

What is the “four legged stool”?

When retirement day arrives will you really be ready to enjoy some of your new freedoms? You will, only if you can rest securely on a “four legged stool.”

The “four legged stool” is a term used to define a solid foundation that ensures your



Your SPTRFA monthly benefit

Social Security

Personal Investments and Savings

Health Insurance

financial security after retirement. The four components of the “four legged stool” are: your SPTRFA monthly benefit, Social Security, personal investments and savings, and health insurance.

You should pay special attention to the savings and health insurance legs. The other legs, your SPTRFA

benefit and Social Security, are automatically provided for you to contribute to.

Two of the most popular and high earning options are tax deferred 403(b) and 457 accounts offered through the school district. With this type of account you choose how much you contribute as well as how that money is invested. The earlier you set up one of these accounts the better. Every little bit counts, with the power of compounding.

The health insurance leg can be addressed and monitored through the school district and their website. Although the SPTRFA distributes your pension benefit, we are not responsible for your insurance after retirement.

With all four legs of your stool in place it will sit firmly on the ground, securing you a comfortable retirement. Remember, no matter how young or old you are, it is never too early or too late to start saving and planning for your retirement.

SPTRFA School Visits

A representative from the SPTRFA will be contacting the schools in the district to begin making visits to discuss the pension fund and individual member pension benefits. Each visit will secure a block of time with the representative to allow members to schedule individual appointments to ask questions and discuss their benefit. Group presentations are also available for larger groups seeking general information.

If you are interested in coordinating a school visit at your school or if you would like more information, please contact Katy Smithson at the SPTRFA office at (651)-642-2550 or ksmithson@sptrfa.org.

