

Maturity Income 4.5% interest rate



**Myra
Warren**

Are you looking for steady growth in your retirement portfolio? Would you like to receive 4.5 percent interest on your retirement funds? Do the security of the Mutual Benefit Association's conservative investment strategy and more than 100 years of operations appeal to you? If you answered "yes" to these questions, then you should consider investing in the MBA's Maturity Income plan.

MBA's Maturity Income plan has adjusted its interest crediting rate to 4.5 percent effective Oct. 1, 2013, and this rate will be effective until Sept. 30, 2014.

Participating in the plan is easy. You can choose the amount that you want to pay into the plan. Contribu-

tions as little as \$15 a pay period (\$32.50 for monthly-paying members) can be made toward the plan. Spouses are eligible to participate in the plan. The plan's contributions may be increased, decreased, stopped or started at any time with written notification to the MBA office.

Maturity Income gives the letter carrier three ways to build a more solid financial future:

- Make a lump-sum investment now—and never put in another penny.
- Make a lump-sum investment now and choose to make regular contributions.
- Make contributions of as little as \$15 per pay period; add lump sums whenever desired.

The MBA's assets have recently surpassed \$221 million. The funds surplus now exceeds \$29 million. This high amount of surplus helps ensure our members that the MBA has more than adequate funds to ensure the safety of their policies.

By joining the Maturity Income plan now, members can help ensure that their retirement lifestyle will be as comfortable as they would like it to be. The earlier a member signs up and begins premium payments, the easier it is to build a sizeable retirement nest egg.

The Maturity Income plan is available as a Roth IRA, Traditional IRA and a nonqualified deferred annuity plan. All three plans offer the same 4.5 percent interest crediting rate with a guaranteed minimum interest rate of 3.5 percent.

With the Traditional IRA, the contributions you make each year can be deducted from your federal taxes. Earnings accumulate tax-free until the time of withdrawal. As of 2014, the maximum annual contribution per individual under age 50 is \$5,500 (\$6,500 for those 50 and older before the end

of 2014)—with modified adjusted gross income eligibility limits of \$60,000 for a single filer and \$96,000 for a married couple filing jointly.

The Roth IRA's contributions are not tax-deductible, but earnings accumulate tax-free. As of 2014, the Roth IRA allowable contribution is similar to the IRA maximum if your modified adjusted gross income does not exceed \$114,000 for single filers or \$181,000 for a married couple filing jointly.

The Maturity Income plan may be established as a Non-qualified Deferred Annuity. With this plan, there are no age or income limits for eligibility, no limits on your annual contributions, and no requirement to begin taking mandatory distributions at a certain age. The Non-qualified Annuity is not an IRA, but a deferred investment contract that makes regular payments upon "annuitization."

Finally, a little known option that the MBA provides to its members is an "Immediate Annuity." An Immediate Annuity is when an NALC member gives the MBA a lump-sum payment and in return the MBA immediately begins annuity payments. This option is particularly popular with retirees who may be concerned with outliving their nest egg. The Immediate Annuity provides the member a guaranteed income stream for the remainder of their lives. If you are interested in this option, please call the MBA and we will provide you with the payout options based on your particular age and circumstances.

As always, once you receive your Maturity Income policy, you'll have a full 30 days to examine the policy before deciding to keep it. There's no risk.

Before electing any of the IRA provisions, members should consult with a tax advisor to ensure that an IRA is beneficial to them and that they qualify.

Please remember that April 15 is the last day to contribute to your 2013 IRA.

For more information regarding this plan, please refer to the insert and application in this issue of *The Postal Record*. Also, members may call the MBA toll-free at 800-424-5184, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., or call 202-683-4318, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

United States Letter Carriers Mutual Benefit Association (MBA)

The Life Insurance Association of
and for the National Association
of Letter Carriers
Suite 510, 100 Indiana Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20001-2144

Board of Trustees
Lawrence D. Brown Jr., chairman
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202-638-4318, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (Eastern)

800-424-5184, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (Eastern), Tuesday and Thursday