



Boise | Coeur d'Alene | Pocatello

PERSpectives FOR RETIREES

Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho

Fourth Quarter 2017

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NEW PERSI BOARDROOM NAMED IN HONOR OF FORMER CHAIRMAN, JODY B. OLSON



Jody B. Olson & Director Don Drum



Jody & Victoria Hawley, wife



Chairman Jeff Cilek & Jody B. Olson

The longest serving Trustee in PERSI history, and Chairman of the Board beginning in 1995, Jody B. Olson, was honored during a special ceremony at December's Board meeting. Nearly 100 people gathered at PERSI's headquarters in Boise to celebrate his retirement from the Retirement Board (June 30, 2017).

Surrounded by his family, longtime friends and former colleagues, Mr. Olson was recognized for his thirty (30) years of service and commitment to helping Idaho's public workers build a secure retirement with the dedication and naming of the new fourth floor boardroom, the Jody Olson Boardroom.

He served a total of six terms, and was appointed by five different Idaho Governors, both democrat and republican; Cecil Andrus, Phil Batt, Dirk Kempthorne, Jim Risch, and C.L. "Butch" Otter.

When Mr. Olson began serving on the Board in 1987, PERSI was only 67% funded with \$1.16 billion in assets and 59,000 members and retirees. During his time as Chairman, starting in 1995, Mr. Olson used his long tenure to help guide the PERSI fund to all-time asset highs, and nationally recognized stability. Today, the fund is valued at more than \$17 billion and is over 90% funded, serving almost 145,000 members and retirees.

Mr. Olson is perhaps most proud of the relationships and connections he formed with PERSI members, whether it's the teachers in the classroom, police officers and firemen on the street, or any of PERSI's 45,000 retirees.



PERSI RETIREMENT BOARD RECOMMENDS COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA) FOR RETIREES

During its October meeting, the PERSI Retirement Board voted to recommend a 1.9% cost-of-living adjustment for retired members in 2018.

Idaho Code 59-1355 requires PERSI to apply a cost-of-living adjustment to retirement benefits effective March 1st each year. The COLA is tied to the Consumer Price Index - Urban (CPI-U) for the 12 months ending August of the current year (1.9% for this year), and may not exceed the CPI-U or 6%, whichever is less. The Board's COLA recommendation is subject to amendment or rejection by the Legislature.

PERSI was created in 1963 by the Idaho Legislature for the purpose of providing secure, long-term pension benefits for public employees. The system is funded through investment income, and employer and employee contributions. Today, PERSI administers a \$17-billion plan for approximately 145,000 PERSI members, retirees and beneficiaries and nearly 800 employers. In fiscal year 2017, PERSI paid more than \$836 million in benefits; approximately 90% of that (\$752 million) was paid to retirees living in Idaho.



TAX DOCUMENTS WILL BE MAILED SOON

Tax documents for PERSI Base Plan distributions (1099R) for 2017 will be in the mail by January 31. Please keep in mind, if you have selected your preferred method of communication as electronic, you will not receive a copy in the mail. Your tax documents will be available to download in your *myPERSI* account.

Empower Retirement, record keeper for the Choice 401(k) Plan, will mail 1099Rs no later than January 31.

Some PERSI retirees may end up receiving more than one 1099R form, depending on when they took withdrawals in 2017.



DO YOU HAVE TAX QUESTIONS?

PERSI wants to remind retired members that we are not tax authorities, and are not able to provide personal or specific tax advice. We encourage members to seek tax advice from a qualified tax professional. The customer service team in the PERSI Answer Center did some research, and found some alternatives where retirees might be able to obtain tax payer assistance:



- Boise Senior Center, 690 Robbins Rd., Boise, Idaho – (208) 345-9921
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program – (800) 906-9887
- AARP Foundation's Tax Aide Program – (888) 227-7669
- Idaho Care Line – (800) 926-2588
- Idaho State Tax Commission – (800) 972-7660

These contact numbers may connect you with tax payer assistance or even free tax preparation to those who qualify.



PERSI STAFF MAKES BIG IMPACT ON LOCAL NONPROFIT



During PERSI’s all staff training this past December, employees were encouraged to bring canned food items to support local nonprofit, Advocates Against Family Violence (AAFV). AAFV works to eliminate domestic violence in families and homes by empowering individuals to make positive life choices through advocacy, support, education, affordable housing, awareness and community involvement.

Needless to say, PERSI staff delivered in a big way! Besides bringing canned food, employees donated turkeys, hams, laundry detergent, toiletries, bedding and baby supplies. The Director of AAFV was overwhelmed by the generosity and amount of items employees donated, mentioning “You all donated more than any corporation we have ever worked with!” Way to go PERSI!

NEW YEAR, NEW FEES...REDUCED FEES!

If you have money in the PERSI Choice 401(k) Plan, effective February 1, 2018, PERSI Choice 401(k) Plan administrative fees are being reduced by 5%, meaning more of your savings will start working toward what matters most — your future. In the meantime, we encourage you to log on to mypersi401k.com to view the new fee structure for the PERSI Choice 401(k) Plan.

We realize retirement plan fees can be confusing, so please call Empower Retirement at 866-437-3774 with any questions. You can also reach out to one of your plan representatives directly.

[Ali Belden](mailto:Ali.belden@empower-retirement.com) at 208-345-1120 or 1-844-446-8658, ext. 20431 and Ali.belden@empower-retirement.com.

[Bruce Singkhaophet](mailto:Bruce.singkhaophet@empowerretirement.com) at 208-345-5201 or 1-844-446-8658, ext. 20461 and Bruce.singkhaophet@empowerretirement.com

HAVE YOU CHANGED ADDRESSES?

To update your mailing address, you must fill out and submit a completed **RS110 Change of Address** form (current version on PERSI’s website) by either email, fax or mail it directly to PERSI. You can also update your address in the *myPERSI* portal. Once the address change is processed, all statements, correspondence, and documents will be mailed to the address of record.

The form also updates your Choice 401(k) Plan account, if you have one.

If you have question and/or concerns, contact PERSI at 1-800-451-8228 or (208) 334-3365 (in the Boise & surrounding areas).



DOES YOUR FORM HAVE A BARCODE? If the form doesn’t have a barcode at the bottom, it’s the old version. New version available on PERSI’s website. Choice Plan forms do not have bar codes.

RS110

Revised: 08/2016
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DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH *myPERSI*?

You can receive your PERSI annual statements, confirmation of changes and other documents sooner in a secure location by setting your preferred method of communication to electronic in your *myPERSI* account.

myPERSI Login

CLICK HERE

By choosing electronic communication, under the Personal Information tab on your *myPERSI* page, you will receive an email alert, and then you can log into your *myPERSI* account and download the document.

PERSI INVESTMENT NEWS

AS OF December 11, 2017

VALUE OF THE FUND

\$17,308,977,818

FISCAL YEAR CHANGE IN MARKET VALUE

\$925,378,419

FISCAL YEAR-TO-DATE RETURNS: 6.5%

MONTH-TO-DATE RETURNS: 0.1%

*Posted monthly at www.persi.idaho.gov
Fiscal Year July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

RETIREMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeff Cilek, *Chairman*

Joy Fisher, *Trustee*

Celia R. Gould, *Trustee*

J. Kirk Sullivan, *Trustee*

Park Price, *Trustee*

Executive Director • Donald Drum

Deputy Director • Michael L. Hampton

Public Information Officer • Jenny Flint



FIND US ON FACEBOOK

www.persi.idaho.gov

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