

Leadership Insider

A Newsletter Especially for MEA Local Leaders January 24, 2018 | Issue 73

MEA 3% Refund Update

ORS Emails

The Michigan Office of Retirement Services (ORS) has sent emails to individuals who are owed money. Offer the following advice to anyone who thinks they should have received it, but did not:

- 1) Check spam or trash folders in email.
- 2) Contact ORS to make sure they have a correct email address on file by calling 1-800-381-5111 or going to www.michigan.gov/ors and signing into miAccount. Read more at the [ORS FAQ](#).
- 3) Contact MEA to make sure we have correct contact information. Please provide name, district, mail address, email and phone. That information can be shared by calling the local field office or by emailing webmaster@mea.org.

Interest Rate

MEA is well aware that the interest rate from the escrow account is ridiculously low. MEA attorneys will be filing a motion and brief in Michigan Court of Claims arguing that a much higher rate of interest is warranted. We are still fighting for you! We will keep you updated on developments.

MEA-PAC

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PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Representation

Here is the good standing policy related to legal services, which is important to know should a need arise related to 3 percent refunds, explained by MEA General Counsel Mike Shoudy:

Only members in good standing are eligible for the full range of legal services provided under the MEA Legal Representation Policy. They must be in good standing at the "time of the action complained of" and must maintain active membership in good standing for the entire time legal services are provided. The "action complained of" would be the dispute of the refund so it is critical to get people signed up and in good standing now so they are fully protected. Under the Legal Representation Policy, we have the right to deny representation when it appears that an individual became a member for the purpose of receiving legal representation. Signing up for membership contemporaneous with a dispute over a refund will result in a denial.

Meetings in Your Area

MEA staff are available to attend meetings in any area to discuss the tremendous victory, the implementation, and how members can assure they receive their full refund. Please call your local field office to arrange one.

From the President

Members in good standing who are eligible for 3 percent refunds will soon receive a letter in the mail from MEA President Paula Herbart with more information about the win and how **MEA-PAC** can help us all achieve more victories—by electing friends of public education to state government. We wanted you to know these letters are going out, and as always we appreciate your support of this important message in a pivotal election year! ■