

The Mississippi Producers Newsletter

January 2026

New Year, New Goals

I am sure you are all like me and start thinking about New Year's Resolutions during the Christmas Break. You are going to exercise more, get your lesson plans submitted early, update your grade book weekly, etc. I know I always made resolutions each year only for me to break them within a short time. The unexpected happens and you can't commit to getting your resolutions completed each week. But what if you made a resolution that would benefit you during your retirement?

You can, you could either set money aside in a Roth IRA, Deferred Comp, or purchase a life insurance policy with a Long-Term Care rider that not only invests in yourself but also your family. Did you know that 70% of people 65 years-old and over will have a long-term care event? Did you also know that 24% of the US adult population are caregivers with 70% of those being under 65? It is something to think about. I know I never did when I was in my thirties or even my forties, but I am thinking about it now after watching several of my close friends go through this with their parents.

So why not invest in yourself and family. You can contact me and I would be glad to help you, or you can contact your financial advisor and/or life insurance agent for help. It also doesn't hurt for someone else to look over your policies and investing strategies to see if there is something that you can add or change that would benefit you.



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 can't believe that we are almost to the middle of January much less the beginning of 2026. Wow, time sure has flown by. I hope everyone had a GREAT Christmas break!

January has been busy for me, and I know it has been for you all. I had the privilege of speaking at the MS-ACTE District 2 meeting at ICC Beldin on the 5th. They had a great turnout! The meeting took place before school started back and was targeted to CTE. This was an awesome idea. I know when I was involved with CTE and had to plan our district meeting which took place at a restaurant we didn't have a big turnout. But this was perfect. They had different speakers throughout the day and received CEU's. If you are one of the MS-ACTE District Presidents, you need to talk with Brookes Prince and get some ideas. GREAT JOB Brookes!!

I am working on my spring calendar and would love to talk with you or your school district about planning for retirement. Contact me for available dates.

*Until Next Month,
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“The best time to start thinking about your retirement is before the boss does.”

~ Unknown

RETIREMENT OPTIONS

We have reached the end of the retirement options where I have provided information about each as well as the pros/cons. This month we will discuss Option 4B – 10, 15, or 20 years.

OPTION 4A - 50 PERCENT JOINT AND SURVIVOR ANNUITY

Option 4B – 10, 15, or 20 Years Certain 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 the same amount monthly for the remainder of your selected guaranteed payment period. You select one of the three guaranteed payment periods – 10, 15, or 20 years. The years begin on the effective date of retirement.

- You must name one or more beneficiaries.
- There are no restrictions on who you may name as a beneficiary. You may name a person, estate, organization, or trust.
- The applicable Internal Revenue Code may limit your eligibility for selecting Option 4B based on your age at retirement. (For more information see Appendix H of the MS PERS Member Handbook)
- You may change your beneficiaries at any time.
- PLSO is available with this option, if you are eligible.

PROS

- 1) Beneficiary continues to receive 100% of the retiree's benefit and 13th check for either 10, 15, or 20 years.
- 2) No restrictions on who you can name as beneficiary (person, organization, estate, etc.)
- 3) Partial lump sum available if eligible.
- 3) Pop-Up provision applies.

CONS

- 1) Retiree gets reduced income and reduced 13th check.
- 2) Retiree forfeits any beneficiary amounts if they live longer than the 10, 15, or 20 years (depending on which option they chose).
- 3) The applicable Internal Revenue Code may limit your eligibility for selecting Option 4B based on your age at retirement.

THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER IF CHOOSING OPTION 4B – 10, 15, or 20 Years

- 1) Purchasing life insurance to leave to beneficiaries.
- 2) Investing the Partial Lump Sum.
- 3) What happens if you live longer than the option you chose.



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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