

Louisiana State Employees'
Retirement System

OPEN FORUM [FALL 2022]



AGENCY OPEN FORUM

Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

WEBINAR ONLY

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

[LASERS Update]

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

[Asset Allocation & Summary]

LEGISLATIVE SESSION OUTCOME

[2022 Update]

MEMBER SERVICES INFORMATION

[Resources & Education]

myLASERS ACCOUNTS

[How to Assist Members]

REHIRED RETIREES

[Wage Types, Contribution Rate Changes]

Cindy Rougeou Executive Director

Bobby Beale, CFA, CAIA

Chief Investment Officer

Tina Grant

Executive Counsel

Wendy Kinchen

Retirement Benefits Supervisor

Wendy Kinchen

Retirement Benefits Supervisor

Amanda Kimble

Accountant

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

THANKS FOR ATTENDING!

Tell us how we did by completing the survey following this webinar. Download the presentations on our website at lasersonline.org/employers. A recording of the webinar will be posted on our website soon.



WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

LASERS UPDATE

[CINDY ROUGEOU]

Before We Get Started...



- Reference the meeting invite email if you experience audio or connection issues.
- All attendees are muted due to the large volume of participants.
- Submit your questions using the chat box on the right side of the screen.
- A copy of the presentations are on our website at <u>lasersonline.org/employers.</u>
- This meeting is being recorded and certain presentations will be on our website soon.



LASERS Update

Cindy Rougeou, LASERS Executive Director

October 2022

Actuarial Valuation



- Provides an update on how the System performed over the past fiscal year.
- The Board adopted the Valuation at its September Board Meeting.
- Up next: PRSAC Committee Meeting.
- Available on our website at: www.lasersonline.org/resources/annual-reports/



2023 Board of Trustees Election



- 2023 is an election year for our Board of Trustees.
- Three active member seats will be up for election.
- Election communications will kick off at the beginning of next year.



myLASERS



- Sign up and manage your account online with myLASERS.
- Important! Use your <u>personal</u> email address when creating an account so LASERS can stay in contact with you should you switch agencies or retire.
- Wendy will provide detailed information in her presentation.
- Resource Page: www.lasersonline.org/mylasers-info



Report Suspicious Emails





If you receive **any suspicious emails** that appear to be from LASERS, please contact LASERS directly by phone at:

225-922-0600 (Baton Rouge) 1-800-256-3000 (toll-free)



INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

ASSET ALLOCATION & SUMMARY

[BOBBY BEALE]



Investment Performance

Bobby Beale, Chief Investment Officer

Agency Open Forum | October 2022

Investment Performance

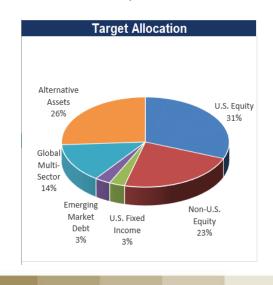
As of FYE June 30, 2022

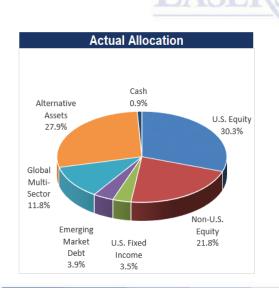


Asset Class	Mkt. Value (\$millions)	Fiscal YTD	2 Years	3 Years	4 Years	5 Years	7 Years	10 Years
U.S. Equity	\$3,764.6	-13.6	12.7	7.2	6.3	7.9	8.2	11.2
Non-U.S. Equity	\$2,707.1	-18.7	7.5	2.1	2.0	2.9	3.6	5.3
U.S. Fixed Income	\$439.9	-10.1	-0.3	0.8	2.3	2.3	3.2	4.5
Emerging Market Debt	\$480.9	-4.1	1.2	0.3	1.8	0.7	1.7	n/a
Global Multi-Sector	\$1,469.4	-1.2	8.4	5.5	5.8	5.8	n/a	n/a
Alternative Assets	\$3,467.8	10.7	24.1	14.5	12.7	12.5	10.2	9.5
Cash	\$114.8							
S&P 500		-10.6	12.2	10.6	10.6	11.3	11.1	13.0
MSCI World Ex-USA		-16.3	6.0	2.2	2.1	3.2	3.5	5.9
Bloomberg Barclay's US Agg		-10.3	-5.4	-0.9	1.2	0.9	1.4	1.5
TOTAL PLAN	\$12,444.5	-7.2	12.2	6.6	6.0	6.7	6.6	7.8

Asset Allocation

As of FYE June 30, 2022





One-Year Comparison

LASERS

Fiscal Year-End 2022:

	Jul '21	Aug '21	Sept '21	Oct '21	Nov '21	Dec '21	Jan '22	Feb '22	Mar '22	Apr '22	May '22	Jun ′22	FYTD
Total Plan – Monthly	0.3	2.1	-1.9	2.7	-0.5	2.8	-2.8	-0.6	1.5	-4.5	0.2	-6.3	
Cumulative FYTD	0.3	2.4	0.5	3.2	2.6	5.5	2.5	1.9	3.4	-1.2	-1.0	-7.2	-7.2

Fiscal Year-End 2021:

	Jul '20	Aug '20	Sept '20	Oct '20	Nov '20	Dec '20	Jan '21	Feb '21	Mar '21	Apr '21	May '21	Jun '21	FYTD
Total Plan – Monthly	3.0	3.3	-1.3	-0.5	9.1	4.1	0.8	3.2	2.3	3.0	2.4	1.9	
Cumulative FYTD	3.0	6.3	4.9	4.4	13.8	18.5	19.5	23.4	26.2	30.0	33.1	35.6	35.6

Performance: Closer Look at 2nd Quarter

Performance: Clos Equities	erformance: Closer Look at 2 nd Quarter									
LASERS Composite / Index	Mar 31 FYTD	April	FYTD	May	FYTD		June	FYE		
U.S. Large Cap Equity	5.6	-9.8	-4.8	-0.2	-5.0		-8.4	-13.0		
S&P 500 Index Nasdaq 100 Index	6.5 2.5	-8.7 -13.3	-2.8 -11.2	0.2 -1.5	-2.6 -12.6		-8.3 -8.9	-10.6 -20.4		
U.S. Mid Cap Equity	0.9	-7.1	-6.2	0.7	-5.5		-9.6	-14.6		
S&P 400 Index	0.9	-7.1	-6.3	0.7	-5.6		-9.6	-14.6		
U.S. Small Cap Equity	-1.4	-7.3	-8.7	2.2	-6.6		-9.1	-15.1		
S&P 600 Index	-3.1	-7.8	-10.7	1.9	-9.0		-8.5	-16.8		
LASERS U.S. Equity	3.7	-9.0	-5.6	0.3	-5.3		-8.7	-13.6		
Int'l Large Cap Equity	-2.0	-5.9	-7.8	1.3	-6.6		-9.4	-15.4		
MSCI World Ex-USA	-2.2	-6.5	-8.5	1.0	-7.6		-9.4	-16.3		
Int'l Small Cap Equity	-8.6	-5.4	-13.5	-0.4	-13.9		-10.5	-22.9		
MSCI World Ex-USA Small Cap	-6.0	-6.9	-12.4	-0.6	-12.9		-11.2	-22.7		
Int'l Emerging Markets Equity	-9.1	-5.5	-14.1	1.3	-13.0		-7.8	-19.8		
MSCI Emerging Markets	-15.4	-5.5	-20.1	0.5	-19.7		-6.6	-25.0		
LASERS Non-U.S. Equity	-6.1	-5.7	-11.4	0.9	-10.6		-9.1	-18.7		

Performance: Closer Look at 2nd Quarter

Fixed Income, Alternatives & Total Plan

LASERS Composite / Index	Mar 31 FYTD	April	FYTD	May	FYTD	June	FYE
U.S. Investment Grade	-5.4	-3.9	-9.1	0.6	-8.5	-2.0	-10.4
BB BC Barclay's Aggregate	-5.9	-3.8	-9.4	0.6	-8.9	-1.6	-10.3
U.S. High Yield	-1.0	-3.6	-4.6	1.6	-3.1	-7.0	-9.9
Credit Suisse High Yield	-2.7	-3.5	-6.1	0.3	-5.9	-6.6	-12.1
LASERS U.S. Fixed Income	-3.9	-3.8	-7.5	1.0	-6.6	-3.7	-10.1
Emerging Market Debt	0.2	-2.0	-1.9	0.2	-1.7	-2.5	-4.1
J.P. Morgan GBI-EM Global Diversified	-11.7	-6.0	-17.0	1.8	-15.5	-4.5	-19.3
Global Multi-Sector	2.4	-0.7	1.6	-0.9	0.7	-1.9	-1.2
50/50 Barclay's Agg/CS HY	-5.2	-4.5	-9.4	0.3	-9.2	-4.9	-13.6
Alternatives	15.6	0.1	15.7	-0.2	15.5	-4.1	10.7
LASERS Total Plan	3.4%	-4.5%	-1.2%	0.2%	-1.0%	-6.3%	-7.2%



LOUISIANA LEGISLATIVE SESSION OUTCOME

[TINA GRANT]



2022 Legislative Session Outcome

Tina Grant, LASERS Executive Counsel

Open Forum - October 2022

SB 5 - Senator Price

Act 656 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session



- The last traditional COLA for LASERS retirees was given in 2016. Because there were not
 enough funds in the experience account to fund one this year, we researched alternatives
 and produced this one-time supplemental payment.
- It cost \$68.7 million, fully funded by the system's experience account.
- Eligible members received the lesser of \$2,000 or their regular monthly benefit.
- Eligibility mirrors traditional COLA eligibility.
- We issued payments to just over 45,000 members, with the average payment being \$1,532.
- Legislation required payment to be made by Sept. 15; however, checks were issued early on August 15th.

HCR 11 by Rep. Mike Johnson



2022 Regular Legislative Session

- Urges and requests the legislatures of each state to call upon Congress to support legislation and to take actions necessary to review and eliminate the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO).
- It also urges the Louisiana Attorney General to explore civil and other legal actions to remedy the issue.
- LASERS has consistently supported these Resolutions and continues to view the WEP and GPO as a significant issue.

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HR 82 - Social Security Fairness Act of 2021



Rep. Rodney Davis - 117th Congress (2021 – 2022)

- HR 82 is a full repeal of the WEP and GPO reductions. It would eliminate cuts to those already retired and going forward. It does not include an option for backpay.
- The bill has recently gained momentum in congress and currently has over 300 co-sponsors.
- The latest action on the bill is a Motion to Discharge a Committee from the Consideration of a Resolution made on September 30th by the bill's author. The Discharge Petition needs 218 signatures for it to advance to a House floor vote.



MEMBER SERVICES INFORMATION

RESOURCES & EDUCATION

[WENDY KINCHEN]

Member Services Information

Wendy Demouy Kinchen, Retirement Benefits Supervisor

Agency Open Forum | October 2022



Today's Topics

- Employer's Guide to Retirement
- LASERS Membership Eligibility
- LASERS Enrollments
- Retirement Process
- Disability Retirement
- Survivor Benefits

- Re-employed Retirees
- Unused Annual and Sick Leave
- DROP vs. IBO What's the difference?
- Windfall Elimination Provision & Government Pension Offset
- Additional LASERS Information and Reminders
- LASERS Resources and Education Information

LASERS





Employer's Guide to Retirement

Employer's Guide to Retirement



www.lasersonline.org/employers/publications

- Contains detailed information about service credit, contribution reporting, retirement plans, re-employed retirees, benefit calculations, and much more
- · Information broken down by chapter
- FAQ's at end of each chapter
- Contains useful Flow Charts and Checklists
- Direct specific questions to **AskLASERS** by clicking the link on the LASERS website





Accessing the Employer's Guide

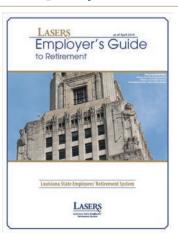
- The *Employer's Guide to Retirement* is located at www.lasersonline.org
 - Click on the "Employers" section
- Download the full guide or individual chapters.





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Employer's Guide to Retirement



Chapter List

- 1. Membership & Enrollment
- 2. Service Credit
- 3. Contribution Reporting
- 4. Refund of Contributions
- 5. Purchases, Transfers & Reciprocals
- 6. Survivor Benefits
- 7. The Retirement Process
- 8. Retirement Benefit Calculation & Eligibility
- 9. Retirement Options & COLA's
- 10. Regular Retirement
- 11. Initial Benefit Option
- 12. Deferred Retirement Option Plan
- 13. Disability Retirement
- 14. Conversion of Unused Annual & Sick Leave
- 15. Re-employed Retirees
- 16. Community Property & Divorce

Specialty Plan Chapter List

- 17. Hazardous Duty Services Plan
- 18. Judicial Retirement Plans
- 19. Wildlife Agent Plan
- 20. Correctional Retirement Plans

Appendices:

Appendix A: How to Enroll & Terminate Members Using ESS

Appendix B: DROP vs. IBO

Appendix C: LASERS Membership Categories

Appendix D: Glossary of Terms

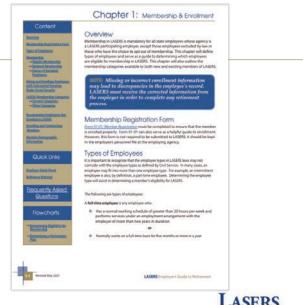
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Chapter Cover Page

Every chapter begins with a cover page containing:

- Chapter Title
- Chapter Overview
- Side Bar Containing:
 - Chapter Content
 - · Quick Links
 - Employer Quick Check
 - Reference Material
 - Frequently Asked Questions
 - Flowcharts



LASERS

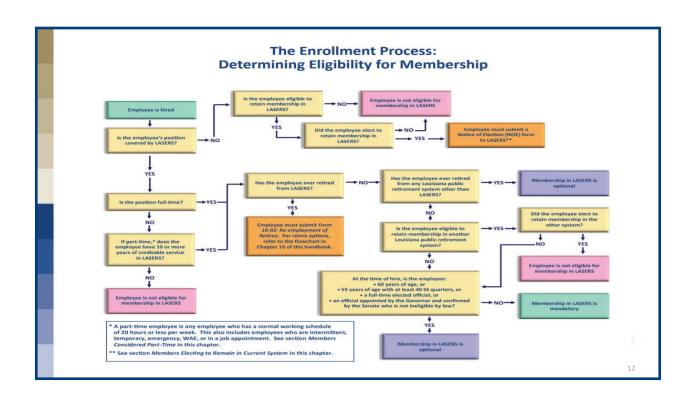
LASERS MEMBERSHIP **ELIGIBILITY**

Membership

Membership in LASERS is mandatory for all state employees whose agency is a LASERS participating employer, except those employees excluded by law or those who have the choice to opt out of membership.

When determining whether an **employee should be enrolled** as a **member** in LASERS, it is important to note that the Civil Service job classifications and LASERS eligibility rules are very different.





Optional Membership in LASERS

Three situations when an employee can elect to opt out of LASERS:

- Employee at least age 55 and have earned 40 credits in SSA, or
- Employee at least age 60
- Employee is a retiree from another Louisiana public retirement system

Employee must make selection on **Form 01-01**: *Membership Registration* and should **not** be enrolled in LASERS, and

Employee must provide **Form SSA-7005**: **Earnings and Benefits Statement** certifying he has met the requirements for optional membership

See **Liaison Memorandum 17-28** for more information and examples.



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Optional Membership in LASERS

If employee was eligible to opt out at the time of hire, that employee can change his/her enrollment decision at any time by doing one of the following:

- If employee elected not to join LASERS, the employee can join in the future and start paying into LASERS as of the date of enrollment
- If employee decided to join LASERS, the employee can terminate membership at any time and choose to join/maintain membership in Deferred Compensation, or join FICA

See LASERS Liaison Memo 17-28 for more information and examples.



LASERS ENROLLMENTS

Enrolling and Terminating Members

LASERS receives enrollment and termination information from the following:

LaGov Agencies

- "HR File" submitted on weekly basis in a weekly "HR File"
- Information is download into SOLARIS
- If errors exist, LASERS will contact the agency
- Most errors are corrected through LaGov

Non-LaGov agencies

Monthly Contribution File (FTP File)

- FTP files submitted on a monthly basis
- Information is downloaded into SOLARIS
- If errors exist, LASERS will contact agency
- Errors can be corrected through Employer Self-Service (ESS) or in the next monthly file download

Employee Self-Service (ESS)

 Agencies that use neither LaGov nor the FTP file to report information through ESS



Enrollments

Newly enrolled members should complete Form 01-01: Member Registration

• Keep in employee's personnel file

Agency of newly enrolled members should submit to LASERS:

- Copy of Social Security card employee and beneficiary(ies)
- Copy of birth certificate employee and beneficiary(ies)
- Form 01-06: Designation of Beneficiary





LASERS

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Enrollments

Tools on LASERS website to assist with enrolling a LASERS member:

Employers Guide to Retirement: Enrollment Chapter

Agency Liaison Memos

Enrollment Form (ER1)

Employer Self-Service (ESS)

Direct specific questions concerning enrollments to AskLASERS through LASERS Website:

Questions for LASERS? Many may be answered using the resources on this page, especially the Member's Guide to Retirement.

Or, you may email questions to AskLASERS. Alternatively, you may call us at 800.256.3000 (toll-free) or 225.922.0600 (local).

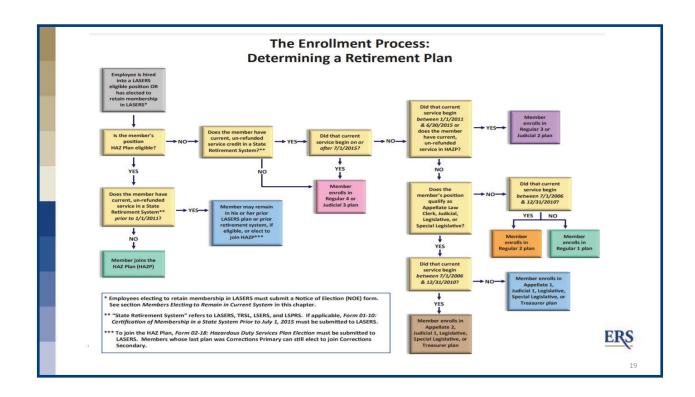
➡ Ask LASERS

💼 l am a LASERS Employer.

OR

Email directly:

lasersonline.org/ask-lasers-agency/



Enrollments When Changes Occur

Employees must be re-enrolled in LASERS if:

- The employee classification changes: (classified / unclassified)
- The hours worked changes: (part-time / full-time)
- The work period changes: (12 months, 11 month, or 10 month)
- The employment type changes: Regular (probation/permanent), Emergency, Intermediate
 - WAE, Job appt., (Restricted Appt., Temporary)
- The member's retirement plan changes: (Corrections to HAZ Plan)

A termination date should be entered closing the old enrollment and a new enrollment should be created

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Retirement Process

Retirement Forms and Documents to Submit

FORMS LISTED BELOW ARE SUBMITTED NO MORE THAN 6 MONTHS PRIOR TO EFFECTIVE RETIREMENT DATE:

- ☐ Retirement/IBO/DROP Application, whichever applicable
- ☐ Form 4-04: Spousal Consent, if applicable
- ☐ Form 6-02: Insurance Premium Deduction Authorization, if applicable
- ☐ Form 4-05: Authorization for Direct Deposit
- ☐ Form W-4P: Withholding Certificate for Pension Payments

DOCUMENTS LISTED BELOW CAN BE SUBMITTED ANY TIME:

- ☐ Photocopies of birth certificates for employee & beneficiary(ies)
- ☐ Photocopies of social security cards for employee & beneficiary(ies)
- ☐ Certified copy of divorce decree or copy of ex-spouse's death certificate, if applicable
- ☐ Photocopy of marriage certificate only if Option 4A is chosen



LASERS

2:

Submitting Forms to LASERS

LASERS forms and Non-Legal Documents can be submitted via fax, mail, or hand delivered.

- If faxed, do not mail
- If faxed, group documents together by category
- Be sure to sure to use the most current version of the form on the website.

 Outdated forms will be rejected

Legal Documents (I.e., Spousal Consent, JOD, Community Property, POA)

- Proof of certified copy of legal document must be mailed or hand deliver to LASERS
- To have legal documents returned, submit Form MSD50: Request for Return of Legal Documents Submitted to LASERS with the legal documents



5.

Common Application Issues

Some common application oversights that could result in application and administrative errors are:

Applications not submitted to LASERS timely.

Must be received on or before the Termination date or DROP start date.
 Retirement date or DROP Entry date will be effective the day the application is received at LASERS, or the day after termination, whichever is later

Retirement of IBO Application:

- Retirement date reported as termination date
- Leave Option is incorrect

DROP Application

Incorrect DROP Entry date



Date of Termination

Termination date is last day of employment with an agency, the last day that contributions will be reported for employee, **not the day after** employee ceases work

Typically, the **retirement date** is the day after the **termination date** if application is received at LASER by close of business on employee's termination date

If the **application is not submitted** to LASERS prior to close of business on employee's termination date, or the termination date is **reported inaccurately** it can cause the employee to:

- Be ineligible for retirement
- Retire out of state service (inactive)
- Lose accrued leave time
- · Receive a reduce retirement benefit
- Lose insurance with OGB

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Change of Option After Retirement

- Death of Beneficiary can "pop up" to Maximum (Option 1 4B)
 - Request option change by submitting Form 10-07: Application for Change in Retirement Benefit due to Death of Beneficiary
 - · Submit copy of beneficiary's death certificate
 - Effective date will be date of beneficiary's death
- Divorce can change to actuarially reduced Maximum (Option 2A 4B)
 - Submit Form 10-06: Application for Change in Retirement Benefit due to Divorce
 - Submit certified court order stating former spouse irrevocably relinquishes the survivor benefits under the option selected
 - \$150 actuarial fee





DISABILITY RETIREMENT

Eligibility Requirements for Rank-and-File

10 Years, Any Age Unable to perform work duties

Disability
Occurred
while in Active
State Service

<u>CANNOT APPLY</u>: If eligible for regular retirement, including 20 years at any age (actuarially reduced retirement)

Benefit calculated using same formula as regular retirement.

State Medical Disability Board physician must certify condition is total and permanent for **current** job duties. **LASERS**

Upon Disability Retirement Approval

Employee must terminate state service immediately.

- Employee may opt to remain on sick and/or annual leave in lieu of terminating state service and forego a monthly disability benefit. There will be no retroactive benefits paid for the time on leave
 - Form 04-02: Disability Retirement Waiver to Remain on Leave is required
- If employee does not terminate state service and continues to actively work, whether leave has been exhausted, the employee will be considered "returning to active service."
 - Form 10-02A: Reemployment of Disability Retiree would be required



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Survivor Benefits

Survivor Benefits

Survivor benefits eligibility is based on:

- 1. Employees retirement plan
- 2. Total years of creditable service in LASERS at time of death

Survivor benefits may be payable to:

- Surviving Minor Child(ren)
- Surviving Spouse
- Surviving Physically Handicapped and Mentally Disabled Children



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Survivor Benefits Application Process

Human Resources Personnel should identify employee's potential survivors and provide each one with **Form 03-01**: *Application for Survivor Benefits*.

Human Resources is responsible for distributing a Survivors Benefit Application to all survivors or beneficiaries as well as notifying LASERS of existing survivors or beneficiaries.

Form 03-01: Application for Survivor Benefits must be completed in its entirety, reviewed by employing agency for errors, certified by employing agency, and submitted to LASERS.

Anyone can apply for survivor or beneficiary benefits. LASERS will determine applicant's eligibility.

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Termination Date and Final Earnings

Termination Date:

The employee's date of death is also the employee's termination date and **must** be entered through Employer Self-Service (ESS).

Final Earnings:

Submitted via the agency's monthly contribution report, are the eligible wages that the employee actually earned up to his or her date of death.



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Unpaid Leave Paid to Survivors

An employee's retirement plan will determine if unpaid leave will factor into a survivor's benefit.

Regular Employees Plan and Regular Employees 2 Plan:

Leave does **not** factor into a survivor's benefit and does **not** need to be reported to LASERS by the agency.

Regular Employees 3 Plan and Regular Employees 4 Plan:

Leave does factor into a survivor's benefit and agency **must** submit **Form 07-01:** *Certification of Unused Annual and Sick Leave*



Survivor Employer Quick Check

- ✓ Did **all** eligible survivor/beneficiaries, age 18 or older, complete <u>Form 03-01</u> in its entirety? All pages must be completed for the application to be valid. Applications must be submitted to LASERS. Section 5 of the application should only be completed by beneficiaries who are receiving a lump sum payment of the member's employee contributions.
- ✓ Did the Personnel Officer enter a termination date into Employer Self-Service (ESS)? The date of death is the member's termination date.
- ✓ Did all eligible survivors submit copies of applicable documents? See the listing at the end of this chapter.
- ✓ Did all eligible survivors complete and submit the following forms in their entirety? Survivors age 18 or older must submit these forms:
 - ✓ Form 04-05: Authorization for Direct Deposit ✓ Form W-4P: Withholding Certificate for Pension or Annuity Payments

- ✓ Were the following forms completed and submitted for any eligible minor children? Forms listed below with an asterisk (*) do not apply to all applicants:
- √ Form MSD64: Student School Certification and Release

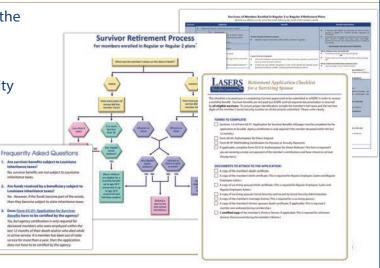
 ✓ Form MSD52*: Certification of Disabled Survivor
- ✓ Form MSD61*: Affidavit of Natural Tutorship of Minor Child
 ✓ Form MSD62*: Affidavit of Natural Tutorshop of
- ✓ Did the survivors/beneficiaries clearly write the member's name and last four digits of the member's Social Security number on all documentation?
- ✓ Did the survivors/beneficiaries receive a copy of the forms?
- ✓ Were copies of the forms placed in the member's
- ✓ Did the Personnel Officer submit exact final earnings through termination date? Refer to the section Submitting Final Earnings in this chapter.



Other Useful Tools

Included in Employer's Guide are the following tools:

- **Application Checklists**
- Chart for Determining Eligibility and Benefit Amount
- **Survivor Retirement Process**
- **FAQs**



RE-EMPLOYED RETIREES

Re-employed Retirees

Employees who retire regularly and become re-employed in a LASERS eligible position, must select one of five re-employment options.

The option selected is irrevocable, and effective for the full re-employment period.

To change originally selected option, employee must terminate employment and be rehired by the agency

Form 10-02: *Re-employment of Retiree* must be completed, certified, and submitted to LASERS <u>immediately</u>, regardless of option selected

Option 2 and Option 3 require agency to enroll re-employed retiree in LASERS through Employer Self Service (ESS)

If a member retired under Disability provisions, refer to Chapter 13: Disability Retirement.

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Agency Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the employing agency to determine if the rehired retiree is subject to re-employed retiree restrictions. When hiring a retiree, the agency must first determine:

1. Is retiree a LASERS member

and

2. Is position LASERS eligible

These rules **only** apply to retirees of LASERS who are re-employed in a LASERS eligible position.



Tools to Determine Re-employment Provisions

- Employer's Guide to Retirement: Chapter 15: Re-Employed Retirees
- Employer's Self Service (ESS)
- AskLASERS found at www.lasersonline.org
- In LaGov, generate reports PA20 and ZP13 to check if a new hire is a retiree.
- Non-LaGov agencies, log into Employer Self-Service to check if a new hire has ever contributed to LASERS and is currently in retired status.



The Enrollment Process

If **Form 10-02:** *Re-employment of Retiree* is not received immediately, the retiree will be considered re-employed under the provisions of Re-employed Retiree Option 3A

Employee must pay:

- · Benefits received after rehire date
- Lump sum of employee contributions due, retroactive to the date of rehire

Agency must pay

• Lump sum of employer contributions due, retroactive to the date of rehire

If the form is not received and the retiree selected Option 1A, the form must be submitted with an **Administrative Error letter.**



4

Common Application Issues

Some common application oversights that could result in application and administrative errors are:

- Information being excluded from the application, including:
 - Rehire date,
 - Part-time or full-time status,
 - Classified or unclassified employee
- · Re-employment option not selected
- Application not certified by the agency
- Application not submitted immediately following re-employment

LASERS

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Re-employed Retiree Termination Process

When an Option 1A or 1B re-employed retiree terminates employment submit:

Form 10-02C: Re-employed Retiree Option 1A or 1B Certification at End of Employment

When an Option 3A re-employed retiree terminates employment submit:

Form 10-02B: Re-employed Retiree Option 3A Certification at End of Employment

• Monthly retirement benefit will nor resume if form is not received by LASERS



Option 3A: Termination Process

Option 3A Re-employed Retiree who works <u>less than three years</u> and terminates employment will receive a refund of employee contributions submitted to LASERS during the re-employment period

Agency must submit:

 Form 10-02B: Re-employed Retiree Option 3 Certification at End of Employment

AND

• Form 02-01: Refund of Accumulated Contributions

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Option 3A: Termination Process

Option 3A Re-employed Retirees who works <u>three or more</u> years, and terminates employment will receive a supplemental benefit for the time worked as a re-hired retiree Agency must submit:

- Form 10-02B: Reemployed Retiree Option 3 Certification at End of Employment
 - Option for unused sick and annual leave benefit must be selected
 AND
- Form 07-01: Certification of Unused Annual and Sick Leave
 - Certified by the agency

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4

UNUSED SICK and ANNUAL LEAVE

Unused Leave

At the time of retirement, an employee may receive additional benefits for unused, accumulated annual and sick leave. Will select one of three options:

- 1. Convert all unused annual and sick leave to computation credit.
- 2. Receive a one-time, lump sum payment of leave calculated at an actuarial value.
- 3. Make a direct rollover to an eligible account at a financial institution.

If an employee retires out of state service (inactive), they will not receive an additional retirement benefit for unused leave unless they were eligible for retirement at the time of separation.

Unused leave **may not** be used to meet retirement eligibility requirements.



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Example: Conversion v. Lump Sum

Member: Age 57 | \$2,500 FAC | 225 days leave or .90 years of SC

CONVERTED LEAVE

Years of Service Credit		Accrual Rate		Average Compensation		Monthly / Annual Benefit
.90	Χ	2.5%	Χ	\$2,500	=	\$56.25 / \$675.00

LUMP SUM LEAVE

Additional Annual Benefit		Actuarial Reserve Factor	Lump Sum Payment
\$675.00	X	11.06196	 \$7,466,82



Certifying Unused Annual and Sick Leave

Form 07-01 certifies the amount of unused annual and sick leave an employee has at time of retirement and must be submitted within 30 days of an employee's termination date, **even if the employee has a leave balance of zero.**

Leave paid to an employee by the agency must be subtracted from the reported leave balance.

The termination date on Form 07-01 must be the same termination date as the Retirement, IBO, DROP application.

An Administrative Error is the only way to correct the retirement date if the termination date on the Application and Form 07-01 do not match





Certifying Unused Leave for Non-Retirees

When an employee terminates employment but is not retiring, LASERS recommends that the agency certify the employee's unused leave by submitting *Form 07-01: Certification of Unused Annual and Sick Leave*

Leave should be certified if:

- The employee has five years or more of service credit.
- The employee has more than 300 hours of leave.

It is not necessary to certify leave if:

- The employee is refunding from LASERS.
- The employee is accepting employment in another LASERS-eligible position.

This will allow the employee to receive credit for the unused leave if he or she should ever return to a LASERS eligible position or eventually retire.

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DROP vs. IBO What is the difference?

What is DROP?

The <u>Deferred Retirement Option Plan</u> (<u>DROP</u>) is an optional retirement method that allows an employee to defer his or her retirement benefit for a maximum period of 36 months, while continuing to work.



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What is IBO?

The Initial Benefit Option (IBO) is an optional retirement plan that allows an employee to receive a lump-sum equivalent of up to 36 times their maximum monthly retirement benefit at time of retirement.



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Comparison Example of DROP vs. IBO

Wanda is eligible to retire April 1, 2024, with 25 years of service credit

Wanda is considering retirement options and is unsure if she should:

A. Participate in 36 months of **DROP** and retire;

OR

B. Continue to work an additional 36 months and retire with a maximum **IBO** lump-sum

In either scenario, Wanda will retire effective 04/01/2027

LASERS

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Example: Deferred Retirement Option Plan

Wanda participates in DROP for 36 months, employee contributions cease, and retires

Wanda enters DROP: 04/01/2024 | 25 years sc | FAC is \$3,750.00

Monthly DROP Benefit: $25 \times 2.5\% \times \$3,750.00 = \$2,343.75$ 36 Month DROP Balance: $\$2,343.75 \times 36 \text{ months} = \$84,375.00$

Contributions Paid During DROP: \$0.00

Maximum Monthly Benefit

\$2,343.75

DROP Account Balance

\$84,375.00

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Example: Initial Benefit Option

Wanda works an additional 36 months, paying employee contributions and retires with a maximum **IBO** lump-sum

Wanda retires: 04/01/2027 | 28 years sc | FAC is \$3,975.00

Non-reduced Monthly Benefit: 28 X 2.5% X \$3,975.00 = **\$2,782.50**

Maximum IBO Lump-Sum: $$2,782.50 \times 36 = $100,170.00$

Contributions Paid: \$10,530

IBO Maximum Monthly Benefit

\$2,014.14

IBO Account Balance

\$100,170.00

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5

What's the Difference?

Here is a comparison of Wanda's options:

DROP

Wanda participates in DROP and retires effective **04/01/2027**

Max Monthly Retirement Benefit

\$2,343.75

DROP Account Balance: \$84,375.00

Contributions Paid: \$0

IBO

Wanda elects IBO maximum lump-sum and retires effective **04/01/2027**

IBO Maximum Monthly Benefit

\$2,014.14

IBO Account Balance: \$100,170.00

Contributions Paid: \$10,530.00

LASERS

Comparison Example of DROP vs. IBO

Megan is eligible to retire April 1, 2024, with 25 years of service credit

Megan is considering retirement options and is unsure if she should:

A. Participate in 36 months of **DROP** and retire;

OR

B. Continue to work an additional 36 months and retire with a maximum **IBO** lump-sum

In either scenario, Megan will retire <u>effective 04/01/2027</u>

LASERS

Example: Deferred Retirement Option Plan

Megan participates in DROP for 36 months, employee contributions cease, and she retires

Megan enters DROP: 04/01/2024 | 25 years sc | FAC is \$3,750.00

Monthly DROP Benefit: 5 x 2.5% x \$3,750.00 = \$468.75 36 Month DROP Balance: \$468.75 x 36 months = \$16,875.00

Contributions Paid During DROP: \$0.00

Maximum Monthly Benefit

\$468.75

DROP Account Balance

\$16,875.00

LASERS

Example: Initial Benefit Option

Megan works an additional 36 months, continuing to pay employee contributions, and retires with a maximum **IBO** lump-sum

Megan retires: 04/01/2027 | 8 years sc | FAC is \$3,975.00

Non-reduced Monthly Benefit: 8 X 2.5% X \$3,975.00 = **\$795.00**

Maximum IBO Lump-Sum: \$795.00 x 36 months = **\$28,620.00**

Contributions Paid: \$10,530

IBO Maximum Monthly Benefit

\$575.47

IBO Account Balance

\$28,620.00

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What's the Difference?

Here is a comparison of Megan's options:

DROP

Megan participates in DROP and retires effective **04/01/2027**

Max Monthly Retirement Benefit

\$468.75

DROP Account Balance: \$16,875.00

Contributions Paid: \$0

IBO

Megan elects IBO maximum lump-sum and retires effective **04/01/2027**

IBO Maximum Monthly Benefit

\$575.47

IBO Account Balance: \$28,620.00

Contributions Paid: \$10,530.00

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SOCIAL SECURITY PROTECTION ACT of 2004

Social Security Protection Act of 2004

Agencies must notify potential employees about effects of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO).

Employee is required to sign Form 1945: Statement Concerning Your Employment in a Job Not Covered by Social Security

Watch the Social Security Offsets video on the LASERS website for details:







Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP)

- WEP reduces YOUR Social Security benefit if you receive a state government pension, such as LASERS.
- You must have at least 10 years (40 credits) paid into Social Security to be eligible for a benefit from Social Security on your own record.
- A modified formula is used to calculate your Social Security benefit.
- Your Social Security benefit is NOT totally eliminated.
- Your LASERS benefit is NOT affected by your Social Security benefit.

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Government Pension Offset (GPO)

- The Government Pension Offset (GPO) reduces the Social Security benefit that you could receive from your spouse or former spouse if you receive a LASERS benefit.
- In order to be eligible to receive a Social Security benefit from your spouse or former spouse, you must have been married at least 10 years.
- Two-thirds of your LASERS benefit is subtracted from the Social Security benefit expected as a spouse, former spouse, widow, or widower.
- The entire Social Security benefit can be eliminated.
- You will be able to enroll in Medicare at age 65 if eligible on a spouse or former spouse's record.

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ADDITIONAL LASERS INFORMATION and REMINDERS

Report Changes in Personnel to LASERS

- Keep agency contact information up to date (Human Resources Liaison and Payroll names and phone numbers)
 - Update agency contact information in Employer Self-Service (ESS)
- Ensures all LASERS emails and Liaison Memoranda are sent to correct contacts at agencies.
- On the LASERS home page, click on 'Login: Employer'
- Remove contacts that are no longer agency liaison at agencies.





Reminders

- Respond to emails from LASERS as soon as possible. If research is necessary, advise LASERS. This will prevent LASERS from sending multiple emails
- Ensure forms are completed in their entirety and correctly prior to submitting to LASERS. This will expedite the process.
- Be sure to terminate and re-enroll an employee every time there are changes that affect their retirement plan with LASERS even if changes are within the same agency.



Reminders: Address Changes

Address changes for active members must be handled by Human Resources.

ISIS Agencies:

Agency submits address changes to LASERS through ISIS weekly.

Non-ISIS agencies who submit FTP files:

Agency submits address changes to LASERS through FTP monthly.

Non-ISIS, Non-FTP agencies (Manual/Paper):

Agency enters address changes to LASERS through Employer Self-Service.

LASERS

LASERS Resources and Education Information

CPTP: Comprehensive Public Training Program

Provides retirement education for human resources and payroll personnel, the LASERS Retirement Education Department hosts LASERS agency training courses through CPTP.

H.R. Module 4: LASERS Agency Training: The Employers Guide to Retirement is a workshop for state employees who handle the LASERS program for staff at their agency.



LASERS

Education Outreach

For Agencies:

Virtual Wellness Visit: LASERS Education Specialist can meet directly with Human Resources to discuss any LASERS topics.

For Members:

Virtual Early Career Seminar: For members enrolled into LASERS on or after 1/1/11 and who are not within 5 years of retirement eligibility

Virtual PREP Seminar: May be attended by any employee and may be attended more than once.

www.LASERSonline.org 'Register for a Seminar' you can find the schedule for both seminars.

LASERS

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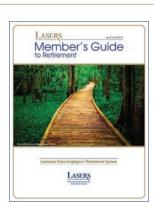
Member's Guide to Retirement



www.lasersonline.org/resources/publications

Contains detailed information on:

- LASERS membership, including details defining all categories of our plans
- Initial Benefit Option (IBO) information
- **Deferred Retirement Option Plan** (DROP) information
- Clear answers to many of the questions members may have about planning for retirement.



LASERS

Member's Guide: Chapter Overview







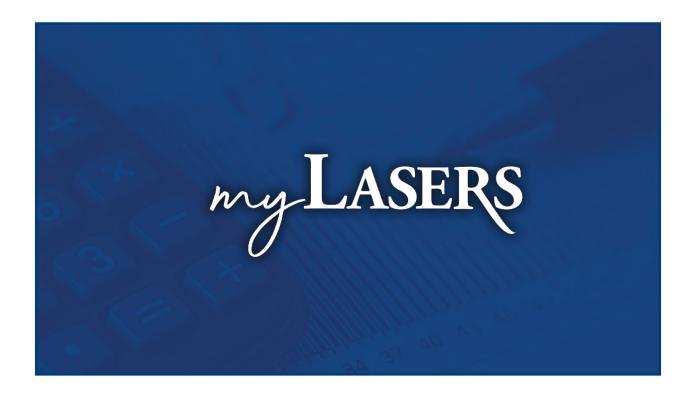




myLASERS ACCOUNTS

HOW TO ASSIST MEMBERS

[WENDY KINCHEN]



Today's Topics: my LASERS

LASERS

- What is myLASERS?
- How Do I Access myLASERS?
- What's New?
- Creating a new account
- Signing into your account

- myLASERS Features
 - Dashboard
 - Information
 - Membership
 - Benefits
 - Documents
 - Tools
 - E-Forms
 - Message Center

What is my LASERS

- LASERS
- LASERS online account management system
- Replaces Member Self-Service (MSS)
- myLASERS provides members with a new user experience and enhanced security



LEARN MORE at www.lasersonline.org/myLASERS-info

3

How to Access my LASERS



- · Access directly at mylasers.org
- Access through lasersonline.org
 - Click on myLASERS in upper right-hand corner



LEARN MORE at www.lasersonline.org/myLASERS-info

What's New with my LASERS

LASERS

- LASERS has implemented the latest technologies to protect members data using Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA).
- A password and second factor security code will be needed to log in.
- This security feature protects members accounts by requiring a password (something known) and a code sent to their phone (something they have).
 - At each log in, a new second factor security code will be sent via text or voice call
 to the phone number used during registration. Therefore, member must have
 access to the device with the phone number used at account registration in order
 access myLASERS.
- myLASERS will offer more interactive features that allow members to accomplish tasks in real-time.

5

Features of my LASERS



Active and Inactive Members can:

- Check the status of applications and requests
- · Upload documents
- Utilize the message center
- Request an appointment with a LASERS Representative
- Calculate Benefit Estimates
- Calculate Repay Refunds



Creating an Account

LASERS

To gain access to your information online, all users must create a new myLASERS account. *Member Self-Service log-in will not work for myLASERS*.

When creating your account, you will set up the Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA).

Once registered with myLASERS, you can access your account any time, any where and from any device.

Watch the video: How to Create an Account



Signing into Your my LASERS Account

You can access your account through myLASERS.org

Enter the email address you used to register
Click Next

You will be taken to the multi-factor authentication page
Click the Send code button
Enter the code you receive via test or phone call
Click Verify

@my Dashboard

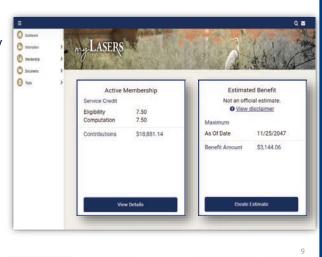


The main landing page or dashboard consists of **live tiles** that provide a summary of information to the user based on his or her status with LASERS

Active Member tiles allow users to:

View Current Account Detail Create Estimates

All functions are available either through the **menu** (column on the lefthand side) or through the **live tiles on the dashboard**



Omy Information

LASERS

Personal Information

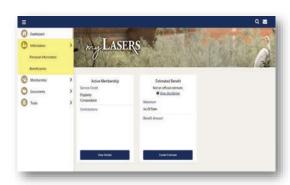
Contains Name, Date of Birth and Address To update information on file:

Active members must contact HR Inactive members must submit <u>Form 01-02:</u> <u>Change of Address to LASERS</u>

Beneficiaries

Contains Named Beneficiary(ies) currently on file To update beneficiary information on file, members must submit <u>Form 01-06: Designation of Beneficiary</u>

Forms are available at lasersonline.org



Membership

LASERS

Only available to members **who have contributed** to LASERS

Membership Summary contains:

Retirement Plan

Employment History

Membership Status (Retired, Working After DROP, Retired After DROP)

Enrollment Date

Membership History contains employment history including contributions and service credit

Download PDF or Excel version from site



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my Application Status



The **Application Status page** displays the status of various applications such as Retirement/DROP, Refund of Accumulated Contributions, Designation of Beneficiary, Direct Deposit, Purchases/Transfers and more.

Expand view to see the status of a particular application:

- Received: Date application/form was received by LASERS
- In Progress: Application is being processed by LASERS.
- Completed: Date application/form was completed by LASERS

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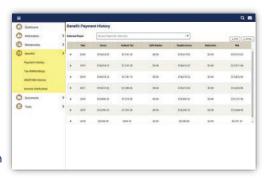
Benefit Recipients can download, view and print

- Payment History
- DROP/IBO History (if applicable)
- Income Verifications

Benefit Recipients can review, calculate and change **Tax Withholdings.**

Benefit Recipients with **multiple benefit accounts** can switch between accounts.

Depending upon a Benefit Recipient's Account Status, all features may not be available.



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Omy Documents



Form 1099-R

Available for members who refunded within the last 5 years

Annual Statements

Available for Active members

View past 5 years

Other Documents

Allows members to view certain documents previously mailed to a member

To Print or Download documents:

- Click on "View"
- Select the printer to print
- Select the down arrow to download



my Tools



Benefit Estimate Calculator – allows a member to generate estimates on a variety of different retirement options based on the member's specific information

Repay Refund Estimate Calculator – allows a member who previously withdrew contributions from LASERS to estimate a cost to repay the refunded time and regain the service credit lost by refund

Request Appointment – improved features coming soon **Upload documents** such as social security cards and birth certificates

E-Forms allow all users to submit forms electronically such as direct deposit and designation of beneficiary forms



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@my eForms



Forms currently included:



Using the Estimate Calculator



Useful Information when Creating Estimate

- First Eligible Date (FED) defaults based on plan
- > Actuarially Reduced FED defaults if applicable
- ➤ If selecting IBO Retirement, choose Service as Retirement Type
- Last Day Worked (Service Retirement only) is your last date of employment, even if on leave
- Retirement Date is the day after your last day worked, unless retiring Out of State Service
- Unused Leave should be entered in days minus 300 hours typically paid by agency
- Adding Additional Years of Service Credit will not update/change your FED

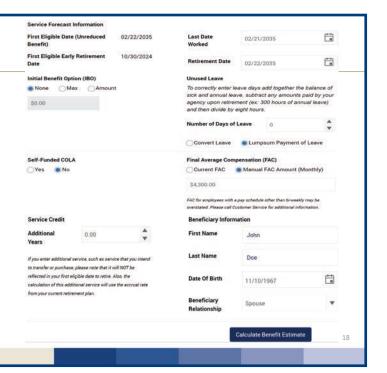
- First Eligible DROP Date (FED) defaults based on plan
- Latest DROP Participation Date is 36 months from your First Eligible DROP Date
- DROP Entry Date is actual date you plan to enter DROP
 - You must begin DROP within 60 days of your First Eligible DROP Date to participate in full 36 months of DROP
- Unused Leave is not entered for DROP Estimates
- Utilize the manual option for Final Average Compensation (FAC) if you expect a large raise prior to retirement

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Online Calculator

Step 1: Enter information into the Benefit Estimate Calculator.





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Online Calculator

Step 2: Estimate is generated to view, print and/or download.

Member: Jane Doe	Birth Date: 2/22/1975
Beneficiary: John Doe	Birth Date: 11/10/1967
First Eligible Date for Service: 2/22/2035	Retirement Date: 2/22/2035
Earned Service: 30.30	Total Service: 30.30
Leave Converted: 0.00 (years)	Leave Lump Sum: \$0.00
Average Compensation (FAC): \$4,300,00	From: November 2021 To: October 2026

	Service Retireme	ent
Options	Retiree	Beneficiary
Maximum	\$3,257.25	N/A
Option 1	\$3,210.67	N/A
Option 2A	\$2,955.80	\$2,955.80
Option 3	\$3,099.21	\$1,549.61
Option 4A	\$2,931.53	\$1,791.48
Option 4B	\$3,084.25	\$1,696,33

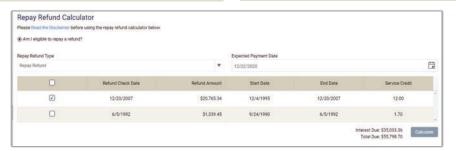
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Using the Repay Refund Calculator



Step 1: Select Repay Refund Type, Expected Payment Date, and refunded period for repayment

Step 2: Click Calculate to view estimated Total Due for full repayment, including interest*



*This calculator only estimates cost to repay **full** refund. Members can elect to restore a portion of the total refunded service. For partial or full refund estimate submit Form 02-11: Application for Repayment of Refunded Service

my Message Center

LASERS

- Displays notifications for members such as forms received, new documents available to view and appointment reminders.
- Member has option to print or delete messages once read.
- Text and email alerts are available.



STAY CONNECTED





Facebook Facebook.com/laserspension

YouTube Youtube.com/laserschannel



Twitter.com/laserspension

THANK YOU!

- Your attendance is appreciated!
- Spread the word to fellow employees:
 - Education Series offered
 - Register for Virtual Seminars by visiting www.lasersonline.org
 - Individual Counseling offered in-person, by phone or video
- Your feedback is important to us! LASERS will email you a brief satisfaction survey.



REHIRED RETIREES

WAGE TYPES & CONTRIBUTION RATE CHANGES

[AMANDA KIMBLE]



Important Information for Employers

- Rehired Retirees
- Updating Agency Contact Information
- ESS Login
- Wage Types
- Employer Contribution Rate Change

Rehired Retirees

LASERS

A Few Reminders

- Human Resources must determine when hiring a Retiree if the position is a LASERS-eligible position.
 - · Consult with your agency's legal team.
 - Submit a question through ASKLASERS.
- To determine if a Retiree is a LASERS member, we suggest that this be checked at the time of hire.
 - Check LaGov.
 - Check LASERS Employer Self-Service (ESS) under Member Inquiry.

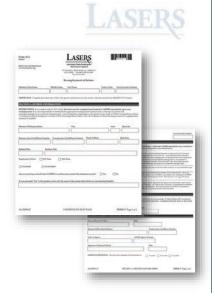
Rehired Retirees

Form 10-2: Re-employment of Retiree

Form 10-2: Re-employment of Retiree must be completed within 45 days of re-employment.

- Section 1: Verify <u>date employed</u>
- Section 2: Ensure <u>re-employment option</u> is selected
- Section 3: Ensure the *member's signature*
- Section 4: Ensure the <u>agency verification</u> is complete

**Failure to submit this form timely will result in the retiree defaulting to Option 3, as required by statute.



3

Rehired Retirees

Form 10-2: Re-employment of Retiree - Options

A retiree hired in a LASERS-eligible position must select one of the 4 options:

- Option 1A:
 - May earn 50% of annual retirement benefit as adjusted by the Consumer Price Index
 - Allowable Earnings letters sent upon request and every August/September
 - The retiree is responsible for monitoring their actual earnings during the fiscal year
 - The agency must report to LASERS the actual earnings through June 30
- Option 1B
 - · Unlimited earnings, exempt from suspension of benefits
 - Age 70 and 30 years of service
- Option 2:
 - Regain LASERS Membership
- Option 3:
 - · Suspend benefit and start contributing

LASERS

Rehired Retirees



Form 10-2: Re-employment of Retiree – Contact Information

If you have questions, contact **Amanda Kimble** at 225.922.0521 or **Mona Joseph** at 225.922.0123.



Refer to Liaison Memoranda:

- 12-21: Procedures When Hiring Rehired Retirees
- 13-23: Rehired Retirees

www.lasersonline.org/employers/liaison-memoranda/

Rehired Retirees



10-02C: Re-employed Rehired Retiree Option 1A or 1B at End of Employment

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Rehired Retirees



10-02B: Re-employed Retiree Option 3 Certification at End of Employment



If member works less than 36 months, please ensure that the member completes Form 2-01: Refund of Accumulated Contributions

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Rehired Retirees



Additional Important Information for Option 1A Rehired Retirees

Allowable Earnings Letters

- Mailed to member and agency when they Rehire
- · Mailed to member and agency in August

Verification of Earnings

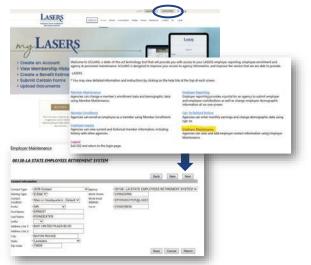
- All earnings should be reported with the exception of Termination Pay that is paid when the member retires
- Include only the earnings earned while an Option 1A
- Termination date should only be filled out if the member has terminated from their Rehired Retiree position

Updating Agency Contact Information

LASERS

Where do I go?

- Log in to Employer Self-Service.
- Click on Employer Maintenance.
- Then click **Next** until you see the contact type that you would like to update.
- If you like to add a new contact type, click New.
- Contact Types
 - Payroll Coordinator
 - HR Liaison
 - Agency Director
 - CFO
 - ACR Contact
 - GASB68 Info
 - HR and Payroll



Wage Types

Determining what earnings are LASERS eligible



- Earned Compensation
 - R.S. 11:403(10)
 - Base Pay
- Wage Type Exclusions
 - Overtime
 - Per Diem
 - Differential Pay
 - Payment in Kind
 - Premium Pay
 - Any other allowance for expenses
 - Supplemental Pay
 - Optional Pay

- Temporary/non-recurring not eligible
 - Such as rewards & recognition, incentive awards, lump sum optional pay, or optional pay spread over several pay periods or months, one-time payments
- Contact your agency's legal counsel for determination.



- 13-13: Retirement Eligible Contributions and Wage Types
- 12-23: Retirement Eligibility on Optional Pay

www.lasersonline.org/employers/liaison-memoranda/

Employer Self Service (ESS) Login Requests



- New user login
 - An employee that has a login (if possible) should send an email to AskLASERS, Mona, or Amanda.
 - Please provide agency number, name, email address, and phone number for the new user.
- Locked Out/Forgot Password
 - · An email should be sent to AskLASERS, Mona, Amanda requesting a new password
 - · Please provide agency number in the email.

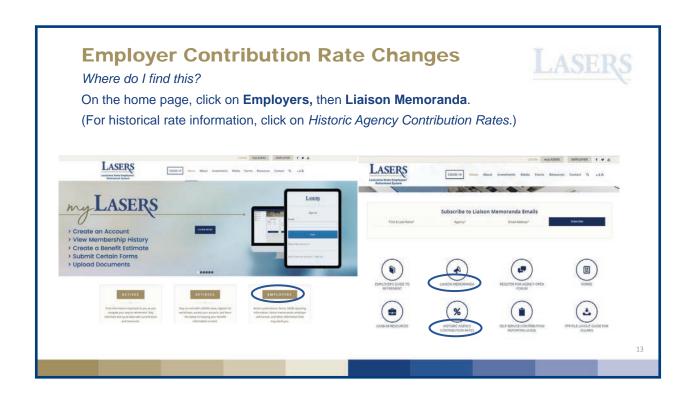
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Employer Contribution Rate Changes

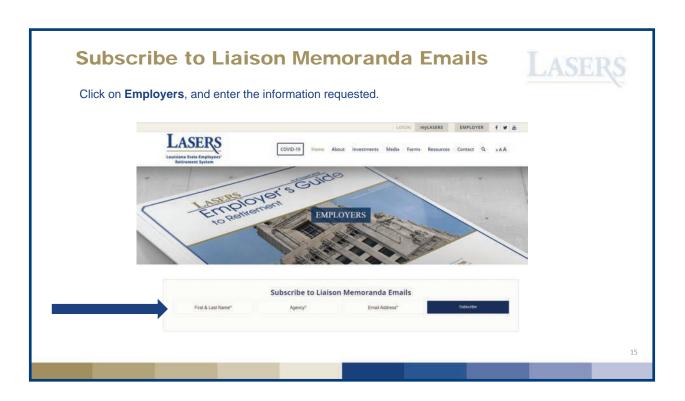


When do the rates change and where do I find them?

- Employer contributions changes occur July 1 of every year.
- Rate change begins with the first paycheck date in July.
 - ex: Pay period start date is 6/14, pay period end date is 6/27, paycheck date is 7/2. Your rate change would start with this pay period.
- An Agency Liaison Memorandum is emailed at the beginning of each year with this information and there is a reminder on the Fiscal Year End Memoranda sent every May with a link to the new rates











QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

THANK YOU!



Location: 8401 United Plaza Blvd. • Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Mail: P.O. Box 44213 • Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4213 **Phone:** (toll-free) 800.256.3000 • (local) 225.922.0600

Web: www.lasersonline.org