

PERS Board of Trustees

State employees re-elect John Mulholland

Members of the Public Employees' Retirement System elected one member of the PERS Board of Trustees this year, and elections are currently being conducted for two other positions. In addition, Paul Hurst, Chief of Staff in the Governor's Office, has joined the Board as the gubernatorial appointee.

JOHN L. MULHOLLAND of Brandon, Interim State Personnel Director, was re-elected to the PERS Board to represent state employees. Mr. Mulholland defeated three other candidates in voting by state employees for a six-year term that began July 1, 2008. Mr. Mulholland was first elected to the Board in 2006 to complete an unexpired term.



John Mulholland
*State Employee
Representative*



Paul Hurst
*Gubernatorial
Appointee*

Current elections are for the representative of municipal employees and the representative of Institutions of Higher Learning employees. For these elections, the Board will continue using a voting system that gives eligible members three alternatives for

casting votes — by return mail, by telephone, or by using the Internet.

FOUR MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES qualified for the Municipal election. They are (in alphabetical order) Jean Ishee, City of Petal Clerk; Thomas J. Lariviere, City of Madison Fire Chief; David Stanley, City of Monticello Police Chief; and Chris Wilson, City of Southaven Administrator.

Biographical information, candidate statements, and ballot information were mailed to municipal employees September 15, 2008. The deadline for voting is 5 p.m. October 15, 2008. A runoff election will be held between the top two vote getters if no candidate receives a majority of votes cast in the first election.

Members should check that PERS has their correct mailing addresses. See Page 7 of this newsletter for information on updating a mailing address.

THE BOARD APPROVED A SCHEDULE for a special election for the IHL representative at its June meeting due to the retirement of Dr. Richard C. Miller. The election will be for the remainder of the current term through December 31, 2010.

Please see Page 4 for additional information

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In good times and bad, PERS remains financially sound

As news media continue to debate whether or not the United States is in a recession and, if it is, how long it will last, members dependent upon the Public Employees' Retirement System for their future financial security may feel uneasy.

Additionally, given the current state of the economy and the state of flux in the markets, you may wonder about PERS' financial well-being. Let me assure you that we remain financially sound.

Unfortunately, PERS did not have a positive return this year. In fact, for the fiscal year ending June 30, the return was a negative 8.2%. However, as I have stated in the past, it is important to remember that we invest for the long term and on that basis, we continue to do well.

You will remember that last year our return was a positive 18.9% and our five-year annualized return is 8.7%. Since 1976, our average rate of return has been 10.9%, significantly above our actuarial assumption rate of 8.0%.

It is important to remember that what we are experiencing in the markets is not new. Current fluctuations of

financial markets due to credit excesses, the price of crude oil, and other causes also affected markets in the past. Over time, investors who remain diversified and disciplined will produce the long-term results necessary to keep a pension system healthy.

PERS' investment process helps protect pension funds for the long term with diversification through a strategic asset allocation plan. You might ask, what is an asset allocation plan?

Simply put, it is a blueprint, showing what percentage of the Retirement System Trust Fund is invested in different areas of financial markets. After careful study by the PERS Board and in conjunction with our investment consultant, we arrived at an asset allocation that, over the long haul, should meet our actuarial return assumption with acceptable risk.

We do not put "all our eggs in one basket." Indeed, we are invested in thousands of firms in the United States and internationally. We have investments in stocks, bonds, and real estate, and continually study how we should invest in these areas.

Just this year we sought and



Executive Director's Column by Pat Robertson

received authority from the Mississippi Legislature to allow the Board greater latitude for investments in stocks to better take advantage of the global economy.

The Board also establishes investment guidelines for our money managers, whose performances we carefully monitor. If, over time, a money manager's performance is subpar, that manager will be replaced.

Because of these safeguards built into PERS' investment process, we are confident that the success we have enjoyed over the past 55 years will continue well into the future.

If you have a question or concern, please contact us between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, at (601) 359-3589 from the Jackson area or (800) 444-7377 (toll free) from outside the area.

Board elects Tate Reeves Chair for FY 2009

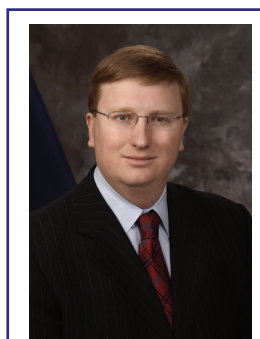
State Treasurer Tate Reeves has been elected Chair of the PERS Board of Trustees for fiscal year 2009 which began July 1, 2008.

"The PERS Board has an important responsibility to help protect the financial future of many dedicated employees and retirees across Mississippi," Mr. Reeves said. "I am honored by the confidence that my fellow Trustees have shown by electing me to lead the Board.

"I am also fortunate to share this responsibility with a great Board of Trustees and a dedicated staff that works hard to help ensure success for our members."

Mr. Reeves was elected at the Board's June meeting, succeeding Dr. Virgil F. Belue, who served as Chair for fiscal year 2008. The Chair presides at Board meetings, appoints members of Board committees, and calls special meetings as needed.

As State Treasurer, Mr. Reeves serves ex-officio on the 10-member Board.



Tate Reeves
PERS Board Chair

Board resolution honors Marguerite Lester

The PERS Board of Trustees passed a resolution at its April meeting honoring the late Marguerite Lester, a retired Mississippi educator who passed away March 21, 2008.

For more than three decades as an employee of the Mississippi Association of Educators and as a member of Retired Education Personnel of Mississippi, Ms. Lester was a tireless advocate on behalf of public education, teachers, and retirees.

To read the resolution, go to the PERS website at www.pers.state.ms.us.

Deferred Comp fees for participants are reduced

The PERS Board of Trustees has extended the contract with Systematized Benefits Administrators (SBA) to serve as third-party administrator for the Mississippi Deferred Compensation Plan and Trust for five years beginning January 1, 2009.

SBA has had a relationship with PERS, the State of Mississippi and the Mississippi Deferred Compensation Plan for more than 30 years. “Mississippi is one of our oldest and most valued customers,” said Bobby Fortenberry, Regional Director for SBA. “We are very honored and excited to have the opportunity of continuing this long-standing relationship working alongside PERS to provide Mississippians a great opportunity to save for their retirement.

“We are pleased to be able to lower the annual administrative fee from \$35 to \$27 per participant effective January 1, 2009,” Mr. Fortenberry said. “But in addition to an overall lower fee, we are very excited to announce that the fee will be waived for the first 12 months for any new participant enrolling in the Plan January 1, 2009, or later.



“Even though the \$27 annual fee is an exceptional value within itself, waiving the fee for the first 12 months will help participants contributing smaller amounts get a jump start, so to speak, on building their account balances.

“There will be numerous enhancements to the Plan that we will be discussing with PERS, such as: online educational seminars; click campaigns; portfolio expense calculator; web based financial analysis software; and many others. We will notify Plan participants as we work with PERS to create a timetable for implementing the various enhancements” he said.

“We are excited about the future of the Mississippi Deferred Compensation Plan and our continued relationship with PERS as we work hand-in-hand to provide public employees in Mississippi with this tremendous retirement benefit.”

For information concerning Deferred Compensation, call SBA at (800) 846-4551 (toll free) or (601) 364-9350 from the Jackson area.

2008 Legislation

Earned compensation limit is increased

The PERS Board did not seek any major changes in Retirement System law during the 2008 session of the Mississippi Legislature and the Legislature did not make any major changes. However, three bills were approved that could affect members and retirees.

House Bill 833

EARNED COMPENSATION LIMIT—The maximum compensation that can be reported to PERS for retirement purposes was changed to coincide with the IRS limit. Prior to July 1, 2008, the annual maximum was \$150,000. The limit was increased to \$230,000 for the fiscal year that began July 1, 2008, and will change automatically each fiscal year as the IRS limit changes.

POP-UP PROVISION — Retirees eligible for a recalculation of benefits under the Pop-Up Provision may receive the increased benefit retroactively for the death of a beneficiary. The Pop-Up provision allows a retired member who chose Option 2 or Option 4A, providing protection to a beneficiary, to have benefits recalculated under the Maximum Option if the beneficiary dies or if the beneficiary is a spouse and the marriage is dissolved.

In the event of late filing, House Bill 833 allows retroactive payment for up to three months if the beneficiary

dies. It does not allow retroactive payment for a divorce.

ROLLOVERS — A non-spouse beneficiary may roll over an eligible lump sum distribution from PERS as allowed by the Pension Protection Act of 2006.

Senate Bill 2977

STATE EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION LIMIT — A state or university employee who is absent from work due to a work-related injury is prohibited by Senate Bill 2977 from receiving more than 100% of the wages he or she earned at the time of the injury through the use of accrued leave time and workers’ compensation benefits. This limit could affect compensation reported for retirement purposes.

House Bill 1644

McCOMB MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM — Enabling legislation was approved to authorize a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to retirees of the Disability and Relief Fund for Firemen and Policemen for the City of McComb. The legislation authorizes a COLA payment equaling 2.5% of the annual amount for each full fiscal year after June 30, 2007, that a retiree has drawn benefits, provided that the cost of providing the COLA payments does not exceed half a mill in assessed valuation.

Register online for member education

PERS members have the opportunity to learn about their PERS benefits through seminars conducted at convenient sites throughout the state, at the PERS office in Jackson, and at employer sites. Members may use this information to make or modify their long-term financial plans.

Members may obtain information concerning these sessions from the PERS website at www.pers.state.ms.us. No fees are charged to PERS members and guests to attend any of these sessions.

Full Day Seminars

Full Day Seminars, from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., are offered to any covered PERS member. Topics include:

- Estate planning;
- Mississippi Deferred Compensation Plan and Trust; and
- Social Security benefits.

Full day seminars are not just for employees near retirement. They are also for forward-thinking younger employees who wish to secure their financial futures NOW. In particular, the Deferred Compensation Plan is a good benefit for employees who are a couple of decades or more from retirement. With Deferred Compensation, small investments now could result in large rewards later.

These seminars do not provide individual counseling sessions. However, each registered member will receive an explanation of benefits and an estimate of future benefits, and PERS officials will be available to answer questions.

Registration is required for members and guests to attend a full day seminar. Members may register on the PERS website or by calling the PERS Customer Service Center at (800) 444-7377 (toll free) or (601) 359-3589 from

the Jackson area.

A schedule of Full Day Seminars for the remainder of 2008 is on the next page.

Focus Sessions

Two-hour Focus sessions are small group sessions in the PERS Building in Jackson conducted on Tuesdays, beginning at 9:30 a.m., and Thursdays, beginning at 2 p.m. They are limited to 10 participants each.

PERS staff provide comprehensive information on benefits and retirement options available to members and on the retirement process. These sessions are particularly helpful to employees who are considering retirement in the next few years.

Members who attend Focus sessions are provided estimates of their benefits to use in planning.

Registration is required through the PERS website or by calling the Customer Service Center. The PERS Building is located at 429 Mississippi Street in Jackson, across from the State Capitol Building.

A schedule of Focus sessions for October through December is on the next page.

PERS on the Move

PERS and the Mississippi Deferred Compensation Plan and Trust provide on-site presentations to employees of covered agencies during the work day. These sessions do not provide individual counseling. If a member prefers an individual counseling session, please call the Customer Service Center.

Officials of PERS-covered agencies interested in hosting a PERS on the Move session for employees may register on the PERS website.

Mr. Mulholland re-elected to Board; two more elections scheduled

(continued from Page 1)

Any IHL employee who has been a PERS member for at least 10 years may qualify for the election by filing petitions signed by at least 25 IHL employees who are also members of PERS. Petitions were mailed to agencies September 15, 2008. Any qualified member who would like to run for the position should contact his or her human resource or personnel office.

The deadline for receipt of petitions at PERS is 5 p.m. October 15, 2008. Ballots, biographical information, and candidate statements will be mailed to IHL employees November 3, 2008. The voting deadline is December 10, 2008.

“What I have learned in my 15 years on the Board is

that we have a wonderful retirement system,” Dr. Miller said during his last meeting as a Board member. He had served as the IHL representative since 1993.

MR. HURST WAS APPOINTED by Gov. Haley Barbour as the gubernatorial appointee, replacing Charlie Williams. The term runs through June 30, 2009.

“I appreciate being appointed to a position of such great importance to Mississippi’s employees,” Mr. Hurst said.

Mr. Williams retired as Interim Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, effective April 30, 2008, and resigned from the Board at the same time.

MHSPRS employee contribution rate increased

The PERS Board of Trustees approved an increase in the employee contribution rate for the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol Retirement System (MHSPRS) from 6.50% to 7.25% effective July 1, 2008. The increase was recommended by the MHSPRS Administrative Board to improve the funding status of the system.

The employee contribution rate is the amount withheld from a member's monthly paycheck and paid to the Retirement System. Employee contributions, employer contributions, and investment income provide funding for benefits paid by MHSPRS. The increase will bring the MHSPRS employee contribution rate in line with PERS.



THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD directs the administration of MHSPRS. The PERS actuary reports to the Administrative Board yearly on the MHSPRS funding status and makes recommendations about contribution rates to support the benefit structure. The Administrative Board also works with PERS staff to develop policies and procedures for the smooth operation of the retirement plan.

The six-member Administrative Board includes the Commissioner of Public Safety, one MHSPRS retiree and one representative each of Highway Patrol Headquarters, the Highway Patrol Northern Region, the Highway Patrol Central Region, and the Highway Patrol Southern Region.

Full Day Seminar Schedule – October-December 2008

Register on the PERS Website

DATE	LOCATION	DATE	LOCATION	DATE	LOCATION
October 1	Hattiesburg	October 22	Greenville	November 19	Starkville
October 8	Grenada	October 29	Meridian	December 10	Jackson
October 15	Summit	November 5	Summit	December 11	Ocean Springs

Focus Session Schedule – October-December 2008

PERS Building, Jackson


Register on the PERS Website

DATE	TIME	DATE	TIME	DATE	TIME
October 2	2-4 p.m.	October 28	9:30-11:30 a.m.	November 25	9:30-11:30 a.m.
October 7	9:30-11:30 a.m.	October 30	2-4 p.m.	December 2	9:30-11:30 a.m.
October 9	2-4 p.m.	November 4	9:30-11:30 a.m.	December 4	2-4 p.m.
October 14	9:30-11:30 a.m.	November 6	2-4 p.m.	December 9	9:30-11:30 a.m.
October 16	2-4 p.m.	November 13	2-4 p.m.	December 11	2-4 p.m.
October 21	9:30-11:30 a.m.	November 18	9:30-11:30 a.m.	December 16	9:30-11:30 a.m.
October 23	2-4 p.m.	November 20	2-4 p.m.	December 18	2-4 p.m.

Your Annual Member Statement will have a new look

PERS mailed your Annual Member Statement for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, during September. The statement has a new look this year but will continue to provide current member-specific retirement account information. All information listed on your statement is as of June 30, 2008.

Please review your statement for accuracy. The following shows the new look for the Member Statement for the three (3) plans administered by PERS – the Public Employees’ Retirement System, the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol Retirement System (MHSPRS) and the Supplemental Legislative Retirement Plan (SLRP).



PUBLIC EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF MISSISSIPPI
429 MISSISSIPPI STREET
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39201-1005
1-800-444-7377 • 1-601-359-3589 • www.pers.state.ms.us

PROVIDING SECURITY
FOR YOUR FUTURE

2008 ANNUAL MEMBER STATEMENT

AGENCY NUMBER INACTIVE 88888888

MEMBER NAME

ADDRESS LINE 1

ADDRESS LINE 2

ADDRESS LINE 3

ADDRESS LINE 4

ADDRESS LINE 5

PLAN: PUBLIC EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF MISSISSIPPI (PERS)	
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	***.1234
DATE OF BIRTH	1/01/1958
GENDER	F
VESTING PERIOD	4 years

All Information on this Statement is as of June 30, 2008
The Total Years of Service is Subject to Verification and/or Correction

TOTAL ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$86,245.00	TOTAL YEARS OF SERVICE	14.75
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BENEFICIARY					
NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	S.S. NUMBER	GENDER	TYPE	PERCENTAGE
JOHN DOE	01/01/1958	***.0245	M	PRIMARY	100%
JANE WATERHOUSE	02/05/1985	***.1245	F	SECONDARY	34%
ELIZABETH WASHINGTON	02/05/2000	***.2222	F	SECONDARY	33%
WILLIAM WASHINGTON III	01/15/2001	***.1111	M	SECONDARY	33%

SERVICE RETIREMENT BENEFITS

YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO RETIRE AT AGE 60 IF YOU ARE VESTED OR AT ANY AGE IF YOU HAVE 25 OR MORE YEARS OF CREDITABLE SERVICE. YOU MUST TERMINATE PERS-COVERED EMPLOYMENT TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RETIRE. INFORMATION IS PROVIDED BELOW ONLY IF OUR RECORDS SHOW THAT YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR SERVICE RETIREMENT BENEFITS WITHIN FOUR (4) YEARS OF JUNE 30, 2008. FOR A MORE DETAILED ESTIMATE THAT INCLUDES OTHER AVAILABLE OPTIONS, PLEASE USE THE **BENEFIT CALCULATOR** ON OUR WEBSITE.

PROJECTED DATE ELIGIBLE FOR SERVICE RETIREMENT	NOT APPLICABLE
ESTIMATED AVERAGE COMPENSATION	NOT APPLICABLE
ESTIMATED MAXIMUM ANNUAL SERVICE RETIREMENT BENEFIT	NOT APPLICABLE

MISSION: The Public Employees’ Retirement System of Mississippi is committed to providing secure retirement benefits and outstanding customer service to its current and future retirees.

SEE REVERSE FOR MORE INFORMATION

Member Information – Name, address, retirement plan, last four digits of your Social Security number, date of birth, gender, and vesting period are shown. To change your name and/or address, ask your employer for a PERS Form 1C, *Change of Information*. You may also obtain this form by calling the PERS office or by printing the form from the Forms Library on our website. If you are not currently employed in covered service, please forward the completed Form 1C directly to PERS.

Disclaimer – All information is as of June 30, 2008, and the years of service are subject to verification and/or correction.

Total Account Balance – Your total account balance includes your contributions plus the interest posted to your account as of June 30, 2008.

Total Years of Service – Your total years of service include all service posted to your account as of June 30, 2008, other than unused leave and military service if you are not vested.

Beneficiary – This is your current beneficiary information on file with PERS. Space constraints limit the listing to no more than four (4) beneficiaries. To change your beneficiary information, please submit a completed PERS Form 1B, *Beneficiary Nomination*, to your employer for submission to PERS. If you are not currently employed in a covered position, please forward the completed Form 1B directly to PERS.

Service Retirement Benefits – If you are within four (4) years of service retirement eligibility, your projected date of retirement, estimated average compensation, and estimated annual service retirement benefit using the maximum option will be provided.

We hope you welcome this new look for your Annual Member Statement. Please visit our website (www.pers.state.ms.us) for more information about your specific retirement plan or to obtain PERS forms.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q & A

Q—How do I change my address with PERS?

A — You may change your mailing address by asking your employer for a PERS Form 1C, *Change of Information*. You may also obtain this form by calling the PERS office or by printing the form from the Forms Library on our website.

Q — How can I find out what my benefits will be at retirement?

A — The PERS website has benefit estimate calculators for PERS, the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol Retirement System (MHSP), Municipal Retirement Systems (MUNI) for 17 cities, and the Supplemental Legislative Retirement Plan (SLRP). By entering your average compensation, anticipated retirement date, your birth date and birth date(s) for your beneficiary(ies), you will receive an estimate of monthly and annual base benefits, and annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). If eligible, you will also receive estimates of Partial Lump Sum Option (PLSO) amounts for the 12-month, 24-month, and 36-month options, along with base and COLA benefit amounts if a PLSO amount is chosen.

Remember that these are only estimates. Your actual benefit will be calculated at the time of your retirement.

For more information about benefit options, please refer to the PERS Member Handbook which is available on the PERS website.

Q—How do I receive credit for military service?

A — A member of PERS is eligible to receive credit for active duty military service available at no cost if the member:

(1) did not receive a dishonorable discharge; (2) entered state service after discharge from qualifying military service; (3) is vested; (4) does not have credit for this military service in any other retirement system administered by PERS; (5) does not have overlapping membership service for the same period of time; and (6) served on active duty in an eligible branch of the U.S. Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard); or in maritime service during periods of hostility in World War II; or in the Commissioned

Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service prior to 1972 (if the member retired on or after July 1, 2002).

To receive credit for qualifying military service, submit a copy of your Form DD 214 military discharge paperwork to us by mail at 429 Mississippi Street, Jackson MS 39201-1005 or by fax at 601-359-5262. Provided that we have the required paperwork, applicable service credit will be credited to your account upon retirement.

Q — Who should file an Advanced Application?

A — Any Retirement System member who is eligible for retirement may file an *Advanced Application* with PERS. Filing an *Advanced Application* allows a member to predetermine how benefits will be paid in the event of death before retirement.

The *Advanced Application*, PERS Form 16, may be downloaded from the PERS website or may be obtained by contacting PERS. The retirement option selection and the designated beneficiary(ies) may be changed at any time prior to retirement by filing an updated *Advanced Application*.

The *Advanced Application* must be on file with PERS prior to the member's death to be effective.

Q — Can I borrow against my employee contributions account?

A — There are no provisions in the laws of any of the retirement benefit plans administered by PERS for loans, partial refunds, or hardship withdrawals on your defined benefit employee accumulation account. To obtain your contributions, you must terminate your employment from all covered positions. Upon termination from employment, you may apply for a refund of your contributions. To do so, file PERS Form 5 – *Application for Refund of Accumulated Contributions to Member* – available on the PERS website.

If you participate in the Mississippi Deferred Compensation Plan, there is a provision for hardship withdrawal from that account provided that you meet certain Internal Revenue Service conditions. For information, contact Systematized Benefits Administrators at (800) 846-4551 (toll free) or (601) 364-9350 from the Jackson area.

If you have a question concerning your benefits or any other matter relating to the Public Employees' Retirement System, you can call PERS using one of the telephone numbers on the last page of this newsletter or e-mail the question to PMailAccount@pers.ms.gov.

Contact PERS

Address

429 Mississippi Street
Jackson, MS 39201-1005

Fax

601-359-6707

Office Hours

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Monday - Friday

E-mail

PMailAccount@
pers.ms.gov

Telephone

601-359-3589
1-800-444-7377

Website

www.pers.state.ms.us

PERS wants to contact inactive members

The PERS website includes a listing of more than 2,000 inactive members who may be eligible for a monthly retirement allowance or a refund of accumulated member contributions.

To view the list, log on at www.pers.state.ms.us and click "Member Services" and "Inactive Members." Please contact PERS if you see your name or the name of someone you know on the list.

The site has a form that inactive members may complete and submit to PERS for determination of eligibility for benefits. Inactive members who have met requirements for retirement may apply for monthly benefits. Inactive members who do not meet these requirements may apply for a refund of the account balance.

PERS Board of Trustees

Honorable Tate Reeves
*Chairman
State Treasurer*

Dr. Virgil F. Belue
Retiree Representative

Mr. Bill Benson
County Representative

Dr. Edward Lee Childress
*Public School & Community
College Representative*

Mr. Lester C. Herrington
Retiree Representative

Mr. Paul Hurst
Gubernatorial Appointee

Mr. Thomas J. Lariviere
Municipal Representative

Mr. Edwin C. LeGrand III
*State Employee
Representative*

Mr. John Mulholland
*State Employee
Representative*

Vacant
*Institutions of Higher
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