



NEWS TO USE

A newsletter for PERSI employers

February 2017

- Help with *myPERSI*!
- Seasonal Eligibility
- Training Opportunities



PLEASE ENCOURAGE MEMBERS TO USE *myPERSI*

One of the most exciting parts of the Idaho Retirement Information System (IRIS) conversion has been the introduction of the new *myPERSI* online member portal. The portal is accessible to all PERSI members, and offers some great new features, advantages and benefits! Our big challenge now (and one we need your help with), is getting the word out, and encouraging members to register and start exploring!

When PERSI made the final conversion to IRIS, the old version of *myPERSI* went away, so anyone registered in the old *myPERSI* must re-register in the new *myPERSI*. This is where you can help. We're asking all employers to actively encourage members to take a few minutes as soon as possible, and get registered. We think you and they will be happy in the end. Some things folks can do in the new *myPERSI* are:

- View Up-to-Date Account Details
- Create Instant Retirement Estimates Based on Specific Inputs
- Link instantly to Choice 401(k) Plan account
- Access and Change Personal Information
- Sign up for PERSI Workshops

As often happens when experiencing new technology, members may get stuck, or need some help getting registered or navigating around in the new *myPERSI*. We want everyone to know we're here to help! We have placed an [interactive online tool](#) on our home page, to help members get registered, find their way around the portal, and work with many of the new features. Plus, as always, members wanting more help, or needing a personal touch, can always call the PERSI Answer Center at 1-800-451-8228 or (208) 334-3365 (in the Boise & surrounding areas).

ELIGIBILITY FOR SEASONAL EMPLOYEES

For PERSI purposes, a seasonal position with a city, county, irrigation district, cemetery district or mosquito abatement district is a position that lasts less than 8 consecutive months in a calendar year and is dependent on weather only.

At the time of hire, the employer must submit a certification of employee's 8-month Seasonal status form (RS130). Including a job description when submitting the form makes it easier for the employer and PERSI to ensure an employee qualifies for

8-month seasonal status. Both the employer and employee are required to sign the form acknowledging the employee is being hired in a seasonal position that relates to weather.

At the time of termination, the employer is required to resubmit a copy of the RS130 form to PERSI showing the employee's termination date.

If employment exceeds 8 consecutive months of employment, the position is not considered seasonal and

all employment during the 8 months becomes eligible for PERSI membership. Employee and employer contributions would be required retroactive to the date of hire.

Employers are responsible for determining which of their employees meet the requirements of eligibility for PERSI membership and which ones do not meet the requirements. If you have questions about 8-month seasonal employees, please contact the Employer Service Center at 1-866-887-9525.

READY, SET, GO!

New Training Modules for Employees

To more effectively reach the largest number of members and employers in 2017, we again have [updated workshops](#) tailored specifically to a certain point in an employee's career -- **READY...** (early-career employees) **SET?** (mid-career employees) **GO!** (late-career employees). We intend to travel to every county in Idaho again this year. With your help coordinating, we'd like to spend a morning or an afternoon at your location and specifically target the three employee groups:

READY... is designed for members who are relatively new to public employment in Idaho. We are working to engage members early in their PERSI careers, to help them develop pre-retirement behaviors and assist them in planning for a happy, comfortable retirement. This module includes a description of the PERSI Base Plan and how it works, eligibility requirements, beneficiaries, contribution rates, vesting, the PERSI Choice 401(k) Plan, and a tour of the PERSI website. Workshops are available throughout the state of Idaho.

SET? Designed with mid-career employees in mind, this workshop is tailored toward members who may benefit from a "refresher" on the value of their PERSI benefits, and the many planning resources available. The training covers PERSI benefit calculation, rule of 80/90, purchase of service, and the death and disability benefits. We also reacquaint members with the Choice 401(k) Plan, investment strategies, and budget/debt management.

GO! This interactive workshop is designed for late-career PERSI members who may be approaching or contemplating retirement. The workshop includes the following: A member-specific benefit estimate, retirement options, choosing a contingent annuitant, retirement application process, PERSI and taxes, Choice 401(k) Plan distribution, and options for working in retirement.

Remember, we are emphasizing presentations at employer on-site locations, while continuing to offer our traditional locations throughout Idaho. Employers wanting to set up an on-location workshop can do so by emailing us at workshops@persi.idaho.gov.



PERSI INVESTMENT REPORT *

Month to Date Report

January 24, 2017

CURRENT VALUE OF THE FUND	\$	15,547,881,601
FISCAL YEAR NET CHANGE IN ASSETS	\$	701,027,880
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE RETURNS		5.7%
MONTH TO DATE RETURNS		1.9%

*Each month, PERSI Chief Investment Officer, Bob Maynard presents his investment report to the PERSI Retirement Board, and posts it to the PERSI website. Click [here](#) to link to the full report.