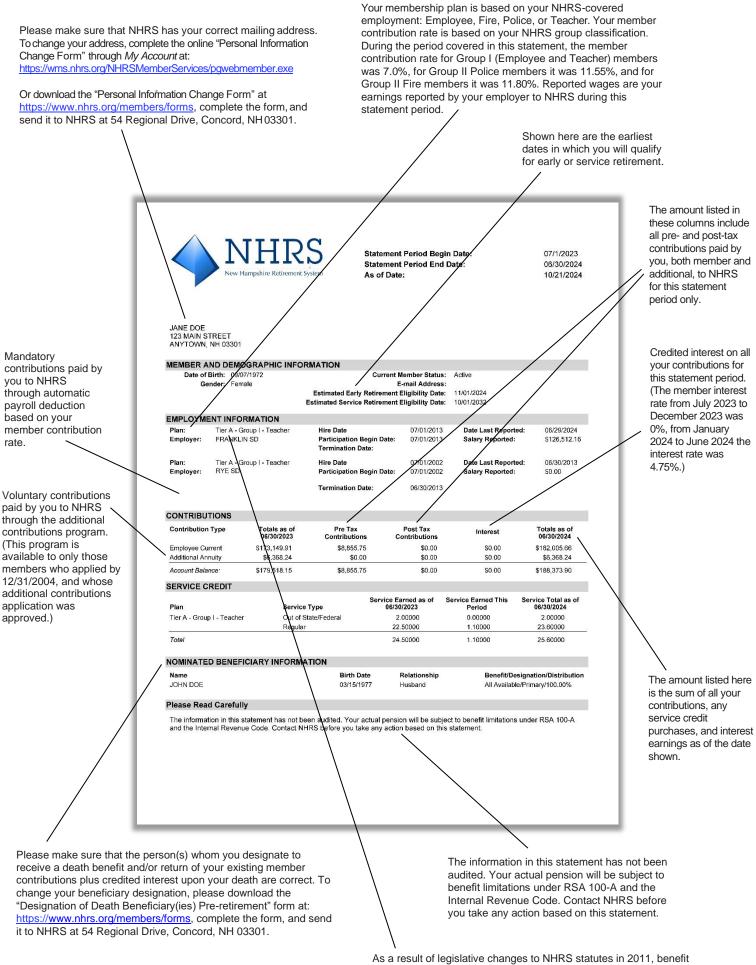
# How to Read Your Member Annual Statement

Please review the following sample statement carefully. Below is an explanation of each section of the statement. If you require additional assistance with understanding your personal Member Annual Statement, please contact the New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS) by email at statementhelp@nhrs.org, or by phone: (603) 410-3500 (Press 3). Additional information about NHRS benefits is available on the reverse side of this sample and at: www.nhrs.org/members/plan-details/member-statements



eligibility, pension calculations, and whether certain types of pay are reportable to NHRS vary based on a member's vested date or

hire date.

Different benefit provisions are applicable to:

- Tier A: Members vested prior to 1/1/2012
- Tier B: Members in service prior to 7/1/2011 but not vested prior to 1/1/2012
- Tier C: Members hired on/after 7/1/2011

#### **NHRS Terms and Definitions**

#### Membership

Members of NHRS include Employee and Teacher members (Group I) and Police and Fire members (Group II) who work for political subdivisions (cities, towns, school districts, and other units of local government), as well as State of New Hampshire employees.

# Type of Plan

NHRS is a defined benefit plan qualified as a tax-exempt entity under sections 401(a) and 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. Pensions are computed using a formula that is based on a member's creditable service and average final compensation (AFC). Pensions are not based on contributions or NHRS investment earnings.

#### **Service Credit**

Service Credit, also referred to as "creditable service," includes membership service earned as a contributing NHRS member, plus service credit purchases. Service credit purchases may include employer enrollment oversight service, military service for military duty served prior to NHRS membership, probationary/temporary service, and previously withdrawn service. There are also provisions for service credit for members called to active military duty and for members who receive Workers' Compensation.

### **Average Final Compensation (AFC)**

AFC is the average of a member's three highest paid years of membership service. For members not vested prior to January 1, 2012, or who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011, AFC is the average of a member's five highest paid years of membership service. In all cases, certain limitations may apply. On this statement, AFC is shown as a monthly amount.

# **Vesting/Vested Deferred Retirement**

Members with at least 10 years of creditable service are vested and have earned a right to a future benefit from NHRS, even if they terminate NHRS-covered employment prior to Service Retirement age (see below). To be eligible for a Vested Deferred Retirement pension, members must not withdraw their NHRS funds. Refer to the filing requirements, below.

Members who are in service beyond the normal Service Retirement age are also eligible for a pension benefit, regardless of their years of creditable service.

# Service Retirement

#### Members vested prior to Jan. 1, 2012

- Group I and Group II members who are age 60 or older regardless of Creditable Service
- Group II members who have attained age 45 and have at least 20 years of Creditable Service

#### Members not vested prior to Jan. 1, 2012

- Group I members who are age 60 or older regardless of Creditable Service
- Group II members Minimum age/Creditable Service requirements and benefit multiplier are on a sliding scale based on years of Creditable Service as of Jan. 1, 2012, outlined in RSA 100-A:5,II(d). For more information, see:\_ <a href="https://www.nhrs.org/members/benefits/service-retirement/g-ii-non-vested-1-1-12">https://www.nhrs.org/members/benefits/service-retirement/g-ii-non-vested-1-1-12</a>

# Members hired on or after July 1, 2011

- Group I members who are age 60 or older regardless of Creditable Service but cannot begin collecting the pension until age 65.
- Group II members who have attained age 52.5 and have at least 25 years of Creditable Service

# **Members Who Are Not Vested**

Members who terminate NHRS-covered employment may leave their contributions with NHRS indefinitely. A member will be deemed inactive after 180 days of absence from service and may request a return of contributions.

A Group I member may request a return of contributions at any time after 30 days from the date of termination from employment. A Group II member may request a return of contributions at any time after termination from employment.

A return of contributions would, however, result in a cancellation of service credit and forfeit any right to a future benefit. Members are advised to consult with a legal or tax advisor before requesting a return of contributions.

# **Pre-Retirement Death Benefits**

A death benefit and/or refund of member contributions plus credited interest may be payable to a member's designated beneficiary(ies) if the member's death occurs prior to retirement, while the member is in service. Refer to <a href="www.nhrs.org">www.nhrs.org</a> or contact NHRS for more information about pre-retirement death benefits.

#### Filing for NHRS Benefits

Members must apply for NHRS benefits. Pensions do not commence automatically. The law requires members to apply for Service Retirement benefits with NHRS at least 30 days but no more than 90 days before the effective date of retirement, which is always the first of a month.

# **Important Reminders**

- Members are encouraged to contact NHRS prior to terminating their NHRS-covered employment and filing for retirement.
- Members must file for benefits within the filing deadlines listed above.
- Members are encouraged to review their beneficiary designation regularly and file a new beneficiary designation with NHRS, as necessary (for example, upon marriage, divorce, birth of child, etc.).

The New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS) is governed by New Hampshire RSA 100-A, rules, regulations, and Federal laws including the Internal Revenue Code. NHRS also implements policies adopted by the Board of Trustees. These laws, rules, regulations, and policies are subject to change. Even though the goal of NHRS is to provide information that is current, correct, and complete, NHRS does not make any representation or warranty as to the current applicability, accuracy, or completeness of any information provided. The information herein is intended to provide general information only and should not be construed as a legal opinion or as legal advice. Members are encouraged to address specific questions regarding NHRS with an NHRS representative. In the event of any conflict between the information herein and the laws, rules, and regulations which govern NHRS, the laws, rules, and regulations shall prevail.