



Second Wednesday's

July 14, 2010

Future Changes in OPERS

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This seminar will focus on the recommended benefit changes that the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) Board of Trustees submitted to the Ohio Retirement Study Council in November 2009. These changes to benefits are designed to strengthen the pension system, with the added goal of maintaining adequate funding for health care. Depending on legislative implementation, the recommended changes to benefits will build on past actions by the Board to prepare for longer life expectancies of retirees, to encourage member engagement in their retirement planning and to correct inequities resulting from benefit subsidization.

PRESENTERS

Brad Cole, Managing Director of Research, County Commissioners Association of Ohio
Gordon Gatien, Government Relations Officer, Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Deborah B. McCarthy, J.D., Assistant Government Relations Officer, Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

The Honorable Todd Book, State Representative-Dist. 89, Ohio House of Representatives

Aristotle Hutras, Executive Director, Ohio Retirement Study Council

Chris DeRose, Chief Executive Officer, Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

AGENDA—9:30-12:30

- 9:30 a.m. Welcome and Introductions
- 9:40 a.m. OPERS Recommended Benefit Changes
- 11:00 a.m. Panel Discussion
- 12:30 p.m. Conclusion

County Commissioners Association of Ohio

209 East State Street • Columbus, Ohio 43215 • 614/221-5627 • www.ccao.org



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Speakers

THE HONORABLE TODD BOOK

State Representative (Dist. 89)

Ohio House of Representatives

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State Representative Todd Book (Dist. 89-McDermott) is serving his fourth term in the Ohio House of Representatives representing voters in Scioto County and parts of Lawrence and Adams Counties. The West Portsmouth native received a bachelor's degree in political science with honors from Western Michigan University. He then earned his law degree from the College of William & Mary's Marshall-Wythe School of Law.

Rep. Book started practicing law back in the Portsmouth area after graduation and taught business law at Shawnee State University as an adjunct faculty member. He also became a business owner, starting Old Hickory Golf Co., Ltd. with his father. The business conducts golf outings using hickory-shafted clubs, period clothing and old-style golf balls.

He chairs the Ohio House Rules and Reference Committee, sits on the Civil and Commercial Law; Public Safety and Homeland Security and Elections and Ethics Committees. He's also a member of several commissions and councils and stays extremely active in his community.

BRAD COLE

Managing Director of Research

County Commissioners Association of Ohio

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Brad Cole is the Managing Director of Research for the County Commissioners Association of Ohio. In this capacity Brad coordinates and manages the research, data, and technical publications prepared and distributed by the association; maintains research data bases, develops survey instruments; and

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promotes the CCAO Educational and Research Foundation. In addition, Brad provides legislative advocacy and member's services in taxation and finance, permissive taxes, auditing and accounting, county budget procedures, county debt, purchasing, investment policy, and general government legislation that impacts counties including transportation and infrastructure, tax abatement, and solid waste management. He is the liaison to the CCAO Taxation and Finance Committee.

Cole holds a Bachelor of Arts cum laude and Master of Arts degrees in American History from Bowling Green State University.

CHRIS DeROSE

Chief Executive Officer
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Chris DeRose is Chief Executive Officer of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). He joined OPERS in October 2006 after nine years as CEO of the Michigan Retirement Systems where he helped achieve best in class customer service levels at among the lowest cost in the industry.

As baby boomers begin to retire, Chris is leading the implementation of a five-year strategic plan designed to ensure the retirement security of current and future generations. At the same time, he is focused on eliminating misconceptions about public pension sustainability by proactively communicating the vital role traditional pension plans play in the retirement security of public workers and the economic value OPERS creates for all Ohio citizens.

GORDON GATIEN

Government Relations Officer
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Gordon joined the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) in September, 2009. As the Government Relations Officer, Gordon is responsible for coordinating OPERS' position on legislative issues, working closely with stakeholder groups, and assisting in the formulation and pursuit of OPERS legislative goals and objectives.

Prior to joining the OPERS team, Gordon held numerous positions within the Ohio Department of Commerce and the former Ohio Department of Industrial Relations over a span of about 19 years -- most recently, Assistant Director. Gordon is a graduate of Capital University.

ARISTOTLE L. HUTRAS

Director

Ohio Retirement Study Council

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Aristotle Hutras has served as director of the Ohio Retirement Study Council, one of the oldest and most respected pension oversight councils in the country, since 1990. He brings over 30 years of public policy experience working within the legislative process. Established in 1968 by the Ohio Legislature, the Council provides a continuing study of Ohio's five public pension systems, their cost and financing, including all statutory changes in the retirement laws proposed to the General Assembly and reporting on their probable costs, actuarial implications and desirability as a matter of public policy. The Council is comprised of nine voting members: three senators, three representatives, and three governor's appointees; and five ex officio members: the directors of each of Ohio's public retirement systems. In 1968 the assets of the five retirement systems were approximately \$3 billion; today they have grown to over \$129 billion (as of 1/09) and cover approximately 1.5 million members, retirees and their beneficiaries. The recommendations made under Mr. Hutras' leadership over the past two decades have led to an increase in the ORSC's statutory pension oversight responsibilities.

Hutras is a graduate of The Ohio State University. He began his public service career as a page at the Statehouse. Prior to becoming director of the Ohio Retirement Study Council, Hutras served five years as the executive secretary for the Ohio House of Representatives.

DEBORAH B. McCARTHY, J.D.

Assistant Government Relations Officer

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Debbie has been employed at OPERS for over eight years and, since 2004, has served in the OPERS Government Relations department as Assistant Government Relations Officer. As an advocate for OPERS' legislative agenda, she works closely with internal management and staff and OPERS' external constituency groups to achieve OPERS' goals.

Prior to joining OPERS, Debbie worked as a staff attorney for over seven years at the Ohio Legislative Service Commission (LSC), the agency responsible for providing non-partisan research and writing services to members of the Ohio General Assembly. While employed at LSC, Debbie staffed the House and Senate committees responsible for both public pension and health care legislation. Before joining LSC in 1994, she spent a year in private practice.

Debbie is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University School of Law, where she earned her Juris Doctor. She is also a cum laude graduate of The Ohio State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts with Honors in 20th Century World History. Debbie currently holds licenses to practice law in Ohio (1993) and in Florida (1994).

