San Luis Obispo County

**Pension Trust** 

SLOCPT

## Retirement 201

Members within about 5 years of retirement

**SLO County Pension Trust** 

805/781-5465

1000 Mill St. San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

SLOPensionTrust.org

### Retirement Income Needed

- Rule-of-thumb for needed income
   70% to 80% of pre-retirement income
- Spending in retirement not steady
  - Early years higher spending due to
    - More active lifestyle
    - Healthcare costs if pre-Medicare
  - Middle years lower and steadier
  - Later years lower spending, but may increase due to medical costs

## How Long Will I be Retired?

- Latest Mortality data on Public Sector
  - Tend to live longer than typical
  - Steady retirement income helps longer lifespan
  - Access to healthcare adds to lifespan
- Life Expectancy at age 65
  - Miscellaneous Men ~85.5, Women ~88.8
  - Public Safety Men ~85.3, Women ~87.7

See http://www.LongevityIllustrator.org/

### Retirement Income Needed

- But Everyone is different
  - No more work paycheck = no more Pension & Social Security contributions to pay!
  - Housing costs steady? paid-off? increasing?
  - Medical costs (!)
    - Higher pre-65 and Medicare eligibility
    - Increase with age (e.g., assisted living)
  - Other financial obligations, dependents
  - Lifestyle choices (e.g., travel)
  - Inflation
  - Employment post-retirement

## How will you pay for retirement?

- Social Security
- Pension Plans
  - Defined **Benefit** Retirement Plan(s)
    - County, State, City and/or other employers
- Savings Plans Tax-Deferred
  - Defined <u>Contribution</u> Savings Plans
    - Deferred Compensation Plans (457 for governmental)
    - 401(k) or similar plans from other employers
- Savings non tax-deferred
- Other Assets (e.g., real estate)
- Other income in retirement / part-time work

## Social Security - Costs

- SLO County participates in Social Security
  - Not all public sector employers are in SS
    - Teachers, some Public Safety, etc.
  - Beware of your past SS non-participation years
- Social Security costs
  - 6.2% of pay from you
  - 6.2% of pay from your employer
- "Paying now for a better retirement later"

## Social Security - Benefits

- SS benefits a foundation but not adequate
- Can start at age 62, but benefits higher at full eligibility age or age 70
- Lifetime income no matter how long you live
- Social Security <u>may</u> replace 20% to 40% of your pay depending on many factors (but everyone is different...)
- Possible SS offsets for other Govt. pensions
  - WEP and GPO reductions vary depending on your case
  - Related to periods you did not pay into SS
  - Check with SSA for detailed estimate
- Get your personal estimate at <u>www.SSA.gov</u>
- Attend class on Social Security

#### What are Pensions?

- **Defined Benefit** (e.g., the SLOCPT)
  - Traditional pension
  - Retirement benefit paid monthly for life
    - No matter how long you live age 74, age 87, age 105...
  - Benefits going OUT set by a formula
    - (years of service X pay X a retirement factor = benefit)
  - Paid by employer & employee contributions and investments
- **Defined Contribution** (e.g., the Deferred Comp. Plan)
  - A savings plan a way to accumulate assets tax deferred
  - Funds going IN are defined
  - Invested by participant
  - Contributed by employee, sometimes with employer "match"

## What Pensions might I have?

- SLO County DB pension plan
  - Mandatory participation
- Another public sector DB pension?
  - Before or after working in SLO County
  - Could be "reciprocal" with SLOCPT if another Calif. system (more on this later)
- Corporate DB pension?
- Union pension?

### Other retirement accounts?

- SLO Deferred Compensation Plan?
  - Voluntary participation
- A previous job's 401(k) or 457 Plan?
  - Can be a rollover to an IRA or the DC Plan
  - Don't forget about 'em!!! Lost accounts happen – so keep your address current
- Individual Retirement Accounts?
  - Regular IRA or Roth
  - Funded by you or inherited
- Other investment and savings accounts

### The Pension Trust

#### **SLOCPT** is a "Trust"

- Independent entity administering the Retirement Plan

```
2,725 Active Members
2,868 Retired Members (retirees, survivors, beneficiaries, disabilities)
489 Deferred Members
6,082 Total Members (at 1/1/19)

Total Assets = $1.4 billion

Active Employees (at 1/1/19)
Avg. Active Employee Age = 44.7 Avg. Age at Hire = 35.6
Avg. Service = 9.1 years
Tier 1 = 1,250 (46%) Tier 2 = 311 (11%) Tier 3 = 1,164 (43%)

Current Monthly Retiree Payroll: $8.0 million
Avg. Retiree Benefit approx. = $34,300/yr
Avg. Retiree Age = 68.9
Avg. Age at Retirement = 58.5 (2018 new retirees avg. 60.4)
```

## 80% of Retiree benefits paid in SLO County Typical pension benefit ~ 1.5x spending in the area

### Who sets the pension benefit levels?

- Pension benefits, like all employee compensation, are determined by the Board of Supervisors
  - Subject to the collective bargaining processes
- Pension benefits can be limited by IRS rules or State regulations
- Pension Trust Board of Trustees
  - Administers the Retirement Plan
  - Sets the overall contribution rates to fund the Plan
  - Governs the investment of the Plan's assets
  - 7 Trustees: 3 appointed by Board of Supervisors, 3 elected from employees at large, County Treasurer

## Who Pays for the Benefits?

- Investment earnings on the pension assets
- Employer Contributions
- Employee Contributions based on age at hire
  - Employee paid pre tax payroll deduction
  - Employee contribution paid by employer "pick-up"
    - Depends on bargaining unit and Tier
- County policy of splitting any <u>increases</u> in required pension contributions is 50/50 with employees

## Pension Costs (2019 Actuarial Valuation – rates as of 1/1/19)

#### Average pension contribution rates (as % of pay)

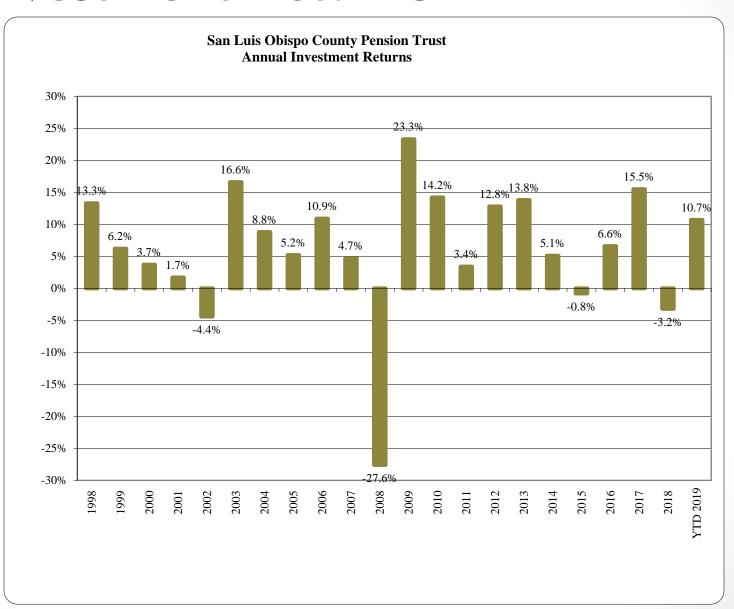
		Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Combined
Misc.	Employee Employer Total	19% *	12% *	11%	15% <u>27%</u> 42%
Probation	Employee Employer Total	22% *	NA	13%	19% <u>26%</u> 45%
Safety	Employee Employer Total	24% *	18% *	17%	20% 39% 59%
Combined	Employee Employer Total	20% *	13% *	12%	16% <u>29%</u> <b>45%</b>

<sup>\*</sup> Some bargaining units in Tiers 1 & 2 have an Employer Paid Member Contribution (the "pick-up") for a portion of employee cost

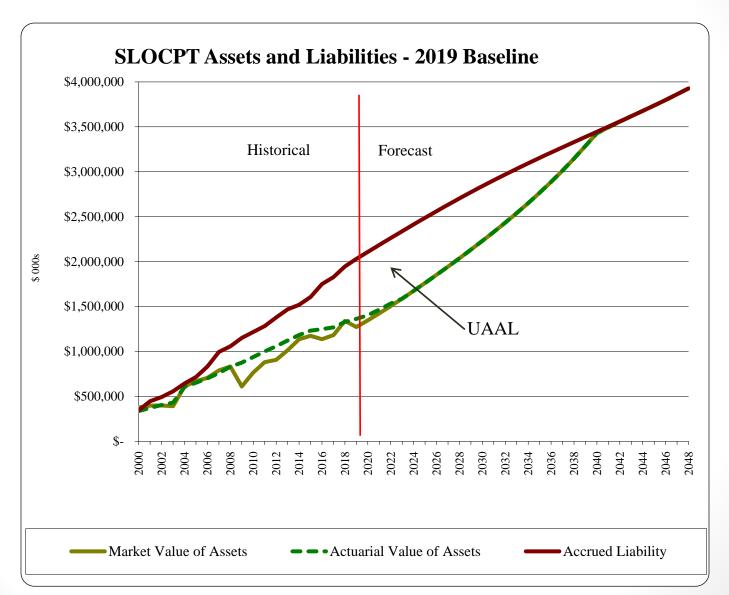
#### What causes Pension cost increases?

- Benefit formula changes
- Demographic changes
  - Mortality increasing lifespan significantly increases pension costs good news / bad news kind of thing...
- Funding Assumptions
  - Expected Investment Return decreasing now 7.00%
  - Paying down the projected Unfunded Liability (UAAL)
    full funding targeted for 2040
- Investments
  - 2001 & 2008 market losses factored in over time
  - SLOCPT invests in a diverse portfolio of stocks, bonds, real estate and other assets

### Investment Returns



## Pension Funding



## The Pension!

#### Pension Benefit Formula

- Pension Benefit depends on:
  - Class
    - Miscellaneous, Probation, Safety (sworn and non-sworn)
  - Tier When you were hired (approx. dates)
    - Tier 1: Hired before 2011
    - Tier 2: Hired 2011-2012 and some reciprocal
    - Tier 3: Hired 2013 and later (PEPRA tier)
  - Years of Service (Pension Trust Service Credit or PTSCs)
  - Pensionable Compensation (highest 1 year or 3 years)
  - Age at retirement
  - Some benefit caps (e.g., 90% of final pay for Tier 2)

## Why 3 Classes and 3 Tiers?

- Pension Benefit collectively bargained
- Classes (Miscellaneous, Probation, Safety)
  - Higher benefits for Probation and Safety shorter careers

#### Tiers

- Tier 1 Highest benefit
  - Enhanced ~2000-2004, expensive, (e.g., 2.0% @ 55 Misc.)
- Tier 2 SLO County Pension Reform ~2010
  - Collectively bargained, (e.g., 2.0% @ 60 Misc.)
- Tier 3 Statewide mandate
  - Public Employees Pension Reform Act of 2012 (PEPRA)
  - Lower benefit, but reasonable (e.g., 2.0% @ 62 Misc.)
  - Sustainable cost

#### Pension Benefit Formula

Basic (Unmodified) Benefit – the highest benefit amount (includes 50% survivor continuance)

#### Three components:

PTSC (years of paid work & leave)

x Final Average Compensation

(highest 12 mth or 36 mth avg.)

x Retirement Factor - depends on

Class of Member (Misc., Probation, Safety) Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 3 Age at retirement (higher factors with older age)

= Basic (Unmodified) Benefit

May be reduced for various survivor continuance benefit options (e.g., "Option 2" is a 100% survivor continuance)

### What are the Retirement Factors?



## Example – Tier 1

- Elizabeth is ready to retire, someday...
  - Tier 1, Miscellaneous category, bargaining unit 01
  - 10 years of service
  - Age 52
  - Highest 12 month average salary = \$5,000/month or \$60,000/year
  - Married spouse age 51, no prior divorces

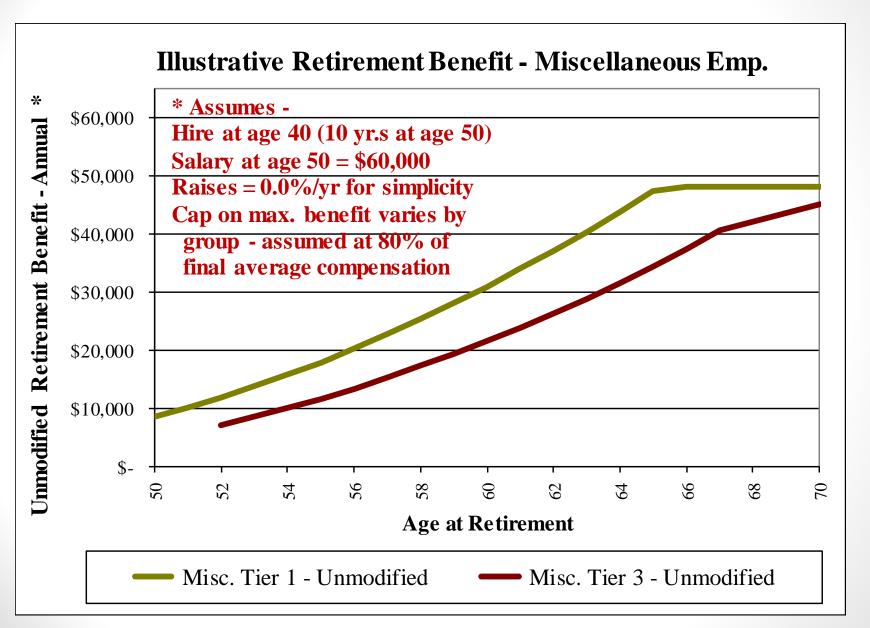
Retire at -	Age 52 10 years	Age 62 20 years
Years of Service - PTSCs	10	20
Retirement Factor at ages 52 and 62	1.656%	2.816%
Pension as % of pay (PTSC x Factor)	16.56%	56.32%
Pensionable Compensation – monthly	\$5,000	\$5,000
Basic Pension Benefit (unmodified)	\$828	\$2,816
Surviving spouse/RDP continuance	50%	50%

## Example – Tier 3

- Sally is ready to retire, someday...
  - Tier 3, Miscellaneous category, bargaining unit 01
  - 10 years of service
  - Age 52
  - Highest 36 month average salary = \$5,000/month or \$60,000/year
  - Married spouse age 53, no prior divorces

Retire at -	Age 52 10 years	Age 62 20 years
Years of Service - PTSCs	10	20
Retirement Factor at ages 52 and 62	1.000%	2.000%
Pension as % of pay (PTSC x Factor)	10.00%	40.00%
Pensionable Compensation – monthly	\$5,000	\$5,000
Basic Pension Benefit (unmodified)	\$500	\$2,000
Surviving spouse/RDP continuance	50%	50%

#### Illustration of Pension Benefit



## Am I eligible to retire?

#### Eligibility

- Must be vested (accumulation of 5 PTSCs)
- Minimum retirement age of 50 (52 for Tier 3), there is no maximum retirement age

### What happens if I leave County employment before I'm eligible?

- Leave before vested:
  - Refund of your employee contributions and accumulated interest
  - Or may be eligible for reciprocity if you go to work for another California public agency within 6 months
- Leave after vested but before retirement age eligibility:
  - Refund of your employee contributions and accumulated interest
  - Or Leave funds in Plan retire when age eligible (may be eligible for reciprocity)

### What if I came from another public agency?

- Incoming Reciprocity
- You must apply to be eligible!
- If you worked for a CalPERS State agency or some
   Counties
  - If there is less than a 6 month gap in service with no overlap
  - If you apply with the new employer
  - If you leave your funds with the prior employer's Plan
- There can be significant advantages to your total retirement income if you establish reciprocity

### What if I leave for another public agency?

- Outgoing Reciprocity
- You may be eligible for reciprocal service if you hire on with a CalPERS State agency or some Counties You must apply to be eligible!
  - If there is less than a 6 month gap in service with no overlap
  - If you apply with the new employer
  - If you leave your funds with the SLOCPT Plan
- Not guaranteed lengthy process between plans
- Reciprocity may shorten your time to become vested in the new employer's plan, it may get you a lower age-at-entry contribution rate, and it may allow both retirements to be based on your final pay at the new employer
- ASK YOUR NEW EMPLOYER

### Other Pension Benefits

- Disability
  - A lifetime benefit if you are disabled and can't perform the duties of your job
  - Must apply before separating employment!
- Death benefits
  - Keep your Beneficiary form up to date!
- Survivor Benefit after you are retired
  - More on this later
  - Continues some % of your pension benefit to a surviving spouse or RDP or to a beneficiary you name

## Disability Benefits

- Two types of Disability
  - Ordinary Disability for any reason
  - Industrial Disability only for Public Safety and Probation higher level of benefit for Service-Connected disability. No "heart presumption" like some other systems.
- Disability Eligibility
  - Vested in the Plan for ordinary disability
  - Vesting not required for industrial disability
  - Permanently unable to perform your job duties
  - Burden of proof is on the Member
  - All Retirement Options are available for Disability Retirement
  - MUST APPLY FOR DISABILITY BEFORE QUITTING OR RETIRING

#### Death Benefits

#### NOT YET ELIGIBLE TO RETIRE Active member

- Basic Death Benefit
  - Return of all contributions and interest **PLUS** 1 ½ months salary for each accumulated PTSC up to 12
  - Payable to your beneficiary or your estate

#### ELIGIBLE TO RETIRE Active member

- Eligible Survivor has choice of:
  - Basic Death Benefit
  - Option 2 Monthly Allowance

#### AFTER RETIREMENT

- \$1,000 Death Benefit
- Monthly Surviving Spouse or Beneficiary Continuance Allowance based on the Option selected at retirement

## Survivor Benefits (in retirement)

#### **Eligible Survivor:**

- Spouse or Registered Domestic Partner (RDP)
- Married/registered for at least 1 year at retirement
- If no Spouse or RDP, a Beneficiary can be named for all Options but the basic unmodified allowance or Option 1 continuance

## Options (irrevocable choice at point of retirement):

Basic (Unmodified) Allowance – provides for a 50% continuance benefit to <u>Eligible Survivor</u> – This is the highest benefit option

## Survivor Benefits (in retirement)

#### Other Options:

- Option 1 reduced monthly allowance for your lifetime and either:
  - Eligible Survivor: 50% continuance of reduced benefit, + return of any contributions remaining (start with ½ employee accrual balance at retirement, reduced with each of your monthly benefit payments). OR -
  - Deneficiary: return of any contributions remaining (start with entire employee accrual balance at retirement, reduced with each of your monthly benefit payments).
- Option 2 reduced monthly allowance for your lifetime and continuing 100% continuance benefit to Eligible Survivor or Beneficiary. A popular option.
- Option 3 reduced monthly allowance for your lifetime and a monthly allowance to your <u>Eligible Survivor or Beneficiary</u> of 1/2 to approximately 2/3 of your allowance.
- Options to coordinate with SS pre-age 62

# Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP)

- Available only to Tier 1 Members (certain BUs excluded)
- An alternative way of taking pension benefit while still working
- Irrevocable commitment to retire
  - 6 month minimum, 5 year maximum
- Monthly Pension Benefit paid into a separate investment account while still working
  - You choose investments just like the Deferred Comp Plan
  - No access to funds accumulated until official retirement
- Payroll pension contribution deductions cease when you enter DROP
- Once retired, must withdraw accumulated DROP balance in lump sum or elect a monthly annuity for no less than 10 years

#### Does DROP Make sense for me?

- Must intend to retire within 5 years
- Must be in an eligible Tier 1 benefit formula
- Locks in your pension at current level future raises don't count...

#### DROP designed for –

- Long-term Members nearing the maximum pension benefit e.g., 80% of final pay
- But who want to keep working a bit longer

#### DROP sometimes used by Members who –

- Are satisfied with "locking in" their pension benefit at some level less than the maximum
- Want to accumulate a lump sum to use after they retire (e.g., pay off the house, buy that RV, etc.)

### Post Retirement Cost of Living Adjustments

- Depends on the Tier from which you retired
  - Tier 1
    - COLA based on CPI inflation with 3% max and a carryover if inflation is over 3%
  - Tiers 2 & 3
    - COLA based on CPI inflation with 2% max, no carryover
  - Pension COLAs based on 2 year avg. of SF and LA Consumer Price Index (CPI) annual average change
- COLA effective April 1st if retired on or before January 1st of current year

# Marriage and Divorce

- Community Property
  - Retirement Benefits and Contribution Balances are Community Property in California
    - Contact the SLOCPT if you get married to update your beneficiary designation (you need verified spousal consent to name someone other than your spouse)
    - If you are contemplating or going through a divorce you <u>MUST</u> address the disposition of any retirement benefits which were accrued while you were married
  - DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE WEEK BEFORE YOU RETIRE TO ADDRESS THIS MATTER...it WILL delay your retirement

## How do I Retire?

- Make an appointment with SLOCPT
  - 3+ years in advance
  - Anytime you want a check-up
- If divorced DRO must address pension
- Plan your retirement!
  - When to retire?
  - How much pension will I get? Enough?
  - DC Plan and other savings? Enough?
- Plan Survivor Options
  - How much surviving spouse pension benefit is needed? 50%? 100%?
- Tell your Department!

### What do I Need to Retire?

- Confer Make an appointment with SLOCPT 6+ months prior to planned date
- Apply 1-3 months prior to planned date
  - But, if urgent as soon as possible
- Healthcare if electing employer health plan
  - Must enroll within 120 days after retirement
- DC Plan coordinate "last paycheck"?
  - Accrued leave payout 1x bump to DC Plan

## What do I Need to Retire?

#### Documents needed

- Birth certificates for you, your spouse, or beneficiary
- Marriage certificate / Domestic Partnership
- Name changed from birth certificate marriage certificate or other proof of name change
- Widowed death certificate
- Divorce Complete copy of Final Judgment with settlement agreement / Domestic Relations Order
- Social Security printout of SS est. with age 62 benefit
- Blank, voided check for direct deposit
- Age 65 Copy of Medicare card with Parts A & B

## SLO County Retired Employees Associations - SLOCREA

- Retiree Association membership encouraged
- Newsletter, events, keep in touch
- Contact
  - www.SLOCREA.org
  - slocrea@slocrea.org

## Post Retirement Health Benefits

- Retirees are eligible to participate in employer sponsored medical, dental & vision plans
  - <u>Note:</u> must not have more than 120 days between termination date and retirement date to participate in medical coverage
- Actual premiums paid depend on the plan chosen and Medicare eligibility
- Employer covered costs:
  - \$139/month paid towards your medical premium for Management members (2019 rate)
  - \$136/month paid towards your medical premium for represented members (2019 rate)
- Watch for Human Resources class on retirement health

# So, what else can I do to improve my retirement?

- Strong social connections
- Family relations
- Having a purpose
- Volunteering
- Staying fit and active
- Good healthcare
- Save more money now

# Deferred Compensation Plan

- Voluntary
- Tax-Deferred savings
  - "457 Plan" similar to a 401(k)
- Defined Contribution plan
  - Participant chooses investment funds
- IRS limits on annual contributions
- Withdrawals available post-employment
  - Taxable at that point
- No employer "match" generally
  - July 2019 small match for unrepresented employees

# Deferred Compensation Plan

• SLO County Deferred Compensation Plan also open to Courts, APCD, LAFCO

#### Nationwide

- Administers the DC Plan
- Provides investment funds
- Representatives on-site 100 days/year
- www.sanluisobispo457.com
- 877/677-3678

# Deferred Compensation Resources

- Nationwide representatives
  - On site 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weeks of the month
  - Call at any time
    - Rochelle Davis <u>davir19@nationwide.com</u> 323/823-4282
    - Loren Farfan <u>farfana@nationwide.com</u> 818/642-8191
- www.sanluisobispo457.com Tools & Calculators
  - Interactive Financial Planner
  - Health Care Estimator
  - Investment Planning
  - Paycheck Impact Calculator
  - Payout Illustrator

# Deferred Compensation Plan

- Post-Employment you can
  - Leave your DC account with Nationwide
  - Rollover your DC account to
    - Another 457 Plan at a future employer
    - A Rollover IRA institution of your choice
- Account Distributions
  - Taxable income (but no 10% penalty)
  - Or Rollover to an IRA or other plan
  - "Don't blow it all at once" is good advice

# Maximizing your DC Plan

### Annual Contribution Limits (IRS)

- Under age 50 \$19,500/year
- Over age 50 \$19,500 + \$6,500 = \$26,000
- Special Catch-up
  - In last 3 years prior to retirement
  - Higher limit of up to \$39,000/year
  - Limited by the amount you did not contribute up to the maximums in prior years at this job
  - See Nationwide representative to coordinate

# Maximizing your DC Plan

- "Last paycheck maximized deferral"
  - If you are not contributing to the DC Plan up to the maximum already
  - If you have an accrued leave lump sum payout expected on your last paycheck
  - You can increase your DC Plan deferral on that last paycheck – sometimes by a lot!
  - Tax deferred status on a large payout saves you \$
  - Must set up month prior to last paycheck timing is critical!
  - See Nationwide representative and Payroll Coordinator

# Questions



## Reference Items

### Information on Your Pension Account

- General Information
  - www.SLOPensionTrust.org
  - 2020 new Member Portal online watch for your PIN letter to set up your access
  - Email at SLOCPT@co.slo.ca.us
  - 805/781-5465
  - Call to request a retirement estimate and counseling
  - Call to request new beneficiary forms, etc.
  - Change of address please change in payroll (ESS for the County) system
- Keep your beneficiaries up to date!

## Can I work for SLO County as a Retiree?

#### • Temporary employment post retirement

- 180 day waiting period except for Public Safety
- Maximum of 960 hours/year

#### • Permanent employee post retirement

- Reinstatement to be approved by the Board of Trustees
- Cancels pension
- New pension contribution rate will be higher due to new, reinstated age-at-entry
- Tier 3 pension benefits in most cases for reinstated service
- Subsequent re-retirement would be a blend of prior service (e.g., Tier 1) and reinstated service (e.g., Tier 3)

# Can I work for another public sector employer as a Retiree?

- Yes
- Will not be eligible for reciprocity if already retired
- Will not change your SLO pension
- May start accruing another pension benefit with the new employer.

## What are the Benefit Formulas?

#### Miscellaneous Employees

**Tier 1:** 2.0% at 55 (age 50 = 1.426%, age 65 = 3.165%)

Retirement Factor x earned PTSCs

x highest consecutive 12 month average monthly compensation 80%, 90%, or 100% of final compensation cap depending on BU

**Tier 2:** 2.0% at 60 (age 50 = 1.092%, age 65 = 2.500%)

Retirement Factor x earned PTSCs

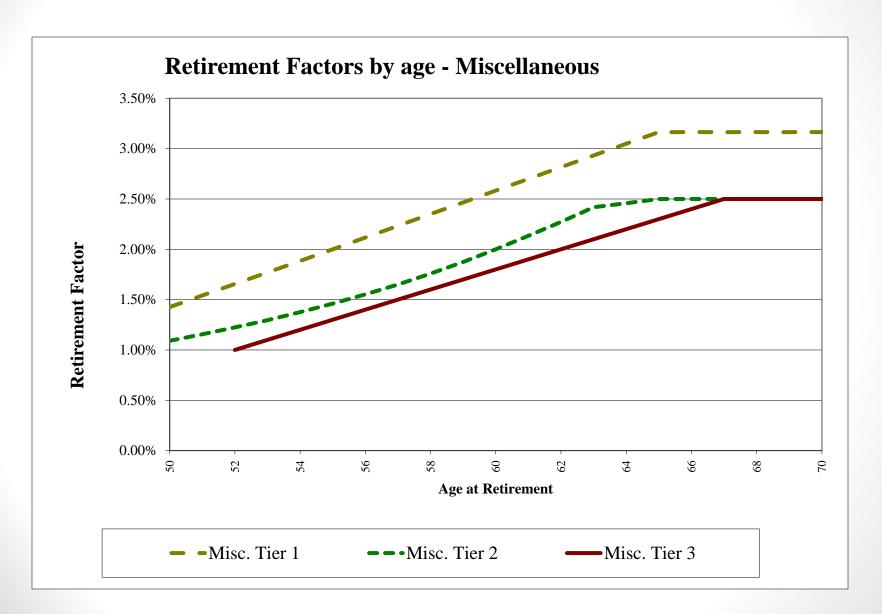
x highest consecutive 36 month average monthly compensation 90% of final compensation cap

**Tier 3:** 2.0% at 62 (age 52 = 1.000%, age 67 = 2.500%)

Retirement Factor x earned PTSCs

x highest consecutive 36 month average monthly compensation up to maximum state mandated compensation limit (about \$117k for 2015)

## Retirement Factors- Miscellaneous



## What are the Benefit Formulas?

#### **Probation Employees**

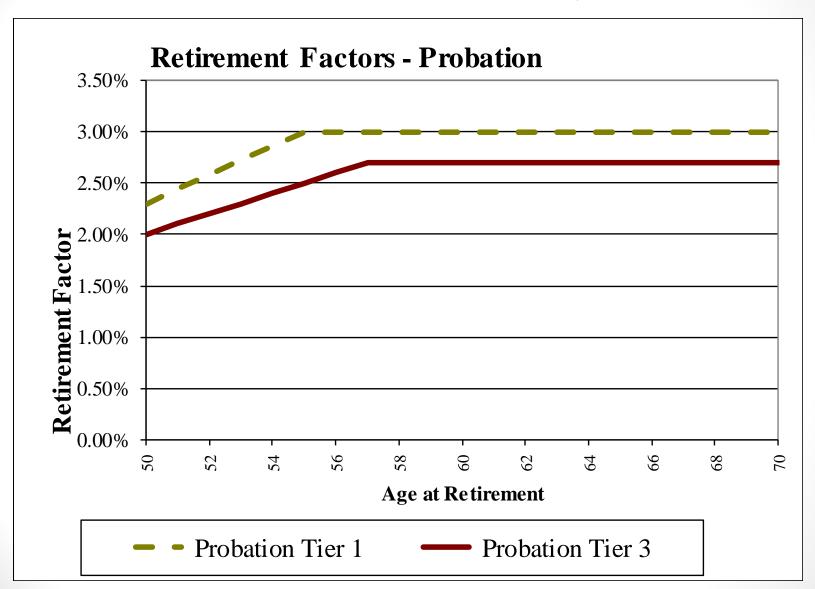
Tier 1: 2.3% at 50 (age 50 = 2.300%, age 55 = 3.000%)
Retirement Factor x earned PTSCs
x highest consecutive 12 month average monthly compensation
90% of final compensation cap

#### Tier 2: Not Implemented

Tier 3: 2.0% at 50 (age 55 = 2.500%, age 57 = 2.700%)
Retirement Factor x earned PTSCs

x highest consecutive 36 month average monthly compensation up to maximum state mandated compensation limit (about \$117k for 2015)

## Retirement Factors- Probation



## What are the Benefit Formulas?

Safety Employees (Sworn officers)

**Tier 1:** 
$$3.0\%$$
 at 50 (all ages =  $3.000\%$ )

Retirement Factor x earned PTSCs x highest consecutive 12 month average monthly compensation 90% of final compensation cap

Tier 3: 
$$2.0\%$$
 at 50 (age 55 = 2.500%, age 57 = 2.700%)

Retirement Factor x earned PTSCs x highest consecutive 36 month average monthly compensation up to maximum state mandated compensation limit (about \$117k for 2015)

# Retirement Factors-Safety (Sworn)



## What are the Benefit Formulas?

#### Safety Employees (Non-Sworn)

**Tier 1:** 
$$2.3\%$$
 at  $50$  (age  $50 = 2.300\%$ , age  $55 = 3.00\%$ )

Retirement Factor x earned PTSCs x highest consecutive 12 month average monthly compensation 90% of final compensation cap

x highest consecutive 36 month average monthly compensation 90% of final compensation cap

**Tier 3:** 
$$2.0\%$$
 at  $50$  (age  $55 = 2.500\%$ , age  $57 = 2.700\%$ )

Retirement Factor x earned PTSCs x highest consecutive 36 month average monthly compensation up to maximum state mandated compensation limit (about \$117k for 2015)

# Retirement Factors-

Safety (Non-Sworn)

