



SWAMPSCOTT CONTRIBUTORY RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Swampscott Contributory Retirement Board

Thomas Driscoll Jr,
Chair (Appointed)

John Behen Jr,
Vice-Chair (Elected)

Kevin Breen, Member (Elected)

Robert Powell III,
Member (Appointed)

Amy Sarro, Member (Ex-Officio)

Nancy Lord, Retirement
Administrator
nlord@swampscottma.gov

Tracy Spear, Administrative
Assistant
tspear@swampscott.ma.gov

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you have a suggestion for an article? Or is there a topic you would like to see in our next newsletter? Let us know by emailing us at: tspear@swampscottma.gov



ATTENTION

MEMBERS AND RETIREES: ANNUAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD FOR BENEFITS

Open Enrollment Period:

Wednesday April 3 – Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Open enrollment is the time of year when you can enroll in, change, or cancel benefits including:

- Health Insurance**
- Dental Insurance**

The GIC (Group Insurance Commission) remains our health insurance carrier. The GIC encourages members to actively shop and evaluate different coverage options.

(Benefits Effective July 1, 2024 – June 20, 2025)

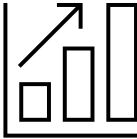

Benefit guides providing information on health plan comparisons, rates, copays, and premiums will be available online in early April at mass.gov/GIC.

Enroll online at mass.gov/GIC

Board Member News

Robert Powell was re-appointed to the Swampscott Contributory Retirement Board, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 32, for a three (3) year term which commenced on January 13, 2024 and will expire on January 12, 2027.

Frequently Asked Questions

	<p>DOES THE SWAMPSCOTT RETIREMENT SYSTEM USE AN INVESTMENT CONSULTANT?</p> <p>Yes, we do. Wainwright Investment Counsel, LLC provides us with objective investment advice focused on asset allocation and portfolio construction designed for our specific objectives, in addition to updating us on market trends and conditions. Currently our portfolio is valued at \$84,151,963. At this time, we invest 53% of our portfolio in the PRIT (Pension Reserves Investment Trust) Fund which is a pooled fund that invests the pension assets of many Massachusetts retirement systems. We invest 47% in other investment funds and sleeves. Wainright provides us with regular updates on our portfolio’s performance and advises us on strategies to maximize our returns through our investment vehicles.</p>
	<p>HOW IS THE RETIREMENT SYSTEM FUNDED?</p> <p>Three key components make up the funding of a retirement system: employee contributions, employer funding, and investment returns. The goal of every system to be fully funded – in other words, robust enough to cover all current financial obligations. In 1985, most of Massachusetts’ retirement systems were found to be severely underfunded. Since then, modern pension funding schedules were adopted by systems throughout the state to ensure full funding. The Swampscott Retirement System is currently funded at 70.1% and is on track to be fully funded by 2031. As perspective, only 5 of 104 retirement systems in the state are currently fully funded. To ensure this, every two years our actuary updates a series of assumptions (asset returns, member life expectancies, wage inflations, etc.) designed to predict the future financial obligations of the fund to ensure its sustainability over time. The commitment of the Town to maintain funding its share of the pension obligation instead of allocating tax dollars elsewhere, in addition to recent market out-performance, has made a profound difference in securing the funding level of our system.</p>

DEATH BEFORE RETIRMENT – THE SECURITY OF “OPTION D”

Overview

It is important that our active members understand what benefits are available to your survivors upon your death prior to retirement. All active members should make sure an updated *Beneficiary Selection Form* is on file. The completed form will tell the Swampscott Contributory Retirement Board who you want your money to go to in the event you die prior to retirement. You can change your beneficiaries at any time prior to retirement. Your named beneficiary may receive either a lump sum of money or a monthly allowance, depending on your selection.

Beneficiary Selection Form for Refund of Accumulated Deductions

The Beneficiary Selection Form for Refund of Accumulated Deductions allows a member to select a beneficiary or beneficiaries to receive payment of accumulated deductions and other payments due a member if the member dies before retirement. This is the sum of all retirement contributions you have made through the deductions in your paychecks. You can name any person or entity as your lump-sum beneficiary. You have the option to select multiple primary and secondary beneficiaries. Once the Board learns of a death of a member in service, the Board will pay the amount owed. This is a one-time, lump-sum payment.

Beneficiary Selection Form - Option D

The Beneficiary Selection Form - Option D allows a member to select an eligible beneficiary to receive an allowance if the member dies before retirement. Option D is a reference to the section of the law that provides for a monthly, member-survivor benefit. You can only name one Option D beneficiary, and it must be your spouse, child, former spouse who has not remarried, mother, father, brother, or sister. The Option D beneficiary will receive a life-long monthly member-survivor allowance which would be the amount you would have received under Retirement Option C.

Option D Spousal Election

If you do not make an Option D designation, your spouse has 90 days to elect to receive the Option D allowance if the following conditions are met:

- You had completed at least two years of creditable service,
- You and your spouse had been married for at least one year, and
- You and your spouse had been living together at the time of your death.

Option D Dependent Children

When an Option D allowance is paid, the plan also provides an additional allowance to your minor children of \$120 per month for the first child and \$90 per month for each additional child.

Death Due to Job Related Incident/Injury

If you are killed in the line of duty or die because of injuries sustained in the performance of duties, your spouse/dependents are entitled to statutory benefits under various sections of the public employee retirement law. For more details, visit www.mass.gov/handbook/guide-to-survivor-benefits.

To update your beneficiary selection form, visit www.mass.gov/info-details/perac-forms

Attention Retirees: Do You Have a Change of Address?

Please notify us **in writing** of any change of address, be it a permanent address change or a temporary winter mailing address.

Visit our website at www.swampscottretirement.com to download a Change of Address Form. Then **mail the form to our office.**

PERAC Selects Next Executive Director

The Public Employee Retirement Administration (PERAC) has announced its new Executive Director. Bill Keefe, current PERAC Assistant Deputy Director, will succeed John Parsons, who announced his retirement after five years in the position. Keefe will assume his new role in March 2024. The Swampscott Contributory Retirement Board thanks John for his service and wishes him well.

Upcoming 2024 Pension Payment Schedule

Direct Deposit of your monthly benefit occurs on the last business day of the month.

Month	2023 Direct Deposit Dates
April	Tuesday, 4/30
May	Friday, 5/31
June	Friday, 6/28
July	Wednesday, 7/31
August	Friday, 8/30
September	Monday 9/30
October	Thursday, 10/31
November	Friday, 11/29
December	Tuesday, 12/31

Contact Us:
Swampscott Contributory Retirement Board

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Office Hours:
Mon, Tue, Thurs: 8:00am – 5:00pm
Wed: 8:00am – 7:00pm
Closed Fridays