Annuity Tax Withholding

Each year NPERS is required to notify retirees of your right to change, start or stop federal tax withholding on your monthly annuity. You can do so at any time by filing a new Withholding Certificate for Annuity Payments. This form may be obtained from the “Forms” section of the NPERS website at npers.ne.gov or by calling our office at the numbers below.

You are not required to have federal income tax withheld from your monthly annuity; however, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) may assess interest or penalty charges if your estimated tax payments or withholding amounts fall short of your tax liability (certain restrictions apply if you have the 5-Year Designated Period Annuity).

If you are a Nebraska resident and you choose to have federal income tax withheld from your benefits, NPERS is required to withhold Nebraska taxes using the allowances and marital status you claimed for federal withholding. You may also elect additional amounts of withholding over and above the marital status and allowances you elected on your federal and/or state withholding; these amounts are not required to match. If you choose not to have federal tax withheld from your retirement benefit payment, you are not required to have Nebraska state income tax withheld. If you are not a Nebraska resident, NPERS is not required to withhold Nebraska taxes from your benefit payment.

No action is necessary if your present tax authorization for your monthly retirement benefit still fits your needs. If you have questions, please contact NPERS at 800-245-5712 or 402-471-2053. For tax advice, you should contact a tax professional about your individual situation.
During retirement, some individuals may struggle to find ways to fill their newfound “free time.” Often their pre-retirement planning revolved around financial issues and little thought was given to what they would do during their retirement years. Building that nest egg is important, but don’t overlook the need to also begin planning on how you will fill those extra hours.

All retirees are different. An activity that may be a great choice for one could be a poor choice for another. Still, be cautious to dismiss something, especially if it’s an activity you’ve never done before. Your retirement years are a great time to branch out and try new things. Don’t limit your horizons!

TRAVEL
Travel consistently ranks near the top of activities for most retirees. This can include shorter trips spent visiting family and reconnecting with old friends or longer jaunts to foreign locales. Before you leave, do your research. Pick out some sites and places you want to visit. When traveling abroad, make an attempt to experience the culture. Try new foods and interact with the locals. Learn some of their language. You don’t need to be fluent, but at the very least make an attempt to master some common phrases.

VOLUNTEER
Pick a charity or organization and offer your services. You have a wealth of knowledge and experience to share. Even if you have physical limitations you might be able to visit residents of a nursing home, hospital, or long-term care facility; or perhaps read to children at a nearby library. This is a great way to give something back to your community and gain a sense of accomplishment.

LEARN
Your brain, just like your body, needs to be exercised. Challenge yourself to expand your range of knowledge and skills. Learn a new language. Begin playing a new musical instrument. Not only will you experience personal growth, but also make new friends and help ward off certain age related diseases of the mind. Perhaps you are uncomfortable with the idea of sitting in a classroom with much younger students. Many colleges and universities offer programs specifically designed for older adults and retirees. In Lincoln, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln offers “lifelong learners” age 50 and older multiple classes on topics ranging from genealogy, beginning guitar, yoga, and DNA Analysis.

HOBBIES
Your retirement is a wonderful time to pick up some new pastimes. Hobbies can provide physical activity and help develop new skills. Hobbies also give retirees a chance to form new friendships.

JOIN
There are many clubs and organizations looking for new members. Clubs range from organizations
NPERS will mail your IRS Form 1099-R tax statement by the end of January 2014. Be sure NPERS has your current address so you receive your 1099-R in a timely fashion. Please use the form above to notify NPERS if you have changed your mailing address.

The information on Form 1099-R should be used to file your 2013 federal and state tax returns. Your 1099-R will show the gross benefits you received from NPERS in 2013. This form will also indicate the federal income tax which was withheld from your benefit payments and, for most people, the taxable portion of your benefit.

Please direct questions about individual tax liability to your accountant, tax professional, the Internal Revenue Service, or your state Department of Revenue.

**Watch Your Mail for Form 1099-R**

**Understanding Your 1099-R**

**BOX 1**
Box 1 shows everything NPERS paid to you in 2013.

**BOX 2a**
This is the amount that is taxable to you.

**BOX 4**
This is the amount that was withheld for federal taxes.

**BOX 5**
This is the amount that is not taxable.

**BOX 12**
This is the amount that was withheld for state taxes.

**NOTE:** Box 1 - Box 2a = Box 5
that are devoted to a specific hobby or interest to clubs that cater to specific age groups or genders. Join a club that provides a chance to meet new people with interests common to your own. Make sure the club provides meetings or events that will allow you to interact with other members.

WORK
Aside from the obvious economic factor, work can offer retirees many positive benefits. Work can give a sense of accomplishment and self worth. It can provide a boost to your social life and even have health benefits. Review your interests and passions when considering possible employment options. If you love camping or fishing, then consider working at a sporting goods store or as a fishing guide.

Is art or history a passion? Then a job at a museum or art gallery may be a great fit. Working can also be for yourself. Do you have any home improvement ideas that have been put off over the years? Maybe now is the time to add that Koi pond to the backyard. What about finally buying and restoring that ‘71 Mustang you’ve always wanted?

EXERCISE/HEALTH
Don’t be a couch potato during retirement. An overly sedentary lifestyle and/or poor diet can have serious health and mental consequences. Avoid processed or packaged foods. Focus on fresh fruit, vegetables, lean meats and whole grains. Exercise can help keep off the pounds and also improve cardiovascular functions, ward off diabetes, enhance mental health, and increase your overall quality of life. There are many options for exercise—even if you are unable to engage in the more “extreme” physical activities. Find an exercise that works for you and stick with it. Many retirees enjoy swimming, aerobics, biking or simply walking. Be sure to first check with your doctor to ensure the exercise program you have selected is appropriate.

RELAX
Lastly, make sure you spend some time simply relaxing. Relaxation can provide both mental and physical benefits. Relaxing options can include yoga, meditation, or massage. Devote time to yourself and enjoy your retirement.