

Planning for PERA's Future

PERA's Board and staff continue to work toward developing a comprehensive plan to address PERA's funding status. In August, eight Listening Tours were held at various locations throughout the State. At each Listening Tour, PERA's Board and staff gave a brief presentation outlining funding, PERA's effect on the Colorado economy, and possible changes. Attendees were asked their opinions on each of the suggested changes.

A webcast of the Denver Listening Tour is available on PERA's Web site, along with a copy of the presentation. Visitors to www.copera.org may also complete the *Online Listening Tour Input Form*. The form allows you to indicate your level of support to a variety of changes that may help improve PERA's funding level. You may also enter any additional comments you have.

After the conclusion of the Listening Tours, the PERA Board will spend September and October reviewing the results and developing the legislation for 2010. Shareholder Meetings will be held throughout the State in October and November to discuss planned legislation (The statutory deadline for comprehensive legislative proposal is November 1.) A schedule of Shareholder Meetings is available at <http://www.copera.org/pdf/Shareholder/ShareholderMtg09.pdf>. 




Long-Term Care Update

In May, Colorado PERA began offering long-term care insurance through Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (MetLife) to PERA members, retirees, and their eligible family members. As part of this new offering, eligible employees applying on or before October 31, 2009, can take advantage of easier health qualifications by answering only five health questions to apply for long-term care insurance.

As you may remember, LTC Financial Partners (LTCFP) was selected to conduct educational seminars to help PERA members understand their options and determine if long-term care insurance should be a part of their comprehensive financial plan. Please contact LTCFP at 1-866-PERA-LTC if you would like to schedule a seminar for your employees at your location(s) before the October 31, 2009, deadline.


In addition to scheduling an on-site seminar, you can direct your employees to call 1-866-PERA-LTC, or visit www.ltccopera.com if they would like more information.

The high cost of long-term care can have a serious impact on financial security, so we encourage you to assist us in helping to educate your employees about this special enrollment opportunity. 

Shareholder Meetings

All PERA members and retirees are invited to attend the 2009 Shareholder Meetings during October and November at various locations across the State. Conducted by PERA executive staff, these meetings are in a town-hall format and will present current PERA issues as well as review PERA's financial position and legislative issues PERA may face in the upcoming legislative session.

The meetings start at 6:00 p.m. and conclude at 8:00 p.m. Reservations are not required.

The schedule of Shareholder Meetings is at <http://www.copera.org/pdf/Shareholder/ShareholderMtg09.pdf>. 

Plan News

Over the past several months PERA has implemented several changes to the PERA 401(k), Defined Contribution (DC), and 457 Plans as listed below.

401(k) Plan Changes

One of the most exciting changes to the 401(k) Plan is that all employees of a PERA-affiliated employer are eligible to participate in the PERA 401(k) Plan, even if they are not in a PERA-covered position. (Independent contractors are not eligible to participate in any PERA-sponsored plan.) To enroll in the Plan, these employees should complete the *401(k) Participant Information Form* available on the PERA Web site.

DC Plan Changes

On July 1, 2009, administration of the State of Colorado Defined Contribution (DC) Plan was turned over to PERA. Participants' money was automatically transferred into the same or similar investments available in PERA's DC Plan (or 401(k) Plan in some instances).

State employers eligible to participate in the PERAChoice should provide eligible new employee with copies of the PERAChoice brochure, available online at www.copera.org/PDF/5/5-112a.pdf.

457 Plan Changes

On July 1, 2009, the State of Colorado 457 Plan became the Colorado PERA 457 Plan when administration was transferred to PERA. Initially, there has been very little change since the transition to PERA. The phone number and Web site access remains the same. However, under PERA's administration, the 457 Plan will undergo an extensive evaluation during 2009-2010. The evaluation will determine if and how the Plan could be improved. If changes are made, members and employers will be informed before any changes are made. ☰

Investment Fund Additions

The PERA 401(k) and DC Plans added three funds to the investment line-up:

- TCM Small Cap Growth Fund
- T. Rowe Price Small Cap Value Fund
- Vanguard Mid Cap Index Fund

For more information about each fund, go to www.copera.org and click on 401(k) and DC Plan Information, then access the ING Web site. ☰

Colorado PERA and Furlough Days

In response to reduced funding in the 2009 and 2010 fiscal years, and since some Colorado PERA-affiliated employers have required their employees to take furlough days, PERA has created a the *Colorado PERA and Furlough Days After June 30, 2004*, fact sheet. The fact sheet explains the potential impact on an employee's benefit if the employee is nearing retirement and the furlough days fall within the highest three years of salary. The fact sheet is available online at <https://www.copera.org/pdf/5/5-103a.pdf>. ☰

PERA Meetings Schedule

In July, PERA mailed to all its members the *Schedule of PERA Meetings* that includes all member meetings that will be held from August through December 2009. This schedule is produced and mailed twice a year to all active PERA members.

A listing of all PERA member meetings is available on the PERA Web site so members may better plan their attendance at PERA meetings throughout the year. ☰

Employer Contribution Rates

Legislation signed into law in May 2006 requires employers to submit a Supplemental Amortization Equalization Disbursement (SAED) beginning with payrolls that have an ending date of January 1, 2008, or later. The SAED is to be paid on the total payroll for all employees who work for a PERA-affiliated employer. The SAED contributions are automatically calculated when the Summary Sheet is completed and submitted with the STARS report.

The SAED is to be funded by “foregone wage increases” for all employees. However, if employees are not receiving a wage increase, the SAED must be funded through other budgetary items. A list of current and future contribution rates is listed below.

State Division

| PERA | Employer Contribution | AED | SAED | Total Deduction % for Year |
|----------|-----------------------|-------|-------|----------------------------|
| Jan 2009 | 10.15% | 1.80% | 1.00% | 12.95% |
| Jan 2010 | 10.15% | 2.20% | 1.50% | 13.85% |
| Jan 2011 | 10.15% | 2.60% | 2.00% | 14.75% |
| Jan 2012 | 10.15% | 3.00% | 2.50% | 15.65% |
| Jan 2013 | 10.15% | 3.00% | 3.00% | 16.15% |

School Division

| PERA | Employer Contribution | AED | SAED | Total Deduction % for Year |
|----------|-----------------------|-------|-------|----------------------------|
| Jan 2009 | 10.15% | 1.80% | 1.00% | 12.95% |
| Jan 2010 | 10.15% | 2.20% | 1.50% | 13.85% |
| Jan 2011 | 10.15% | 2.60% | 2.00% | 14.75% |
| Jan 2012 | 10.15% | 3.00% | 2.50% | 15.65% |
| Jan 2013 | 10.15% | 3.00% | 3.00% | 16.15% |

*2004 legislation provided for an additional 0.40 percent employer contribution in 2013

State Troopers

| PERA | Employer Contribution | AED | SAED | Total Deduction % for Year |
|----------|-----------------------|-------|-------|----------------------------|
| Jan 2009 | 12.85% | 1.80% | 1.00% | 15.65% |
| Jan 2010 | 12.85% | 2.20% | 1.50% | 16.55% |
| Jan 2011 | 12.85% | 2.60% | 2.00% | 17.45% |
| Jan 2012 | 12.85% | 3.00% | 2.50% | 18.35% |
| Jan 2013 | 12.85% | 3.00% | 3.00% | 18.85% |


Local Government Division

| PERA | Employer Contribution | AED | SAED | Total Deduction % for Year |
|----------|-----------------------|-------|-------|----------------------------|
| Jan 2009 | 11.90% | 1.80% | 1.00% | 12.80% |
| Jan 2010 | 12.80% | 2.20% | 1.50% | 13.70% |
| Jan 2011 | 13.70% | 2.60% | 2.00% | 14.60% |
| Jan 2012 | 14.60% | 3.00% | 2.50% | 15.50% |
| Jan 2013 | 15.50% | 3.00% | 3.00% | 16.00% |


Judicial Division

| PERA | Employer Contribution | AED | SAED | Total Deduction % for Year |
|----------|-----------------------|-------|-------|----------------------------|
| Jan 2009 | 15.56% | 1.80% | 1.00% | 16.46% |
| Jan 2010 | 16.46% | 2.20% | 1.50% | 17.36% |
| Jan 2011 | 17.36% | 2.60% | 2.00% | 18.26% |
| Jan 2012 | 18.26% | 3.00% | 2.50% | 19.16% |
| Jan 2013 | 19.16% | 3.00% | 3.00% | 19.66% |

Contribution Due Dates

Remember that the due date for your PERA contribution report to be received by PERA through the STARS system is five business days following the date payment is made to your employees. This also applies to the due date for your 401(k) report to be received by ING and your 457 report to be received by Great West. 

New Law Regarding Independent Contractors

PERA-affiliated employers should be aware of a new law regarding independent contractors that may affect them. On June 2, Governor Ritter signed House Bill 09-1310, which allows complaints to be filed with the director of the Division of Employment if an employee is being incorrectly classified as an independent contractor. Employers who have shown a “willful disregard of the law” can be fined up to \$5,000 per misclassified employee for the first offense. The second and any subsequent offences could result in a fine of up to \$25,000 per misclassified employee. 

Colorado PERA Contact Information

Members should call Customer Service with questions about benefits or their accounts. The PERA Customer Service Center phone number is 303-832-9550 or 1-800-759-7372 and is open Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PERA Employer Representatives

Employers who have questions about their contribution report or STARS should call their Employer Representative in the Benefits Services Division (listed by employer number below).

| <i>Employer Number/Agency</i> | <i>Employer Representatives</i> |
|--|--|
| 401(k) and Defined Contribution | Jeffrey Cable 303-837-6217 jcable@copera.org |
| | Neil Ikerd 303-837-6238 nikerd@copera.org |
| State Agencies: 1, 5, 9, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 38, 39, 40, 41, 43, 49, 62, 69, 71, 72, 73, 74, 77, 78, 79, 81, 85, 86, 89, 92, 108, 115, 117, 118, 123, 124, 128, 129, 132, 134, 135, 137, 144, 145, 165, 170 | Jesse Murillo 303-863-3889 jmurillo@copera.org |
| 394, 410, 429, 580 | |
| 42, 75, 200-450 | Chris Hoehle choehle@copera.org 303-863-3840 |
| 451-700 | Chad Hursh chursh@copera.org 303-837-6229 |
| 580, 701-819, 950-999 | Chris Murray cmurray@copera.org 303-863-3759 |
| State agencies that do not report through Central Payroll: 3, 22, 56, 60, 67, 68, 76, 91, 93, 95, 127, 130, 143, 149, 155, 156, 157, 171-192 | Randy Spencer rspencer@copera.org 303-837-6239 |
| 820-949 | |
| Community Colleges: 37, 47, 63, 66, 131, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 147, 148, 150, 151, 153 | Angela Byrne Employer Relations Manager abyrne@copera.org 303-863-3879 |
| 54, 59, 90 | |

Employer line: 303-863-3724 or e-mail
employerrelations@copera.org

PERA Field Education Services Division

Employers who wish to have a PERA Field Education Representative speak to their employees should call their Field Education contact (listed by employer number below).

| <i>Employer Number</i> | <i>Field Education Representatives</i> |
|------------------------|---|
| 1-59, 990-991 | Gordon Steuck 303-863-3855 gsteuck@copera.org |
| 60-131 | Lisa Aiken-Jillson 303-837-6289 laiken-jillson@copera.org |
| 132-204 | Kirsten Strausbaugh 303-863-3809 kstrausbaugh@copera.org |
| 205-340 | Nadine Grosjean 303-837-6215 ngrosjean@copera.org |
| 345-400 | Aimee Buchholz Taylor 303-863-3706 ataylor@copera.org |
| 401-540 | Jeff Sprole 303-837-6277 jsprole@copera.org |
| 541-816 | Shane Linart 303-863-3861 slinart@copera.org |
| 817-989 | Rick Chase 303-863-3790 rchase@copera.org |
| | Dennis Gatlin Field Education Services Director 303-863-3788 dgatlin@copera.org |

Your employees should contact PERA Customer Service Center at 1-800-759-7372 or 303-832-9550 for assistance with their PERA accounts.