



## MIDDLESEX COUNTY RETIREMENT SYSTEM NEWS

*Celebrating Over 100 Years of Public Service*

### Board Member Joe Kearns Sworn in for Second Term



PERAC Executive Director John Parsons, left, administers the oath of office to Kearns

On January 15th, Joseph Kearns was officially sworn in as the third member of the Middlesex County Retirement Board, after running unopposed for the position.

A resident of Billerica, Joe has been an active member of the Tewksbury Fire Department for over twenty-five years. He spent three years as a dispatcher, more than twenty years as a firefighter/EMT and currently holds the rank of Fire Captain/EMT.

"On behalf of the Board and staff, I congratulate Captain Kearns," noted Board Chairman Tom Gibson. "Joe's re-election is testament to his dedicated service to the members and beneficiaries of the Middlesex County Retirement System. With Joe's help, we look forward to continuing the Board's mission to provide our members and their families a safe and secure retirement."

### Restrictions When Working in the Public Sector After Retirement

We remind our retired members that the law limits the post-retirement employment of all retired public employees (non-disability and disability) in the Massachusetts public sector to 960 hours of employment in a calendar year. The restrictions apply to independent contractors as well.

The law also limits a retiree's earnings from a Massachusetts public employer. If you are a non-disability retiree, your earnings are restricted to no more than the difference between the current pay for the position you held at the time of retirement and your retirement allowance. The year after your first 12 months of retirement, your earnings limit is increased by \$15,000. For a disability retiree, the same formula applies, except there is no 12-month wait.

It is your responsibility, along with your employer, to ensure compliance with these restrictions. If the hours or the amount paid exceeds the limits in the law, you must stop working and return any excess earnings to your employer. If you do not, your employer or the retirement board may recover the amount earned in excess of that allowed by the law.

Please visit our website at [www.middlesexretirement.org](http://www.middlesexretirement.org) for more information on post-retirement earnings restrictions.