



Retirement when?

As people approach their retirement decision, it is smart to recognize that *when* you retire can be important financially. Since CSRS workers need to retire during the first three days of a month to guarantee that month's annuity, and FERS retirees need to retire prior to the first day of a month to prevent losing that month's annuity, I thought that I would present the "optimum" dates for retirement during the next three years.

With these issues and rules in mind, the table below lists the best retirement dates for federal employees (working a Saturday to Friday bi-weekly 80-hour schedule) who are eligible to retire during 2011, 2012 or 2013. These dates represent the end of a pay period that coincides with the best dates for OPM processing and annual leave accrual. For those months not listed, you need to make sure that you retire based on the day of the month mentioned above for CSRS or FERS.

COLAs—Retiree COLAs are once again in the positive, so we are now accumulating toward a January 2012 COLA. The current COLA figures are found elsewhere in this publication.

Legislation—Unless you have been living under a rock, it is easy to see that most legislative action taking place in our country appears to be geared toward taking from the

middle class and the poor and making sure that the rich and super rich continue to get more. To introduce a bill that cuts the "social safety net" of our current and future senior citizens and, in that same bill, attempts to grant even greater tax breaks for the wealthy, is an effort that I do not seem to have the mental aptitude to understand. I realize it is the same old "Reaganomics" of the '80s that offered a tax break to the wealthy that would generate jobs and grow America. Of course, it failed to generate any jobs that would be considered worker-friendly as far as pay goes. It did, however, generate wealth to the rich and started our country on a financial landslide of debt while increasing the number of billionaires at a rate exceeding the growth of millionaires in past decades.

I would offer that the poor and senior citizens of this country, if given that money, would have spent it in America and generated revenue and jobs by their purchasing. Most cannot afford to put that money in foreign companies or buy vacation villas in those exotic places.

OPM update—While it appears that OPM is getting back to early "interim" payments for new retirees, it still lags months behind what I would consider adequate to our members for the final determination of an annuity. While we continue to monitor and offer suggestions to improve the process, I remain convinced that those considering retirement should continue having at least five months of their estimated

annuity available as a cash reserve while the process unfolds.

OPM has announced that sometime during this month it anticipates the "interim" check for CSRS retirees will approximate the actual final annuity. This does not benefit the FERS retirees, who still will be denied any sum toward their annuity supplement while waiting those months for the final amount to be determined. ✉

Calendar Year	Leave Year: Beginning Date to Ending Date (# of pay periods)	Best Days to Retire for Employees Covered By:	
		CSRS/CSRA-Offset	FERS/TransFERS
2011	1/2/2011 to 12/31/2011 (26 pay periods)	Dec. 31, 2010 Jan. 29 Feb. 26 July 2 and July 30 Dec. 3 and Dec. 31	Dec. 31, 2010 Jan. 29 Feb. 26 July 30 Dec. 31
2012	1/1/2012 to 1/12/2013 (27 pay periods)	June 2 and June 30 Nov. 3 Dec. 1 and Dec. 29-30	June 30 Dec. 29-30
2013	1/13/2013 to 1/11/2014 (26 pay periods)	June 1 and June 29 Nov. 2 and Nov. 30 Dec. 29	June 29 Nov. 30 Dec. 29