



PERS NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE PAROCHIAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF LOUISIANA

ISSUE 63

September 2011

ADMINISTRATIVE TRAINING WORKSHOP

Four 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 4th Annual Administrative Workshop in Baton Rouge on Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at the Marriott 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 60 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 4, 2011. Information on hotel rooms for the night of October 3, 2011 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 2011 Regular Legislative Session. We ask that you promptly provide copies to all active members of PERS once your shipment is received.

Save this Date

**Parochial Employees' Retirement System
Administrative Training Workshop
October 4, 2011
Baton Rouge Marriott**

(Registration form on page 3 of this newsletter)

EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION RATES REMAIN THE SAME FOR 2011

As previously announced in our July 2011 PERS News, the employer rate in Plan A will remain at 15.75% for 2012. The Plan B employer rate will remain at 10.00% for 2012. The employee contribution rates for Plan A and Plan B also remain unchanged at 9.5% and 3% respectively. Although these rates have been approved by the Board of Trustees, approval by the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee (PRSAC) is necessary to make these rates official for 2012. For budgeting purposes, employers are urged to utilize these rates. Our office will notify you as soon as PRSAC has approved the rates for 2012.

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 2011 are due in the retirement system office on October 15, 2011. 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, 2011, in order to avoid a late penalty. If you are using a delivery service, delivery must be received by Friday, October 14, 2011 in order to avoid the late penalty. Delivery of reports received on Monday, October 17, 2011 will be considered late.**

DID YOU KNOW? Employer contribution rates for the state and statewide plans in Louisiana range from 9.75% to 55.9% for the 2011/2012 fiscal year.

October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	10/3 Refunds mailed	4 Training Workshop	5	6	7	8
9	Office closed for Columbus Day	11	12 Cut-off for 10/17 Refunds	13	14	15
16	10/17 Refunds mailed	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Cut-off for 11/1 Refunds	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2011

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

December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				12/1 Refunds mailed	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Cut-off for 12/15 Refunds	13	14	12/15 Refunds mailed	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Office Closed for Christmas	24
25	26 Office Closed for Christmas	27 Cut-off for 1/1/12 Refunds	28	29	30 Office Closed for New Years (Also closed 1/2/12)	31

**PAROCHIAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
ADMINISTRATIVE TRAINING SESSION
OCTOBER 4, 2011
BATON ROUGE MARRIOTT 5500 HILTON AVENUE**

Tentative Agenda

8:30—8:55 a.m.	Registration
9:00—10.00 a.m.	Actuarial Funding and Valuation
10:00—11:00 a.m.	Review of Plan Investments
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 September 30, 2011.

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 Baton Rouge Marriott. The rate for this block is \$101 per night (not inclusive of applicable taxes). Please contact the Baton Rouge Marriott directly at (225)924-5000 to make hotel reservations and request the block for the Parochial Employees' Retirement System. The block will be released on 9/04/11. 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

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.

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.

PENSION CHANGES SWEEPING THE COUNTRY: Higher pension costs have led to changes in pension plans across the country. Following is a list of the trends seen in the U.S. this year:

- 1) This year 17 states approved revisions to retirement benefit structures, such as higher years of service, age, or both, needed to qualify for normal retirement. Longer vesting periods were also implemented. Most changes affected new hires only; some affected existing participants.
- 2) Nine states reduced COLA provisions for retirees this year
- 3) At least 15 states raised employee contribution rates.

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.

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.

The Audit and Actuarial reports for the year ending 12/31/2010 are posted on the retirement system's website (www.persla.org). Each employer should download the reports or share our website with your auditors as needed. Hard copies of these reports will not be mailed, but will remain available on our website.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Terrie Rodrigue, Chairman	Jefferson Parish
Gwen B. LeBlanc	Ascension Parish
Tim Ware	Rapides Parish
Jerry Milner	Calcasieu Parish
Robert F. Manuel	Police Jury Assn
Rep. J. Kevin Pearson	House Retirement
Sen. Butch Gautreaux	Senate Retirement

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

Tom Sims, CFA	Chief Investment Officer
Dainna S. Tully	Administrative Director
Becky Fontenot	Assistant Director
Bobbie Deloney	Systems Analyst
Jean Sullivan	Bookkeeper
Geraldine Ferguson	Data Entry Specialist
Eddie Dimaio	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.

☎ Telephone Number (225) 928-1361

☎ FAX Number (225) 923-0933

🌐 Website: www.persla.org