we continue to grow our organization. If you know someone who is retired, please encourage them to join. AMRPE is a strong voice to protect pensions and other benefits that we have earned, and on which many of us rely.

Consider sharing your AMRPE newsletter with your public employee retirement friends.

Address Change? Let us know.

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