



MOSES MONITOR

August 2015

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

Dear MOSES member,

I hope all is well and you are enjoying your summer with your families and friends.

MOSES has a new legislative director; Robert Oftring started on July 20, 2015. Rob has extensive knowledge on how the state house works, as he was Chief of Staff for State Representative Jim O'Day from Worcester and then served as the Government Affairs Officer for the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development. MOSES worked closely with Rob when he helped the minimum wage bill and OSHA protection for state employees through the last legislative session.

MOSES has filed several bills for this legislative session. They range from expanding the Pacheco law into MassDOT design and construction to just cause rights for the employees at the MWRA. For a complete list of bills filed and the sponsors of the bills please contact Rob at roftiring@moses-ma.org. We were also successful in securing increased funding for some agencies in the FY2016 budget.

The early retirement bill saw almost 300 MOSES members retire from the Commonwealth. MOSES worked tirelessly to try and convince the legislature to allow "all" employees the incentive to retire. Many of the legislators listened and understood but in the end there just wasn't enough support to overturn the Administration's directive. Now some of the agencies are offering buy-outs to those employees at 80%; anyone thinking about retiring in the next couple of months should check with their human resources departments to see if their agency is participating and the amount of the buy-out.

The annual MOSES scholarship drawing is in September and you can find the application in this newsletter, or on the MOSES web page under benefits. The application must be returned to the MOSES office by September 3, 2015. Last year MOSES awarded almost \$21,000 in scholarship benefits to MOSES members and their families.

Over the last couple of months, MOSES has been busy implementing new provisions of our Collective Bargaining Agreements such as: settling hundreds of Article 14 & 16 grievances in the MassDOT contract; and reimbursing many of our members for training and professional development allowed in the Commonwealth Contract.

For the first time, for as long as most members of MOSES can remember, the grievance log is below 1000. This achievement was through the hard work of the MOSES legal team led by General Counsel Jim McDonagh and associate counsels Michelle Gates, Eric Klein and legal coordinator Joanne Bremer. Enjoy the rest of the summer and see you in September.

Joe

Legislative Update

By Robert Oftring Jr., Legislative Director

The Massachusetts House of Representatives and the Massachusetts State Senate have recessed for the month of August, giving Representatives and Senators time to focus on district issues and priorities before returning after Labor Day to continue the 189th Legislative Session. While a lengthy debate between the House and Senate over procedural rules along with significant snow related delays stalled productivity for the first half of the year, we expect the Legislature to be back in full swing come mid-September.

Just before recessing, the Legislature collectively finalized a \$38.1 billion dollar Fiscal Year 2016 (FY '16) State Budget. Through a joint lobbying effort with our Occupational Safety and Health partners, MOSES was able to secure an additional \$200,000 for the Department of Labor Standards in FY '16 to cover costs associated with the Department's oversight responsibilities in ensuring OSHA safety standards are applicable to all Executive Branch employees, including thousands of hardworking MOSES members. These protections were afforded through legislation passed last year after a comprehensive lobbying campaign. Furthermore, despite concerns voiced earlier this year over the state facing a potential budget shortfall in FY '16, many MOSES affiliated state agencies maintained funding or saw funding increase slightly in FY '16.

Lastly, it is with sadness that we report the death of State Senator Thomas Kennedy, who for over three decades proudly represented the Brockton area in both the House and Senate. He will be missed. With his passing, expect a special election in the Second Plymouth and Bristol Senate District, with the deadline to pull papers for candidacy set for August 25th, a primary set for October 9th and a general election set for November 3rd. The Senate District includes the city of Brockton and the towns of Halifax, Hanover, Hanson, Whitman, and parts of East Bridgewater and Easton.

Switching Life Insurance After Retirement

Paul Donohue, Esq.

If you were carrying the state's optional term life insurance as an active employee and recently retired, you may have gotten sticker shock at the increased cost. Here are the monthly increases you are looking at for non-smokers for \$200,000.00 of term insurance:

Age 55-59 - \$42.00 active to \$258.00 retired

Age 60-64 - \$64.00 active to \$258.00 retired

Age 65-69 - \$148.00 active to \$258.00 retired

Age 70-74 - \$234.00 active to \$452.00 retired

Age 75-79 - \$234.00 active to \$1,196.00 retired

If you are healthy and have a continued need for term insurance after you retire, you may want to look at Savings Bank Life Insurance (SBLI) as a replacement. Do not drop your state optional insurance until SBLI insurance is in place because you may not be able to get it if you are not healthy. The following represents the monthly cost for a similar \$200,000 term policy for healthy non-smokers. In all cases, the charges presented are constant until the age of 80. Unlike optional state insurance, SBLI offers lower rates for females because of their longer expected lives.

Age 55 – 25 year policy \$112.58/male
\$83.00/female
Age 60 – 20 year policy \$107.53/male
\$75.17/female

Age 65 – 15 year policy \$137.51/male
\$129.80/female
Age 70 – 10 year policy \$177.65/male
\$162.17/female

**APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2015 ANNUAL MOSES MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS ARE BEING ACCEPTED**

One \$1,000 scholarship in the name of our former **President, Charles P. Wilson** is awarded. In addition, twenty \$500 scholarships in memory of the following late members of the MOSES Board of Directors are awarded:

Eligibility Requirements: Scholarships are limited to MOSES members (including Active Retirees), their spouses or children, as well as the spouses and dependent children of late MOSES members under the following condition: **That the member or immediate family member plans to attend and has been accepted at an accredited higher education facility for the fall 2015 semester.**

Restrictions: In the event that a winner's educational expenses are less than the award, and/or the winner has received reimbursement from another source, the scholarship will be decreased to the amount appropriate. Awards are not transferable.

The MOSES Goodwill Committee, Chairman, John Bardzik, administers the scholarship program and will conduct the drawing at the September 8, 2015 Membership meeting.

Howard Bacon Memorial Scholarship
Elizabeth Brown Memorial Scholarship
Ernest Burns Memorial Scholarship
James S. Caldeira Memorial Scholarship
Paul Cantwell Memorial Scholarship
Edward Clancy Jr. Memorial Scholarship
Daniel Dalton Memorial Scholarship
William Dalton Memorial Scholarship
Milton Dubinski Memorial Scholarship
Robert Harper Memorial Scholarship
Reginald Jacobs Memorial Scholarship
Al Laing Memorial Scholarship
Jerry Langone Memorial Scholarship
Patricia MacAskill Memorial Scholarship
Paul McCorry Memorial Scholarship
Theodore Palizzola Jr. Memorial Scholarship
Paul Prentiss Memorial Scholarship
Maurice Randall Memorial Scholarship
William Shipps Memorial Scholarship
Robert A. Smith Memorial Scholarship

MOSES MEMBER _____ **Dept/Agency** _____

Name of Applicant (if different from member) _____

Relationship to member: _____ **Phone** _____

Address: _____

SEND TO: M.O.S.E.S., 90 N. WASHINGTON ST, SUITE 3, BOSTON, MA 02114

Note: Only one entry per applicant will be accepted. Two or more applicants per family must submit separate application forms but may mail them in the same envelope.

MOSES MONITOR
90 North Washington Street
Boston, MA 02114

SCHOLARSHIP DRAWING SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING @ 7 P.M.
ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RETURNED BY SEPTEMBER 9, 2016

MOSES will be periodically publishing a legal corner where the MOSES lawyers will respond to a question from the membership. If you have a question about the application of your contract, the public employees' bargaining law or even the National Labor Relations Act, the Family Medical Leave Act or Fair Labor Standards Act, please send it to the MOSES email address jvitiello@moses-ma.org and questions will be selected as the subject for a brief MOSES Monitor column.

The September General Membership meeting will be held at Anthony's Restaurant, 105 Canal Street, Malden, MA (617) 321-8900 **Directions:** From Rte. 128 north or south, take exit 37 onto Rte. 93 south. A little ways down Rte. 93 take Exit 32 onto Rte. 60 east toward Malden. Traveling on Rte. 60 east, pass Fellsway, Highland Avenue, Football stadium (on right) and under MBTA tracks. Then take right turn at Commercial Street. Take first left turn onto Charles Street. Anthony's is at corner of Charles and Canal Street.