

PERS NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE PAROCHIAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF LOUISIANA

ISSUE 79

September 2015

EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION RATES FOR 2016

As previously announced in our July 2015 PERS News, the employer rate in Plan A will decrease to 13.00% for 2016. The Plan B employer rate will decrease to 8.00% for 2016. The employee contribution rates for Plan A and Plan B remain unchanged at 9.5% and 3% respectively. These rates have been approved by the Board of Trustees. Our actuarial valuation was approved by the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee (PRSAC) in August, making these rates effective January 1, 2016.

ADMINISTRATIVE TRAINING WORKSHOP

Seven years ago we implemented a training workshop for all participating employers. The attendance at each workshop has been outstanding. With such a positive response from our employers, we will host the 7th Annual Administrative Workshop in Baton Rouge on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at the Renaissance Hotel. This session is designed specifically for those who work with the retirement system in your parish or agency. This training is not appropriate for employees with questions on their own retirement.

At the time this newsletter went to print, we had over 50 attendees registered for this year's workshop. For those of you who have not registered, a registration form is included on page 3 of this newsletter. Each attendant must complete a registration form in order for us to prepare for the correct number of attendees on October 27, 2015. Information on hotel rooms for the night of October 26, 2015 is included on the registration form as well as a tentative agenda.

Questions concerning the administrative workshop should be directed to Dainna Tully at (225)928-1361.

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL FEATURES

An updated version of the Summary of Principal Features has been sent to the printer. These new summaries will be mailed out to participating employers for distribution to all **active** members during the month of October. These booklets contain a general summary of the features of both Plan A and Plan B through the 2015 Regular Legislative Session. We ask that you promptly provide copies to all active members of PERS once your shipment is received.

THIRD QUARTER CONTRIBUTIONS DUE OCTOBER 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 third quarter of 2015 are due in the retirement system office on October 15, 2015. 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. If you are preparing your report close to the deadline, you may want to consider utilizing an overnight service to deliver your report. The cost of a delivery service is typically much less than the penalty that is assessed for a delinquent report. **Your report must be received in our office by October 15, 2015, in order to avoid a late penalty.**

GASB 68 REPORTS



The reports necessary for your auditors to provide the additional financial reporting required by GASB 68 are located on our website, www.persla.org. Please share our website with your auditors so that they can easily access this needed information.

RULING ON MARRIAGE

On July 26, 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that same sex couples have an equal protection right to marry in all fifty states. PERS will recognize the spouse of any member for all purposes. Our office will require a copy of marriage certificates with all retirement applications. Members who have already chosen retirement options prior to June 26, 2015 will not be able to make changes. In addition survivor benefits already in pay status may not be changed. Any questions concerning the ruling on marriage should be directed to Dainna Tully at (225)928-1361.

Administrative Training Session - October 27, 2015 - Registration Form on Page 3



October 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				10/1 refunds mailed	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 cut off for 10/15 refunds	10
11	12 Closed Columbus Day 	13	14	10/15 refunds mailed	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 TRAINING WORKSHOP	28 cut off for 11/2 refunds	29	30	31 

November 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	11/2 refunds mailed	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 cut off for 11/16 refunds	12	13	14
15	11/16 refunds mailed	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 cut off for 12/1 refunds	25	26 Closed	27 Closed	28
29	30					

December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		12/1 refunds mailed	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 BOARD MEETING	9	10 cut off for 12/15 refunds	11	12
13	14	12/15 refunds mailes	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Closed	25 Merry Christmas 	26
27	28 cut off for 1/4/16 refunds	29	30	31 Closed		

**Parochial Employees' Retirement System
Administrative Training Session
October 27, 2015
Renaissance Hotel 7000 Bluebonnet Blvd**

Tentative Agenda

8:30-8:55 a.m.	Registration
9:00-10:00 a.m.	Actuarial Funding & Valuation
10:00-11:00 a.m.	GASB 68
11:00-Noon	Administrative Review

This session is designed for those at the parish or agency level who administer the retirement plan. In order to properly plan for those in attendance, the following form must be completed for each attendee and mailed to PO Box 14619, Baton Rouge LA, 70898 by October 21, 2015.

NAME _____

TITLE _____

EMPLOYER _____

ADDRESS _____

WORK# _____ FAX# _____

Please list below any questions you would like addressed during this training:

Accommodations:

A block of rooms is being held at the Renaissance Hotel. The rate for this block is \$139 per night (not inclusive of applicable taxes). Please contact the Renaissance Hotel directly at (225)215-7000 or 1-866-469-5448 to make hotel reservations and request the block for the Parochial Employees' Retirement System. The block will be released on 9/14/15. After this date, accommodations will be subject to availability and rates may increase.

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

AGE 55 OPT OUT

R.S. 11:1921 C provides for optional membership for **new** hires who are age 55 or older and have 40 quarters of Social Security coverage at their date of employment. The option for these employees must be exercised within 90 days of the date of employment. Until an employee makes the election, the employer should withhold Social Security. If the employee makes an election to participate in PERS, a Personal History form along with the Opt Out form must be submitted to PERS. Contributions to PERS must begin when the election to participate is made. If the employee makes an election to opt out of PERS, then the Opt Out form, along with Social Security Form SSA 7005, must be completed and sent to PERS. An employer will not withhold PERS contributions if an employee opts out of PERS.

Please remind employees who qualify for this provision that this is a one time irrevocable election. Once an employee makes an election, it cannot be changed. The election will stand if the employee terminates and then is subsequently rehired.

This opt out provision does not apply to retirees of PERS who are subsequently rehired by a Parochial employer.

PENSION REFORM CONTINUES

- In 2014 California passed shared, gradual contribution rate increases for school districts, the state, and participating employees.
- Members of Colorado PERS voted to increase their contributions from 8% to 12% by 2022.
- In Texas, employee contribution rates for service between 8/31/15 and 9/1/17 were increased. Employee contribution rates after 9/1/17 are tied to employer rates and are decreased if employer rates fall below those recommended by the plan’s actuary.
- Nevada reduced COLA’s for retirees and increased retirement eligibility for existing members.

*Have a safe and happy
Holiday Season*

DIVIDED REFERENDUM FOR MEDICARE COVERAGE

Act 280 of 2004 allows a divided vote for Medicare coverage for those employees hired prior to April 1, 1986 who currently do not pay the Medicare tax. Under a divided referendum, only those who vote “yes” will pay the Medicare tax of 1.45% and the employer will pay the matching 1.45%.

Why would these employees vote to pay Medicare? In order to receive Medicare Part A at no cost, you must have 40 quarters of Medicare coverage. With at least 30 quarters of Medicare coverage, Medicare Part A would cost \$244 per month. With less than 30 quarters of Medicare coverage, Medicare Part A would cost \$443 per month.

If you are interested in conducting a divided referendum for employees hired prior to April 1, 1986 who currently do not pay Medicare, contact Linda Yelverton at the State Treasurer’s office at (225)342-0026.

RETIREMENT ESTIMATE REQUESTS

Those members who are within 3 years of retirement may submit a written request for a retirement estimate. During recent months, our office has received an extremely large number of requests. These requests are processed in the order received; however it is taking approximately 3 weeks to process a request. Please do not submit second requests to our office if an initial request has been submitted. We ask for your patience and understanding as we strive to service all of our members.

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 which can be accessed online at www.persla.org.

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

PERSNEWS is a quarterly publication of the Parochial Employees’ Retirement System of Louisiana, located at 7905 Wrenwood Blvd., Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809

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