

News Release



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Colorado PERA Embarks on Series of 24 Shareholder Meetings Statewide Retirement Plan Marks 75 Years of “Protecting the Promise for Colorado’s Public Servants”

DENVER—The Colorado Public Employees’ Retirement Association (PERA) today, September 6, announced a tour of 24 Colorado communities where top PERA officials will meet with members and retirees to discuss public pension reforms and other recent developments impacting the retirement plan.

(Please see schedule of meetings below.)

The meetings come as PERA celebrates 75 years of providing retirement benefits to public servants across the state. PERA members and retirees will receive an update of PERA’s financial status and learn about new legislation impacting PERA. Members and retirees, who are considered “shareholders,” will also have the opportunity to learn more about their retirement benefits and ask questions of PERA officials.

PERA has over 380,000 members and retirees and covers most of the state’s teachers as well as other employees of public school districts and state and local governments. PERA shareholders live in every county in Colorado and the significant economic impact of PERA’s benefits is felt across the state.

PERA recently announced that its total assets have grown to over \$35 billion. Since 1931, PERA has paid out billions in benefits to generations of Colorado’s public servants, and paid \$2.1 billion to retirees in 2005 alone. Benefit payments by PERA in 2005 represented over 1 percent of Colorado’s economy.

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As a result of legislation signed by Gov. Bill Owens in May, PERA is on track to reach fully funded status with enough assets to cover the future value of retirement benefits owed to members.

“We relish the opportunity to meet face to face with these shareholders,” said Colorado PERA Executive Director Meredith Williams. “We have some good news to report about our financial status and we’re eager to learn what questions and concerns our members and retirees will bring to the meetings.”

“These meetings coincide with PERA’s celebration of 75 years of protecting the promise to Colorado’s public servants and allow us to look forward to the next 75 years and beyond,” Williams added.

Shareholder meetings will begin on September 11 in Lakewood and end on October 24 in Canon City. Details of the meetings, including times and locations can be found online at www.copera.org under Latest News or in the *Member Report* that will be mailed to active members in September. Dates and locations of the meetings are listed below:

- Lakewood, September 11
- Aurora, September 12
- Trinidad, September 13
- Alamosa, September 18
- Westminster, September 19
- La Junta, September 21
- Ft. Collins, September 21
- Louisville, September 25
- Denver, September 26
- Greeley, September 27
- Littleton, September 28
- Gunnison, October 2

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- Grand Junction, October 2
- Delta, October 3
- Durango, October 4
- Eagle, October 4
- Colorado Springs, October 5
- Denver, October 10
- Fort Morgan, October 11
- Buena Vista, October 12
- Pueblo, October 16
- Colorado Springs, October 17
- Canon City, October 24
- Sterling, October 26

The meetings will start at 6:30 p.m. with a briefing about PERA, followed by a question and answer period. The meetings are scheduled to end at 8:00 p.m.

All PERA members and retirees are invited to attend—no reservation is necessary. Please check the PERA Web site at www.copera.org for any last minute changes about the meetings, or call the PERA Customer Service Center at 1-800-759-7372 or 303-832-9550.

Colorado PERA provides retirement and other benefits to 380,000 current and former employees of over 400 government and public entities in the state of Colorado. Colorado PERA is the 25th largest public pension plan in the U.S. with assets of \$35 billion.

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