

Fall 2009

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Active Non-Certified Members to Vote in Fall Board Elections

Watch for a Ballot in Your Mailbox

All active non-certified members of the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) will receive a ballot to vote in an election that will elect an active non-certified member representative on the PSERS Board of Trustees. The term is for three years beginning in January 2010. Ballots are to be mailed on November 4, 2009, from Election Services Corporation in Ronkonkoma, NY. Both George M. Longridge and Patricia Ann Tozer are seeking this seat. The candidates have submitted the following biographies to introduce themselves to you (in alphabetical order). Please vote!

George Longridge

Mr. Longridge is the Business Manager at the Elizabethtown Area School District. He received his BA degree from Syracuse University and received his MBA from Penn State University with focus on Finance and Investments. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials (PASBO) and the Pennsylvania Registered School Business Administrator (PRSBA). Mr. Longridge has been a business manager in Pennsylvania schools for over six years and has eleven years in management positions in manufacturing, technology, and consumer goods. He is married with three daughters. He likes to golf and read, and also coaches girls' soccer. Mr. Longridge is the treasurer for Saint Paul's United Methodist Church.

Patricia Tozer

Ms. Tozer has served on the PSERS Board of Trustees since 2006 and represents the non-certified members of the System. She has been a Guidance Secretary in the Pennsbury School District for twenty-seven years. Ms. Tozer has served on the National Education Association's (NEA) Board of Directors, the Pennsylvania State Education Association's (PSEA) Board of Directors and the PSEA Health and Welfare Fund. She also has work experience in the life insurance industry. Ms. Tozer is married with three grown children and two grandchildren. She enjoys reading and gardening. She has been involved with her school district in various capacities, such as PTO, re-districting, strategic planning, and professional development.

The *PSERS Active Member Newsletter* is intended for general informational purposes and to alert members about important deadlines, changes, and developments in the law or retirement policy. It should not, however, be relied on as providing legal advice or as the basis for individual retirement planning and decisions. The Public School Employees' Retirement System provides personalized retirement information and counseling services that can be accessed by calling toll-free, 1-888-773-7748. The contents of this newsletter may not be used for any commercial purpose without PSERS' prior written permission.

New Board of Trustees Member

In August 2009, Senator Patrick M. Browne (R), replaced Senator Robert C. Wonderling as one of the two members of the Senate appointed to the PSERS' Board by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

Currently, Senator Browne serves on the Senate Leadership Team as Caucus Administrator for the 2009-2010 Legislative Session. Senator Browne is also the chair of the Senate Finance Committee, which he has chaired since 2007. The Finance Committee reviews legislation affecting Pennsylvania's tax, fiscal and pension codes. In addition, he is also Vice Chairman of the Senate Education Committee and a member of the following Senate Committees: Appropriations, Banking and Insurance, and Judiciary.



Senator Patrick M. Browne

Senator Browne won a special election in May of 2005 and was re-elected to his first full term in November of 2006 as the Senator of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's 16th District, serving constituents in portions of Lehigh, Northampton, and Monroe counties. Prior to winning his Senate seat, Senator Browne was a member of the state House of Representatives in the 131st District for 10 years.

Senator Browne received a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Notre Dame and a law degree from Temple University. Prior to his legislative service, he was employed with the accounting firms of Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse as a tax manager and senior tax associate, respectively. In addition to being a CPA, he is also a member of the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

PSERS Board of Trustee Meeting Schedule

October 2, 2009
December 11, 2009

PSERS Board meetings are held in Harrisburg at PSERS, located on 5 North 5th Street. In addition to these Board meetings, Committee meetings are held throughout the year. All PSERS Board meetings are open to the public.

For exact meeting times or if you would like to attend and require an accommodation to participate, please call Barbara Flurie, PSERS Executive Office at 1-888-773-7748, extension 4617.

Name & Address Changes

If you are an active member of PSERS, please report any change of your name or address to your employer(s). It is up to your employer to notify PSERS of any changes.

If you are a vested member who terminated active employment, please submit any name or address changes in writing to PSERS. Be sure to include your name, social security number, and your signature in the letter.

To ensure your security, e-mailed name and address changes will not be accepted.

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1-888-773-7748
Local Calls
717-787-8540
TTY (Text)
717-772-5379

Phone Hours
Weekdays
(except holidays):
7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

PSERS is proud to be an equal opportunity employer supporting workforce diversity.

PSERS Let's Talk Pamphlet Series Available Online

The PSERS *Let's Talk* informational pamphlets, as well as the PSERS *Active Member Handbook*, are available on the PSERS website, www.psers.state.pa.us.

The *Let's Talk* series is designed to provide PSERS members with information about their benefits and related issues. The following is a list of the pamphlets currently available on the PSERS website at, www.psers.state.pa.us/publications/pamphlets/letstalk.htm:

- ◆ *Purchasing Credit for Service*
- ◆ *Death Benefits During Employment*
- ◆ *Death Benefits During Retirement*
- ◆ *Disability Benefits*
- ◆ *Divorce*
- ◆ *Your PSERS Benefits & Leaving Employment*
- ◆ *Being Retired*
- ◆ *Taxes on Your Retirement Benefit*
- ◆ *Returning to Service After Retirement*

Centralwest Regional Office Relocation

The PSERS Centralwest Regional Office has moved to a new location! The Centralwest office, which serves Armstrong, Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Indiana, Somerset, and Westmoreland Counties, is now located in Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, in the heart of Cambria County.

The new office is conveniently reached from Routes 22, 422, or 219, and is located 24 miles from Johnstown, 27 miles from Altoona, 28 miles from Indiana, 44 miles from Somerset, and 55 miles from Ford City.

To contact the Centralwest Regional Office at their new location, the address is:

PSERS Centralwest Regional Office
219 W High Street
Ebensburg PA 15931-1540

The office's toll-free number remains the same, 888-773-7748, ext. 5875. The local number is now 814-419-1180, and the new fax number is 814-419-1189.



Referencing PSERS and Trademarked Logo

While PSERS may be referenced in various forms of media across the Commonwealth, please remember that the contents of our publications may not be used for any commercial purpose without PSERS' prior written permission. Additionally, the PSERS logo is a trademarked logo. Use of the PSERS logo is prohibited without our written consent.

Outside sources referencing PSERS may be well-intentioned, but the information may be inaccurate and could be detrimental when making important decisions. The best authority for PSERS information is to receive it directly from PSERS.

Online Estimate Calculators Available

PSERS has available online retirement estimate calculators, on our website at www.psers.state.pa.us/calculators.htm.

The PSERS retirement estimate calculator allows you to produce an unlimited number of **unofficial** estimates of your potential PSERS retirement benefits. While this is not an official PSERS retirement estimate, using this online retirement estimate calculator provides you with a general idea of the retirement benefit available to you using different retirement dates and under different retirement options.

A "how to" guide entitled **Online Estimate Calculators - Retirement Planning at Your Fingertips** (Publication #9680) is available online at www.psers.state.pa.us/EstimateCalculator.pdf.

A decision to retire and/or a retirement option selection **should not** be based on the information provided using the online retirement estimate calculator. If you are within 12 months of your date of retirement, please submit to PSERS a **Request for Retirement Estimate** (PSRS-151), which can be printed from the PSERS website at www.psers.state.pa.us/forms/f151.pdf or by contacting PSERS.

Program Approval Content Reviewers

A Message from the Pennsylvania Department of Education

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) is recruiting educators to serve as program reviewers for initial teacher certification program applications from institutions of higher education. The Department is required to conduct reviews of these applications as mandated by the PA School Code, Title 22, and Chapter 49. Recent changes in legislation and State Board regulations have resulted in the need for colleges and universities to prepare applications for new programs in Early Childhood Education, Elementary/Middle Level Education, Special Education, Principal K-12 and Superintendent's Letter of Eligibility. In order to conduct the reviews, educators from the higher education and K-12 community are being recruited at this time. PDE is in need of **PreK-4, 4-8 and Special Education** content reviewers to assist us in the program approval process.

The Initial application review process will not require you to participate in an on-campus review. The process will be electronic and allow you the ability to review the applications and support documents via the Internet. Your report will also be

transmitted electronically. The Department will provide reviewers with a \$500 honorarium and 10 Act 48 hours for each review.

If you are interested in being considered for participation in this



very worthwhile professional development activity, please submit a current vitae to Christina Baumer at cbaumer@state.pa.us. You will be placed into the Department's databank and notified when training opportunities are available.

PSERS cannot respond to any questions regarding this recruitment by the DPE or Act 48 questions. All inquiries should be directed to Christina Baumer at the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Ms. Baumer can be reached at 717-783-6720 or via e-mail at cbaumer@state.pa.us.

Foundations for Your Future (FFYF)

As a part of its educational outreach, PSERS provides *Foundations for Your Future* seminars for active members. PSERS regional representatives present these seminars throughout the school year to provide all active members with general information about PSERS benefits and services. Attendance at a *Foundations for Your Future* seminar will help you begin to plan for your retirement early in your career. These programs review PSERS related topics such as: benefit options, withdrawal of contributions, rollovers, taxes, employment after retirement, legislative actions affecting PSERS, and health insurance.

Listed below are meetings scheduled from November 2009 through March 2010 (not inclusive, more dates may be added in some areas). Meetings prior to November are listed on the PSERS website at

www.psers.state.pa.us/regional/FFYF_Schedule_Overview.htm. If you need directions to any of the meeting sites, please contact your regional office, the PSERS Member Service Center at 1-888-773-7748, or access the PSERS website at www.psers.state.pa.us/regional/FFYF_Schedule_Overview.htm. If there is a demand for additional seminars during the year, PSERS may add seminars and post them to the PSERS website. PSERS employers in the area will receive seminar notices as well. **Please Note:** Advance registration is not required to attend any of these programs. If you require an accommodation to participate, please contact your PSERS regional office.

As this printed schedule is subject to change due to weather or other unforeseen conditions, we highly suggest that prior to leaving for a meeting, you verify the dates and times listed through the schedule posted on the PSERS website.

If a school location experiences an emergency/ weather closing, the meeting will be canceled.

Southwest Region, Toll-Free 1-888-773-7748, extension 5775				
Counties Served: Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, & Washington				
County	City	Location & Address	Date	Time
Washington	Charleroi	Mon Valley Career and Technology Center, Classrooms 1 and 2, 1 Guttman Blvd.	December 10, 2009	4:30 p.m.
Allegheny	Green Tree	Ramada Inn and Conference Center, Ambassador Ballroom, 401 Holiday Dr.	December 16, 2009 February 17, 2010	4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.
Allegheny	Homestead	Allegheny IU, McGuffey and Sullivan Rooms, 475 East Waterfront Dr.	November 18, 2009 January 13, 2010 March 10, 2010	4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.
Allegheny	Monroeville	Community College of Allegheny County, Boyce Campus, South Wing, Room 440 (Auditorium/Lecture Hall), 595 Beatty Rd.	December 17, 2009	4:30 p.m.
Fayette	Uniontown	Holiday Inn Uniontown, Appalachian Ridge Room, 700 W. Main St.	February 4, 2010	4:30 p.m.
Washington	Washington	Trinity Middle School, Auditorium, 50 Scenic Dr.	November 4, 2009 January 6, 2010 March 3, 2010	4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.
Greene	Waynesburg	Waynesburg Central High School, Auditorium, 30 Zimmerman Dr.	January 20, 2010	4:30 p.m.
Allegheny	West Mifflin	Community College of Allegheny County, South Campus, Multi Purpose Room (Room A-306), 1750 Clairton Rd.	February 3, 2010	4:30 p.m.
Southeast Region, Toll-Free 1-888-773-7748, extension 5575				
Counties Served: Bucks, Delaware, Montgomery, & Philadelphia				
County	City	Location & Address	Date	Time
Bucks	Bensalem	Bensalem High School, North Wing Audion, 4319 Hulmeville Rd.	November 18, 2009 March 8, 2010	4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.
Montgomery	Fort Washington	Holiday Inn Philadelphia North, 432 Penn Ave.	November 4, 2009 March 9, 2010	4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.

Foundations for Your Future (continued)

Southeast Region, Toll-Free 1-888-773-7748, extension 5575 (continued)				
County	City	Location & Address	Date	Time
Montgomery	Kulpsville	Best Western Inn at Towamencin, 1750 Sumneytown Pk.	November 9, 2009 March 18, 2010	4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.
Delaware	Morton	Delaware County IU, Education Service Center, Rooms 171 & 172, 200 Yale Ave.	November 12, 2009 March 17, 2010	4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.
Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia Ramada Northeast, 11580 Roosevelt Blvd.	November 5, 2009 March 11, 2010	4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.
Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia SD Education Center, Auditorium, 440 N. Broad St.	November 17, 2009 March 15, 2010	4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.
Montgomery	Pottstown	Pottstown Senior High, N. Washington St.	March 25, 2010	4:30 p.m.
Southcentral Region, Toll-Free 1-888-773-7748, extension 5675				
Counties Served: Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, & York				
County	City	Location & Address	Date	Time
Franklin	Chambersburg	Chambersburg Area Middle School, Auditorium, 1151 E. McKinley St.	November 10, 2009	4:30 p.m.
Perry	Millerstown	Greenwood High School, Auditorium, 405 E. Sunbury St.	November 12, 2009	4:30 p.m.
Cumberland	Summerdale	Central Penn Conference Center, College Hill & Valley Rd.	November 2, 2009 March 24, 2010	4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.
Northwest Region, Toll-Free 1-888-773-7748, extension 5175				
Counties Served: Beaver, Butler, Clarion, Clearfield (DuBois Area School District only), Crawford, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, & Warren				
County	City	Location & Address	Date	Time
Jefferson	Brookville	Calvary Church, 110 Evans. St.	November 12, 2009	4:30 p.m.
Butler	Butler	Bulter Area SD Intermediate School, 120 Campus Ln.	December 15, 2009 March 9, 2010	4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.
Clarion	Clarion	Riverview IU, 270 Mayfield Rd.	February 11, 2010	4:30 p.m.
Clearfield	Dubois	Dubois Area Middle School, Auditorium, 404 Liberty Blvd.	February 16, 2010	4:30 p.m.
Erie	Edinboro	Northwest Tri-County IU, 252 Waterford St.	December 8, 2009 March 16, 2010	4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.
Venango	Franklin	Rocky Grove Jr/Sr High School, Auditorium, 403 Rocky Grove Ave.	December 7, 2009 March 4, 2010	4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.
Mercer	Mercer	Mercer Jr./Sr. High School, Auditorium, W. Butler St.	November 2, 2009 February 18, 2010	4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.
Beaver	Monaca	Community College of Beaver County, Library Resource Center, 103 Conference Room, 1 Campus Dr.	November 5, 2009 March 2, 2010	4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.
Lawrence	New Castle	Lawrence Co. Career Tech Center, 750 Phelps Way	March 29, 2010	4:30 p.m.
Forest	Tionesta	West Forest Area High School, Cafeteria, Route 62	November 3, 2009	4:30 p.m.
Warren	Warren	Warren Area High School, Auditorium, 345 E. 5 th Ave.	February 22, 2010	4:30 p.m.
Centraleast Region, Toll-Free 1-888-773-7748, extension 5475				
Counties Served: Berks, Carbon, Chester, & Lehigh				
County	City	Location & Address	Date	Time
Lehigh	Allentown	Rodeway Inn & Conference Center, 1151 Bulldog Dr.	December 9, 2009	4:30 p.m.
Chester	Kennett Square	Hilton Garden Inn, 815 E. Baltimore Pk.	March 17, 2010	4:30 p.m.

Centraleast Region, Toll-Free 1-888-773-7748, extension 5475 (continued)				
County	City	Location & Address	Date	Time
Berks	Reading	Reading-Muhlenberg Career & Technology Center, Warren Rd.	December 2, 2009 February 18, 2010	4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.
Northeast Region, Toll-Free 1-888-773-7748, extension 5375				
Counties Served: Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne, & Wyoming				
County	City	Location & Address	Date	Time
Lackawanna	Archbald	Valley View Jr-Sr High School Auditorium, 1 Columbus Dr.	December 2, 2009 February 9, 2010	4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.
Northampton	Easton	The Eastonian Banquet and Convention Center at the Holiday Inn Express, 90 Kunkle Dr.	January 5, 2010	4:30 p.m.
Wayne/Pike	Hawley	Wallenpaupack High School, Library, HC 6	February 18, 2010	4:30 p.m.
Susquehanna	Montrose	American Legion Gardner-Warner Post 154, RR 4, Elk Lake Rd.	March 17, 2010	4:30 p.m.
Luzerne	Nanticoke	Luzerne County Community College, Educational Conference Center, Auditorium 132, 1333 S. Prospect St.	December 3, 2009 March 9, 2010	4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.
Monroe	Stroudsburg	Quality Inn, Ballroom, 1220 W. Main St.	November 3, 2009 February 11, 2010	4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.
Centralwest Region, Toll-Free 1-888-773-7748, extension 5875				
Counties Served: Armstrong, Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Indiana, Somerset, & Westmoreland				
County	City	Location & Address	Date	Time
Blair	Altoona	Ramada Inn-Altoona, Plank Road exit	November 5, 2010 March 31, 2010	4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.
Bedford	Bedford	Arena Restaurant, RR 220	November 9, 2009 February 17, 2010	4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.
Cambria	Ebensburg	The Cottage Inn, 4554 Admiral Peary Hwy., Route 22 West.	January 21, 2010	4:30 p.m.
Armstrong	Ford City	Lenape Heights Country Club 950 Golf Course Rd.	March 4, 2010	4:30 p.m.
Indiana	Indiana	Quality Inn, 1545 Wayne Ave.	January 28, 2010	4:30 p.m.
Somerset	Somerset	Quality Inn, 215 Ramada Rd.	March 8, 2010	4:30 p.m.
Westmoreland	Youngwood	Westmoreland County Community College, Commissioners Hall, 145 Pavilion Ln.	December 17, 2009 March 1, 2010	4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.
Northcentral Region, Toll-Free 1-888-773-7748, extension 5275				
Counties Served: Bradford, Cameron, Centre, Clearfield (eastern region), Clinton, Columbia, Elk, Lycoming, McKean, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Schuylkill, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, and Union				
County	City	Location & Address	Date	Time
Columbia	Berwick	Berwick Area Senior High School, Auditorium, 1100 Fowler Ave.	November 16, 2009 March 10, 2010	4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.
Clinton	Lock Haven	Best Western, 101 E. Walnut St.	November 5, 2009 February 8, 2010	4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.
Northumberland	Montandon	Central Susquehanna IU, Main Building, Lawton Ln.	March 29, 2010	4:30 p.m.
Union	New Berlin	SUN Area Career & Technology Center, Large Group Instructional Room, 21 st Century Dr.	February 3, 2010	4:30 p.m.
McKean	Smethport	Seneca Highlands IU 9, Large Conference Room, 119 Mechanic St.	March 2, 2010	4:30 p.m.
Centre	State College	State College Area High School South, Auditorium, 650 Westerly Pkwy.	March 25, 2010	4:30 p.m.
Tioga	Wellsboro	Wellsboro High School, Auditorium 225 Nichols St.	December 3, 2009	4:30 p.m.
Clearfield	West Decatur	Central IU 10, Clinton Room, 345 Link Rd.	February 25, 2010	4:30 p.m.
Lycoming	Williamsport	Holiday Inn Williamsport, 100 Pine St.	November 2, 2009 February 4, 2010	4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.

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