FUNDAMENTALS

IMRF

ACTIVE MEMBER OVER 40 EDITION

VOLUME 33 | NUMBER 3 FALL 2018

Member Access puts your IMRF financials at your fingertips

Making sure your personal information and member contributions are current with IMRF is key to keeping your future pension secure. Maintaining an IMRF Member Access account is the best and fastest way to do just that.

Track your member contributions

"By maintaining your Member Access account, you're keeping track of your pension, so you're making sure that things are getting reported properly," said Nicole Groveau, IMRF Member Services Analyst. "If not, it could affect your future benefits."

Keeping track of your contributions with Member Access can alert you to potential problems before they become harder to solve. Left undiscovered, a failure on your employer's part to report overtime pay that you earned, for example, could negatively impact the amount of your future pension. With Member Access, you have the ability to check those numbers while the memory is fresh, rather than waiting to receive your annual Personal Statement of Benefits.

Keep your information current

Member Access makes it far easier to update personal information like your current address, which is what enables you to receive important documents from IMRF. That includes routine correspondence like your Personal Statement of Benefits and this newsletter, as well as potentially timesensitive information you may request directly.

"Maybe you're an active member purchasing a house, and the loan company needs to see your total contributions on file with IMRF," Groyeau said.

With an IMRF Member Access account, you could log in and retrieve those numbers on the spot. But if you hadn't already set up a Member Access account, the situation could get more complicated—especially if, as has happened to some members, you had at some point changed your address, but your employer hadn't updated it with IMRF.

"We can't mail it if it's at the wrong address," Groveau said.

For security reasons, IMRF cannot take the new address over the phone; we need to receive it from you in writing, or your employer has to update it online.

If a situation like this were to arise during IMRF's office hours (Monday–Friday, 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM), you would be able



to call 1-800-ASK-IMRF (275-4673) for help, and IMRF Member Services Representatives could work with you by fax to update your address and get you the information you need. But outside those hours—for example, on evenings or weekends—you would have to wait for the office to open.

Acting in advance

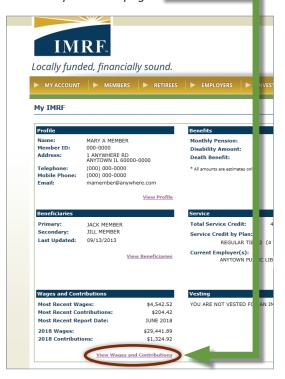
You can register for a Member Access account at any time at **www.imrf.org** (learn more on page 3). However, in order to safeguard your private information, you can only initialize your account when you receive your registration key from IMRF in the mail. This makes it even more important to have set up your Member Access account before you need it.

On the following pages, learn more about what you can do with Member Access.

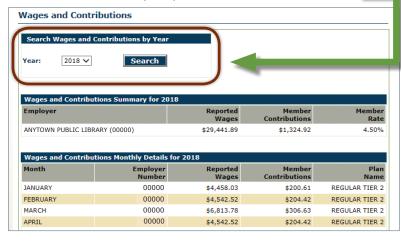


TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT YOUR IMRF CONTRIBUTIONS

To view your IMRF contributions, log in to your Member Access account and click "View Wages and Contributions" at the bottom left corner of your homepage.



Then, using the pulldown menu, you can view your wages and contributions for each year you've been a member of IMRF.





SIGN UP FOR A WORKSHOP OR PERSONAL BENEFITS REVIEW ONLINE!

Register for a Workshop
IMRF offers practical and
informative workshops for
members, employers and
retirees in convenient
locations throughout
Illinois, Find and register
for a workshop online
today.

LEARN MORE

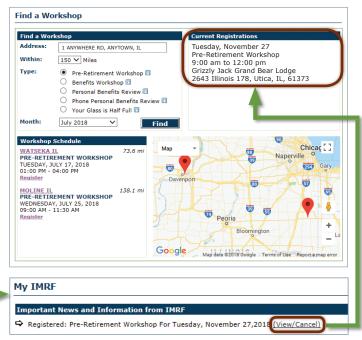
Member Access makes signing up for a workshop fast and easy! You can either go to the menu and click "Members," then "Workshops for Members," to browse available workshop locations, and then click the "Register Now" button. Or, once you've logged in, go to the green "Register for a Workshop" box on the right side of your "My IMRF" profile page, and click "Learn More."

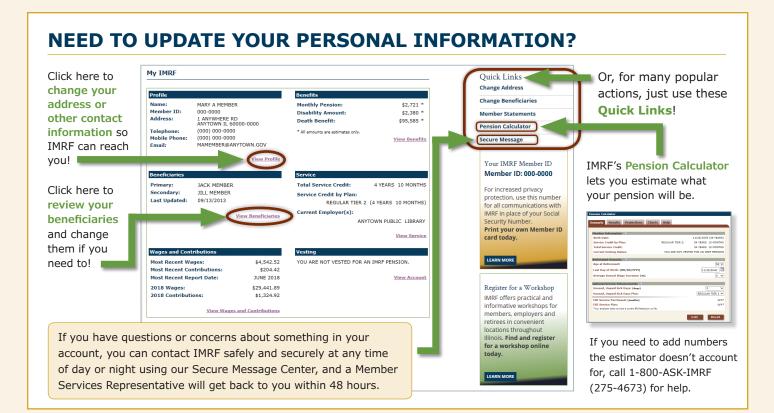
This will take you to the page shown at right, which lets you search for workshops within a certain distance of your home.

Looking for the workshop you signed up for?

When you sign up online, you won't receive a notification in the mail. To find your workshop, just sign in to Member Access, and at the top of your profile page, you'll see a new item: "Important News and Information from IMRF," shown at right:

Click (View/Cancel) to go to the page shown above and to the right; you'll find the location under "Current Registrations."

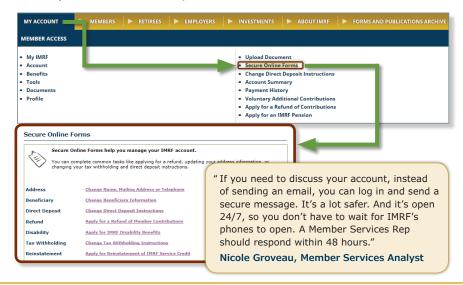




When the time comes for you to apply for r

When the time comes for you to apply for retirement, a refund of contributions, or IMRF temporary disability, you can securely apply online, no paper involved.

Click "My Account" in the menu, then "Secure Online Forms."



Member Access Tips:

- Once you have a Member Access account, make sure it stays active by logging in regularly!
 If you don't log in for 27 months, your account will be terminated, and you'll have to sign up
 for an account again. A handy way to do this is to set a recurring reminder on your calendar.
- If you forget your password, go to www.imrf.org and click "Forgot Password," then enter
 the email you used to register. IMRF will email you a temporary password. (Note: If you
 enter your password incorrectly five times, you will be locked out of your account. If you're
 locked out, wait 24 hours and follow the above instructions for resetting your password.)

SIGN UP TODAY FOR MEMBER ACCESS!

- 1. Go to www.imrf.org.
- 2. Click "Register" in the little green box on the top right of the page.
- 3. If you've already taken this step and have a registration key, click "yes" and enter it.
- 4. If you don't have a registration key, click "no" and enter your information (name, last four digits of your Social Security Number, birth date, address), then "continue."
- 5. IMRF will then send you your 16-digit registration key code by mail. You have 60 days to use it.
- 6. When you receive your registration key code, go back to **www.imrf.org**, click "Register," click "yes," and enter your registration key.
- 7. Verify your security questions, then pick your username and password.
- 8. Now you have access!

Gaining IMRF service credit for serving your country

Current and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces may have multiple options for earning IMRF service credit based on their military service.

WHAT IS **SERVICE CREDIT?**

Service credit is your total time under IMRF, measured in years and months. Your years and months of service credit partially determine the amount of your IMRF pension.

Purchasing additional service credit can enhance your pension.

Military service is only one of several circumstances in which a member may be eligible to purchase service credit. One of the most common reasons members purchase service credit is that they previously worked in another IMRF position but took a refund of their IMRF contributions, and now they want to pay back the refund and reinstate that service.

For more information about purchasing IMRF service, download the "Purchasing IMRF Past Service" booklet at www.imrf.org/publications.

"We have a tremendous number of veterans who have returned from either active duty or National Guard service," said IMRF Field Representative Randy Stevens.

IMRF members who have served in the U.S. military may have the option of converting military service into IMRF service. This benefit is designed to partially compensate veterans for their service in the Armed Forces, but is available at the discretion of your IMRF employer.



Military service prior to joining IMRF

If your employer offers the benefit and your military service took place before you joined IMRF, you may have the option of purchasing two to four years of service credit, depending on what resolution your IMRF employer has adopted.

In this case, the cost to purchase IMRF service credit for your time spent in the military would be member and employer contributions plus interest, based on your first date of participation in IMRF and first salary earned as an IMRF member. You can pay back the service credit in a lump sum or, while you're participating in IMRF, you can make multiple payments toward the cost.

When military leave interrupts IMRF service

IMRF members whose service is interrupted by military leave may not have to pay the total cost of their contributions—or sometimes, any cost at all.

If you have recently been called to active duty, or expect to be in the near future, your IMRF employer may be required to continue to pay you during your military service. In this case, you will not need to purchase service credit. For more information, please download our "Benefits for Activated Military Reservists" booklet at **www.imrf.org**.

If the military service that interrupted your IMRF participation has already taken place, you may have a couple different options:

- Under Illinois law: You may be able to get service credit for time served in the military for free under certain circumstances.
- Under federal law (USERRA): If less than five years have elapsed since your return to work, you may be able to purchase service by paying only the member contributions, with no requirement to pay interest.

To determine what military service credit is most appropriate for you, we recommend that you review IMRF Form 6.02J, "Application for Military Service Credit," available at **www.imrf.org**.

Thinking of buying back military service?

If you are interested in buying back military service and want to know more about your options, contact us at 1-800-ASK-IMRF (275-4673).

"The earlier members buy back their service, the less expensive it will be to them," Stevens said.

I named my minor children as my IMRF beneficiaries. If I die, how is the money transferred to them?

By state law, IMRF cannot pay out a death benefit directly to a minor. Death benefits payable to a minor (someone who is under age 18) are paid in care of the minor's guardian.

If you want someone other than the minor's guardian to receive the IMRF benefit on behalf of the minor, or you want to **prevent your beneficiary from receiving the benefit payment until they reach age 21**, you may name a custodian under the Illinois Uniform Transfers to Minors Act (IUTMA).

Your options for naming a minor as a beneficiary

To name your beneficiaries, fill out IMRF Form 6.11, "Designation of Beneficiary." Your options are:

- · Name your beneficiary without naming a custodian.
 - If your beneficiary is 18 or older at the time of your death, the benefit payment will be paid directly to him or her.
 - If your beneficiary is under the age of 18, the benefit payment will be paid in care of his or her legal guardian.
- Name your beneficiary along with a custodian for your beneficiary under the Illinois Uniform Transfer to Minors Act (IUTMA).

If you choose this option, your beneficiary must be 21 years of age or older to receive the benefit payment directly. (The custodian must also be 21 years of age or older.)

The IUTMA option:

- Allows you to direct the benefit payment to someone other than the minor's guardian.
- Prevents your beneficiary from receiving a benefit payment directly **until the beneficiary reaches age 21**.

To name a custodian for a minor beneficiary under IUTMA, enter the name of the individual in the designated space on IMRF Form 6.11, followed by the words "as custodian for (name of minor) under the IUTMA."

Reviewing your beneficiaries

The best and fastest way to review your beneficiary information is through your Member Access account. We cannot give out beneficiary information or accept changes to your beneficiaries over the phone or email. (Learn more about creating a Member Access account on page 3 of this newsletter.)

If you wish to change your beneficiary information, or to name a custodian for a minor beneficiary, you can do so through "Secure Online Forms" in Member Access, or by downloading IMRF Form 6.11, "Designation of Beneficiary," at **www.imrf.org/forms**, filling it out, and returning it to IMRF. If you don't have Internet access, you can request a form by calling 1-800-ASK-IMRF (275-4673).

Trustee Elections

Running for Executive Trustee? Petitions due September 17

As IMRF employers prepare to elect an Executive Trustee to the Board of Trustees this fall, IMRF continues to accept nominations for candidates through September 17.

A candidate for Executive Trustee must:

- Be employed by a participating governmental unit as a chief executive officer, chief finance officer, or other officer, executive, or department head.
- Be an active IMRF member who is vested with IMRF as of December 31, 2018.
- Gain the nomination of at least three IMRF employers, each of which must submit a nominating petition to IMRF between August 1, 2018, and September 15, 2018.

You can find all the information and materials you'll need to run for Executive Trustee at www.imrf.org/2018-Board-Election.

About the Board of Trustees

IMRF is governed by an eight-member Board of Trustees. Three are elected by actively participating IMRF members, four by IMRF employers, and one by IMRF retirees. The IMRF Board remains the only public pension fund board in Illinois that is fully elected by its membership, with no appointed or *ex-officio* trustees.

Sign up for a Pre-Retirement Workshop today and learn more about what your IMRF membership does for you!

Workshop topics include:

- How and when to file for retirement.
- How earnings and service affect your retirement benefit calculations.
- How to purchase past service credit.

Who should attend?

- Vested members who want to learn about their IMRF benefits.
- Members within five years of retirement.
- Spouses, partners, or others who assist with your retirement planning.

The Pre-Retirement Workshop schedule through the end of 2018 is here! Register online today through your Member Access account (the best and fastest way) or by calling IMRF. These workshops, which are approximately three hours long, can benefit you no matter how close you are to retirement. We recommend attending a workshop as soon as you're vested, then again five years before your earliest possible retirement date, and once more when you're ready to retire. The closer you are to retirement, the more important it is that you attend. Many first-time attendees tell us they wish they'd gone to one sooner.



2018 Pre-Retirement Workshop Dates and Locations

September			November		
DATE	LOCATION	STARTS AT	DATE	LOCATION	STARTS AT
9/06 (Thu)	Collinsville	5 PM	11/01 (Thu)	Crystal Lake	6 PM
9/11 (Tue)	Moline	9 AM	11/03 (Sat)	Joliet	10 AM
9/12 (Wed)	Joliet	2 PM	11/06 (Tue)	Evanston	1 PM
9/13 (Thu)	Champaign	5 PM	11/06 (Tue)	Champaign	5 PM
9/18 (Tue)	Rockford	9 AM	11/07 (Wed)	Homewood	5 PM
9/25 (Tue)	Schaumburg	1 PM	11/07 (Wed)	Peoria	6 PM
9/25 (Tue)	Mount Vernon	5:30 PM	11/08 (Thu)	Minooka	6 PM
9/25 (Tue)	Barrington	6 PM	11/13 (Tue)	Charleston	5 PM
9/26 (Wed)	Peoria	6 PM	11/17 (Sat)	Springfield	9 AM
9/29 (Sat)	Northbrook	9 AM	11/19 (Mon)	Collinsville	9 AM
October			11/27 (Tue)	Elmhurst	5 PM
DATE	LOCATION	STARTS AT	11/29 (Thu)	Aurora	1 PM
10/02 (Tue)	Geneva	9 AM	11/29 (Thu)	Olney	2 PM
10/02 (Tue)	Oak Lawn	2 PM	December		
10/03 (Wed)	Macomb	9 AM	DATE	LOCATION	STARTS AT
10/04 (Thu)	Princeton	9 AM	12/01 (Sat)	Elgin	9 AM
10/10 (Wed)	Moline	9 AM	12/04 (Tue)	Rockford	9 AM
10/11 (Thu)	Dundee	9 AM	12/05 (Wed)	Mt. Prospect	1 PM
10/12 (Fri)	Springfield	1 PM	12/07 (Fri)	Northbrook	9 AM
10/13 (Sat)	Belleville	9:30 AM	12/07 (Fri)	Springfield	9 AM
10/13 (Sat)	Skokie	10 AM	12/08 (Sat)	Wheaton	9:30 AM
10/23 (Tue)	Elk Grove Village	1 PM	12/08 (Sat)	Oak Lawn	10 AM
10/23 (Tue)	Sandwich	6 PM	12/11 (Tue)	Tinley Park	5 PM
10/24 (Wed)	Northbrook	1 PM	12/12 (Wed)	Decatur	4 PM
10/25 (Thu)	Effingham	5 PM	12/15 (Sat)	Moline	9 AM
10/27 (Sat)	Peoria	9 AM	12/15 (Sat)	Centralia	1 PM

Visit **www.imrf.org** for the most current list of workshops! Workshops fill up quickly, and additional dates/locations may be added throughout the year. Workshops that have already been filled do not appear on this list.

Is an optional Personal Benefits Review right for you?

A Personal Benefits Review (PBR) is an optional, one-on-one, 15-minute meeting with an IMRF Field Representative to discuss specific questions about your account. We know your time is precious—if you don't have particular concerns, there's no need to attend one of these sessions. **Remember: Before you schedule a PBR, you should already have attended a Pre-Retirement Workshop.** Try to book your PBR several months before you need it; appointments fill up fast! If you are unable to attend, please let us know in advance so the spot can go to someone who needs it.

Personal Benefits Reviews... by phone! If you don't want to attend an in-person meeting, you can also set up a 25-minute phone call with an IMRF Field Representative. To view available times, sign in to your Member Access account. If you don't have an account, call 1-800-ASK-IMRF (275-4673) for more information.

Is a Personal Benefits Review right for you?

- Have you already attended a Pre-Retirement Workshop?
- Do you have specific account questions that weren't answered in the workshop?
- After a call to 1-800-ASK-IMRF (275-4673), has a representative referred you to a PBR?

If you answered yes to all of these questions, a PBR might help you answer your remaining questions.

What to bring to your PBR:

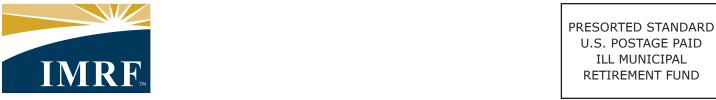
- A pension estimate or your Personal Statement of Benefits—available through your Member Access account or by calling 1-800-ASK-IMRF (275-4673).
- Questions you have that are specific to your IMRF account.

Personal Benefits Review time is limited; make sure you are on time and prepared!

2018 Personal Benefits Review Dates and Locations

September			10/25 (Thu)	Elk Grove Village	1 PM
DATE	LOCATION	STARTS AT	10/25 (Thu)	Saint Charles	1 PM
9/05 (Wed)	Quincy	10 AM	10/26 (Fri)	Effingham	8 AM
9/06 (Thu)	Grayslake	9 AM	10/30 (Tue)	Oak Brook	10 AM
9/06 (Thu)	Bradley	10 AM	10/30 (Tue)	Vandalia	4 PM
9/06 (Thu)	Homewood	1 PM	November		
9/12 (Wed)	Moline	9 AM	DATE	LOCATION	STARTS AT
9/12 (Wed)	Woodstock	9 AM	11/01 (Thu)	Peoria	11 AM
9/13 (Thu)	Oak Brook	10 AM	11/01 (Tild) 11/06 (Tue)	Robinson	10:30 AM
9/18 (Tue)	Naperville	1 PM	11/00 (Tue) 11/07 (Wed)	Champaign	8 AM
9/18 (Tue)	Barrington	5 PM	11/07 (Wed) 11/07 (Wed)	Montgomery	1 PM
9/19 (Wed)	Champaign	8 AM	11/07 (Wed)	Crystal Lake	1 PM
9/19 (Wed)	Peoria	11 AM	11/07 (Wed) 11/08 (Thu)	Evanston	1 PM
9/25 (Tue)	Oak Brook	10 AM	11/13 (Tue)	Minooka	10 AM
9/26 (Wed)	Rockford	9 AM	11/14 (Wed)	Charleston	8 AM
9/26 (Wed)	O'Fallon	10:30 AM	11/14 (Wed)	Northbrook	9 AM
October			11/14 (Wed)	Peoria	11 AM
DATE	LOCATION	STARTS AT	11/27 (Tue)	Naperville	10 AM
10/02 (Tue)	Mundelein	9 AM	11/28 (Wed)	Woodstock	9 AM
10/02 (Tue)	Schaumburg	1 PM	11/28 (Wed)	Homewood	11 AM
10/02 (Tue) 10/04 (Thu)	St. Charles	10 AM	11/29 (Thu)	Oak Brook	1 PM
10/04 (111d) 10/10 (Wed)	Princeton	10 AM 9 AM	· ` ` ′		
10/10 (Wed) 10/10 (Wed)	Alton	4 PM	December	LOCATION	CTARTO AT
10/10 (Wed) 10/11 (Thu)	Moline	9 AM	DATE	LOCATION	STARTS AT
10/11 (Thu) 10/11 (Thu)	Tinley Park	10 AM	12/04 (Tue)	Aurora	10 AM
10/11 (Thu) 10/11 (Thu)	Peoria	10 AM 11 AM	12/04 (Tue)	Collinsville	4 PM
10/11 (Thu) 10/11 (Thu)	Geneva	11 AM 1 PM	12/06 (Thu)	Mount Prospect	1 PM
10/11 (111d) 10/13 (Sat)	Collinsville	8 AM	12/10 (Mon)	Springfield	4 PM
10/13 (Sat) 10/15 (Mon)	Dundee	6 AM 1 PM	12/11 (Tue)	Rockford	9 AM
, ,	Niles	1 PM	12/11 (Tue)	Oak Brook	10 AM
10/15 (Mon)		1 PM 4 PM	12/11 (Tue)	Newton Northbrook	10:30 AM 1 PM
10/16 (Tue) 10/24 (Wed)	Springfield Macomb	4 PM 10 AM	12/11 (Tue)		10:30 AM
10/24 (Wed) 10/24 (Wed)	Salem	11:30 AM	12/18 (Tue)	Champaign O'Fallon	10:30 AM 11 AM
10/24 (Wed)	Salem	11:30 AM	12/18 (Tue)	O Falloll	II Alvi

Visit **www.imrf.org** for the most current list of appointments! Meetings fill up quickly, and additional dates/locations are added throughout the year. Meetings that have already been filled do not appear on this list.



IMRF

Suite 500 2211 York Road Oak Brook, IL 60523-2337

Locally funded, financially sound.

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