

A Look Ahead at MERS' 2019 Educational Offerings



Events

Pizza & Planning

This year our quarterly regional meetings will focus on the MERS retirement process and strategies to save more – two topics participants consistently ask to learn more about.

Webinars

Our Quick Bite webinar series will focus on financial wellness topics such as debt management, emergency savings and estate planning.

Facebook Live

In 2019 we're hosting four events on topics that we typically get the most questions on such as Social Security and estate planning. Encourage your employees to tune in!

HR Roundtables

We've listened to your feedback and in 2019 we're offering more focused education for customers – people like you! This is a great opportunity to learn critical information for the role you serve and network with your local government peers.

Retiree Connections New in 2019!

We're rolling out regional retiree meetings – *Retiree Connections* - to provide face-to-face education and interaction with our retired participants. Our first Retiree Connections will be held in the fall, with locations, dates and times announced in the July edition of Retiree News.

Financial Wellness Challenge New in 2019!

In addition to these events, MERS will continue sending out quarterly postcards educating your employees on four important financial themes – *Saving, Planning, Investing* and *Preparing*. Each theme will provide important information and tips to help employees take steps to prepare for retirement. We recognize that education is only beneficial if it drives action, so we're launching a year-long contest encouraging employees to take small but meaningful steps towards financial wellness.

Each quarter, they will receive a postcard from MERS with a checklist of suggested action items related to that quarter's theme. Employees who complete those items can upload a selfie with their completed checklist to the MERS of Michigan Facebook page for a chance to win a prize.

Beneficiary Outreach **New in 2019!**

One of the most important things your employees can do when it comes to retirement planning is to designate or update their plan beneficiaries. Throughout 2019, MERS will be reaching out to provide reminders and information to help them accomplish this. And we're happy to announce that we're making it easier than ever. By the end of the first quarter this year, participants will be able to designate or change their beneficiaries, or beneficiary information, online through their secure myMERS account without needing to complete and submit a paper form. Watch for more information coming soon.

Website Resources

Product Pages

We would like to remind you that over the past year we've implemented new product pages, providing you with information specific to the MERS plans you have in an organized and easy-to-follow format. Check them out at www.mersofmich.com/Employer.



Last year we launched our blog, *CentsAbility*. This hub of financial education and information features articles and resources centered on topics such as investing, building an emergency savings fund and budgeting tips and tricks. Check it out by visiting www.mersofmich.com and encourage your employees to as well.

Administrative & Policy Change Log

We continually strive to make plan administration and policy updates to better serve our customers and we want to make sure you are well-informed of these changes. Last year we launched our *Administrative and Policy Change Log* where you can find an archive of plan and policy changes. The link to the log is available on our website homepage.

Communications Corner

In the spirit of keeping you informed, we would like to remind you about the Communications Corner on our website. This is a place where you can find all communications that have been sent out to both you and your employees, along with relevant resources and communication samples.

Continue to watch for additional information on these resources and educational opportunities, and the value they can provide for you and your employees. If you have any questions or concerns, or need additional posters, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Regional Manager

Enclosures