



# My Benefits

A newsletter for the members of the  
Plymouth County Retirement Association  
Spring/Summer 2021 Edition

## Members of the Board

Thomas O'Brien,  
Chairman

Joseph McDonough,  
Elected Member

John Sciara,  
Elected Member

James Harrington,  
Appointed Member

Mary Beth Carter,  
Appointed Member

David Sullivan,  
Executive Director

## Included in this issue

- State of Emergency - PCRA operations and post retirement work waiver
- The basics of medical insurance and Medicare
- 2020 capital markets - A COVID-19 silver lining

## Plymouth County Retirement Association

10 Cordage Park Circle, #234  
Plymouth, MA 02360  
Phone (508) 830-1803  
Fax (508) 830-1875  
[www.pcr-ma.org](http://www.pcr-ma.org)

## THE FUTURE HOME OF THE PLYMOUTH COUNTY RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION



60 Industrial Park Road, Plymouth, MA

On September 28, 2020, after a thorough and extensive search, the Plymouth County Retirement Association (PCRA) purchased its new permanent home. The beautiful 7,900 square foot building is located 2.5 miles from our current location in Cordage Park. Visitors will continue coming to the same general area as they currently do now.

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## THOMAS O'BRIEN RE-ELECTED COUNTY TREASURER/CHAIRMAN OF PCRA BOARD



On November 3, 2020, Thomas O'Brien won re-election for County Treasurer. As Treasurer, Tom also serves as Chairman of the Plymouth County Retirement Association (PCRA), a position he has held since August 2006.

"I take my responsibilities as Chairman seriously to make sure the Association is fundamentally secure for our retirees and those who will retire in the future," Tom said. "Our members work hard for their community, they deserve a retirement that will be there for them when they need it."

Tom shares his responsibilities on the Board with fellow Board Members Joe McDonough, John Sciara, James Harrington and Mary Beth Carter.

## MARY BETH CARTER REAPPOINTED TO THE BOARD

At the December 16, 2020 Treasurer's Advisory Council meeting, Mary Beth Carter was unanimously reappointed to serve another three-year term as the representative on the Plymouth County Retirement Association Board, a position she has served since January 2015.

"I'd like to thank the Council for their continued support," Mary Beth said in accepting her reappointment. "At the end of the day, it's all about supporting our membership."

Mary Beth, the Treasurer of the Town of Whitman since January 2009, is joined on the Board by Thomas O'Brien, Chairman, Joseph McDonough, John Sciara and James Harrington.



## UPCOMING PENSION PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Month	Direct Deposit	Month	Direct Deposit
April	April 30, 2021	August	August 31, 2021
May	May 31, 2021	September	September 30, 2021
June	June 30, 2021	October	October 29, 2021
July	July 30, 2021	November	November 30, 2021

# POST RETIREMENT WORK WAIVER DURING STATE OF EMERGENCY EXTENDED TO 2021

As you may have heard or already have taken advantage of during 2020, Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020 waived the restrictions of earnings and hours that a superannuation public retiree is limited to if working in the public sector during 2020.

As the State of Emergency continues due to the ongoing pandemic and with the signing of the FY 2021 budget back on December 11, 2020, the waiver of the restrictions of earnings and hours for superannuation retirees has been extended to calendar year 2021 pursuant to Section 68 of this Act. As it was in 2020, the waiver is in place for the duration of the Governor's State of Emergency or the end of Calendar Year 2021, whichever occurs first.

*The waiver does not include disability retirees. So, if you are a disability retiree, continue to be mindful of your earnings and hours.*

Please note that this work need not be directly related to the coronavirus; the law covers any hours/ earnings from the emergency period.

Similar to the 2020 waiver, the 2021 waiver does **not** apply to disability retirees. The same restrictions that applied to you before the pandemic, still apply. The waiver is only for superannuation retirees.

When will the State of Emergency end is a question the Plymouth County Retirement Association (PCRA) gets a lot. At this time, we cannot answer that. When it does end, an official declaration would be made by the Governor and should be picked up by local media, whether it be print or television. The PCRA will post updated information on our website as well.

## CURRENT PCRA OPERATIONS

Just as we have been since March 2020, the Plymouth County Retirement Association (PCRA) continues to be closed to the public, as most, if not all, public offices are to help reduce the risk of Covid-19 to our members and the PCRA staff. We would like to thank all our active members, retirees and member units for their continued patience during this time of the pandemic.

The best way to contact the PCRA is by phone or e-mail. While staff is working in the office on a limited basis, we are still able to provide most, if not all, services remotely.

## ARE YOU ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

If you are on social media, did you know that you can find us on Facebook and Twitter?

Be sure to follow us on these platforms as we post updated information that may be of interest to you. You can find us at:



PCRetirementMA



PCRA\_MA

As always, you can find us at our website [www.pcr-ma.org](http://www.pcr-ma.org) to find information.

# THE FUTURE HOME OF THE PLYMOUTH COUNTY RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

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Just like any new place, some general work would need to be done to address any issues and to spruce up the place before moving in. Once work has been completed, staff and PCRA equipment will move into their new spaces.

“We look forward to when we can start welcoming in our members to see the new office,” Executive Director David Sullivan said. “The Board, myself and other staff members put a lot of work into this and we think this will make everything a better experience for everyone.”



It is very exciting to finally have a permanent home of the PCRA,” noted Chairman Tom O’Brien. “This is something we wanted to have for a long time.”

Until the new office is ready, all business will continue to take place at our current location in Cordage Park. All mail and phone calls should be directed there for the time being.

Be sure to monitor our website [www.pcr-ma.org](http://www.pcr-ma.org) for any updates between now and the publishing of our Fall/Winter edition of My Benefits.



At the time of this printing, the PCRA anticipates that our new office will be ready in September 2021 with the understanding that projects like these sometimes take longer than expected, whether during a global pandemic or not. When members will be able to see the new office firsthand will unfortunately greatly depend on when the CDC and Commonwealth says it is safe to return to a normal routine and the State of Emergency is over.



# THE BASICS OF MEDICAL INSURANCE AND MEDICARE

Health Insurance is an important issue whether you are currently an active employee or a retiree. But, do you know the basics of where your coverage is coming from?

For **active members**, your insurance is a benefit that you receive from your current employer (the governmental unit/agency you work for). Your employer may be part of a joint purchase group for health insurance like the [Mayflower Municipal Health Group](#).

If you remain an active employee after the age of 65, your insurance will continue with your employer, however, they may ask you to contact Social Security to sign up for Medicare Part A beginning about three months before your 65th birthday. This does not mean you have to start collecting Social Security benefits.

For **retirees**, depending on your age, your health insurance will come from your former employer (the governmental unit/agency you last worked for) or if you are Medicare eligible, a combination of both your former employer and Medicare.

If you are under 65, your insurance will continue with your former employer. For retirees over the age of 65, Medicare Parts A and B will become your primary health insurance and a Medicare supplement plan will pay secondary. You should be aware that Medicare only covers 80% of your inpatient and outpatient costs, so you will need a Medicare supplemental plan, available through your former employer, to help cover the other 20% of your costs which includes coverage for prescription drugs usually under a Medicare Part D prescription.

<b>Helpful</b>	Social Security Administration (SSA):	1-800-772-1213 (www. <a href="http://www.socialsecurity.gov">socialsecurity.gov</a> )
<b>Contacts</b>	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS):	1-800-Medicare (www. <a href="http://www.myMedicare.gov">myMedicare.gov</a> )

**NOTE: For active members and retirees:** For more specific information regarding your insurance and/or what you should do when you or your spouse approach age 65 and Medicare, whether you are an active member or a retiree, please contact your benefit coordinator. Your situation is unique and therefore, instructions may vary among governmental units.

**NOTE: For retirees:** Please be advised that while you will see your insurance premiums deducted from your monthly retirement check, the Plymouth County Retirement Association is not your actual insurance provider. Questions about your health insurance continues to be for your former employer.

## WHAT IS MEDICARE?

Medicare is a Federal health insurance program for retirees age 65 or older and certain disabled individuals.

**Medicare Part A** covers inpatient hospital care, some skilled nursing facility care and hospice care.

**Medicare Part B** covers physician care, diagnostic x-rays and lab tests and durable medical equipment.

**Medicare Part D** is a federal prescription drug program.

“Medicare only” coverage is not recommended as it has coverage limitations. To ensure comprehensive coverage, Medicare retirees should enroll in a Medicare supplemental plan.

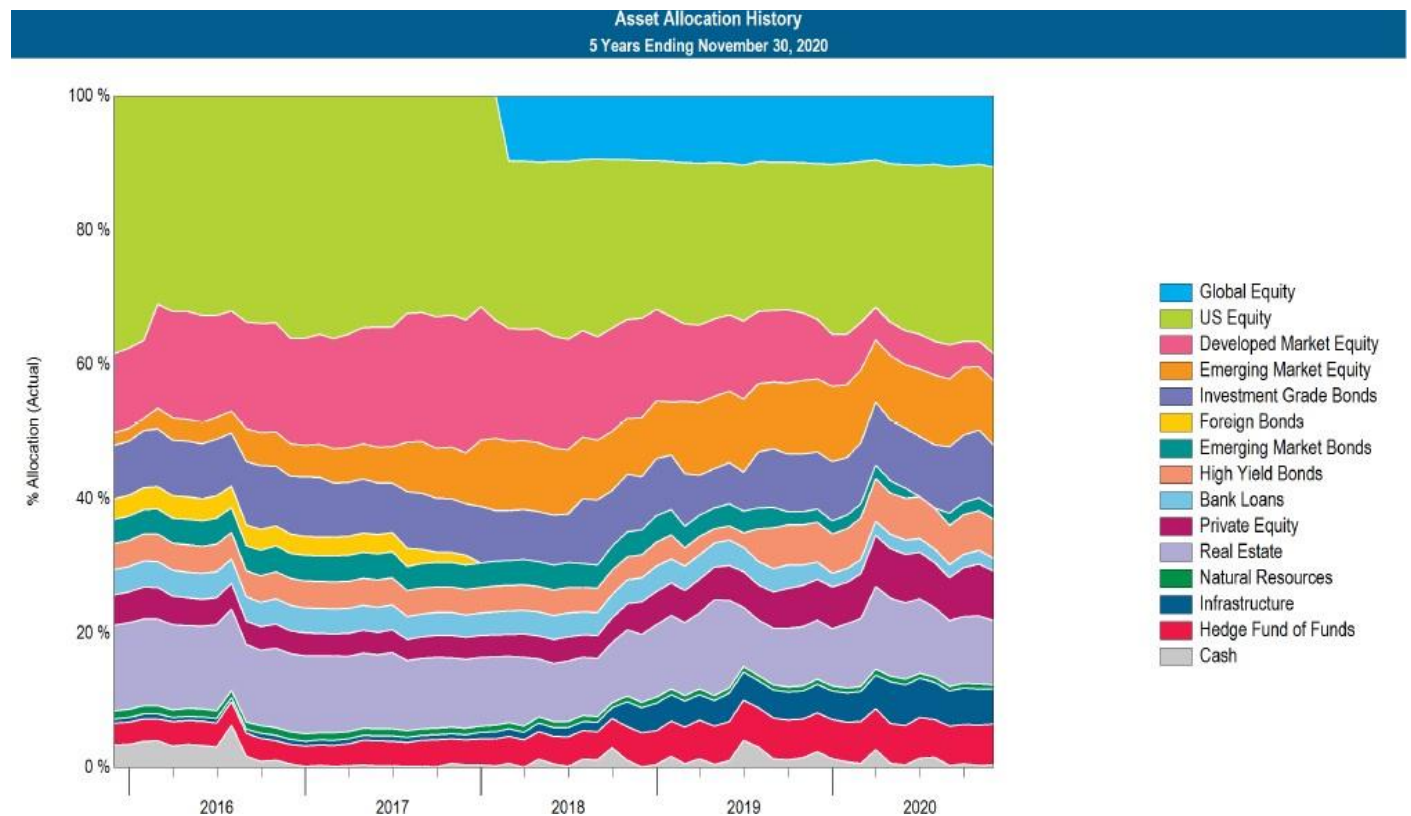
# 2020 CAPITAL MARKETS AND YOUR RETIREMENT - A COVID-19 SILVER LINING

A tumultuous 2020 for world economies and capital markets ended on a positive note. The S&P 500-stock index, the most widely watched U.S. stock gauge, finished the year up more than 16 percent with the Dow up 7.25 percent and the technology heavy Nasdaq up 43.6 percent respectively. The Dow and S&P finished at record levels despite the public health crisis, ongoing economic uncertainty and political instability.

World stock markets sunk from mid-February to late March as the extent of the coronavirus became clear. Stocks were sent tumbling from mid-teens to 30 percent depending on the index by the end of March. This would turn out to be the shortest “bear market” in history as stocks, and bonds for that matter, resumed their 10 plus year uptrend and finished 2020 at mostly all-time highs.

Returns for Plymouth County Retirement Association (PCRA) for 2020 are estimated at +12.5 percent. The return for the fund for 2019 was +17.7 percent. The value of a highly diversified portfolio like yours was never more evident than in the spring of last year. Investments in assets other than stocks like treasuries, value add fixed income, infrastructure and private markets provided a ballast during the dark days of the first quarter last year and, when markets stabilized, and then resumed their uptrend participated in a good portion of their gains.

At the time of this writing, the fund is valued over 1.2 billion, which is an all-time high for the PCRA. More importantly, the fund has returned over 8.7 percent annualized for the past 34 years, the longest tracking period available.



# PLYMOUTH COUNTY RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

## Q & A

This month, we are presenting some of the basic questions that come up in conjunction solely with unemployment benefits. As we continue to go through the global pandemic, unfortunately this issue has come up more so than in previous years.

If you have any specific questions about unemployment, the Plymouth County Retirement Association strongly encourages you to contact the Department of Unemployment Assistance at:

Assigned Day to Call Center

### Last digit of your Social Security Number

0 or 1

2 or 3

4, 5 or 6

7, 8 or 9

Any last digit

### Assigned Day to Call

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Their website is [www.mass.gov/dua](http://www.mass.gov/dua) for more information and to apply for benefits.

**Q** I was laid off because of COVID-19 and I decided to retire. Does that mean that I do not qualify for unemployment?

**A** No. You are not solely disqualified from being eligible for unemployment simply because you are receiving a retirement from the PCRA.

**Q** I am now receiving my retirement from the PCRA. Will my PCRA retirement be reduced if I collect unemployment?

**A** No. You will always receive your full retirement from the PCRA. However, if you qualify for unemployment, your unemployment may be reduced because of your retirement.

**Q** I am collecting Social Security. Does this reduce my unemployment, if I'm deemed eligible, or does my unemployment reduce my Social Security?

**A** No. Social Security will not reduce your unemployment and unemployment will not reduce your Social Security benefits.

**Q** I was working a part-time job for my municipality when I got laid off. Did working part-time exclude me from being eligible for unemployment?

**A** No. You may still be eligible for unemployment benefits. Eligibility for unemployment is determined mainly by wages, not hours.

## HAVE YOU MISSED A PREVIOUS ISSUE OF MY BENEFITS?

In case you weren't aware, all previous editions of My Benefits are located on our website.

With the first publication in the Fall/Winter 2018, My Benefits has covered various issues and topics that may be of interest to you. Please feel free to reread or discover for the first time.



Plymouth County Retirement Association  
10 Cordage Park Circle, Suite 234  
Plymouth, MA 02360

## BE ON THE WATCH FOR YOUR 2021 AFFIDAVIT

Plymouth County Ret. Association  
10 Cordage Park Circle, Suite 234, North Plymouth, MA 02360  
David J Sullivan (508) 830-1803

2019 BIENNIAL AFFIDAVIT FOR RETIRED MEMBERS AND SURVIVORS  
FAILURE TO RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM BY 11/30/2019 WILL  
RESULT IN AN INTERRUPTION OF YOUR RETIREMENT BENEFIT.

November 1, 2019

John Q. Public  
Your Address  
City, State Zip

Please REVIEW your information below: PRINT any corrections or missing data below:

Name:	John Q. Public	
SSN:	XXX-XX-0000	
Address One:	Your Address	
Address Two:		
Address Three:	City, State Zip	
Telephone #:	(000) 000-0000	
Cell phone #:		
E-Mail Addr:		
Marital Status:	Married	

THIS FORM WILL REQUIRE NOTARIZATION. DO NOT SIGN THIS FORM UNLESS YOU ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF A NOTARY. PLEASE BRING VALID IDENTIFICATION WITH YOU TO COMPLETE THIS PROCESS.

I am the person named above and I am either a retiree of the Plymouth County Contributory Retirement System OR a qualified beneficiary of a deceased member or retiree. I hereby certify under the penalties of perjury that the information I have supplied on this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sign in the presence of the Notary Public

Notary Public Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name Of Notary Public: \_\_\_\_\_ Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

It's time again for your biennial affidavit.

The affidavit, which is required by law to be completed and returned to the Plymouth County Retirement Association (PCRA) every two years, is scheduled to be mailed this summer.

In addition to being required by law, the affidavit also helps the PCRA maintain up-to-date member information as well as it helps ensure the PCRA is paying the proper benefit recipient.

If any of the information on your 2021 affidavit is incorrect or missing, please write the corrected or missing information in the space provided.

If you have any questions regarding your affidavit, please feel free to give the **PCRA** a call at **(508) 830 - 1803**.