THE BAD NEWS
Most Americans don’t know how much to save for retirement — only 41% of workers have even tried to figure it out, according to the latest Retirement Confidence Survey from the Employee Benefit Research Institute. Maybe that is unsurprising given the numbers can seem a little scary. For example, suppose you’re retiring at age 65 and you’re going to need $1,000 per month in lifetime income in addition to your MainePERS pension and other savings. Based on current interest rates, at 65 you’d need about $185,000 to generate a guaranteed monthly income of $1,000. And while each person’s situation is unique, experts worry that most people’s savings are nowhere near where they need to be.

The sooner you start contributing to your retirement nest egg, the more time it has to grow. That growth over time could amaze you — and wouldn’t that be just ducky?

THE GOOD NEWS
Some of your fellow State of Maine employees are saving successfully for their retirement. Rather than avoiding the topic or pushing saving off to some point in the future, why not be like them? Open your MaineSaves account or increase your contributions today, and, no matter how close or far away from retirement you are, you’ll be better off.

Thanks to the magic of compounding, small things grow big. Money invested today may be worth significantly more in the future, thanks to your investments’ earnings and the power of compound interest.

MAINE EMPLOYEES OF ALL AGES ARE GROWING THEIR NEST EGGS
These are actual examples of how some of your colleagues have been using MaineSaves to prepare for a more secure future. The names have been changed (we’re pretty sure) to protect confidentiality.

Earl E. Saver
Mid-twenties
Three years with the State
$35,000 base salary

Earl opened his MaineSaves account in 2016. He began by contributing $25 bi-weekly, then raised his contribution to $30 and then again to $50. Now, Earl has $1,500 saved in the plan.

Lotta Savings
Late thirties
Twelve years with the State
$65,000 base salary

Lotta raised her contribution from $0 to $50 to $100 to $150 as her career with the State progressed. She now has over $35,000 invested in her MaineSaves account.

Ray Z. Contributions
Early forties
Fourteen years with the State
$45,000 base salary

Ray began his career by contributing $25 bi-weekly to the plan. He occasionally increased his contributions — there is no restriction on how frequently you can do so — and now contributes $200 per pay period to the plan. Ray has saved nearly $35,000.

Why not join the growing crowd?
As you can see from your colleagues, it’s never too early or too late to examine your retirement savings strategy. Log on to www.MaineSaves457.com today, and let MaineSaves help you improve the state of your retirement.