



OKLAHOMA POLICE PENSION AND RETIREMENT SYSTEM

SPRING 2022

*A publication of the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System*

## Letter from the Executive Director

**Ginger Sigler**

### A BITTERSWEET YEAR

What a fun and crazy fiscal year we have just completed. In case you don't know, the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System is on a fiscal year that runs from July 1 through June 30 every year. Sometimes people look at financial data from the newspapers and internet and try to compare data from those sources to the OPPRS returns. They usually don't match because of the different fiscal years. This past fiscal year started right after the pandemic hit which had decimated the financial markets the previous March. No one knew what to expect for the coming year. We were also in the middle of an election cycle that can always cause lots of volatility in the markets. However, fiscal year 2021 has turned out to be one for the record books. OPPRS had a net return (the return after all fees are removed) of 28%. This is a historic number for OPPRS. Our next highest return was in 2011 when we earned 19%. But with these large investment returns came a large exodus of active police officers taking advantage of the Deferred Option Plan. I am thrilled with our investment returns and I am thrilled that the officers are getting to take advantage of these returns towards their DROP accounts, but I also feel for the cities trying to replace these officers. This is a wonderful bittersweet situation for OPPRS to be in.

Along with these outstanding investment returns, we saw our funded percentage increase from 100.8% to 104.6%. OPPRS managed to have a great year even with the loss of about 30% of our insurance premium tax that we receive from the state. We are extremely grateful to be so well funded. OPPRS does not take this funding for granted. The economic forecast for the next 10 years predicts that the average return will be around 6-8% instead of the hefty 28% we saw this year. We are considering lowering our assumed actuarial rate from 7.5% to 7.25%. By lowering the assumed rate, we take some pressure off of our funding ratio in the years that our fund doesn't perform as well. Of course the Deferred Option Plan interest rate is connected to this rate. So we are looking into possible legislation that would drop our assumed actuarial rate to 7.25% for financial reporting purposes, but leaving the DOP rate at 7.5%. This would ensure that the DOP accounts would still earn 7.5% for the period of time that they are active. I currently have this issue being reviewed by a legislator to see if they would be willing to run the bill for us.

Continued

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## OKLAHOMA POLICE PENSION AND RETIREMENT SYSTEM

### FALL 2021

We are in the process of making renovations to our offices. We have redone our front lobby. Lauren Holmes is now the Customer Assistance Representative with the retiring of Nancy Nethercutt. Lauren wanted to stay in her office. So we added a window into her office to assist with members, The front lobby looks totally different so if you get a chance, come by and check it out!

We are looking forward to the 2022 Legislative Session. I will be getting information out to everyone about the bills we will be running. There are several bills that should help OPPRS. So please stay tuned!!

Take Care and Be Safe!

Ginger Sigler

### STAFF

Ginger Sigler, Executive Director

Sean Ruark, Deputy Director

Deric Berousek, Chief Financial Officer

Ann Burrows, Comptroller

Darcie Gordon, Administrative Officer

Elizabeth Marshall, Accountant

Katie Luttrell, Pension Operations Administrator/IT

Leeandra Galutia, Pension Analyst

Angela McCullough, Senior Pension Analyst

Lauren Holmes, Customer Assistance Representative

### 2021 OKLAHOMA POLICE PENSION AND RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING DATES

January 20, 2021	May 19, 2021	September 15, 2021
February 17, 2021	June 16, 2021	October 27, 2021
March 17, 2021	July 21, 2021	November 17, 2021
April 21, 2021	August 18, 2021	December 15, 2021

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

	Year Ended June 30	
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
	(Amounts in Thousands)	
Net Assets Beginning	\$2,621,311	\$2,618,857
Net Investment Income	770,131	55,808
Total Contributions	100,719	111,831
Retirement and Other Benefits	(200,222)	(163,193)
Administrative Expenses	(1,980)	(1,992)
<b>Net Assets Ending</b>	<b>\$3,289,959</b>	<b>\$2,621,311</b>

| **SELECTED ACTUARIAL INFORMATION**

	<u>Valuation as of July 1 Actuarial</u>	
	<u>Status - Actuarial Basis (in millions) Funded</u>	
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Actuarial Accrued Liability	\$2,810.2	\$2,736.2
Actuarial Value of Asset	\$2,940.1	\$2,756.9
Unfunded Liability	(\$129.9)	(\$20.7)
<b>Funded Ratio</b>	<b>104.6%</b>	<b>100.8%</b>

**MEMBERSHIP AS OF JUNE 30, 2021:**

Member Cities and Towns	148
Active Participants	4,920
Inactive, Non-vested Participants	1,003
Deferred Option Members	1
Members & Beneficiaries Receiving Benefits	4,082
Vested Members, Terminated	<u>156</u>
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>10,162</b>

## NANCY NETHERCUTT RETIRES



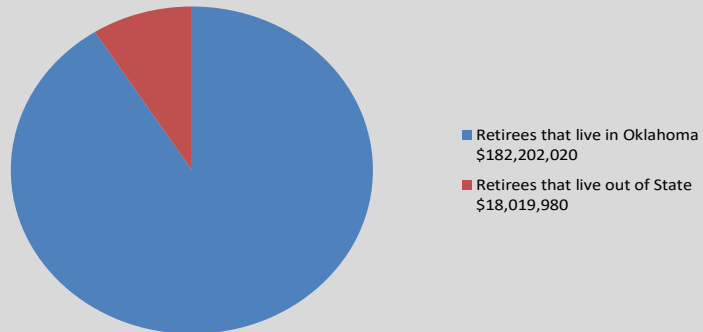
If you have ever called our office or walked into the front lobby of the OPPRS office space, you most likely were greeted with the smiling face of our former Customer Representative, Nancy Nethercutt. After 20 years of serving our members, Nancy has set her sights on a well-deserved retirement to spend more time with her family and to travel the country with her card playing galls who call themselves, “The Squirrels”!

Nancy began her career here at OPPRS in 2001, working under the then Executive Director Bob Wallace. Everything from scanning, filing, mailings and so much more, Nancy was the true engine of our team that helped to keep everything in order and moving smoothly, always willing to lend a helping hand and pitch in wherever needed. But even more than her ability to keep the office in order, she was our friend, and our family. And quite the baker too! Pumpkin Cake was always a favorite she would make that was requested by the staff for birthdays, and we will miss her Deviled Eggs and Peanut Butter Fudge during the holidays.

All of us here at OPPRS will miss Nancy immensely! Her dedication and contributions to the office will forever be valued and remembered. She made a lasting impression on not just her coworkers, but also the members and retirees who visited our office. From all of us here at OPPRS, we wish Nancy all the best in her adventures in retirement!

## POLICE PENSION RETIREES AFFECTS ON THE OKLAHOMA ECONOMY

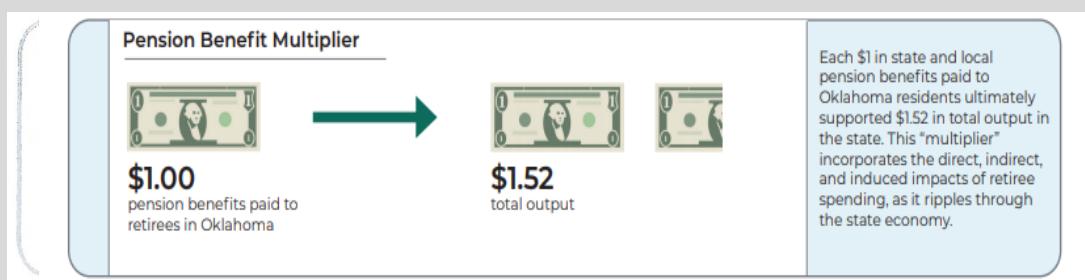
**TOTAL BENEFITS PAID IN FY 20 \$200,222,000**



**91% OF POLICE PENSION RETIREES RESIDE IN OKLAHOMA**

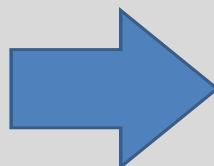
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(From National Institute on Retirement Security: Pensionomics 2021)

**\$200,222,000**



**\$304,337,440**

OPPRS paid \$200,222,000 in benefits to Oklahoma residents and that can lead to \$304,337,440 being put into Oklahoma's economy!

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## Shoot Out

It was an overcast Sunday morning in Tulsa, and as well-scrubbed little boys and girls walked with their parents from Tulsa Baptist Temple parking lot to Sunday School classes, there was talk of possible rain. The date was July 12th. A firecracker, ruptured now, lay on the church parking lot, a reminder that Independence Day, 1959, had recently been celebrated.

Darrell L. Harris, 23-year-old Tulsa Police Department traffic officer, was not on duty that Sunday morning, but, in order to supplement his salary, he was working for the church, directing traffic at the busy intersection near the parking lot. He was a member of the church, and it was his intention to go on to Sunday School after the traffic had thinned out.

At 9:55 a.m., five minutes before classes were scheduled to convene, about 100 persons, all churchgoers, were exchanging Sunday morning greetings on the parking lot. Suddenly, seven pistol shots scattered the Sabbath showcase of sobriety.

An angry, jockey-sized killer had come to church with a .25 automatic pistol as his offering.

Officer Harris ran to the parking lot and saw two women slump to the ground. Another woman had taken a bullet in the leg, and a man clutched at himself in agony as three slugs ripped into his body. Although he was off duty, Harris had his service revolver with him that morning, as regulations decreed. He spotted the fleeing gunman zigging and zagging between parked cars in the parking lot, but decided not to fire because of the people in the area.

Then, as the gunman ran across the street to the Sunday School building Harris fired two shots. Both missed the target. Two other shots from the officers revolver missed too. Actually, from his position and that of the gunman, it would have been almost impossible to stop the killer with a bullet. During his pursuit, Harris had one opportunity to bring the man down, but he chose, instead, not to endanger the churchgoers.

Finally, the gunman made his way to an alcove in the front of the Sunday School building. Harris darted to a tree about 50 feet from the alcove. He had one bullet left in his revolver. Rather than risk the possibility of firing and missing, the young crew-cut patrolman waited, crouched behind the tree.

Then he looked toward the alcove and saw that the gunman was about to reload his automatic. Harris at that moment knew what he was going to do. Abandoning his tree shelter, Harris ran for the alcove. The killer was fumbling with the clip of his gun. If he got it reloaded in time he would have a chance to take several point-blank shots at Harris.

"As I ran toward him," Harris said later, "my feet felt as though they would not move fast enough. I felt as though I was running in slow motion." The killer made the mistake of trying to reload while keeping his eyes on the officer rushing toward him. Harris won the race and the man dropped his gun. He was quickly apprehended.

One of the wounded women died that morning. She was Mrs. Ola Bridges, 49, mother of the killer's ex-wife. One of the other wounded women was his ex-wife, Mrs. Earlene Starnes, 33. Her present husband was the man who was shot three times. He survived. Mrs. E. Lawton Bragg, wife of the U.S. commissioner in Tulsa was injured when a stray bullet struck her in the leg.

Police booked J.R. Swarb, 5-2 135 pound laundry operator, on a murder charge. His shooting spree, it later developed, was the result of pent-up emotions over a divorce settlement with the now Mrs. Starnes. While Swarb was being questioned, Harris was winning praise of his superiors. Capital Earl Beddoe, head of the detective division said the young officer showed "great courage" in rushing the killer. Beddoe added that he believed the man would have killed others, including Harris, had he had a chance to reload his automatic. It was later learned that Swarb had 25 rounds of ammunition with him that morning.



This is an excerpt from the True Detective magazine from 1959. The picture to the left is of Darrell Harris. I love sharing these stories with all of you. If you would like to send me your stories, I would love to put one of them in our newsletter.

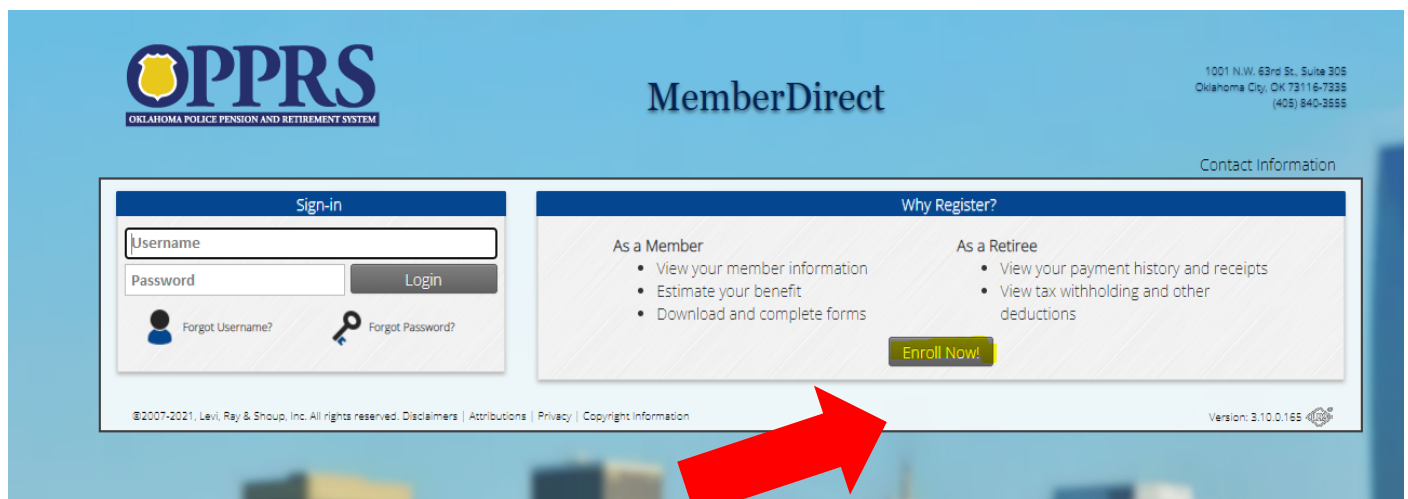


## New Initiatives at OPPRS

OPPRS would like to be as paperless as possible. We are taking steps to make this happen. One of the main initiatives that we will be pushing, will be to make active board member elections paperless. We will transition from using paper ballots to voting on our Members Direct system on our website. Members Direct is a great way to get information about your account, get a projection of benefits, get a remittance for your monthly pension check or even get your yearly 1099R. We will be urging all new hired officers to set up an account when they become a member of OPPRS. Below is our main webpage [www.opprs.ok.gov](http://www.opprs.ok.gov)



Once you click on the Member Direct button on the main page of the website, you will be directed to the screen below.



This will allow you to set up a Member Direct account. The accounts are pretty easy to set up. But the main thing to remember is that this account is connected to your address. So if your zip code doesn't match what we have on file, it won't allow you to set up the account. That is why it is so important to keep your address up to date with us!



Members of the OPPRS Staff and Board at the State Public Fund Trustee Educational Conference. (clockwise: Julia Cealka, Jeff Cealka, Deric Berousek (CFO) Jeff Russell, John George, Chris Cook, and Ginger Sigler (Director)). We enjoyed the weather and beautiful surroundings as well as educational sessions.

## BENEFICIARIES

We receive many calls throughout the year asking “How do I change my beneficiary?” Beneficiaries are determined by state statute. According to our statutes, a beneficiary is “a member’s surviving spouse or any surviving children, including biological and adopted children at the time of the member’s death.” A surviving spouse must have been married to the member for thirty (30) continuous months immediately preceding the member’s death, unless the member died as a consequence of his job. If it was a job related death the thirty (30) month marriage requirement is not in force. A surviving child is eligible to receive the member’s benefit until the age of 18 or 22 as long as they are enrolled in a public or private school or any institution of higher learning. Any adopted child must have been adopted for thirty (30) months prior to the member’s death as well.

## MILITARY TIME and PREVIOUS SERVICE TIME

Just a reminder, if you had military time during actual war times that were congressionally authorized, you might want to send us your DD 214 to see if your military time is available for purchase? After reviewing your DD 214 we will let you know if your time is allowable. Also, any previous service time you might have had with OPPRS or any other State Retirement System may be purchased and added to your retirement benefit after you reach your 20 years of service with OPPRS. If you had have previous time, it might be worth you checking with us to see if this would be cost beneficial to you!



**Important General Tidbits!!!****MACGYVER**

What do you do when it is Friday afternoon at 4 pm and you lose your wedding ring in a recycle bin? You call MacGyver. Or in OPPRS case, we call Deric MacGyver. So.... I was dropping papers in the recycle bin late one Friday afternoon when my wedding ring got caught on the small slit that you insert the papers in. It decided to slide off into the recycle bin. The recycle bin is never locked. Except this time. The recycle company refused to come out and unlock the bin. So luckily Deric Berousek, our Chief Financial Officer, found a hanger and somehow fished my ring out of the bin. Thank goodness we are old enough to have watched MacGyver!

# Follow us on

 **Facebook****@OPPRS.ok.gov** **Instagram****@oklahoma\_police\_pension**

Do you want to receive periodic emails from us about things going on in the office? Just call us and ask to be put on the email list, or send me an email at [gin-ger.sigler@opprs.ok.gov](mailto:gin-ger.sigler@opprs.ok.gov). I try to keep the retirees up to date on legislation that might affect them such as Cost of Living Adjustments. I also try to give updates on what is going on in the office between the Spring and Fall Newsletters. I would love to add you to my list!



OKLAHOMA POLICE PENSION  
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OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73116

PLEASE KEEP YOUR ADDRESS CURRENT WITH US, WE  
ARE HAVING LOTS OF RETURNED MAIL! WE WANT TO  
KEEP YOU UPDATED AND INFORMED.

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*This newsletter is for informational purposes only. Individual requirements and benefits may differ, depending on circumstances. Consult the plan provisions or OPPRS for detailed information.*

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