

***Start now,  
a great retirement  
requires more work  
than you think!***



## Do You Have Goals for Your Retirement?

Identify things that will make you feel:

- **HAPPY**
- **FULFILLED**
- **FINANCIALLY SECURE - YOU NEED TO START INVESTING OVER THE LONG TERM**



# WELCOME

Today's Program is Being Sponsored  
by  
**Central-Western Region  
PSEA-Retired**

<https://centralwestretired.psealocals.org>

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# Today's Presentation

- **Understanding your option choices in PSERS**
- **How to properly prepare for your retirement**
- **Healthcare in retirement**

# Checking Your SSA records

## Create a portal into SSA

- Review your personal information
- Review your earnings statement

<https://www.ssa.gov/>



# Creating a PSERS MSS Account

## MMS Portal

- PSERS's ID  
(found on any correspondence from PSERS)
- Social Security Number
- Date of Birth
- Valid Email Address



## Log into your PSERS portal annually

- Check the accuracy of your annual statement
- Create an online estimate of your retirement annuity
- Review various parts of the information available to “active” members
- Update your personal information



***Attend the PSERS Program***  
***Foundations for Your Future***  
***In Person***

***Cambria 7/15/2025 – Adm Perry VTS***  
***Start time 10:00AM, must register.***



## ► Foundations for Your Future Webinars

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/psers/member-resources/ffyf/ffyf-webinars.html>

- [Thursday, May 15, 2025, 4:30PM-6:00PM](#)
- [Thursday, May 29, 2025, 4:30PM-6:00PM](#)
- [Thursday, June 12, 2025, 4:30PM-6:00PM](#)
- [Thursday, June 26, 2025, 4:30PM-6:00PM](#)



## Requirements for **Normal** Retirement

**Class T-C and T-D**

- ▶ 35 years of service enrolled in PSER's
- ▶ Age 60 and 30 or more years of credit service
- ▶ You are age 62 with at least one (1) full year of credited service at the time you terminate active or inactive service.



## Alternative Choices for Retirement

- ▶ Special Early Retirement – Age must be 55 with 25 years of service. Penalty is  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 1% for each month to reach one of the normal retirement requirements. Max penalty is 15%.
- ▶ Vesting – leaving all funds in PSERS until normal retirement age or number of years. You will need to have 5 years of contributions.



# What is the Lump Sum?

- **Your contribution**
- **Plus, 4% interest earned annually on your contributions**
- **You may withdraw all, part or none of this amount.**



# Have You Thought About...

*Which PSERS Option  
Is Right For You?*

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# Making your option choices

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Your Lump Sum stays in PSERS	Take a partial withdraw	You take your Lump Sum out
Maximum Single Life Annuity (Ave Salary x 2.5 x yrs of service) DB		Maximum Single Life Annuity
Option 1 – “Present Value” decreasing death benefit 18 years DB		Option 1 - “Present Value” decreasing death benefit 18 years DB
Option 2 – 100% for Survivor		Option 2 – 100% for Survivor
Option 3 – 50% for Survivor		Option 3 – 50% for Survivor
Customized Option subject to PSERS conditions		Customized Option subject to PSERS conditions



## Before you decide which option – take into account:

- **Your unique situation** - single, married, children, special circumstances
- **Your Goals** – are you moving to something or away from something?
- **Your family's financial situation** – future finances – be sure you plan for what may come your way.
- **Health concerns** – Medicare, what may happen later in life – will you always be able to take care of yourself? (Assisted living, long-term care)



## Before you decide which option –

- **When is the best time for you to start drawing Social Security?**
- **When should you start to dip into your retirement savings?**
- **Legacy – Are you planning to leave anything to your children, grandchildren or a charity?**
- **What effect will your pension and retirement savings have on taxing your Social Security?**

**(Tax Torpedo)**

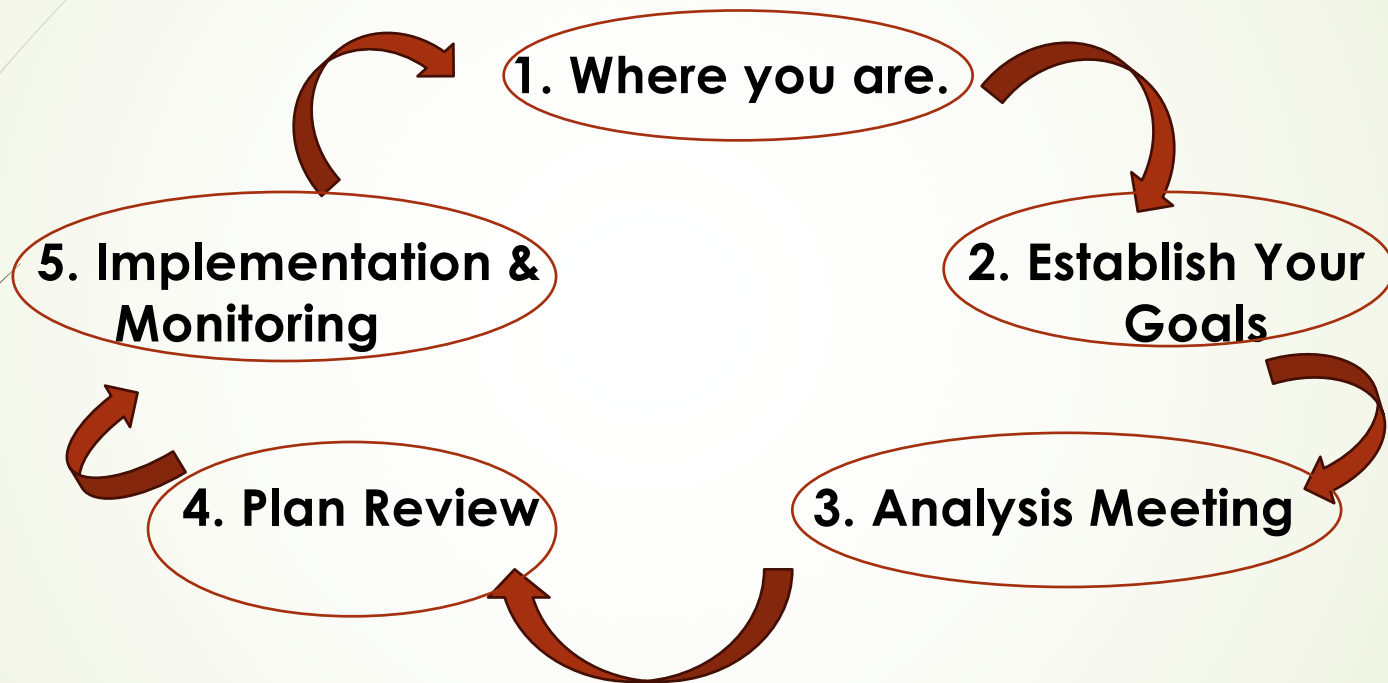


# Before you decide which option -

- *Be sure when you talk to a financial professional these things are discussed and taken into account when you choose your options.*
- *There are creative methods:*
  - *To protect you or your spouse in case of early death*
  - *To maximize your retirement savings with tax efficiency and asset protection*
  - *To leave a legacy to your children and grandchildren*



# A Complete Planning Process



# MEETING WITH YOUR FINANCIAL ADVISOR

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- **GOALS** – what do you want your future/retirement to look like
- **Information needed:**
  - Income
  - Monthly expenses
  - Information on mortgage, and other loans,
  - Investments
  - Cash on hand
  - List of insurances (homeowners, car, life, healthcare, long term care)

# The 4 Corners of Financial Fitness

<b>Cash Management &amp; Liabilities</b>	<b>Protection</b>
<b>Investments</b>	<b>Tax &amp; Estate Planning Strategies</b>

# Cash Management & Liabilities

## Creating a Budget

- **Where do I get the numbers?**
  - Checkbook stubs
  - Credit card statements (3-6 months)
  - Financial software, i.e. Quicken, Money, etc.
- **Will I need to review and revise my budget?**
  - How often?
  - In line with inflation?



# Benefits of Having a Budget

- ▶ **Helps you to know when you can afford to retire (maybe even if...)**
- ▶ **Provides peace of mind as you take the giant step into living on a fixed income.**
- ▶ **Allows you to plan and save for new expenses. (Financial Security)**



# *Excellent Sample Budget*

<https://investor.vanguard.com/tools-calculators/retirement-expenses-worksheet>



# INSURANCE PROTECTIONS

- **Healthcare**
- **Professional Liability – NEA**
- **Property & Casualty – Auto & Home**
- **Life – You, Spouse, and Children**



# Investments

## Types of accounts

- **Non-Qualified – Post-tax**
- **Qualified – Pre-tax**



# Types of Investment Vehicles

- **Brokerage**
- **Managed Money**
- **Annuity**
- **CD**



# Retirement accounts & Catch-Up Provisions

**PSERS Pension** – Your Contributions, Interest, School District's and State's Contributions

Type	Max Amount	Catch-up	Age
<b>403b</b>	\$ 23,500	\$ 7,500	50
		\$11,250	60-63
<b>HSA</b>	\$ 4,150 (\$8,300)	\$ 1,000	55
<b>IRA (ROTH)</b>	\$ 7,000	\$ 1,000	50
<b>401(k)</b>	\$ 23,500	\$ 7,500	50
		\$11,250	60-63

## Taxes on Pension, Social Security, 403(b) & IRA withdrawals & RMD

- **Federal** – Pension, Social Security, RMD, Capital Gains, Interest & Dividends of non-tax-sheltered money
- **State** – pensions & Social Security are not taxed in Pennsylvania
- **Local** – check out the income and wage thresholds, at some point you may not be required to continue to pay these



# Estate Planning Strategies

- Important Papers
  - Will
  - POA
  - Living Will
- Beneficiaries
- Guardians for minors

# *Healthcare Insurance?*

- *What will it cost?*
- *Where will you get it?*
- *How will it change over time?  
(Medicare & Supplements at 65)*



# Premiums, Co-pays & Deductibles

- All of these are **paid by you** in retirement.
- Any reimbursement of deductibles while active, ceases when you retire.
- Your **contract** may provide money to cover premiums for some period.
- You may be eligible for **PSERS Premium Assistance**.
- **At 65, Medicare supplemental insurance** should help with deductibles and co-pays that are incurred through Medicare insurance.



# SASD Premiums for 2025-2026

## You pay this premium in retirement!

- ▶ Individual - **\$812.50 monthly**, \$9750 annually
- ▶ Parent & Child(ren) - **\$1,928.86 monthly**, \$23,146.32 annually
- ▶ Husband & Wife - **\$2,197.63 monthly**, \$26,371.56 annually
- ▶ Family - **\$2,329.38 monthly**, \$27,952.56 annually



# Where to get healthcare Insurance?

- Your School District
- PSER's HOP – Pension System  
<https://www.hopbenefits.com>
- Spouse – Company's Insurance
- Private Sector Healthcare Insurance Plans
- Market place – Affordable Care Act
- Pennie Plan -  
<https://pennsylvaniahealthcoverage.org/>



# Staying in your District's Plan

## Act 110 – Until age 65

- ▶ **Act 43 (1989) amended Act 110 by defining those retirees eligible for continuation of group coverage as those who**
  - ▶ Retired with **thirty (30)** years of service, **OR**
  - ▶ **Normal** retirement on or after age 62 **OR**
  - ▶ Receiving PSERS disability benefits



# What is Premium Assistance?

## ► Premium Assistance

Up to **\$100 reimbursement per month** to assist with out-of-pocket HealthCare Insurance **premium** payments

### Requirements (must meet one)

- You have at least **24.50 years** of credited service regardless of age.
- You terminate school employment and retire at or after reaching **age 62** with at least **15.00 years** of credited service.
- You are receiving a **disability retirement** benefit from PSERS.



# Where you buy insurance is important?

## (Eligible for Premium assistance)

- Keep your plan with your school district
- PSER's HOP Under 65 program
- Medicare if 65 -Choose PSER's HOP as supplement to Medicare or a HOP Advantage Plan

## (**Not** Eligible for Premium assistance)

- Choose to go on your spouse's healthcare plan
- Purchase Healthcare from private sector



# Dental and Vision Coverage

- Purchase through your district
- PSEACare - Dental & Vision Plan - PSEA-R
- PSEA Vision Plan
- PSERS Dental & Vision for Medicare age members with a HOP Plan



# *How Will Your Health Change Over Time?*

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*Possibly need special care*

**Assisted Living  
or  
Long-Term Care**



# What Happens When You Turn 65?

## Medicare!

- **Call** Medicare **3 months** before your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- PSERS will invite you to attend HOP Presentations.

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<https://www.medicare.gov>



# *Why Should You Join PSEA-Retired?*

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# ***PSEA & PSEA-Retired***

***Are always fighting***

***Protect Your Pension?***



## PSEA's Legal Benefits

- **2 - 1/2 hour free sessions each year**
- **Reduced cost for services provided by a PSEA-authorized attorney**



# Substituting in Your Future?

**NEA Professional Liability Insurance**

**Included in your**  
**PSEA-Retired Membership**



# ***PSEA & NEA***

## ***Member Benefits Programs?***

- **Car, Life & Homeowners Insurances**
- **Discounts at Verizon Wireless**
- **Dental & Vision Insurance**
- **Travel Discounts, esp at NEA**
- **Shopping Discounts, PSEA ACCESS**
- **MyDeal App**



# How You Will Stay Informed?

**The Voice** (PSEA's Newsletter)

**The Statement** (PSEA-Retired's Newsletter)

**NEA Today** (NEA-Retired's Newsletter)

**C-W Region PSEA-R Newsletters**

**C-W Region PSEA-R's Website**



# Membership Options

## ➤ Pre-Retirement

- Life Membership

## ➤ At retirement

- Life Membership

- Annual Membership

# Pre-Retirement Application

**DUES RATES VALID SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 -AUGUST 31, 2025**

## **RETIRING PROFESSIONALS (EA)**

I would like to join as: (✓) CHECK ONE OPTION ONLY

- PRE-RETIRED UNIFIED LIFE MEMBER (total dues enclosed 813)
- PRE-RETIRED UNIFIED LIFE MEMBER (payments split into four installments of \$203.25 over a two-year period; first payment due with enrollment)
- CURRENTLY A PSEA LIFE MEMBER (NO FEE necessary for PSEA-Retired Life)  
Join Local Retired Life and NEA Retired Life (total dues enclosed \$375)

## **RETIRING SUPPORT (ESP)**

I would like to join as: (✓) CHECK ONE OPTION ONLY

- PRE-RETIRED UNIFIED LIFE MEMBER (total dues enclosed \$518)
- PRE-RETIRED UNIFIED LIFE MEMBER (payments split into four installments of 129.50 over a two-year period; first payment due with enrollment)
- CURRENTLY A PSEA LIFE MEMBER (NO FEE necessary for PSEA-Retired Life)  
Join Local Retired Life and NEA Retired Life (total dues enclosed \$255)



## Why Join NOW...

- **Avoid increases in dues!**
- A PSEA-Retired Life Membership costs **less** than the yearly rate you pay while working.
- *A Life Membership (pays for itself in **10-years.**)*



# Valuable Links

- **Social Security Administration**
  - <https://www.ssa.gov/>
- **Medicare**
  - <https://www.medicare.gov/>
- **PSEA**
  - <https://www.psea.org/>
- **Online Budget**
  - <https://investor.vanguard.com/tools-calculators/retirement-expenses-worksheet>
- **CWR – Retired**
  - <https://centralwestretired.psealocals.org/Home.aspx>



# Navigating PSERS Website

- ▶ <https://www.psers.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

## Death Benefits Handout

[www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/psers/documents/publications/active/psers%20death%20pa%20mpklet.pdf](http://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/psers/documents/publications/active/psers%20death%20pa%20mpklet.pdf)



# PSERS Links

- **PSERS Feedback Form**
  - <https://psersapps.pa.gov/FeedBack/FeedBack.aspx>
- **Generic calculator**
  - <https://psersapps.pa.gov/Estimator/questions.aspx>
- **Exit Counseling**
  - <https://www.psers.pa.gov/Leaving-Employment/Nearing%20Retirement/Pages/ExitCounseling.aspx>
- **Vesting**
  - <https://www.psers.pa.gov/Leaving-Employment/Pages/Vesting.aspx>
- **Application**
  - [www.psers.pa.gov/FPP/Forms/Documents/f8.pdf](http://www.psers.pa.gov/FPP/Forms/Documents/f8.pdf)



# PSERS Health Options Program

- **HOP**

<https://www.hopbenefits.com/>

- **Premium Assistance**

<https://www.hopbenefits.com/getting-started/premium-assistance/>



# Questions

[centralwesternretired@gmail.com](mailto:centralwesternretired@gmail.com)

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<https://centralwestretired.psealocals.org/ReadytoRetire.aspx>

