



LEOFF I COALITION

Law Enforcement Officers & Fire Fighters

Representing Retired and
Active Members of the
LEOFF I Retirement System

Annual Report

*The mission of the LEOFF I Coalition
is to protect the integrity of the
LEOFF I Law and LEOFF I Retirement
Trust Fund. LEOFF I Coalition members are
law enforcement officers and fire fighters.*



Annual Report

LEOFF I COALITION

Law Enforcement Officers & Fire Fighters

LEOFF I Coalition Board 2015-2016

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WA St. Retired Deputy
Sheriff's & Police Officers Association

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Member-at-Large

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Ret. Olympia Police Department
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855 Trosper Rd. SW Ste. 108,
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Website
www.leoff1coalition.org

2015 Legislative Wrap-Up

LEOFF I Coalition President, Andy Wilson and board members recognize the credibility that the LEOFF I Coalition has with members of the Washington State Legislature. There was a big turnover in the 2014 State Legislature election. It was (and will continue to be) important for LEOFF I Coalition President Andy Wilson, Lobbyist Mark Curtis, Secretary Dave Perry, and Government Relations Director Joyce Willms to continue to defend and educate the new State Legislators and remind ALL legislators how LEOFF Plan 1 benefits do not affect the State of Washington's legislative budget. SB 5873 died in the house during the 2015 legislative session; It is expected to be resurrected in the 2016 legislative session. 🐦

SB 5873 was introduced in the 2015 legislative session. This bill would allow a retiree under the Law Enforcement Officers' and Firefighters' Retirement System Plan 1 to select a survivor benefit option. The amendment would have allowed a member who married a spouse ineligible for survivor benefits, has been married to that spouse

for at least two years prior to September 1, 2015, would have one year from September 1, 2015, to designate their spouse as a survivor beneficiary. The office of the state actuary must provide the department with administrative factors

to ensure that the benefits provided under this section are actuarially equivalent.

It would also enable a deceased member's spouse who was eligible

to be provided a survivor benefit, and the member did not select a survivor benefit, and who prior to March 1, 2015, exhausted all administrative remedies with the department for establishing eli-

gibility for a benefit under RCW 41.26.164, is eligible beginning August 1, 2015, for a retirement allowance equal to two-thirds of the gross monthly retirement allowance the retired member received at the time of death. 🐦

There Was No Hearing In The House For SB 5873

The LEOFF I Coalition Annual Report is for active and retired members of the LEOFF I Retirement System (Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters). LEOFF I Coalition is a 501 c 5 non profit organization. The LEOFF I Coalition and its designer, Washington Media Services, assume no responsibility for the correctness of the information supplied herein or for opinions expressed. Material subject to editing. No portion of this document may be reproduced without written permission from the Coalition president. LEOFF I member database is for official LEOFF I use only. For meeting information call 360-570-1035

2016 Legislative Session

The 2016 Legislative Session starts January 11 and the LEOFF I Coalition's number one priority is to protect you and your spouse's pension. It is important for LEOFF Plan 1 members to maintain a presence on the hill, so government knows you are an active coalition and you are watching your retirement fund. There was no committee hearing on the house side for SB 5873 because the state budget took priority in the 2015 special session. The Governor signed the budget without a plan in place to fully fund education, just minutes before government shutdown. During the 2016 session, SB 5873 will probably go back to the Senate Ways and Means Committee, thus giving it another chance to be passed. It is important to continue watching all bills to ensure no amendments are added that will jeopardize the LEOFF Plan 1 pension. Legislators will be looking for solutions to the court-mandated order to fully fund education by 2019. By keeping an active presence during the 2016 session, the hope is that the government will not try to borrow from our retirement as they have proposed in the past. 🇺🇸

2016 election Results

There are 49 Senators. The Senate Majority Coalition Caucus has 26 members and the Senate Democrats have 23 members. The House has 98 members with 50 Democrats and 48 Republicans.

Please check the LEOFF I Coalition's website often during the 2016 Legislative Session to learn how you can help educate legislators.

Work together to pass SB 5873 in 2016!
www.leoff1coalition.org

LEOFF Plan 1 Defined

Future benefits are funded with contributions made by members, their employer, and the state during their period of membership and the investment earnings from those contributions. These contributions are held in trust and invested by the State Investment Board.

The LEOFF Plan 1 is a 401 (a) defined benefit plan. This means that at retirement members will receive a benefit based on their service credit and final average salary. The amount of a member's contribution will not be a factor in calculating retirement benefits. 🇺🇸

Protect Your Pension for You and Your Spouse

We need your donation to continue the fight to protect your pension and educate State Legislators.

Your support will pay for:

- Lobbying Expenses
- Attorney Fees
- Legislative Research
- Website Updates
- Correspondence with Members and Legislators
- Office Expenses and Phone Bill
- Printing, Mail Prep and Postage
- Travel Expenses



These tasks all cost money. Our only source of funding comes from people such as you. None of our board members and volunteers are paid. We do compensate those members who must travel to meetings. 🇺🇸

Thank You for Your Continued Support Over the Years!

Should We Ask for More Benefits? NO!

The LEOFF I Coalition President Andy Wilson and Board feel it is too dangerous to ask for more benefits. Members, it's important to remember that LEOFF I has a great retirement pension fund. The state legislators are looking for more money. If we ask for more benefits, that opens up our retirement trust fund and we have a good chance of losing what we already have. Please remember it is better to be safe than sorry!



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Do You Fully Understand Your Rights and Benefits?

Contact the Department of Retirement Systems
www.drs.wa.gov/member/systems/leoff/
or call: 360-664-7000 or toll free 800-547-6657.

6835 Capitol Boulevard, Tumwater, WA 98501

Mailing Address:

Department of Retirement Systems
PO Box 48380
Olympia, WA 98504-8380

Business Hours:

Monday - Friday: 8am - 5pm Pacific Time
State Holidays: Closed

LEOFF Plan 1 Member Contributions

A member may be required to contribute a percentage of their basic salary to LEOFF Plan 1.

A payment is basic salary if it is part of the monthly rate of salary or wages attached to a position. Longevity pay may be included in basic salary. Special salary and wages are not part of the basic monthly rate, and do not qualify as basic salary.

If a member is required to contribute, their contribution is deducted from their paycheck each pay period and forwarded to LEOFF. Some employers will deduct member contributions before calculating federal income taxes. This defers payment of the taxes until the member or member's beneficiary receives the money as either a benefit or a refund.

Accumulated contributions are contributions the member makes to LEOFF plus the interest added to the account by DRS.

The member contribution rate is set by law and may be changed by legislative amendment. 🦅

LEOFF I Coalition needs your current email addresses!



Please send your phone number and current address to Jerry Birt at jer.birt@gmail.com so we can update our member database and send legislative alerts.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated, thank you!