

# Retirement Process

The following is basic information you will need to determine your retirement eligibility.

## Eligibility for Optional **CSRS** Retirement

<u>Optional</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Service (years)</u>
	62	5
	60	20
	55	30

## Eligibility for Optional **FERS** Retirement

<u>Immediate</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Service (years)</u>
	62	5
	60	20
MRA		30

MRA = Minimum Retirement Age

Year of birth determines MRA - Example: (If you were born in 1953 through 1964 your MRA is age 56. Years after 1965 increases your MRA.

If you meet the age and years of service requirements listed above, you are eligible for a CSRS Optional or a FERS Immediate retirement. Booklets have been prepared and updated to provide CSRS and FERS carriers with answers to their retirement choices and decisions. Both booklets are available at the Branch.

Follow the below steps to insure a trouble free retirement process.

At least **one year** prior to retirement:

Request an annuity estimate, which will help in personal financial planning. This computation will also aid in making decisions about waiving military pay, and paying deposits or re-deposits.

Apply to make any deposits for civilian and post-1956 military service if applicable or find out how such service would be credited if deposits are not made.

**90 days** prior to retirement:

1. Request retirement paper work (Blue Book) from Shared Services (1-877-477-3273 Option 5) 90-days prior to planned retirement date.

2. Fill out retirement application (Blue Book). If you need assistance or are confused by any decisions you have to make you can contact the Union Office for assistance. Help will be provided by phone or an appointment can be made to meet with the Retirees Officer at the Branch.

3. Call Shared Services for an individual phone counseling appointment 60 days prior to your retirement date. Phone counseling can be held at the Post Office on the clock, at your home or if you prefer at the union hall with the assistance of the retirees officer. At home or the union

hall would be on your own time. The Shared Services counselor will go over your Blue Book with you line by line.

4. Remove completed pages from Blue Book, make copies for yourself and mail to address listed in book. Retirement date is your last work day.

Branch 2184 provides assistance to any member, in good standing, involving any aspect of the retirement process. Just call the Branch office or notify your steward that you want the union's assistance.

-- *Leonard Zawisa*

*Retirees Officer*