

# KEEPING IN TOUCH



## CERF RETIREE NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2020

### **COVID won't affect pension payments**

In light of the COVID-19 Coronavirus situation, the County Employees' Retirement Fund (CERF) is proactively taking action to ensure the continuation of vital benefit services to our members while also protecting the health of members, staff, and other stakeholders.

Pension payments will continue as usual. Although the CERF Office remains closed to the public, staff can still be reached via phone and email. To schedule a virtual meeting with a Benefits Specialist, call 877-632-2373.

Even though the COVID-19 outbreak has limited person-to-person contact, CERF is still here for you.

### **1099-Rs to be mailed**

1099-Rs for pension payments during calendar year 2020 will be mailed by the end of January 2021.

Form 1099-R provides each payee with detailed information on pension income and tax withholding for the previous year.

You can access the Member-Self Service Portal, which is located under the Member Portal tab at [www.mocerf.org](http://www.mocerf.org). It's an easy way to view details for the next scheduled pension payment, see pension payment history, update tax withholdings, and print 1099-R tax forms. For help logging on, call CERF at (877) 632-2373.

## Need to update banking information?

If you've moved or changed banks, let CERF know. It's important to keep us updated, so your benefit payments can continue uninterrupted.

You'll need to complete a new form EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer). There's a place for your information and signature, plus your new bank's information and a financial institution official's signature.

You can find Form EFT under Retiree, Pension Plan Forms at [www.mocerf.org](http://www.mocerf.org), or you can call our office at (877) 632-2373, and we'll send you one.

## RMD

If you have money in the 457 or 401(a) plans, you must begin receiving required minimum distributions by April 1 of the calendar year following the year you turn age 72 or the year you separate service, whichever is later. However, if you turned age 70 ½ before December 31, 2019, the prior rule will continue to apply to you, and you will be required to begin receiving distributions by April of the calendar year following the year you turned age 70 ½ or the year you separate service, whichever is later.

If you have questions about the RMD rule, call CERF at (877) 632-2373. Or call Empower Retirement in St. Louis at (314) 241-1334, or Empower's home office, (800) 701-8255.

## Withholdings

You may change or stop income tax withholdings at any time. Look for Form Fed W-4P or MO W 4-P at [mocerf.org](http://mocerf.org), under Retiree, Pension Plan Forms, or call (877) 632-2373.

*Beware of Social Security fraudsters. According to [ssa.gov](http://ssa.gov), the latest scam trick of using robocalls or live callers has increased. SSA will mail you a letter with your Social Security number if there's actually a problem with your account.*

County Employees' Retirement Fund

2121 Schotthill Woods Drive

Jefferson City, MO 65101