



My Benefits

A newsletter for the members of the
Plymouth County Retirement Association

Fall/Winter 2022 Edition

Members of the Board

Thomas O'Brien,
Chairman and
Plymouth County Treasurer

Joseph McDonough, Esquire
Elected Member

John Sciara,
Elected Member

James Harrington,
Appointed Member

Mary Beth Carter,
Appointed Member

Timothy Smyth, Esquire
Executive Director

Included in this issue

- Keeping your beneficiary information up to date
- Veterans: Thank you for your service
- Purchasing additional service

Plymouth County Retirement Association

60 Industrial Park Road
Plymouth, MA 02360
Phone (508) 830-1803
Fax (508) 830-1875
www.pcr-ma.org

TIMOTHY SMYTH JOINS THE PCRA AS THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



On July 11, the Board welcomed Timothy Smyth as the new Executive Director of the Plymouth County Retirement Association.

"We are thrilled to have Tim join the Association," Chairman Tom O'Brien stated. "We look forward to Tim leading the office and bringing his wealth of knowledge to bear for our members."

Tim brings significant retirement and legal expertise to the position. Previously at the Boston Retirement Board for three years as their General Counsel, then the past nine years as their Executive Director, Tim is well versed in Chapter 32, which governs the retirement plan for our active members and retirees.

"I would like to thank the Board for giving me this opportunity to join the Plymouth County Retirement Association," Tim stated. "I look forward to getting to know the members of Plymouth County and how I may be able to assist them with their retirement needs."

HAPPY RETIREMENT DAVID SULLIVAN




After 39 years of working in the public retirement field, the last six and a half years as the Executive Director of the Plymouth County Retirement Association, David Sullivan became a retiree himself on July 20.

"We wish him well with his retirement that he so richly deserves and thank him for his service to the members of Plymouth County," stated Chairman Tom O'Brien.

Serving the members of Plymouth County since 1937

KEEP YOUR BENEFICIARY INFORMATION UP TO DATE



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Phone number (508) 830 - 1803 * Fax number (508) 830 - 1875

ACTIVE MEMBER BENEFICIARY FORM

Section 1 – Member Information

Name _____ SS# XXXX - XX - _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Home Phone (____) _____ Cell Phone (____) _____
 E-mail _____ Unit _____

BE SURE TO CAREFULLY READ WHAT EACH BENEFICIARY OPTION PROVIDES BEFORE SELECTING.
Member-Survivor (Option D) Beneficiary – Only one person may be named as a Member-Survivor (Option D) beneficiary. It is limited to a spouse, former spouse not remarried, parent, sibling or child. The beneficiary would receive a monthly survivor allowance equal to the amount you would have received if you had retired under Option C on the date of your passing.

Section 2 – Member-Survivor (Option D) Beneficiary Information

Name _____
 Address _____
 Relationship _____ * Date of Birth ____/____/____ SS# _____
 *Limited to spouse, former spouse who has not remarried, parent, sibling or child

AND / OR

Lump-Sum Beneficiary – You may name one or more Lump-Sum beneficiaries. There is no restriction on whom the Lump-Sum beneficiary(ies) can be, with the lone exception that it cannot be the same as a Member-Survivor (Option D) beneficiary, if you listed one above. A Lump-Sum beneficiary would receive a one-time payment of your entire account balance or the percentage allocated to if you name more than one. If you name both a Member-Survivor (Option D) and a Lump-Sum beneficiary(ies), the Member-Survivor (Option D) beneficiary would receive the entire benefit.

Section 3 – Lump-Sum Beneficiary Information

1) Name _____ Percentage %
 Address _____
 Relationship _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____ SS# _____


2) Name _____ Percentage %
 Address _____
 Relationship _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____ SS# _____

3) Name _____ Percentage %
 Address _____
 Relationship _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____ SS# _____

The total sum of all the percentages above must equal 100%

Please be advised that pursuant to Massachusetts law, a surviving spouse may supersede a nominated beneficiary and be awarded any benefits as a result of your passing. If you have any questions, please contact the PCRA.

Member's Signature _____ Date ____/____/____
 Witness' Signature _____ Date ____/____/____
 Witness' Name (Print) _____



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RETIREE/SURVIVOR BENEFICIARY FORM

Please complete this form if you retired under Option A or Option B or are receiving a monthly survivor benefit only. You may change your beneficiary(ies) at any time during your retirement by completing a new Retiree/Survivor Beneficiary Form. If you need more space for additional beneficiaries, please print additional copies of this page, fill in the information and indicate how many pages submitted. Pages submitted if more than one .

Option A or Survivor of a PCRA member – Lump-sum payment of any benefits due that you earned in the month of your passing that have not yet been issued.
Option B – Lump-sum payment of the remainder of your annuity savings fund, if any, on the date of your passing and any benefits due that you earned in the month of your passing that have not yet been issued.

Section 1 – Benefit Recipient Information

Name _____ SS# XXXX - XX - _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Home Phone (____) _____ Cell Phone (____) _____
 E-mail _____
 Your Status: Retiree/Option A Retiree/Option B Survivor
****Do NOT use this form if you are an Active member or retired under Option C****

Section 2 – Beneficiary Information

1) Name _____ Percentage %
 Address _____
 Relationship _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____ SS# _____

2) Name _____ Percentage %
 Address _____
 Relationship _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____ SS# _____

3) Name _____ Percentage %
 Address _____
 Relationship _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____ SS# _____

The total sum of all the percentages above must equal 100%.

Benefit Recipient's Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

ACTIVE MEMBERS

- Lump Sum - Your beneficiary/ies will receive a one-time lump sum payment of all your contributions and interest in your account. There are no limits as to who the beneficiary/ies can be.
- Member-Survivor (Option D) - One named beneficiary will receive a lifetime monthly survivor benefit. The beneficiary is limited to a spouse, former spouse who has not remarried, parent, sibling or child.

Beneficiary Form can be found at www.pcr-ma.org/forms

RETIREES/SURVIVORS

- If you retired under Option A or are collecting a monthly survivor benefit, you need to have a beneficiary/ies on file for a pro-rata check for the month that you pass away.
- If you retired under Option B, a beneficiary/ies will receive a lump sum payment of the remainder of your account, if any, on the date of your passing and a pro-rata check for the month that you pass away.

Beneficiary Form can be found at www.pcr-ma.org/forms



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE



As Veterans Day approaches, the Plymouth County Retirement Association (PCRA) would like to thank all the active military personnel and retired veterans for their service to our county.

There are benefits that are available to you as a veteran and a member of the PCRA or any other retirement board in the commonwealth.

Veterans Benefit

- At the time of your retirement, you will receive, in addition to your regular retirement benefits, an additional retirement allowance of \$15.00 for each year of creditable service or a fraction thereof, up to 20 years total, for a maximum veterans allowance of \$300.00 a year.
- Be sure to submit your DD214 with your retirement application if you had not provided it previously.
- You do not need to apply for this benefit. It will be automatically granted provided that you meet the definition of veteran under Massachusetts General Law.

Military Service Buyback

- If you are an honorably-discharged veteran, M.G.L. ch. 32 § 4 (1) (h) grants you the right to purchase up to four years of creditable service.
- If you are a National Guardsman or Army Reservist who qualifies as a veteran, you may be eligible to purchase up to four years of creditable service at a pro-rated ratio (for every five years of Guardsman or Reservist time you can buy one year of creditable service).
- You will need to apply for this benefit provided that you meet the definition of veteran under Massachusetts General Law. You can find the application at www.pcr-ma.org/forms.

What is the Massachusetts definition of veteran?

Under M.G.L. ch 4, Section 7, Clause 43, a veteran is any person who served at least 180 days active duty in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force whose last discharge or release was under honorable conditions or any person who served at least 90 days of active duty including at least one-day wartime service.

The definition specifically excludes active duty for training for the National Guard and Reserves from qualifying as active duty.

One last thing about veteran benefits:

Members who leave public employment to serve in the armed forces and who are honorably discharged and return to public employment within two years from their discharged date are entitled to have that period of service counted as creditable service without having to buy that time.

PURCHASING ADDITIONAL SERVICE

Creditable service is an important factor when it comes to retiring. You need to have at least ten years of creditable service in order to be vested and eligible for a future retirement.

Additional creditable service can increase your monthly retirement allowance. Your retirement is calculated based on your age and how many years of creditable service that you have. The more creditable service you have the higher a retirement you will receive with the maximum being 80% of the average of your three highest consecutive years (if you started prior to April 2, 2012) or your five highest consecutive years (if you started on or after April 2, 2012). You need to be an active member in order to buyback any service.

So, what are some examples of creditable service that can be bought?

Refund Buyback

If you previously worked in the public sector and you took a refund of your contributions, you can purchase that time back.

In order to do so, please complete the **Refund Buyback Application Form** and submit it to our office.

The cost of the buyback will be the amount of your previous refund plus interest. You would need to purchase the whole refund as partial refund buybacks are not allowed.

If you were previously a member before April 2, 2012 and return after that date, you will still be considered a member post pension reform even with a refund buyback. You can purchase the time, but not the original membership start date.

Military Buyback

If you meet the Massachusetts definition of a veteran (see page 3), you can purchase creditable service based on your military time.

In order to do so, please complete the **Veteran's Buyback Application Form** and submit it to our office.

The cost of the buyback is 10% of your salary when you last became a member of a retirement system for each year that you purchase.

For active military time, you can purchase up to four years of service. National Guardsmen and Army Reservists, who qualify as a veteran, can also purchase up to four years but on a pro-rated basis. For every five years that you have equals to one year that you can purchase.

On Call Time/ Permanent Intermittent

If you were an on call firefighter or a permanent-intermittent/reserve police officer, you can purchase some of that time.

In order to do so, please complete the **Makeup Buyback Application Form** and submit it to our office.

The cost is based upon retirement contributions which would have been withheld, plus interest.

You can purchase up to five non pro-rated years, buying the most recent years. In conjunction with On Call Time, you may purchase unlimited, but pro-rated Dispatch Time, however, time that is concurrent with any On Call Time is not eligible to purchase.

WORKING POST RETIREMENT

When you retire from the Plymouth County Retirement Association (PCRA), that does not prevent you from working in either the public sector or the private sector.

While the past couple of years during the pandemic have seen waivers, for superannuation retirees only, with regard to working post-retirement, if you are going to work post-retirement, you should know the rules and any possible limitations.

Post-Retirement Hours/Earnings Superannuation Retirement

There are limitations to both public sector hours worked and potential earnings.

Public sector:

- You cannot work more than 1,200 hours in a calendar year. If you work in more than one town, all the hours must be added together from all the towns (you cannot work 1,200 hours for each town).
- You cannot make more than the difference between what the position that you retired from is currently paying and what you are collecting in retirement. After you have been retired for one full calendar year (Jan - Dec), you are allowed to make an additional \$15,000.00.

Once you hit one of the two limits, you will have to stop for that year or you will be an over-earner.

Please be advised that this only applies to public sector work in Massachusetts. It does not apply for earnings in other states or the federal government.

Private sector:

There are no restrictions for working in the private sector with one exception. If you are acting as a consultant or independent contractor to the Commonwealth or local municipalities and you retired after July 1, 2009, then the same limits apply as if you were working in the public sector.

Post-Retirement Hours/Earnings Disability Retirement

There are limitations to both public sector hours worked and potential earnings.

Public sector:

- You cannot work more than 1,200 hours in a calendar year. If you work in more than one town, all the hours must be added together from all the towns (you cannot work 1,200 hours for each town).
- You cannot make more than the difference between the regular compensation which would have been payable to you if you had continued in service (in the grade held at retirement) and what you are collecting in retirement. You are allowed to make an additional \$15,000.00 right away.

Once you hit one of the two limits, you will have to stop for that year or you will be an over-earner.

Private sector:

- You cannot make more than the difference between the regular compensation which would have been payable to you if you had continued in service (in the grade held at retirement) and what you are collecting in retirement. You are allowed to make an additional \$15,000 right away.

Be mindful of your hours/earnings with either public or private sector employment as every year you will need to complete an Annual Statement of Earnings with PERAC and submit tax documents along with it.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR 1099-R

The Plymouth County Retirement Association (PCRA) will mail out your calendar year 2022 Form 1099-R by the end of January 2023. Unfortunately, we do not have an exact date at the publication of this newsletter, but we will try to get it to you at the earliest time possible.

Whether you are a brand new retiree receiving your first Form 1099-R from the PCRA or you have been retired or collecting a survivor benefit for several years, the PCRA would like to highlight the important boxes on your Form 1099-R.

Please be advised that the PCRA is not able to provide any tax information/advice. If you should have any questions about completing your tax returns and filing them, you should contact your tax preparer.

Box 1 - Gross Distribution

This is the total amount paid to you in calendar year 2022.

Box 2A - Taxable Amount

This is the total amount paid to you in calendar year 2022 that is actually taxable.

Box 4 - Federal Income Tax Withheld

This is the total amount of federal income tax that was withheld from your payments for calendar year 2022.

Box 5 - Employee Contributions/ Designated\ Roth contributions or insurance premiums.

This is the amount of your gross distribution that is not taxable. This is the difference between Box 1 and Box 2A. For more details, please see Frequently Asked Questions on page 7. This is **not** your calendar year 2022 insurance premiums. That number is not provided on your Form 1099-R as they are post-tax benefits.

Box 7 - Distribution Code

This is the code that tells the IRS what type of benefit you are receiving.

Form 1099-R		CORRECTED (if checked)	OMB No. 1545-0119 2022	
1 Gross distribution	2a Taxable amount	Distributions From Pensions, Annuities, Retirement or Profit-Sharing Plans, IRAs, Insurance Contracts, etc.		
21,801.72	21,601.72			
\$	\$			
2b Taxable amount not determined	Total distribution	12 RACAREG requirement	13 Date of payment	
PAYER'S name, street address, city or town, state or province, country, ZIP or foreign postal code, and phone no.				
Plymouth County Ret. Association 60 Industrial Park Rd Plymouth, MA 02360				
PAYER'S TIN 32-0091442		RECIPIENT'S TIN XXX-XX-XXXX		
3 Capital gain (included in box 2a)	4 Federal income tax withheld	5 Employee contributions/Designated Roth contributions or insurance premiums		
\$ 0.00	\$ 530.16	\$ 200.00		
6 Net unrealized appreciation in employer's securities	7 Distribution code(s)	8 Other	%	
\$ 0.00	7	\$ 0.00	00	
9a Your percentage of total distribution		9b Total employee contributions		
00		% \$ 0.00		
RECIPIENT'S name, street address, city or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code				
John Q. Public Your address City, State Zip				
Account number (see instructions)		11 1st year of desig. Roth contrib.	10 Amount allocable to RRI within 5 years	
			\$	
14 State tax withheld	15 State/Payer's state no.	16 State distribution		
\$ 0.00		\$ 0.00		
17 Local tax withheld	18 Name of Locality	19 Local distribution		
\$ 0.00		\$ 0.00		

Copy B

Report this income on your federal tax return. If this form shows federal income tax withheld in box 4, attach this copy to your return.

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
www.irs.gov/Form1099R

PLYMOUTH COUNTY RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

We get a lot of questions, whether it be here at our office, when we are on the road doing a presentation or attending a health care fair in your local community. Here are a few of the most common questions that we get asked. Maybe they are the same questions that you have as well. If your question is not here, perhaps it was in a previous issue of **My Benefits**, which can be found on our website, www.pcr-ma.org, or will be covered in a future issue, however, you never have to wait. If you have any questions about your current or future retirement, please feel free to check our **Frequently Asked Questions** section on our website, www.pcr-ma.org/faqs, or give the PCRA a call at (508) 830 - 1803 and we will gladly assist you.

Q Why is there a difference between the Gross distribution (box 1) and the Taxable Amount (box 2a) on my 1099-R?

A Not all retirements will have this, but if there is a difference between your Gross Distribution (box 1) and your Taxable Amount (box 2a) on your Form 1099-R, it could mean one of a couple of things.

First, it could simply mean that you had some after-tax contributions in your account at the time of your retirement or the original member did if you are collecting a survivor benefit. Since those contributions have already been taxed, you do not have to pay taxes on them again, however, the IRS spreads the non-taxable amount over a number of years based on the Simplified General Rule or Method.

The second reason is that you are collecting an accidental disability retirement. An accidental disability retirement consists of annuity and pension just like a superannuation retirement, however, only the annuity portion of this retirement is taxable.

Note: Public Safety Officers will receive, in addition to their Form 1099-R, a letter pursuant to the Pension Protection Act of 2006. This provision allows eligible retired public safety officers to exclude from their gross income an amount up to \$3,000 that is deducted from a taxable retirement allowance for health care premiums or long term care insurance. You will receive this in a separate mailing from your Form 1099-R.

Q What does the amount in the Employee contributions/Designated\ Roth contributions or insurance premiums (box 5) represent on my Form 1099-R?

A This amount is your non-taxable amount for that tax year as calculated by the Simplified General Rule or Method. It is the difference between your Gross Distribution (box 1) and your Taxable Amount (box 2a). This amount will be the same every year after the first year you collect 12 months of retirement payments.

Q Why did I receive two Form 1099-Rs this year?

A The reason for this may be the fact that you are collecting a superannuation retirement and you turned 59 1/2 during the calendar year. If this has happened, the IRS codes each Form 1099-R before and after 59 1/2 differently in box 7, one a 2 (before 59 1/2) and the other a 7 (after 59 1/2). Both Form 1099-Rs need to be reported to the IRS when doing your returns. This will be the only time that you would receive two Form 1099-Rs during your retirement.



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Plymouth, MA 02360



ENJOY YOUR RETIREMENT

What better way to enjoy your day as a Plymouth County retiree than with a good cup of coffee.

If you are approaching that date, be prepared for your retirement by sitting down with the Plymouth County Retirement Association and get all of your questions answered.

Please call ahead to schedule to an appointment. Appointments are at the top of every hour between 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Please also make note of our new address:

**60 Industrial Park Road
Plymouth, MA 02360**