

September 2016

President's Message

Greetings ORTA teammates,

Go for the Gold! If you followed the Olympics at all, you heard those words repeated many times. Receiving a gold medal is an honor that athletes work hard to achieve, but it is not won alone. They have a support team of coaches, friends and family cheering them on along the way. Similarly, with your many years of teaching, you have spent your life helping American youth reach their full potential academically. You deserve your own gold medal!

As we transition from the summer to fall, the focus on success does not fade. In fact, the beautiful fall colors and crisp Ohio air can rejuvenate us and inspire us to try new things and continually improve. I am reminded of the 4-H motto "To Make the Best Better". We, as educators, strive daily to "make the best better." It is a motto we are embracing at ORTA. The office staff, AMBA and our membership committee chaired by Bruce Hodges, are busy piloting a membership campaign in Allen County to reach out to soon-to-be retired teachers encouraging them to join our efforts. We are starting to see results of that pilot campaign and look forward to sharing more details with you soon.

In addition, we have a state legislative committee in place to design a process for evaluating candidates for the two retired teacher STRS Board positions to be filled next spring. Dave Gynn is chairing a state committee to study our organizational structure and decide if we need to make changes to better suit our future needs as an organization. The Eastern and Western Area Vice-Presidents and their District Directors are also working to fill ORTA leadership positions for 2017-2018.

I hope you are keeping up with what is happening statewide in our chapters through www.orta.org, as well as on our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). Many chapters are completing collaborative projects with their local Habitat for Humanity affiliates. Please share your project with the ORTA office by emailing office.manager@orta.org. I would like to provide a detailed report at the Habitat state conference in November.

Presently, there is not much happening legislatively, as legislators are just beginning to return for the fall session and elections are approaching. However, we should be aware of the candidates vying for Ohio Board of Education. ORTA does not actively endorse candidates, but I would like to encourage you to do the necessary research to cast an educated vote in November. Your chapter may also wish to invite candidates to speak to your group. It is a local decision. You know best what works in your area.

The ORTA Board will meet Thursday, October 20 at the Columbus office. If you have concerns we should address, please contact your District Director or contact me directly at carolremington01@gmail.com.

Best wishes as the Autumn months approach in beautiful Ohio. Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Carol Remington



Legislative News

House Bill 594

Representative Kristina Roegner has introduced a bill regarding public money being returned to the state as a result of an audit of a community school. <http://www.ohiohouse.gov/kristina-roegner>

Blog from the Committee on Ways and Means, U.S. House of Representatives

Americans across the country pay into Social Security and expect to receive the benefits they have earned when they retire. Unfortunately, because of a well-intended, but flawed policy known as the Windfall Elimination Provision, or the WEP, some workers — specifically teachers, firefighters, police officers and others who have paid into Social Security for part of their careers but not all of it — are not treated fairly. Read more here: <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/wep-unfair/>.

For more September legislative news from STRS, see the below attachment.

Recent Headlines

<http://timesgazette.com/news/9593/larkin-someone-you-should-know>

<http://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/politics/blogs/2016/08/16/guns-in-schools-ohio-concealed-carry-accident/88836134/>

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2016/08/16/ecots-latest-accusations-could-go-to-a-judge.html>

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2016/08/16/ohio-sued-over-student-loan-collection-fees.html>

<http://wytv.com/2016/08/16/retired-teachers-help-rehab-warren-home/>

<http://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/politics/2016/08/17/should-your-school-post-its-checkbook-online/88861716/>

<http://mydailytribune.com/features/community/9025/gallia-retired-teachers-receive-volunteer-awards>

<http://www.ohio.com/editorial/editorials/will-the-governor-lead-in-holding-charter-school-sponsors-accountable-1.708419>



Are You Missing Out On Important STRS News?

Have you signed up to receive the automatic STRS eUPDATES? If not, you could be missing out on valuable information.

To sign up, visit www.strsoh.org, click on the black box that says SUBSCRIBE, and tell them you want to receive the eUPDATES. Not only do you receive information following each Board meeting, but at any time there may be additional information to be disseminated, an additional eUPDATE is sent out.

To read the August STRS update, see the enclosed attachment.

Congratulations on 65 Years of Happy Memories!

ORTA would like to congratulate Jack and Judy Young who recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on July 31 with a reception at the Seven Mile Presbyterian Church. They were married July 26, 1951, in Richmond, Indiana. Both Jack and Judy are members of the Butler County Retired Teachers Association. Judy retired from the Fairfield School District in Butler County after teaching 30 years and Jack retired after teaching in several Butler County school districts for 34 years. Congratulations to Jack and Judy!

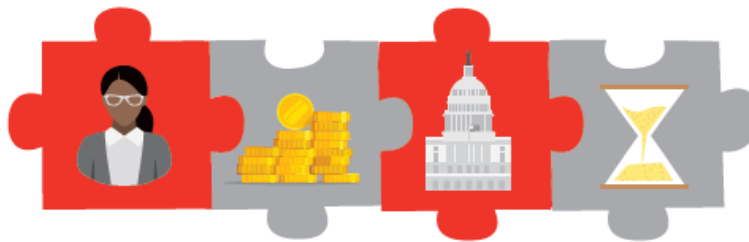


Jack and Judy Young

AARP Tips for Understanding your Pension

Need some help understanding public pensions and how to keep them financially strong? Check out this useful information from AARP.

KEEPING PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLANS FINANCIALLY STRONG



All stakeholders—employers, employees, and taxpayers—share a common interest in seeing that public pensions are adequately funded and prudently financed over the long haul because pensions:



Help recruit and retain a skilled public workforce.



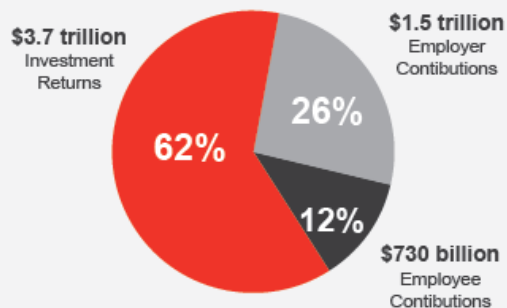
Are cost-efficient and can provide the same level of retirement security for half the cost of defined contribution-type plans.



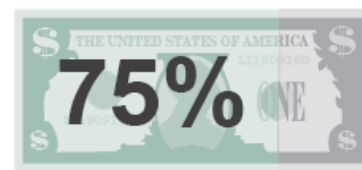
Provide a modest yet predictable income that lasts throughout an individual's retirement.

STRONG PUBLIC PENSIONS PLANS ARE A SHARED FUNDING RESPONSIBILITY

Investment returns and employee contributions have funded most of public pension revenue from 1984-2013.



DESPITE SHARP MARKET DOWN- TURNS, PUBLIC PENSIONS ON THE WHOLE ARE FINANCIALLY STRONG



Even though they have about a 30-year time horizon, public pensions are pre-funded and already hold about three-fourths of the assets required to pay current and future benefits.

The aggregate actuarial value of assets in 2014 grew by eight percent from \$2.74 trillion to \$2.96 trillion.



EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS ARE CRITICAL TO A STRONG PENSION PLAN



A critical measure for any sound public pension funding effort is the "annual required contribution," or the ARC, by the employer.

If the plan receives contributions equal to the full ARC each year, it will stay funded or make progress toward full-funding.

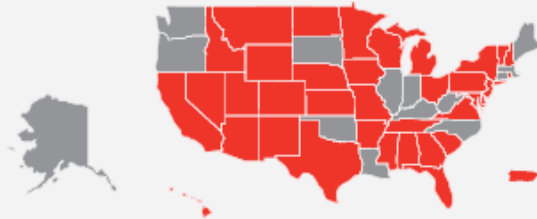
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS ARE INCREASING TO ENSURE STRONG PUBLIC PENSIONS

**5 to
10%**

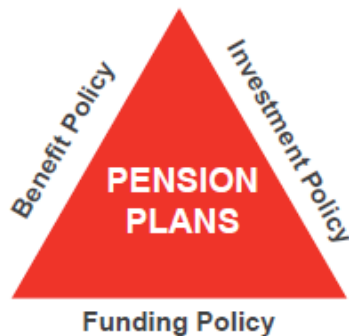
The amount public employees typically are required to contribute from each paycheck to their pension.

35 states have increased employee contributions since 2009 to ensure financial sustainability of public pensions

■ States that have increased employee contributions



PENSION PLANS MUST BE WELL MANAGED AND PROPERLY FUNDED ON TIME, IN FULL



Three key aspects of pension plan management must be tightly linked:

1. The funding policy describing how employer and employee contributions are made;
2. The investment policy, dictating how contributions are invested;
3. The benefit policy that governs how employees earn benefits.

When "best practices" are in place, public pension plans are sustainable over the long term.

Sources: Sources of Public Pension Funding, National Association of State Retirement Administrators
Public Fund Survey, National Association of State Retirement Administrators
Employee Contributions to Public Pension Plans, National Association of State Retirement Administrators
Strong Public Pensions for Today and Tomorrow, National Institute on Retirement Security



Know Someone Who Should Join ORTA? New Presentation is Now Available

As we near our 70th anniversary, ORTA is committed to growing our membership statewide. We need your help to spread the word about the valuable work we do to protect teachers' retirements and the benefits of becoming part of our organization. As part of that effort, we have updated a presentation to help tell our story to current and potential members. Please visit www.orta.org to download the new presentation and other membership materials. Please share it with your local chapter and those who may wish to join ORTA. Together, we can increase our membership and make an even bigger difference for teachers who deserved the best retirement has to offer.

Portage County Retired Teachers Celebrate 50th Anniversary

The Portage County Retired Teachers Association will be celebrating its 50th anniversary on September 15, 2016. The event will be at the Ravenna Elks beginning at noon. The program will include a teacher from Hale Farm's one room school house who teaches today's student what it was like attending school in the early 19th century in northern Ohio. The event will also include door prizes and music. The cost to attend is \$14 per person plus an additional optional donation towards the scholarship fund. For more information, please visit <http://pcrta.hostcentric.com/WordPress/> or email pcrtaluncheon@gmail.com.



Every Student Succeeds Act Regional Meetings

Under the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Ohio will be creating a plan for how local, state and federal programs are aligned to help all students be successful. The upcoming series of [ESSA regional stakeholder meetings](#) throughout the state is a great opportunity for teachers, parents, education professionals, public officials and community members to share their ideas. Additionally, you can learn more about ESSA topics of discussion by participating in upcoming webinars and watch previously hosted webinars [here](#). For additional information on the webinars and the other upcoming regional meetings, please [click here](#).

Bucyrus	The Loft at Pickwick Place 1875 N Sandusky Ave. Bucyrus, OH 44820	Sept. 14 5:30-7:30 p.m. Register
Toledo	The Toledo Club Centennial Room, 1st Floor 235 14th St. Toledo, OH 43604	Sept. 15 6-8 p.m. Register
Greater Cleveland	Cuyahoga Community College's Jerry Sue Thorton Center 2500 E 22nd St. Cleveland, OH 44115	Sept. 19 6-8 p.m. Register
Lorain County	Lorain County Community College Ben & Jane Norton Culinary Arts Center 1005 N Abbe Rd. Elyria, OH 44035	Sept. 28 6-8 p.m. Register
Cincinnati	Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency Gwen L. Robinson Conference Hall 1740 Langdon Farm Rd. Cincinnati, OH 45237	Sept. 29 5:30-7:30 p.m. Register
Cambridge	Zane State College EPIC Center 9900 Brick Church Rd. Cambridge, OH 43725	Oct. 5 6-8 p.m. Register
Portsmouth	South Central Ohio ESC 522 Glenwood Ave. New Boston, OH 45662	Oct. 6 6-8 p.m. Register



Noble County Retired Teachers Dedicate Memorial Bench

Noble County Retired Teachers have dedicated a memorial bench to Deno C. Capello, the Shenandoah High School band director, who passed away January 26, 2016. His death was a devastating loss to his family and friends, his former students (many of whom belong to the Shenandoah Alumni Band) and the entire community.

He and his wife, Sylvia, regularly attended and were active in the Noble County Retired Teachers Association.

Mr. Capello retired in 1989 from Noble Local Schools. He was highly respected by the community as well as students, and was well-known throughout the area for having one of the best bands around. He demanded excellence from the members of his band and was notorious for telling them, "One more time!"

A black granite memorial bench was placed on the Courthouse Square in Caldwell to honor the man who will always be in the hearts of those who knew him. Mr. Capello's dedication to the program and the huge impact he made on those he taught will never be forgotten. Etched on the back of the bench are the words, "Dedicated in Memory of our Teacher, Mentor and Friend."

The memorial bench was made possible by the Shenandoah Alumni Band, Rusty Atkinson of Gallagher & Sons Monuments and the Noble County Retired Teachers Association.



(From left) Noble County Retired Teachers Delora Frakes and Debbie Stapp, and Sylvia Capello

Volunteer Opportunity: The American Red Cross

The American Red Cross is currently focused on expanding its ability to help alleviate the suffering of our neighbors facing emergencies. The Red Cross has begun a campaign to identify Community Partners who share the Red Cross values of Compassion, Collaborative, Creative, Credible, and Committed.

Volunteers have the option to participate in a wide range of services such as: community training, helping with blood donations, services to our Armed Forces, and assisting families affected by home fires and other disasters.

American Red Cross, **Preparedness and Health and Safety Services** are a prime provider of education on first aid, CPR, AED, aquatics, and water safety. For more than 90 years, the American Red Cross has helped people learn how to keep their families and themselves safe as part of the organization's mission of emergency prevention and preparedness. Volunteers are needed who enjoy teaching and want to make a difference in the community, empowering people with the skills and confidence to help in emergencies.

American Red Cross, **Biomedical Services** is one of the nation's largest blood collection organizations. Blood donors play an important role in today's healthcare system. Many life-saving medical treatments and procedures involve blood transfusions. That would not be possible without a safe and reliable blood supply from donors.

Become a Donor Ambassador

Ambassadors are the first and last person blood donors interact with at a blood drive. For Volunteers who like being out in your community, talking with and meeting new people and working with a team, this is a great position!

American Red Cross **Service to the Armed Forces** volunteers reach out to military families during emergencies to make sure their needs are being met, and supports the military community and military medical facilities around the world.

American Red Cross **Disaster Services** responds to more than 70,000 disasters each year, including house or apartment fires, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, hazardous material spills, transportation accidents, explosions, and other natural and man-made disasters. Volunteer opportunities include:

- Disaster Action Team Member: Volunteers respond to local disaster scenes to meet the needs of those affected, providing Red Cross services to fulfill needs for things such as shelter and food.
- Community Preparedness Presenter: Volunteers educate individuals and groups on how to be prepared before a disaster occurs.

For more information about volunteer opportunities, and to apply to be a volunteer, please visit www.redcross.org.



ORTA

NEWS BULLETIN

KEEPING MEMBERS APPRISED OF ORTA
HAPPENINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



Take a Closer Look!

Your membership with Ohio Retired Teachers Association (ORTA) offers you a full suite of benefits and discounts. Are you taking full advantage of your membership? Check out your ORTA benefits today!

- Dental & Vision
- Cancer/Heart/Stroke Coverage
- Medicare Supplement
- Life Insurance
- Emergency Air & Ground Transportation Plan
- Hearing Benefits
- Rental Car Discounts
- La Quinta Inn & Suites Discount
- Computer Discounts
- 1-800-Flowers Discount
- Dining Discounts
- Cruise and Vacation Package Discounts

Visit myAMBAbenefits.info/orta
or call 1-800-258-7041
to find out more!



WARNING Reminder: Avoid POP5.org

The five public retiree associations have joined together to alert our members to misleading solicitations from a new start-up group known as POP5, or Protect Ohio Pensions, Inc. The organization provides inaccurate information, as well as the names and logos of retired associations, such as ORTA without our authorization or knowledge.

[A letter](#) was sent in March asking POP5 to cease this activity and remove these false partnerships from the website.

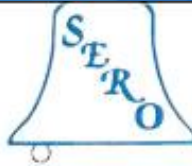


OHIO RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

ORTA

NEWS BULLETIN

KEEPING MEMBERS APPRISED OF ORTA
HAPPENINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



March 15, 2016

Mr. Bill Winegarner, Administrator
Protect Ohio Pensions, Inc. (POP5.org)
4349 Beehive Lane
Columbus, Ohio 43230-1514

Dear Mr. Winegarner,


We, the following Ohio Retiree Associations; namely the Ohio Retired Teachers Association, the Public Employee Retirees, Incorporated, the School Employee Retirees of Ohio, the Police and Fire Retirees of Ohio, Incorporated and the State Highway Patrol Retirees' Association demand that POP 5.org and any of its partners immediately cease using our names, logos, the use of our associations' intellectual property, individually and collectively, now and in the future, from any media, (including but not limited to) forms, publications, websites, correspondence to retirees, literature, documents, whether printed or electronic, and any reference to our associations, by name or individuals currently or previously associated with us, without the expressed written consent of our associations.

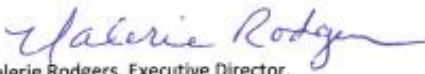
Each of our respective organizations' was listed within your POP 5.org website without prior knowledge, or consent. This action clearly demonstrates there was no sincere interest on your part to communicate with us in an open, honest and transparent manner regarding your organization's intentions. The information referencing our associations on your website was misleading as it implied that we were working together with you when no such partnership existed. We believe the potential exists to create much confusion on the part of our members with your information and that this is a key element of your business strategy.

Additionally, you stated at a recent meeting with SERO's Board of Directors that if our associations felt there was no need for an organization such as POP 5.org that you would voluntarily stop your efforts to move forward with this initiative.


We are unanimous in our belief that there is no need for POP 5.org and ask that you honor your word given last week to cease operations immediately.

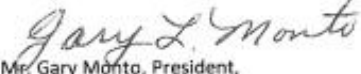
Sincerely,


Dr. John Cavanaugh, Executive Director,
Ohio Retired Teachers Association (ORTA)


Ms. Valerie Rodgers, Executive Director,
School Employee Retirees of Ohio, Inc. (SERO)


Mr. Gil Jones, President,
Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirees Association (OSHPRA)


Mr. Geoff Hetrick, President/ CEO
Public Employee Retirees of Ohio, Inc. (PERI)


Mr. Gary Monto, President,
Police and Fire Retirees of Ohio (PFR)

Cc: Mr. Michael Nehf, Executive Director, State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio
Ms. Karen Carraher, Executive Director, Public Employees Retirement System of Ohio
Ms. Lisa Morris, Executive Director, School Employees Retirement System of Ohio
Mr. John Gallagher, Executive Director, Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund
Mr. Mark Atkeson, Executive Director, Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirement System



OHIO RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Alliance Area Retired Teachers Select 2016 Book Award Recipients

The Alliance Area Retired Teachers Association (AARTA) Book Awards of \$600 each are distributed yearly to three area college freshmen who will be majoring in education. The recipients for 2016 are:

- Marlinton High School graduate **Jillian Ochsendorf** who will major in social studies at Malone University
- Sebring High School graduate **Tristen Brink** who will major in political science at University of Mount Union
- West Branch High School graduate **Hannah Schultheis** who will major in early childhood education at Kent State University.

The AARTA Book Award Certificate presenters were Eleanor Carver, Marsha Graham and Kathryn Miller. The AARTA Book Award Chair is Diana Runciman Moore.

Medina County Retired Teachers Award Scholarships

The Medina County Retired Teachers Association honored two students with scholarships at their recent luncheon on August 9. Both recipients received a check for \$1000.

Anna Maddamma, a former Cloverleaf High School graduate, will be a senior at The Ohio State University. She is majoring in Life Sciences in the College of Education and Human Ecology, and wants to be a high school biology teacher.

Denell Cormany, a former Buckeye High School graduate, will be a senior at Waynesburg University in Pennsylvania. She is majoring in Early Childhood Development and Special Education.

Kay Rasor, the MCRTA scholarship committee-chair, helped present the scholarships and posed for a picture with the winners.



(From left) Anna Maddamma, Kay Rasor, Denell Cormany

Trumbull Retired Teachers Make Donation to Habitat for Humanity

The Trumbull Retired Teachers Association recently presented a donation to Habitat for Humanity of Mahoning Valley. Service chair, Marilyn Stanton presented the donation to Colin Penny, the local Habitat of Humanity Director. The money was raised during a collection at a recent member luncheon and meeting. Mr. Penny addressed the group and invited them to participate in the latest Mahoning Valley project. Ten members signed up to paint while others volunteered for other work roles to help build a new home. The group was also recognized with a photo in the Habitat Magazine. TRTA is proud to join other chapters across Ohio in this important effort to help those in need.



Marilyn Stanton and Colin Penny (Photo by Roselyn Gadd)

Ohio Retired Teachers Association • 8050 N. High St., STE. 190
phone: 614.431.7002 • fax: 614.431.7003 • email: ortastaff@orta.org
www.orta.org

STRS AUGUST UPDATE

Aug. 19, 2016

STRS Ohio's Total Fund Returns 0.92% for Fiscal 2016

At the August meeting of the State Teachers Retirement Board, Investment Department staff reported that STRS Ohio's total fund return for the year ending June 30, 2016, was +0.92%. The return beat the total fund benchmark by 0.25%. The system's active management of the funds, rather than relying on index funds, added approximately \$85 million in value after all investment costs during the fiscal year.

The 0.92% return was consistent with staff's annual plan forecast of moderate, positive returns. This follows returns of +5.45% in fiscal year 2015 and +16.83% in fiscal 2014. The value of investment assets as of June 30, 2016, was \$69.9 billion.

STRS Ohio's Long-Term Returns

Assumed actuarial rate of return: +7.75%

5-year total fund return: +7.66%

10-year total fund return: +6.06%

20-year total fund return: +7.16%

25-year total fund return: +8.02%

30-year total fund return: +8.40%

Asset-Liability Study Begins; Consultant Shares Investment Return Expectations

The Retirement Board's investment consultant, Callan Associates, began STRS Ohio's asset-liability study with a presentation that covered the timeline for the study and included some long-term capital market projections. STRS Ohio conducts an asset-liability study every five years with the primary objective of determining reasonable investment risk and return expectations. Callan expects the study to consist of three phases: 1) a review of STRS Ohio's current investment program; 2) building an integrated asset-liability model; and 3) developing the asset-liability results and the board selecting an appropriate asset mix. Callan projects the study to be completed by March 2017.

Callan also reviewed its capital market projections for 10- and 30-year time horizons. Callan shared that it's reasonable to expect STRS Ohio's current asset mix to achieve an 8% return in its very long-term outlook for the capital markets (30-years), but the 10-year return projection is below STRS Ohio's assumed rate of 7.75%. In the months ahead, Callan will work with STRS Ohio and its actuary to integrate the results of the upcoming actuarial valuation into the asset-liability model. The board will review these results with Callan at its December meeting.

Board Reviews Timeline for Pension and Health Care Funding Discussions

The Retirement Board continues to closely monitor the financial condition of the pension and health care funds. In addition to the asset-liability study mentioned above, STRS Ohio will also work this fall with its actuary, Segal Consulting, on a five-year experience review. This is a study that evaluates the economic and demographic assumptions that are used in the valuation of the Defined Benefit Plan's assets, liabilities and funding requirements.



STRS Ohio Executive Director Michael Nehf shared a timeline with the board that outlines when consultants will complete various phases of the studies and make presentations to the board.

In September, the board meeting is scheduled over two days, Sept. 15–16, to allow for an in-depth presentation on health care. The health care discussion will begin on Sept. 15 in the afternoon and will resume in the morning on Sept. 16. The board is expected to review the results of active member and retiree surveys that are currently being conducted, and will explore potential options for the future of the health care program.

Fiscal 2016 Operating Expenses Total \$660,000 Below Amended Budget

Final figures for fiscal year 2016 show that STRS Ohio's operating expenditures were approximately \$660,000 less than the amended operating budget approved by the board in the spring. Administrative expenses totaled \$95.3 million for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2016. Each month, STRS Ohio posts approved administrative expenses on its website.

Retirements Approved

The Retirement Board approved 762 active and 190 inactive members for service retirement benefits.

