



PERS NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE PAROCHIAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF LOUISIANA

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EMPLOYER RATES DECREASE IN 2016

The Public Retirement Systems Actuarial Committee (PRSAC) approved the system's actuarial valuation, thereby making employer rates previously announced official. As mentioned in previous correspondence, the employer rates for 2016 will decrease. Effective January 1, 2016 the employer contribution rate for Plan A will be 13.00% and the employer contribution rate for Plan B will be 8.00%. The employee contribution rates for Plan A and Plan B remain unchanged at 9.5% and 3% respectively for 2016.

REVISED SPECIAL TAX NOTICE

A revised Special Tax Notice is available under the Forms tab on our website (www.persla.org). Please make certain that you provide a copy of this notice to members who apply for a refund of contributions or a DROP lump sum payment. Any questions you have concerning this notice should be directed to Dainna Tully.

ADMINISTRATIVE TRAINING A SUCCESS

On October 27, 2015, we held our annual Administrative Training Workshop at the Renaissance Hotel in Baton Rouge. Representatives from employers across the state were in attendance to hear timely presentations including a review of the actuarial report for the year ending 12/31/2014, a review of GASB 67 and GASB 68, an update on the system's investment portfolio and administrative questions and answers. Thank you to all who took time from their busy schedules to spend a half day with us in Baton Rouge.

This training workshop will be held each year in October. We will send information concerning our 2016 workshop in the fall of next year.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' NEWS

At the December 8, 2015 meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Parochial Employees' Retirement System, the results of the recent election were promulgated. Ms. Tammy Bufkin has been elected to serve a six year term beginning in January of 2016. Ms. Bufkin currently serves as the Director of Finance for Calcasieu Parish.

FOURTH QUARTER CONTRIBUTIONS DUE JANUARY 15

Forms to be used for remission of quarterly reports have been mailed under separate cover. These forms are also available on our website (www.persla.org) under the Forms tab.

As a reminder, quarterly reports for the fourth quarter of 2015 are due in the retirement system office on January 15, 2016. This deadline applies to both regular reports and DROP reports. R.S. 11:2014 C states that payments shall be considered delinquent when not **received** by the system within fifteen days after the close of each fiscal quarter. This statute also provides that a penalty of 1 ½% per month shall be assessed on delinquent payments.

Please make certain that your quarterly report is signed by the appointed authority before remitting to our office. In addition, we ask that each employer verify that the totals on the summary page equal the total on the supplementary pages attached before submitting the quarterly report to our office. Finally, it is imperative that each member's name corresponds with the correct Social Security number. If an incorrect Social Security number is used, it may result in an incorrect disbursement of funds to another individual at termination of service. The appointed authority signing this form certifies that the information contained with the report is correct. The retirement system accepts that certification and posts salary and contributions using the Social Security numbers provided by the employer. Any error resulting from an incorrect Social Security number is the responsibility of the employer.

Your report must be received in our office by January 15, 2016, in order to avoid a late penalty. Delivery of reports received on or after January 16, 2016 will be considered late and a late penalty will be assessed.

1099 FORMS AND NOTICES OF DEPOSIT

1099-R forms will be mailed to all retirees and to all of those former employees who received a refund in 2015. We are required to postmark these tax forms by January 31, 2016.

Notices of Deposits reflecting employee contribution balances as of December 31, 2015 will be prepared and sent to each participating parish or agency for distribution. This is a lengthy process that we strive to have completed by April 30, 2016.

January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 	2
3	4 January 1st Refunds mailed	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12-Cutoff for 15th Refunds	13	14	15th Refunds mailed	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27-Cutoff for 2/1 Refunds	28	29	30

February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1st Refunds mailed	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Office Closed for Marie Gras 	10-Cutoff for 2/15 Refunds	11	12	13
14 	15th Refunds mailed	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25-Cutoff for 3/1 Refunds	26	27
28	29					

March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1st Refunds mailed	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 BOARD MEETING	9	10-Cutoff for 3/15 Refunds	11	12
13	14	15th Refunds mailed	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Office Closed Good Friday	26
27 Happy Easter 	28	29-Cutoff for 4/1 Refunds	30	31		

LEAVE CONVERSION

Conversion of annual and sick leave at the time of retirement is only available for leave that is accumulated in accordance with the employer’s policy. The retirement system may request leave records to verify the days shown on the Employer Request form at the time of retirement or upon entry into DROP. The retirement system may also request a copy of the leave accrual policy for the employer to verify that the leave reported is in accordance with the policy.

REFUND OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR TERMINATED EMPLOYEES

At the time of termination, a former member can request a refund of his employee contributions. In order to request this refund, a Refund of Contributions Form is completed with the participating employer. Some former employees have asked about direct deposit of a refund. All refunds are paid in check form only. Direct deposit is only available for the payment of monthly benefits to retirees.

ELIGIBILITY OF ELECTED OFFICIALS LIMITED

With many newly elected officials taking office, it is the perfect time to review which elected officials are eligible to enroll in PERS. Parish presidents, justices of the peace, and coroners are the only **newly** elected officials that are eligible to enroll in PERS.

Parish elected officials who are currently enrolled remain members until they terminate service as an elected official. Please contact our office if you have questions concerning the eligibility of elected officials in this retirement system.

LIMITATIONS EXIST FOR RETIREES RETURNING TO WORK

When a retiree of this retirement system returns to work for a participating employer, statutory limitations exist. Before you rehire a Parochial retiree, you should contact our office to review the limitations that may affect the rehired retiree. You can review a brief description of our return to work provisions contained in Section 10 of our Summary of Principal Features.

CONTRIBUTIONS PROHIBITED ON CERTAIN TYPES OF PAYMENTS

Louisiana Revised Statute 11:233 B(2) provides specific types of payments that are excluded from “earnable compensation” for purposes of this retirement system. Lump sum payments made in lieu of unused annual or sick leave, car allowance, bonuses, and severance pay are among the payments that are excluded. Employee and employer contributions cannot be withheld from any of the types of payments listed in this section of the law.

In addition, our definition of earnings contained at R.S. 11:1902 (11) states “earnings shall not include fees or commissions.” Employee and employer contributions cannot be withheld on fee or commission payments.

If you have any questions about whether a type of payment qualifies as earnings or earnable compensation for retirement purposes, please contact Dainna Tully or Becky Fontenot.

*Have a safe and happy
Holiday Season*

ORDER FORM

Parochial Employees Retirement System

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

We are in: Plan “A” _____ Plan “B” _____

How Many:

_____ Refund of Contributions	_____ DROP Applications
_____ Retirement Application	_____ Brochures

The following forms can be printed from our website:

- Quarterly/Monthly Reports—Regular and DROP
- Personal History Update Forms
- Personal History Forms
- Election Form for New Employees age 55 and older
- Special Tax Notice
- SSA 1945 Statement concerning Employment in a Job not covered by Social Security
- Forfeiture of Retirement Benefits Attestation

RESERVIST EMPLOYEES CALLED TO ACTIVE DUTY

Parish employees who are called to active military duty must be informed of their options regarding retirement credit before they leave for military duty and again when they return.

Prior to reporting for active duty, the member may choose to continue to make employee contributions during his/her absence. The election is made with the employer and all contributions must be remitted through the employer. If this election is made, employer and employee contributions, based on the member's latest pay, would be submitted on the employer's regular payment schedule.

The member may choose not to make these contributions while on military duty. In that case, upon the member's return to employment, the member can apply to pay the contributions for the period of military service with interest. If the member pays the employee contributions and interest due, then the employer is required to pay the employer contributions and interest. Payment of contributions and interest must occur within 4 years of the member's return to active employment.

If the member elects not to make contributions for the period of active duty, no service credit is granted as far as the retirement benefit calculation is concerned. However, the period of active duty can be used to meet retirement eligibility requirements. A copy of the DD-214 must be submitted to the retirement system so that this service can be recorded for eligibility purposes.

We suggest that when discussing options with affected employees, the member should acknowledge the discussion with a signed statement that is maintained by the employer. This statement should be kept in the member's personnel file as documentation of the information presented and the election made by the member.

If any questions arise regarding reservists called to active duty, please contact our office.

USE ONLY PERS GENERATED FORMS

When submitting forms to PERS (including quarterly report, Personal History, and Refund Forms) it is important that you utilize the forms that have been generated by the retirement system office. Occasionally our office receives forms that have been redesigned by an employer group and if these forms are not an exact replica, delays in processing may result. Our forms are designed to include all necessary information required for processing and many times the order that the data is requested corresponds with our data entry into the computer system. For this reason, we ask that you use only forms supplied by our office or forms that are downloaded directly from our website (www.persla.org)

PROPERLY COMPLETED ENROLLMENT FORMS

Before submitting Personal History forms to our office for newly hired employees, please review the form to make certain that all blanks are properly completed. We ask that the information on the form be either printed or typed. The Social Security number of the member must be included on this form so that we can create a member record. This form must be signed by the member and the appointed authority designated by the parish or agency. In addition, we have noticed that several employers have not been including a copy of SSA-1945 (Statement Concerning Your Employment in a Job Not Covered by Social Security) with the Personal History form. Your help in reviewing this information will alleviate the need to return incomplete forms.

**REMEMBER: Employer rates decrease as of January 1, 2016.
Plan A decreases to 13.00% and Plan B decreases to 8.00%**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Terrie Rodrigue, Chairman	Jefferson Parish
Gwen B. LeBlanc	Ascension Parish
Tim Ware	Rapides Parish
Jerry Milner	Calcasieu Parish
Sandy Treme	Police Jury Assn
Rep. J. Kevin Pearson	House Retirement
Sen. Elbert Guillory	Senate Retirement

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

Dainna S. Tully	Administrative Director
Troy Searles, CFA	Chief Investment Officer
Becky Fontenot	Assistant Director
Geraldine Ferguson	Systems Analyst
Jean Sullivan	Bookkeeper
Eddie Dimaio	Data Entry Specialist
Eliska Lynch	Benefits Analyst
Virginia Eckert	Receptionist

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