



# PERS NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE PAROCHIAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF LOUISIANA

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January 2006

## FOURTH QUARTER CONTRIBUTIONS DUE JANUARY 15; ATTENTION TO OVERTIME IS IMPORTANT

Retirement contributions for the fourth quarter will be due in the Parochial office by January 15, 2006. Although legislation passed in the recent special session to extend the due date for August and September contributions to December 15, there is no grace period for fourth quarter contributions.

It is important to note that overtime pay is a basis for contributions and for retirement benefits. In many parishes there was substantial overtime worked by Parochial members in the fourth quarter. This longer work schedule may continue for some time in many locations.

In any event, it is important to include overtime earnings in the quarterly contributions report. If there are questions concerning the preparation of this report, please call our office.



*Happy  
Holidays*

## INFORM TERMINATED EMPLOYEES OF THE CONDITIONS FOR RECEIVING REFUNDS

Refunding employee contributions to terminated employees is one of the most frequent transactions that occurs in our office. In most cases the former employees either understand the refund process or they are patient enough to let the process run its course.

But there is still a number who are unclear on the refund procedure. This is where your office can be very helpful.

By informing the terminated employee that:

1. Thirty days must elapse after the last day worked.
2. Contributions through the last day worked must be received in the Retirement System office.
3. Refund checks are mailed on the 1st and 15th of each month or the next business day following.
4. A cut-off day is established three business days prior to the payment dates to allow time to process refunds.

Perhaps the biggest misunderstanding stems from the need to have contributions in our office. If your policy does not call for supplemental contributions to be paid, please advise the former member that the refund will be delayed until that payment is made. If an individual terminates October 10th and no contributions will be submitted until early January, please make them aware of this fact.

Again, your help in informing terminated employees of the conditions for receiving refunds is important in instilling a good attitude in that individual. When they have a good understanding of how long the process might take, their expectations will be more reasonable.

*"TO EASE ANOTHER'S HEARTACHE IS TO FORGET ONE'S OWN."*

*—ABRAHAM LINCOLN*

## LONGER LIFE EXPECTANCY MEANS LONGER BENEFIT PERIOD

An important factor in pension costs is the life expectancy of a plan’s members. Earlier this month the National Center for Health Statistics announced their latest data (for 2003) shows an all-time high for U.S. life expectancy-77.6 years.

This is a .3 year increase from the previous year and a 2.2 year increase from 1990. In 1952, when the Parochial Employees’ Retirement System was created by the Louisiana Legislature, this same measure was 68.5 years.

Thus, life expectancy in the U.S., and, presumably, for our membership, has increased by over nine years since the plan was created. With no change in retirement ages, benefits are now being paid for a substantially longer period of time.

This longer period of benefit payments is a significant cause, though by no means the only one, in the long term rise in plan costs-Parochial’s as well as most other defined benefit plans.

## MAIL DELIVERY SLOWLY RETURNING TO NORMAL

Two major hurricanes have left an indelible mark on our state and there will be repercussions for years to come. The full impact on the Parochial Employees’ Retirement System is yet to be determined but the difficult task of delivering checks to many retirees who had left their homes is slowly winding down.

Mail delivery is returning to normal patterns, although in several parishes the disruption will be slower to be resolved.

One positive note was the increase in utilization of electronic deposit. Although we have added about 300 retirees to our list of those using electronic deposit, we will still prepare over 1500 monthly benefit checks for the January 1 payment date.

Any opportunity that you may have to encourage the use of electronic deposit will be appreciated. It is a much more reliable means of delivering benefits and there is no charge by the financial institutions for this service. In many cases, free checking accounts are offered by financial institutions when electronic deposits are utilized.

If there are any questions regarding the use of electronic deposit, we would be happy to discuss the subject with the retiree or with those anticipating retirement.

“COMPLIMENTS COST NOTHING, BUT MANY PAY DEAR FOR THEM.”

—(GERMAN PROVERB)

### ORDER FORM

Parochial Employees’ Retirement System

Most of these forms can be found on our website: [www.persla.org](http://www.persla.org)

Please mail the following forms to: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Employing Parish)

We are in: Plan “A” \_\_\_ Plan “B” \_\_\_

How Many

- \_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly Reports
- \_\_\_\_\_ DROP Quarterly Reports
- \_\_\_\_\_ Refund of Contributions
- \_\_\_\_\_ Personal History
- \_\_\_\_\_ Retirement Application

How Many

- \_\_\_\_\_ Brochures
- \_\_\_\_\_ Personal History Update Forms
- \_\_\_\_\_ Election Form for New Employees age 55 and older
- \_\_\_\_\_ Special Tax Notice

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Appointing Authority

## IMPORTANT STUFF!

**Members receiving Workers' Compensation:** On occasion our office receives refund requests on behalf of employees who are receiving workers' compensation benefits. An individual receiving workers' compensation benefits is considered **not** to be terminated and is not eligible for a refund of contributions.

**Supplemental Retirement Contributions:** The submission of supplemental retirement contributions is an excellent means of speeding refunds and retirement benefits for those who terminate employment or retire early in the quarter. However, it is important that anyone for whom supplemental contributions are submitted is excluded from the regular quarterly report.

**New Board Member Elected:** At the December board meeting it was announced that Tim Ware won this fall's trustee election to represent North Louisiana for a six year term beginning in January. Tim is the Treasurer of Rapides Parish.

**1099 Forms and Notices of Deposit:** With year-end upon us, our activity is increased in several ways. By the end of January we will send 1099 Forms to all retirees and to all those receiving refunds in 2005. In addition, Notices of Deposit, reflecting individual account balances as of December 31, 2005 will be prepared and sent to each employer for distribution. This should be completed by March 31.

"A PROBLEM IS A CHANCE FOR YOU TO DO YOUR BEST."

—DUKE ELLINGTON (MUSICIAN)

**Contribution Rates for 2006:** As we reported earlier, contribution rates for 2006 will be unchanged from 2005:

	Plan A		Plan B
Employer Rate	12.75%	Employer Rate	5.75%
Employee Rate	9.50%	Employee Rate	3.00%

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Terrie Rodrigue Chairman	Jefferson Parish
Gwen B. LeBlanc	Ascension Parish
Tim Ware	Rapides Parish
Thomas Nelson	Police Jury Assn
Jerry Milner	Calcasieu Parish
Rep. Pete Schneider	House Retirement
Sen. Butch Gautreaux	Senate Retirement

### ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

Tom Sims, CFA	Administrative Director
Dainna S. Tully	Assistant Director
Becky Fontenot	Benefits Analyst
Bobbie Deloney	Systems Analyst
Jean Sullivan	Bookkeeper
Geraldine Ferguson	Data Entry Specialist
Janice Beatty	Receptionist

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🌐 Website: [www.persla.org](http://www.persla.org)

# January 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Years Day	2 Office closed for New Year	3 1/1/06 Refunds mailed	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Cut-off for 1/16 Refunds	11	12	13	14
15	Quarterly Reports due, 1/15 Refunds mailed	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Cut-off for 2/1 Refunds	27	28
29	30	31 Retiree checks mailed				

# February 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 2/1 Refunds mailed	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Cut-off for 2/15 Refunds	10	11
12	13	14	15 2/15 Refunds mailed	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Cut-off for 3/1 Refunds	23	24	25
26	27	Closed for Mardi Gras- Retiree checks mailed				

# March 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 3/1 Refunds mailed	2	3	4
5	6 Board Meeting	7	8	9 Cut-off for 3/15 Refunds	10	11
12	13	14	15 3/15 Refunds mailed	16 Mail out 1st Quarter reports	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Cut-off for 4/1 Refunds	29	30	31 Retiree Checks mailed	