



TSEA Retirees

Membership Guide

TSEA SUPPORTS RETIREES

The Tennessee State Employees Association is the only group committed to representing retirees from all departments of state employment across the state of Tennessee. The association actively lobbies the state legislature and regularly has a representative at Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS) meetings to guard the benefits of higher education employees.

TSEA Achievements For Retirees:

- Allowing state and higher education employees to participate in a **retiree dental plan**
- \$19.7 million for a \$400 one-time bonus for state employees — the full bonus amount **earnable compensation for retirement purposes**
- Funding to continue the state's contribution to the cost of **Medicare supplement plans for retirees** after funding to put \$2.2 million into the budget to increase the state's portion
- Funding to put for an additional \$2.1 million added to **increase retirement amounts** for employees who retired before July 1, 1989.
- A one-time bonus of \$70 per year of service — bonus amount counts toward **earnable compensation for retirement purposes** in addition to the regular longevity compensation
- Increase in benefit cap for **Class B retirees**
- State employees and their dependents to continue their state insurance as supplemental to **Medicare at age 65** maintaining same benefits as basic plan
- \$25.8 million to fund a service bonus of \$50 for each full year of service up to 25 years — bonus counts toward **earnable compensation for retirement purposes** in addition to the regular longevity compensation
- \$1.7 million to increase the state's support of **retirees' Medicare supplemental insurance**
- **Supplemental retirement bridge** for 2 years for law enforcement officers' mandatory retirement at age 60
- Raised the cap on **allowable retirement benefit** to 80% of the member's average final compensation for Group I and Class C members
- 3.6% **retirement index** fully funded for all employees in state service when retirement became noncontributory
- Real compounded **COLA for retirement** benefits beginning in 1998
- Disabled employees forced into **retirement may continue state insurance** until regular Medicare eligibility
- Statutory provision for **pre-Medicare retiree insurance**
- Funding for state's portion of **retirees' health insurance premium**
- 5% increase in **retirement benefits** for all active and retired employees
- 25% tuition discount extended to **children of retirees**

- Improved minimum retirement benefits and **additional retirement credit** for military service

Some Important Definitions

Retiree Membership: Any retired employee of the State of Tennessee

Retiree Participation: Retired members shall be eligible to participate in association activities and shall have the same rights and privileges as regular members.

Retirees & Chapter Membership: Any retiree member may choose chapter membership in the county of residence or where he/she last worked.

Retiree Association Dues: Association dues for retiree members shall be five (5) dollars per month.

Retirement Committee (11 members): This committee consists of members from the State Board and the general membership. The responsibility of this committee is to organize current retiree membership for greater involvement.

The Real Meaning of Retiree Membership

By joining TSEA, you protect and advance your interests in retirement from state employment. By joining, you also have the opportunity to stay in touch with your state employee friends and to stay informed of current state retiree issues and topics through the Association's 47 state-wide chapters.

We know that you are concerned about today's issues: the economy, rising health care and energy costs, and the stable retirement you count on. TSEA has been the prime force in improving the well-being of its members, both active and retired, and is the state's most dynamic and influential lobbyist for state retiree issues. Membership participation by retirees creates an effective force in strengthening these efforts and helps TSEA maintain a constant vigil on state legislation, including bills that may affect your retirement benefits. Retired members are kept informed through special publications focusing on your specific needs and interests.

TSEA retiree membership is more than 1,100 across the state. And we lead the way on the issues that affect you today as a retiree. That is why its important to belong to our Association.

Opportunities to Participate

TSEA also offers opportunities for formal and informal interactions with other

state retirees such as local chapter meetings and annual membership events such as Lobby Day, Representative Assembly and Leadership University.

Reaching Out to Others

To be an effective voice for you we need to continue to grow, and you can help!

- Renew your membership if you haven't already done so.
- Contact your fellow state retirees that you stay in touch with and encourage them to renew their membership as well.
- Provide us with contact information of any state retirees who are not members.

Remember, as a retired state employee you can be a member of TSEA at a rate of \$5 per month. You need only complete a new membership application and send it to the TSEA office. We will send it on to TCRS for you. Your dues will then be deducted from your retiree paycheck from TCRS. Or, you have the option to be a cash member by sending a check or money order annually to TSEA for \$60 which covers your membership each year.

To receive an application for membership:

contact the TSEA office at 1-800-251-8732
or a TSEA Representative in your area:

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