

## **RETIREMENT TIPS**

Make sure you understand all three aspects of your retirement. At GPIS, we like to call it *"You three-legged stool"*:



1) Your basic retirement annuity, 2) your Social Security defined benefit and 3) Your TSP income. To begin understanding all aspects of your retirement, visit [www.OPM.gov](http://www.OPM.gov), [www.Social Security.gov](http://www.Social Security.gov) and [www.TSP.gov](http://www.TSP.gov). For a clearer understanding of all your benefits, we offer all APWU members free personal benefit reviews. You can schedule yours at [866-201-7829](tel:866-201-7829) or visit us online at [www.gpis4u.com](http://www.gpis4u.com).

1. Decide when you want to retire and begin to project how much replacement income you will have from all three sources of your retirement income.
2. Decide on spousal benefits and understand how they work and how they affect your basic annuity income.
3. Make sure that you are eligible for retirement depending upon which retirement system CSRS or FERS. Both systems are based upon years of creditable service and average high three base annual salary.
4. Take into consideration your insurance needs during retirement. They will change over the course of your life. For example, your life insurance requirements may decrease as your children become independent and your mortgage is paid down. Long-term care insurance may be more important as you age. Also, you should to consider all your health benefits and anticipated health insurance costs.
5. Understand how buying back military time can affect your basic annuity retirement benefit.
6. Understanding your Social Security can make a big impact. At 62, Social Security benefits are reduced by 30% if your full retirement age is 67. But, also consider how much you would collect while waiting until 67.
7. Putting together a strategy to get through the first three months financially is very important when it comes to retirement. It typically takes at least that long before the full benefits start flowing.
8. Before retiring, review all of your retirement options and understand the pros and cons of each.
9. Base your retirement decision on the advice or recommendations of an expert rather than your coworkers and friends.
10. Look at your TSP options; this will be considered a big part of your three-legged retirement stool. Contact GPIS for safe, secure options at [866-201-7829](tel:866-201-7829) or visit [www.gpis4u.com](http://www.gpis4u.com).
11. Make sure to pick the right date to retire. Example: FERS employee retires on June 30th, retirement benefits begin to accrue on July 1st, and are payable on August 1<sup>st</sup>. For CSRS retirees, benefits begin to accrue immediately if they separate from the government during the first three days of the month. For everybody else, retirement benefits begin to accrue on the first day of the month after the month in which the person separates from service.

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