

New Advocacy Group solicits membership from SERS members

POP5, or Protect Ohio Pensions, Inc., recently submitted solicitations to SERS retirees and SERO members regarding joining their association. POP5 was formed by a former administrator of the Public Employee Retirees of Ohio, Mr. William Winegarner. The stated goal and objective of POP5 is to “preserve Ohio’s defined benefit pension plans”. POP5 plans to solicit membership(s) from all of the Ohio pension systems participants.

SERO has received questions regarding this solicitation so we will answer those questions and do as we always have by providing you information and resources so you may make decisions that are important to you. SERO wants you to know that POP5 is not affiliated with SERO or our pension system, SERS. The objective and goal of POP5 are part of those that SERO does advocate and work on as well. SERO partners directly with SERS staff to support our Ohio’s proven defined benefits plan(s).

Does SERO advocate members joining POP5?

SERO does not advocate for or against members joining any group. We believe that members who have education on issues are best able to make decisions for themselves on matters important to them.

Is POP5 a legitimate group or a scam?

POP5 has filed the proper paperwork and is recognized by the state of Ohio as a non-profit group.

If I join POP5 and then decide it is not the right choice for me, will I get my money back?

SERO recommends that you not join any group if you are not sure that you wish to be a member. If you have any questions regarding POP5 policies, we suggest you contact POP5 directly.

You may see comments on POP5 on SERS website: www.ohsers.org and many other Ohio associations have also given information to their members regarding this new group called POP5.

If you have other questions or concerns that have not been addressed, please feel free to contact our SERO office.