

# APERSpective

RETIRED MEMBERS

Summer/Fall 2022

## APERS New Executive Director

Amy Fecher was selected by the APERS Board to lead the agency as Executive Director in July of 2022.

Prior to her service at APERS, Ms. Fecher was appointed by Governor Asa Hutchinson as the first Secretary of the Department of Transformation and Shared Services in July 2019. The



Amy Fecher  
APERS Executive Director

Department was formed by the Transformation and Efficiencies Act which restructured Arkansas's 42 cabinet-level agencies and more than 200 boards and commissions into 15 Departments.

Before being appointed to the Cabinet, Fecher had worn multiple hats in state government. In 2016, Governor Hutchinson selected Fecher to serve as his Chief Transformation Officer for the Office of Transformation. She led the Governor's push to streamline state government and prioritize efficiency and effectiveness. Fecher was the driving

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## Annual Payee Statements

Every year in June, APERS issues an Annual Payee Statement to all of our retirees. The main purpose of the statement is to let retirees know what their COLA will be on July 1 and alert them to any policy changes taking effect in the new fiscal year.



The statement also gives retirees a record of their prior elections and their current status. For both retirees and beneficiaries it's a good idea to review this updated record each year when it arrives.

Additionally, the Annual Payee Statement allows us to

***Keeping APERS up to date on any changes to your key information is really important.***

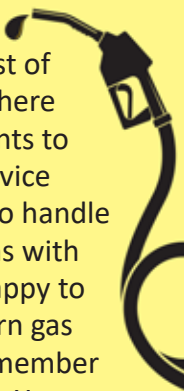
maintain regular contact with our retired members. This helps us retain up-to-date demographic information such as address and marital status. Keeping APERS up to date on any changes to your key information is really important.

Your statement includes a Contacts Information section which will list any other parties you have authorized to receive information about your account or make changes to it.

These parties include someone with a power of attorney or a legal guardian. We encourage retirees who have executed a power of attorney or have a legal guardian to send us this information so that we can update our records.

### Save Gas! Use the MSS Portal!

With gas prices continuing to rise, most of us now think twice before going anywhere unnecessarily, which is why APERS wants to remind you that our Member Self-Service (MSS) portal is a tool that allows you to handle most of the more common interactions with APERS online. While we are always happy to meet in person, there's no need to burn gas just to speak to a counselor, attend a member seminar, or request a benefit estimate. You can do all these things and more through the MSS portal located on our webpage.



## APERS New Executive Director

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force behind the state's efforts to implement a shared services model for state agencies, find revenue savings, and simplify services. She did all of this while serving full-time as Executive Vice President of Operations at the Arkansas Economic Development Commission.

Ms. Fecher has over twenty years' experience in the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors, including her role at the Economic Development Commission, as Director of the Arkansas Department of Rural Services, and as a member of former Governor Mike Huckabee's administration.

Currently, Ms. Fecher volunteers with the Miracle League of Arkansas and serves on the Information Network of Arkansas Board. Her past service includes positions on the Arkansas Board of Finance, the Capitol Arts and Ground Commission, and the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council.

Ms. Fecher is a graduate of the University of Central Arkansas. She and her husband, Shawn, have three boys and live in North Little Rock.



## New Federal Tax Withholding Form

The monthly annuity payments that we provide to retirees are subject to federal income tax. When members apply for retirement, they complete a form to have us withhold the correct amount of tax from their annuity payments.

The IRS recently redesigned *Form W-4P, Withholding Certificate for Periodic Pension or Annuity Payments*, and we are required to begin providing this new form on January 1, 2023. You are not required to take any action and your existing tax elections will remain the same. If your tax situation changes in years to come and you wish to adjust your withholding, you can contact us to request the new Form W-4P.

For more information on federal tax withholding, see the IRS's *Pub. 505, Tax Withholding and Estimate Tax* or consult a tax professional.



## What's Your Story?

The APERS retiree newsletter is designed with our retired members in mind. This is your newsletter, and as such we would like to invite you to share your retirement stories with our membership.

Tell us about your retired life — and share with other retired members things like tips and tricks, favorite recipes, hobbies, and places to go.

Good advice is also *always* welcome and may benefit those who aren't retired yet. In that case, your words of wisdom may appear in the active members newsletter as well.

We would love to hear your advice! Please drop us an email at [aperscomm@arkansas.gov](mailto:aperscomm@arkansas.gov).



## Staying Active and Engaged

Staying active and engaged is important for both physical and mental health. Below are just a few ideas for indoor and outdoor activities to take advantage of during the end of summer and early fall.

### Indoors

- Organizing Friends – Start a coffee group with friends and/or neighbors. This is a great way to stay socially connected. You can meet as often as you would like - daily, weekly, or monthly.
- Shopping – Indoor flea markets or craft malls are great places to stretch your legs and interact with others during those hot summer days. Traditional malls are also good places to walk around and usually have plenty of benches to rest and people-watch.
- Volunteering – Churches, hospitals, community centers and libraries are great places to volunteer. Volunteering may be as simple as assisting with scheduled activities, or you might have an opportunity to teach a class in an area you have expertise.
- Hobbying – Is there an activity or skill that you always thought would be fun like fishing, golfing, scrapbooking, or woodworking? There is no time like the present to get started.

*There are always opportunities to engage our bodies and our minds!*

## Keeping Our Members Informed

[www.apers.org](http://www.apers.org)

Home to the Member Self-Service (MSS) portal

 [www.facebook.com/Arkansas.PERS/](https://www.facebook.com/Arkansas.PERS/)

 [@ArkansasPERS](https://twitter.com/ArkansasPERS)



### Outdoors

- Gardening – This could be planting flowers, vegetables, or both. Gardening is a great way to stay active and can also provide the rewards of fresh cut flowers for the house or fresh veggies for a meal.
- Visiting a State Park – Many parks have hiking trails and fishing opportunities. Both are great ways to get a little exercise. Also, you can stop by the park's visitor center to escape the heat and learn interesting facts about that particular area.
- Browsing Farmers Markets – This is another great place to get out and walk around. You can shop for fresh fruits, vegetables, and other local treats. You will have an opportunity to meet some really neat folks, and it never hurts to support your local producers.
- Enjoying Outdoor Concerts or Music Events – This is a great way to get out and breathe some fresh air and hear good music.

There are always opportunities to engage our bodies and our minds, stay connected with friends and family, and have fun!

### **Patiently Waiting on the Mail**

It seems "snail mail" has taken on even greater meaning during these challenging times. The U.S. Postal Service has cautioned that mail delivery can take longer than expected right now. We appreciate your patience and understand this can be a hardship for our members. Please reach out to us if you do not receive needed information.



## Member Self-Service (MSS)

The Member Self-Service (MSS) portal is at your service 24/7 and amazingly useful!

The most common tasks are available online any time for registered members: reviewing your personal records, downloading copies

of your monthly Explanation of Benefits (EOB) statements or your Annual Payee Statement, and changing your address with APERS.

The MSS portal is located on our website, [www.apers.org](http://www.apers.org). If you have not already registered as a user, we recommend you do so.

If you have questions or need help with the portal, please give APERS a call or use the contact form on our website.

Visit us online at [www.apers.org](http://www.apers.org)

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## DIRECT DEPOSIT DATES



### APERS EXECUTIVE STAFF

Ms. Amy Fecher  
*Executive Director*

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