



## CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF PERSI!

In 2015, The Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho (PERSI) is celebrating 50 years of operation. The Idaho Legislature first created PERSI in 1963, with initial funding and the doors officially opening in 1965.



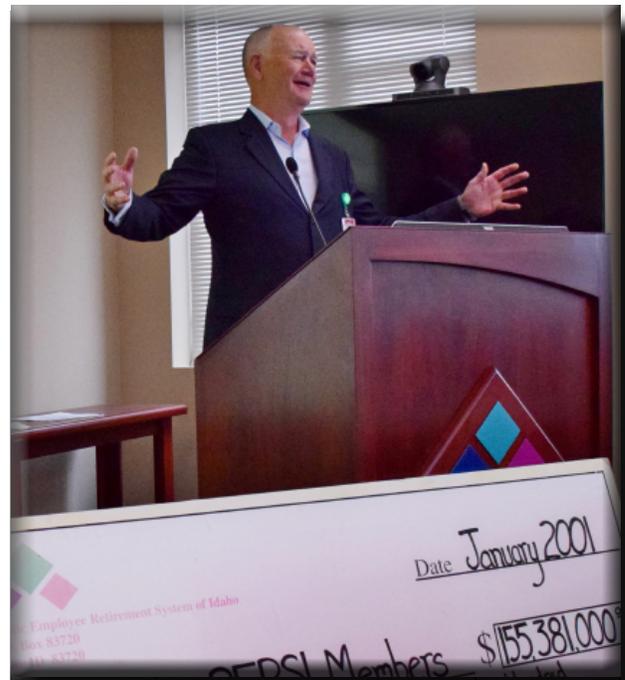
*PERSI is proud of its Mission: To provide a sound retirement system and high quality service and education to help Idaho public employees build a secure retirement.*

Over those fifty years, PERSI has experienced extraordinary growth – in the amount of assets it manages, and in its membership. Today, PERSI administers nearly \$15.2 billion in assets, and serves more than 135,000 members and more than 760 employers throughout the State of Idaho.

We enter 2015 on the heels of a banner fiscal year 2014, wherein PERSI reached a number of milestones in several different areas. The number of living retirees eclipsed 40,000 for the first time ever, and benefits paid out for the year exceeded \$700 million for the first time. Asset levels hit all-time highs, just shy of \$15 billion, and we ended up the fiscal year with a whopping 17.2% investment return, prompting the PERSI Retirement Board to recommend a cost of living adjustment of up to 4% for eligible retirees, while also recommending

the elimination of two future contribution rate increases for active members and employers.

In a letter to members, Chairman of the Board, Jody Olson stated, “Now is the first time we have been in a position to affect this much positive change since 2001, when the system exceeded 113% funded and we were able to return nearly \$155 million back to employers and members -- both active and retired -- in a historic one-time gain sharing event.”



*Chairman of the Board, Jody Olson explains “gain sharing” during a PERSI staff appreciation event in May.*

PERSI would like to thank its members, and employers for their continued support as we look ahead to the next 50 years and beyond.

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# Insights

## TAKE YOUR CHOICE 401(K) PLAN WITH YOU

### Going Mobile

According to the [Pew Research Center](#), as of October, 2014, 64% of American adults own a smartphone, and as of January 2014:

- 90% own a cell phone
- 32% own an e-reader
- 42% own a tablet computer

It would seem, accessing key information on mobile devices is becoming a way of life -- and now your mobile device can help you track your retirement account(s) – anytime, anywhere.

Note: **Not all PERSI retirees have a Choice Plan account.**

However, through the recent record keeper transition process, we learned that many who do have a Choice Plan Account are unfamiliar with the Plan features and available resources..

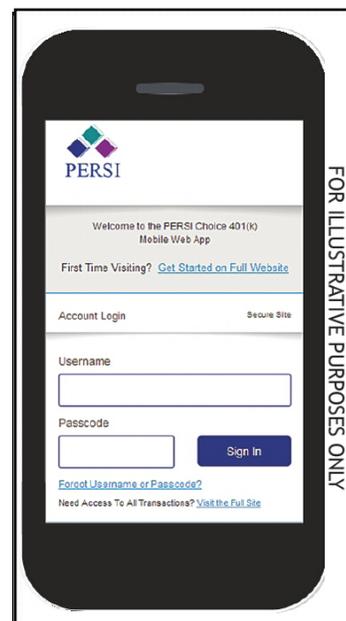
If you retired after 2001, you could have a PERSI Choice 401(k) Plan account, and the Plan record keeper, Empower Retirement has launched a mobile Web app that can help put your retirement readiness at the tip of your fingers. With your retirement account in the palm of your hand, you'll be able to:

- View your projected retirement income
- Check your account balance and history
- See your paycheck contribution amount
- Look at your current rate of return
- Review the investment options in your portfolio

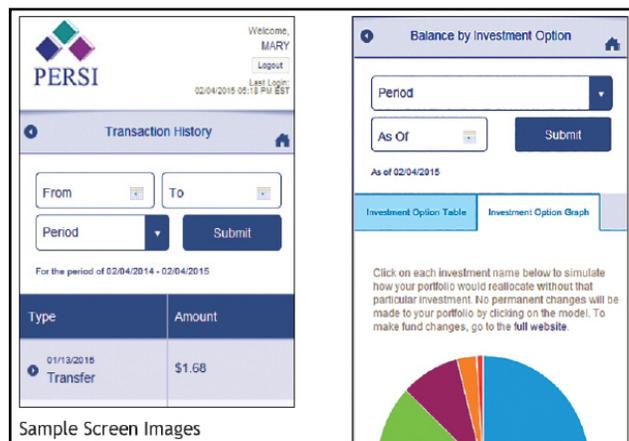
To access the mobile Web application, you must be a registered user on the full version of the website. It's quick and easy to register. Visit [www.mypersi401k.com](http://www.mypersi401k.com) and click **Let's Get Started!**

### On the Go!

Once you're registered, you are all set to monitor your retirement plan wherever you go. Using your mobile device, visit [www.mypersi401k.com](http://www.mypersi401k.com) and the mobile Web app will automatically launch for you. You will need to input the same registration information used to log into the full website. To make it even easier, you can bookmark the site or create a shortcut icon on your mobile desktop for quick access. Refer to the "Add an Icon" link on the mobile web app if you need instructions to create the shortcut icon.



The convenience of accessing your retirement plan account anytime, anywhere, means you have the information you need to help make smart financial decisions that benefit your overall retirement readiness. Mobile technology has become a part of everyday life, and now the Empower mobile web app helps put your retirement readiness in good



# NEED HELP UNDERSTANDING THE CHOICE 401(K) PLAN?

Figuring out how to manage your investments in retirement can be challenging.

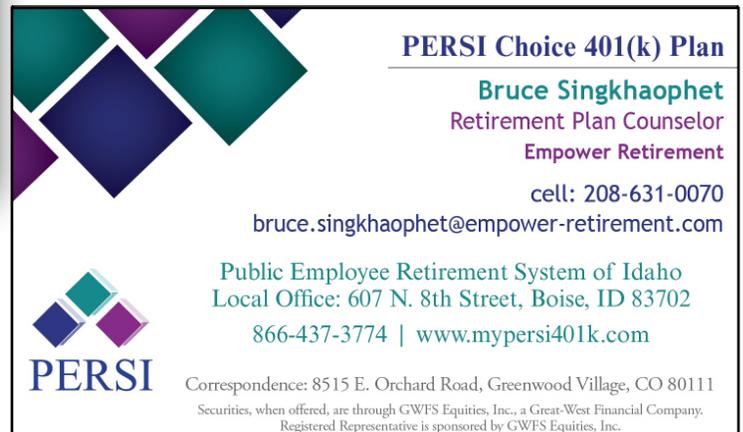


*Bruce Singkhaophet*

Empower Retirement's Bruce Singkhaophet is here to help PERSI members and retirees understand how the Choice Plan works, and what the different investment options offer.

Bruce is available for group workshops, as well as one-on-one sessions for members wanting personal attention.

Bruce is more than happy to travel anywhere in Idaho to help PERSI members work with the Choice Plan. Give him a call to set up a visit!



**PERSI Choice 401(k) Plan**  
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Empower Retirement  
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Securities, when offered, are through GWFS Equities, Inc., a Great-West Financial Company.  
Registered Representative is sponsored by GWFS Equities, Inc.

## KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR MAILBOX

PERSI Information Technology Manager Larry Sweat recently attended in informational meeting of his homeowner's association in Meridian, where a local police officer presented annual neighborhood crime statistics. One topic of discussion caught Larry's attention; people are stealing mail from unsuspecting homeowners!

Knowing some PERSI retirees still rely on a paper benefit check arriving in the mail, now might be a good time to bring some awareness. Here are some things you can do to protect your mail from thieves (source: U.S. Postal Inspection Service):

- Pick up your mail promptly after delivery. Don't leave it in your mailbox overnight. If you're expecting checks, credit cards, or other negotiable items, ask a trusted friend or neighbor to pick up your mail.

- If you don't receive a check or other valuable mail you're expecting, contact the issuing agency immediately.

- Tell your Post Office when you'll be out of town, so they can hold your mail until you return.

- Consider starting a neighborhood watch program. By exchanging work and vacation schedules with trusted friends and neighbors, you can watch each other's mailboxes (as well as homes).

- Don't send cash in the mail.

If you see a mail thief at work, or if you believe your mail was stolen, call police immediately, then call Postal Inspectors at 877-876-2455 (press 3).

Of course, one way to be sure your PERSI benefit check is never stolen from your mailbox is by taking advantage of direct deposit. It's safe, secure, reliable, and it saves PERSI time and money. Just call the PERSI Answer Center at 1-800-451-8228 for help getting started.

## ATTENTION RETIRED PEACE OFFICERS!

The Idaho Retired Law Enforcement Association ([www.irlea.org](http://www.irlea.org)) is open to all retired (in good standing) commissioned & non-commissioned law enforcement. There is also a category for people who were in law enforcement for ten or more years and left in good standing as well as a category for the widows of retired law enforcement officers.

If you would like to join, or if you have any questions contact:

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[www.persi.idaho.gov](http://www.persi.idaho.gov)



## PERSI INVESTMENT NEWS

*for Base Plan as of June 25, 2015*

Value of the Fund:

\$15,156,091,075

Fiscal Year Change in Market Value:

\$ 469,507,979

Fiscal Year-to-Date Returns:

4.3%

Month-to-Date Returns:

-0.4%

\*Posted monthly on PERSI website: [www.persi.idaho.gov/](http://www.persi.idaho.gov/)  
Fiscal Year 7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015

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607 North 8th Street, Boise, ID 83702  
Base Plan: 208.334.3365 or 1.800.451.8228  
Choice Plan: 1.866.437.3774  
[www.persi.idaho.gov](http://www.persi.idaho.gov)

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