

The Mississippi Producers Newsletter

December 2025

Time for Rest, Relaxation, and Preparing for a BUSY Spring Semester

You have made it to the half-way point for this year. Where has the time gone? It's time to get ready for a much-needed break. Next semester is going to go by fast and be extremely busy. You may be thinking about retiring at the end of this school year or next school year, or you may just be getting started. It is never too late to begin preparing for your retirement. If you are retiring, have you thought about what you would do about your deferred comp? Will you take the lump sum if so which one? Do you have other investments? Are you covered if you have a long-term care need? Will you leave your loved ones anything?

There is a lot to consider when retiring and it is not a one size fits all plan. That is why you should talk with a professional to see what all options you have and develop a plan that is best for you.

If you have a professional you can talk to please do. If you do not, even if you do, I would love to talk with you about the different options. I have been right where you are and would have welcomed the advice and discussion I can provide. It's about making sure you are able to enjoy the retirement you have worked so hard for.



Check out our podcast "Navigating your Retirement" on our website www.themississippiproducers.com or your favorite Podcast platform and hear from state retirees/employees.



I always like to reflect over the past year during this time. There are so many things and experiences I am thankful for. I have met so many amazing people this past year and have had the opportunity to visit some great places. I never dreamed that I would be where I am now when I started in education.

I am looking forward to 2026 and have so much planned. I am truly living my best life during my "second act" like a dear friend says.

Retirement is all that you make it to be. You can choose to work a second job that you enjoy, travel, or spend time with your family. The choice is yours. I am fortunate enough to be doing all three. I love what I am doing and love helping people find ways to be able to live their best retirement.

*Until Next Month,
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Belize Nov 2025

“Retirement is when you stop living at work and start working at living.”

~ Unknown

RETIREMENT OPTIONS

For the next couple of months, I will cover each of the Retirement Options along with pros/cons of each. This month we will discuss Option 4A – 50 Percent Joint and Survivor Annuity.

OPTION 4A - 50 PERCENT JOINT AND SURVIVOR ANNUITY

Option 4A – 50 Percent Joint and Survivor Annuity provides you with reduced monthly benefits for life compared to what you would receive under the Maximum Retirement Allowance Option so that, after your death, your beneficiary will receive 50 percent of the same monthly amount for life.

- You must name one beneficiary.
- Your beneficiary must be a person, not an estate, organization, or trust.
- You are not required to name your spouse as a beneficiary.
- You may not change your beneficiary once selected unless he or she dies or unless you divorce and your spouse is named as beneficiary. If so, you may apply to Pop-Up to the Maximum Retirement Allowance Option. In the event of a late filing, the recalculation of benefits can be retroactively effective for up to three months if the beneficiary dies.
- PLSO is available with this option, if you are eligible.

PROS

- 1) Retiree has a sense of confidence that survivor continues to receive 50% of Retiree's benefit and 50% of 13th check.
- 2) Partial lump sum available if eligible.
- 3) Pop-Up provision applies.

CONS

- 1) Retiree gets reduced income and reduced 13th check.
- 2) Must name one beneficiary.
- 3) Beneficiary cannot be an estate, organization or trust.

THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER IF CHOOSING OPTION 4A

- 1) Purchasing life insurance to leave to additional beneficiaries.
- 2) Investing the Partial Lump Sum.



We would love to speak at your school about planning for retirement. Contact me today to schedule a time and date.

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