

Public Employees' Retirement System
Mailing & Shipping Address:
429 Mississippi Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39201-1005
601.359.3589 ~ 1.800.444.PERS (7377)
Employer Hotline: 601.359.2090

PERS

Quarterly Employer Update

Distribute to all Administrative, Payroll, and Human Resource Personnel

Issue Date February 1, 2008



PERS BOARD STATE EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE ELECTION SCHEDULE

An election is being held for a State Employee Representative to the Public Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees for a six-year term beginning July 1, 2008, and ending June 30, 2014. The ten-member Board of Trustees is responsible for establishing policies governing general administration of PERS and proper operation of the systems administered by PERS. All officials and employees of all State Agencies, State Hospitals, State Judiciary, and Legislature who participate in PERS are eligible to vote. The following schedule was approved by the Board:

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Assisting a Retiring Employee	2
New Member Handbook	3
New Agency Agreements	3
Clarification of SB 2214	4
Election News	4
Upcoming State Holiday	4

January 16
February 15

Notice and petitions mailed to agencies

Deadline for receipt of petitions from potential candidates (5:00 pm)



March 10
April 8

PERS mails ballots to employees

Deadline for receipt of ballots from employees

April 9

PERS counts ballots

April 15

PERS Board certifies election results at regularly scheduled meeting

Three voting options available for voting by state employees

In the election of a State Employee Representative which is currently being conducted, state employees will have three options for voting but may only vote once. Deadlines for receipt of ballots will be the same no matter which option is chosen. Information will be mailed to the employees' home addresses, along with instructions on all three methods of voting. Voters may:



- return the completed ballot to PERS by mail (no postage required), OR

- vote by telephone, OR



- vote on the Internet.



TIPS ON ASSISTING A RETIRING EMPLOYEE...

PERS members who decide to retire should file an application with PERS as early as possible. The member does not have to wait until three months before the retirement date to begin the paperwork. As soon as the retirement date is known, the employee should apply for retirement. A case manager will be assigned to the employee to assist the employee throughout the process. When the paperwork is completed and submitted, the case manager will begin processing the application for retirement.

COMPLETING THE PROJECTED UNREPORTED EARNINGS TABLE ON AN EMPLOYEE'S PERS FORM 9A SRVC, PRE-APPLICATION FOR SERVICE RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Even though payroll may have already run for the previous month, list those wages on the Projected Unreported Earnings Table on the employee's PERS Form 9A SRVC, *Pre-Application for Service Retirement Benefits*, because the wages might not have posted yet to our system.

CERTIFYING THE TERMINATION DATE ON PERS FORM 9A SRVC

Generally, an employee's date of termination is his/her last date of employment, the last day for which he/she will receive payment from your agency for actual work. A revised PERS Form 9A must be submitted for any changes that may occur after the original form is submitted. Termination of employment is a complete severance of all employment with PERS-covered employers.

OFFERING OTHER ASSISTANCE

Direct employees to the PERS website (www.pers.state.ms.us). Our Benefit Estimate Calculator and Refund Payback Calculator enable members to calculate estimates which show several options and may provide valuable information instrumental in their retirement planning.



REQUESTING AN ESTIMATE OF BENEFITS FOR AN EMPLOYEE

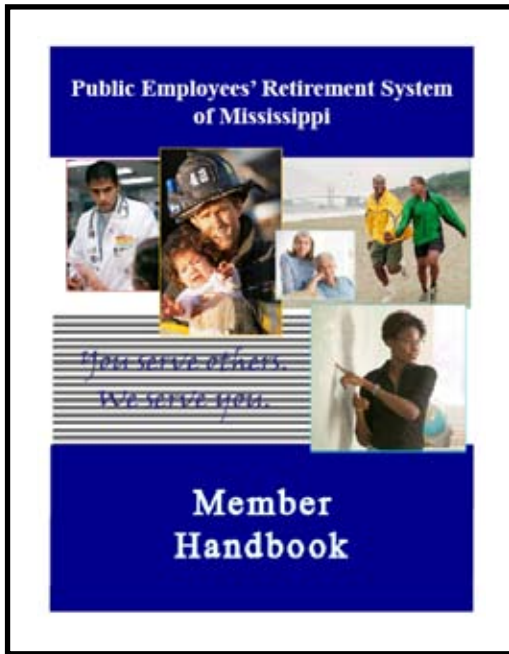
We can prepare an Estimate of Benefits for any member who would like the information. To request an estimate, simply provide the employee's name, Social Security Number, date of retirement on which the estimate should be based, and any other information that might affect the estimate (e.g., accumulated unused leave amount or expected lump sum leave payment amount). The Estimate will be mailed to the member's home address as listed in our records. It is not necessary to file a *Pre-Application for Service Retirement Benefits* to obtain an Estimate of Benefits from a PERS Case Manager.



MEMBERS WHO DECIDE NOT TO RETIRE YET

If the employee changes his/her mind about retiring after submitting retirement paperwork, advise him/her to contact PERS directly.

REMINDER: Earned compensation (covered wages) reported to PERS may not exceed the maximum annual reportable statutory amount of \$150,000 per fiscal year and proportionately for less than one (1) year of service.



DOWNLOAD MEMBER HANDBOOK FROM PERS WEBSITE

The PERS Member Handbook is available for downloading from the PERS website at www.pers.state.ms.us. The Handbook provides members with a comprehensive source of information on the Retirement System and its benefits. Click on “Member Services,” and “Member Handbook,” then the January 2008 edition.

Please note that PERS has printed only a very limited number of Handbooks for distribution. Instead, please direct your employees to our website, from which the Handbook may be viewed and/or printed.



Election News

Bill Benson has been elected to fill the unexpired six-year term ending December 31, 2009, on the PERS Board of Trustees as the representative of county employees. Mr. Benson has served as Lee County Chancery Clerk for sixteen years. He was County Administrator in Monroe County for three years and worked for the State Auditor’s Office for six years. Mr. Benson replaces Mrs. Jeanne R. Walker, former Bolivar County Chancery Clerk, who retired from the Board December 31, 2007.



Bill Benson

New Agency Agreements/Modifications

- Kiln Water & Fire Protection District of Hancock County (Agency #8043-000)
Retirement Coverage, effective 01/01/2008, and Social Security Coverage, effective 12/31/2007, approved by PERS Board of Trustees 12/18/2007
- Town of French Camp (Agency #5012-000)
Retirement Coverage, effective 01/01/2008, and Social Security Coverage, effective 12/31/2007, approved by PERS Board of Trustees 12/18/2007
- Tippah County Board of Supervisors (Agency #0361-000)
Retirement Coverage for Constables, effective 01/01/2008, approved by PERS Board of Trustees 12/18/2007

CLARIFICATION OF SENATE BILL 2214

(2007 Legislative Session)

Senate Bill 2214 provided that counties, municipalities, and other political subdivisions may elect to make contributions to the Mississippi Deferred Compensation Plan on behalf of their actively participating employees. Public schools are considered political subdivisions and therefore may provide matching contributions on behalf of participating employees to the Mississippi Deferred Compensation Plan.

Public school employers, as well as any county, municipality, or other political subdivision, who are interested in providing employer contributions for their actively contributing employees must first execute an addendum to their Deferred Comp Joinder Agreement and should contact the MDCPT/SBA office at 1-800-846-4551 (toll free) or 601-364-9350 (local).

For further information on any of the information in this newsletter or on other PERS topics, call us at 1.800.444.7377 or visit our website at www.pers.state.ms.us

FOCUS SESSIONS 2008

FOR EMPLOYEES SEEKING TO RETIRE

FEBRUARY 2008

Tuesday	February 5	9:30 am
Thursday	February 7	2 pm
Tuesday	February 12	9:30 am
Thursday	February 14	2 pm
Tuesday	February 19	9:30 am
Thursday	February 21	2 pm
Tuesday	February 26	9:30 am
Thursday	February 28	2 pm

MARCH 2008

Tuesday	March 4	9:30 am
Thursday	March 6	2 pm
Mon. - Fri.	March 10-14	9:30 am & 2 pm
Mon. - Fri.	March 17-21	9:30 am & 2 pm
Tuesday	March 25	9:30 am
Thursday	March 27	2 pm

FOCUS sessions are small group discussions aimed at providing PERS members with information about the retirement process, the options available to them upon retirement, and their retirement benefits. The sessions are held on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m., and Thursdays at 2:00 p.m. at the PERS main office.

A maximum of 10 individuals may participate in each session, and pre-registration of the member, spouse and/or guest is required.

Each registered member will receive an estimate of benefits and will have the opportunity to ask questions regarding his or her account.

To register on-line for a **FOCUS** session, please visit our website at:
www.pers.state.ms.us

UPCOMING STATE HOLIDAY



GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

* * * * *

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2008