

Retiree Resource

Feature Story:

LAGERS RETIREE
SPIKE HUFF



MISSOURI LAGERS

A secure retirement for all

Contact Us

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Jefferson City, MO 65102

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Fax: 573-636-9671

info@molagers.org

Computer savvy?
**GET YOUR RETIREE
RESOURCE
NEWSLETTER
DELIVERED
STRAIGHT TO
YOUR IN-BOX!**

Login to your myLAGERS account and
click the email option for delivery.

Follow Us!



HOW DO I ADJUST MY WITHHOLDINGS?

The amount withheld from your benefit is at your direction and can be changed at any time. To adjust your current withholding, you can either complete LAGERS Tax Withholding form and submit it to the LAGERS office OR log on to your member web portal.

myLAGERS

Has your beneficiary passed away? Be sure to let us know. We may be able to enact the pop-up provision. To find out more, visit molagers.org or contact us at 1-800-447-4334.

HAVE YOU SEEN ME? I'M A LAGERS DOLLAR.



LAGERS retirees hand me out where they shop, eat and anywhere they spend money to show the economic impact of pensions.

93% of LAGERS benefits are paid to retirees living in the communities they worked as public servants.

Pick up your LAGERS dollars at our retiree LINK meetings or request some at info@molagers.org and hand them out when you spend money in your community!

Legislative & Advocacy Update

Overview of 2019 Legislative Session

The first regular session of the 100th General Assembly came to a close on May 17th. This year, the legislature tackled some major, and often controversial, issues and the final weeks of session were unsurprisingly not without little drama. Reflecting back over the entire session, however, both chambers demonstrated discipline in not allowing a handful of hot issues to derail all of the other important measures taken up this year.

Pension Issues

On the pension front, this session could be described as relatively quiet. There were a total of 27 pieces of legislation filed relating to pension issues, compared to 45 in 2018. Of those 27 bills, many were simply 'clean up' bills for various retirement systems in the state.

LAGERS only had one legislative priority this session which was the Public Safety Bill. The Public Safety Bill would give LAGERS employers the option to classify

EMS personnel, jailors, and dispatchers as public safety personnel for purpose of determining a normal retirement age of 55. Out of the 27 bills filed, 3 were Truly Agreed and Finally Passed, and we are pleased to report that a version of the Public Safety Bill language was included in Senate Bill 17, which was among the 3 bills passed! The final version of the bill will extend this option to employers who reside or have service areas within 3rd class counties.

Now that the Governor has signed Senate Bill 17, LAGERS will begin to share more information on how employers may begin the process of exploring this option!

In Summary

Overall, we believe this session was a great success. We continue to work to build our relationships in the capitol, and LAGERS' reputation is as strong as ever. We are proud to serve such an awesome membership and remain committed to being your premier retirement system for many years to come!

Advocacy Day!

One of the most important things our retirees can do to help protect the LAGERS retirement system is speak up and join the conversation about the value of public pensions in Missouri.

This year, LAGERS hosted our 2nd annual Advocacy Day which gives our members and retirees an opportunity to visit with their elected officials in Jefferson City about the importance of what they do for their local communities and the critical role LAGERS plays in helping Missouri's public servants prepare for a secure retirement. Our retirees have a particularly important message to share because you can share firsthand the impact of having a secure retirement and what that has meant to you over your career in public service and retirement.

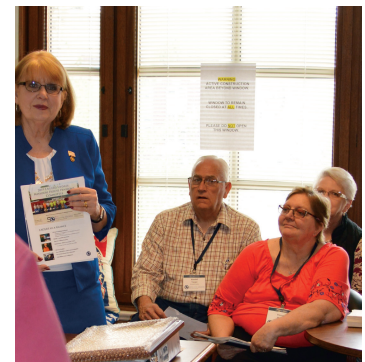
We have been amazed at the impact our advocacy work is having on public opinion in our state's capitol! We appreciate all of our members and retirees who have taken time out of their busy schedule to join us in our advocacy efforts – your work is helping to ensure the LAGERS system remains a valuable tool in our local communities for generations to come!



*A update from:
Elizabeth Althoff
Legislative & Communications Coordinator*

And while you don't have to wait until next year's Advocacy Day to visit with your elected officials about the importance of your LAGERS' benefit in your life, be on the lookout for more information about next year's event in the coming months!

LAGERS retirees meet with Representative Pike, Chairwoman of House Pensions



Retiree Spotlight:

Spike Huff

As former active members, many of you worked in positions that made our communities safer, cleaner and stronger. These roles were vital to ensure we have vibrant communities.

Spike Huff was no different than many of you. He began his career as a road deputy sheriff for Franklin County and eventually transitioned into being a civil deputy and a bailiff in the county court house.

However, Steve's second (or possible first) passion in life is music. Here's what he had to say about his passion for music:

"My music career started when I was 12 years old, mainly singing and playing guitar. Through the years, I picked up several other instruments in addition to the guitar. The additional instruments include: fiddle, mountain dulcimer, banjo, mandolin, dobro, harmonica, and an upright bass fiddle."

Now that Steve is retired and receiving a LAGERS benefit, he and his wife have been able to devote the lion's share of their time to their music.



"My wife and I travel and perform at many types of events and venues, small and large. Since retirement, we have produced 2 CDs, the first in 2012, titled "Just Like Old Times", and in 2014 a Christmas CD titled, "Merrily on High". For the past 14 years I have ran an Acoustic Music House where we have acoustic jam sessions as well as occasional Special Concerts."



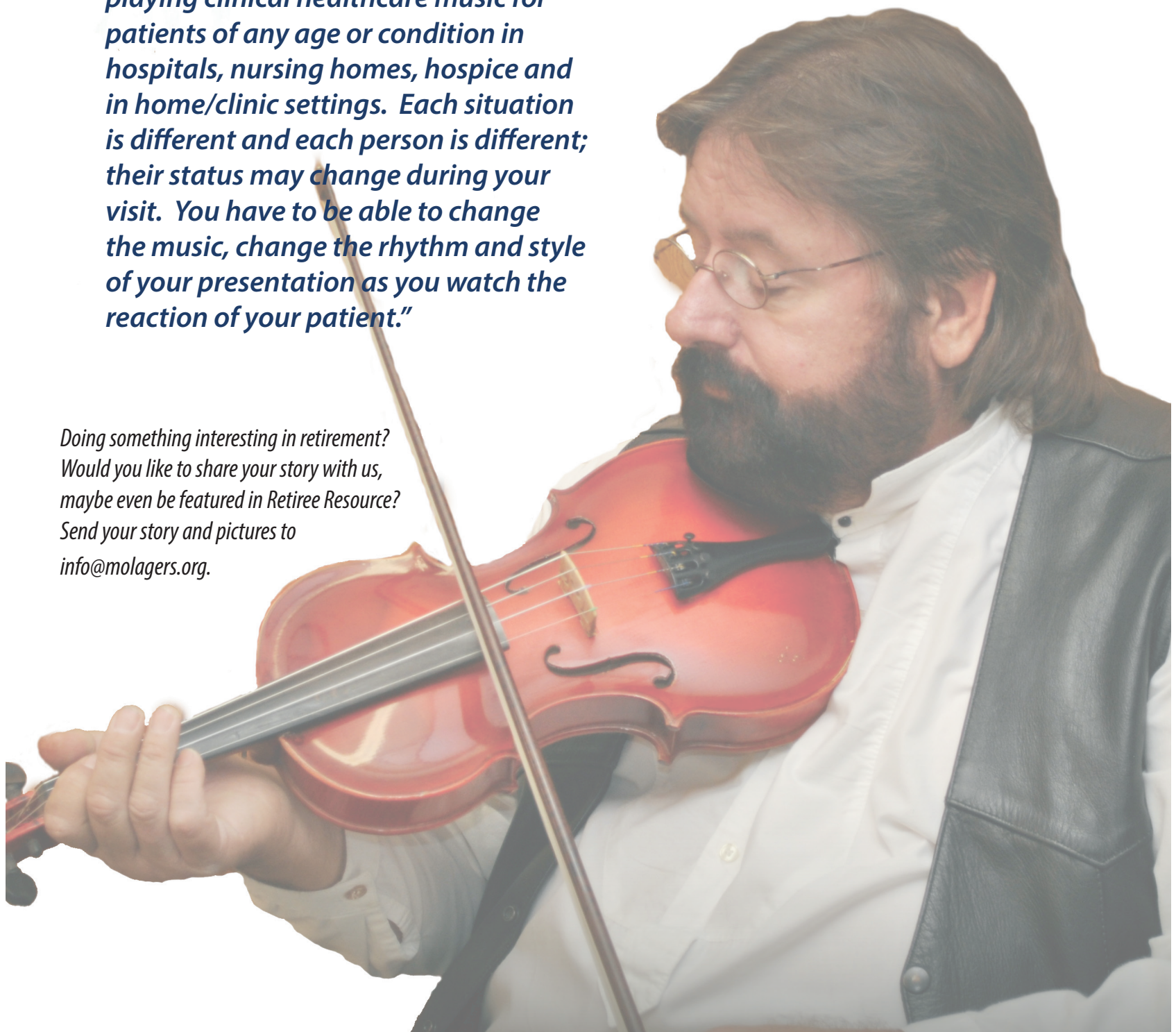


In addition to traveling and performing, Steve and his wife pursued and completed a certification as healthcare musicians.

“The music certification that my wife and I have recently completed took approximately two years to complete. The training was extensive; it included online training modules, book reports, hospice training with a local facility, 40 hours of face to face music playing at various facilities, an Independent Study Project, and a final.

There was training in methods of playing clinical healthcare music for patients of any age or condition in hospitals, nursing homes, hospice and in home/clinic settings. Each situation is different and each person is different; their status may change during your visit. You have to be able to change the music, change the rhythm and style of your presentation as you watch the reaction of your patient.”

*Doing something interesting in retirement?
Would you like to share your story with us,
maybe even be featured in Retiree Resource?
Send your story and pictures to
info@molagers.org.*



5 Things LAGERS Does to Protect Your Money

LAGERS understands that the benefits we offer help tens of thousands of Missourians gain financial independence. We take our responsibility as caretakers of your money very seriously.

LAGERS' Board of Trustees and staff are considered fiduciaries. This means we are legally obligated to act and make decisions that are in the best interest of our members and their beneficiaries. There are many specific things we do on a daily basis to help protect your money. Here are a few.



1. Investing Prudently

Nearly every dime LAGERS receives from participating members and employers is invested in the markets. Returns from these investments are a key source of funding. In fact, around 65% of your retirement benefit is paid for with investment returns. LAGERS uses the “prudent person rule” when investing your money. This means that we invest in order to receive reasonable income and preserve assets in the same way a prudent person would do with her own money. In other words, LAGERS maintains a long-term focus and doesn’t make knee-jerk reactions to fluctuations in the markets.

2. Pre-Funding of Benefits

There are a couple ways you can pay for a future retirement benefit: the pay-as-you-go method or the pre-funding method. The pay-as-you-go model is used by Social Security. We all know how that is going. LAGERS uses the pre-funding model where contributions for your benefit begin the day you are hired and continue throughout your career. This helps to pay for your benefit before you retire so that future generations aren’t stuck with the bill while you’re lounging on the beach.

3. Checks and Balances

LAGERS has several regular audits to ensure we are being good stewards of your money. First, we have an internal auditor/compliance officer whose job is to make sure LAGERS is in compliance with state and federal regulations, staff is following internal policies and procedures, and we are upholding our responsibilities as fiduciaries for you. LAGERS goes through an external financial audit each year as well as an audit of our internal controls over member and employer data. The Missouri state auditor also has the authority to audit LAGERS at any time (the last MO State Audit of LAGERS was in 2015). Audits can be viewed as a hassle, but LAGERS views them as a vital tool in protecting your money!



An abbreviated blog post from:
Jeff Kempker, CEBS, CRC
LAGERS Asst. Executive Director

4. Protecting Your Data

LAGERS goes to great lengths to protect your personal information. Our pro-active information technology team constantly monitors cyber threats and stays up-to-date on the latest tactics used by hackers. One of LAGERS’ staff has even completed “hacker training” so we can better understand how cyber criminals think and act. Each year LAGERS hires an outside agency to test our defenses by attempting to hack into our systems and we consistently receive the highest score possible. LAGERS’ staff also receives social engineering training at least once a year to help us recognize when scammers are trying to gain access to your personal data. We also have a detailed disaster recovery plan that we practice every year to ensure your data remains safe in the event of a disaster that interferes with LAGERS’ daily business. We even have backup servers in a cave in southwest Missouri just in case our internal servers go down!

5. Advocating Proactively

LAGERS proactively advocates for the protection of pensions for Missouri’s local government workers. There are some outside interests that lobby legislators to do away with pensions for government workers altogether. This would be a mistake. We understand the importance of pension benefits for you, your employer, and the state of Missouri and we will do everything we can to ensure LAGERS remains strong for decades to come. LAGERS’ staff meets with state and federal legislators at least once a year to communicate why LAGERS is a good investment for Missouri. We also host an annual legislative advocacy day where we take members like you to the Missouri capitol so you can talk face to face with your representative and/or senator about what your LAGERS benefit means to you.

LAGERS’ trustees and staff strive to be good stewards of your money every day. We are watching closely over the trust fund and worrying about its protection so you don’t have to. You can have peace of mind knowing that your future benefit is safe with us!



MISSOURI LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM

701 West Main St., PO Box 1665, Jefferson City, MO 65102

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July 2019

Even though you may have changed your address with the post office, you may still need to update it with LAGERS. Before LAGERS sends you this newsletter, we run an invalid address report and will forward your newsletter to the updated postal address. However, for documents such as your 1099R, we will only send it to the address on file due to the personal nature of the document.

You can update your address by sending a change of address form or a signed letter with your updated address, or update on myLAGERS.



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