



Frequently Asked Questions for Employees Nearing Retirement

Q. I am planning on retiring soon and I have dental, vision and Aflac through MEA. Can I keep these benefits?

A. YES – All benefits that you are currently taking through MEA (excluding MEA Sharp and any short term disability benefits) can be continued as a retired MEA member.

Q. How do I continue my benefits as a retired MEA member?

A. MEA will be notified of your retirement the Wednesday prior to your final paycheck from the City. We will then send you a MEA retirement packet which will list all of your current benefits and will allow you to select those you wish to keep. The packet will also include the enrollment paperwork to become a retired member of MEA and the pension authorization form which are required to keep your benefits. These forms must be returned to the MEA Benefits Department directly.

Q. How much are MEA retiree dues?

A. Dues for a MEA retired member are \$5.00 per month which is deducted directly from your monthly pension check.

Q. If I do not have dental or vision now, can I sign up for them after I retire?

A. Yes, you will be able to sign up with the enrollment forms.

Q. Are the MEA retirement plans different than the active employee plans?

A. No, the plans are identical both in coverage and pricing.

Q. If I am a fee payer, can I become a retired member?

A. Yes, if you have benefits currently through MEA you will receive a retirement packet. If you do not have benefits, you will need to email benefits@sdmea.org to request a packet.

Q. Can I keep Sharp as a retiree?

A. MEA does not directly offer Sharp to retirees. If you want to keep your Sharp doctors you can opt for the Retiree Health Net option. You can take Sharp through COBRA, however, you will have to pay the City directly (plus an administrative fee) and submit a receipt of that payment to SDCERS for reimbursement afterward. Please note that reimbursements can take 30 to 60 days so you will need to budget for paying the premiums while you wait to be reimbursed. You can stay on COBRA for 18 months, then can convert to CAL COBRA and pay Sharp directly.