



Employers' Edge

Employer news from the
Alaska Division of
Retirement and Benefits

In This Issue:

- [Retirement & Benefits Fair Coming Soon](#)
- [Security Breach May Affect Retirement System Members](#)
- [Alaska Retirement Management Board Meets April 22-23 in Anchorage](#)
- [Do Your Employees Know About the 115-Day Rule?](#)
- [Deferring Unpaid Annual/Personal Leave](#)
- [Online Enrollment for the Deferred Compensation Plan Goes Live](#)
- [PERS & TRS Publications Available Online](#)
- [Updated Forms and Brochures](#)
- [Who to Contact](#)

March 2010 | Volume #59

"Retirement & Benefits Fair" Coming Soon

April 8-10, Fairbanks, May 13-15, Kenai Peninsula

The division is offering a series of educational workshops as part of a *Retirement & Benefits Fair* intended to help employees plan for their future retirement security. The workshops are in addition to the retirement seminars available to employees on a regular basis. A [Retirement & Benefits Fair](#) will be held in Fairbanks April 8-10, 2010, at the Princess Hotel and in Soldotna May 13-15 at the Kenai Peninsula College.

The [Fairbanks workshops](#) will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on April 8 & 9, and from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 10. Great-West Retirement Services will offer counseling sessions from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday and in the afternoon on Saturday, from 3:00 - 5:30 p.m.



[Workshop presentations](#) will provide valuable information for all employees, from those newly hired through those planning for retirement. Please encourage your employees to attend. Look for further details on the May workshops in the April issue of the Employers' Edge.

Fairbanks employers: Please print and [post this flyer](#) in a visible place.

For more information on the fair, contact Pam Couzin, Regional Counselor, by e-mail at pam.couzin@alaska.gov or by phone, toll-free at 800-821-2251 or in Juneau, 465-4495.

Security Breach May Affect Retirement System Members

State acts to safeguard members from potential identity theft

As a reminder to your employees about the recent security breach, please share with them the following information:

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC), a contractor performing analysis for a law firm on contract with the State, recently told the Alaska Department of Law that it could not locate information it had been analyzing on behalf of the State that contained names, social security numbers, and dates of birth. Participants in the Public Employees' Retirement System and the Teachers' Retirement System, who were active or inactive employees, including retirees, in 2003 and 2004, may be affected. Members affected by the PwC security breach were mailed a notice on February 12, 2010, with more detailed information about the breach, and instructions on how to sign up for free services pursuant to the settlement reached with PwC. If you believe you may have been affected, but did not receive a letter, you may call the Division of Retirement & Benefits at 1-800-821-2251 to verify whether or not you are affected and should have received a letter. You can find more information about the breach at:

<http://doa.alaska.gov/drb/PWC-security-breach.html>.

Alaska Retirement Management Board Meets April 22-23 in Anchorage

The next regular meeting of the Alaska Retirement Management Board (ARMB) will be held in Anchorage on April 22-23, 2010. The meeting will be held at the downtown Marriott Hotel from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. The public is invited to attend and will be given the opportunity for public comment and participation.



An agenda will be available closer to the meeting date at this [web link](#) where you may also [view minutes from past ARMB meetings](#). For questions regarding the ARMB, please contact the ARMB liaison, [Judy Hall](#), in the Treasury Division.

Do Your Employees Know About the 115-day Rule?

If you have employees who are planning to retire this year, you might want to make sure they know about the 115-day rule regarding their salary counting toward their retirement benefit:

PERS employees

To use this year's salary as one of the three high consecutive (Tier I & II) or five high consecutive (Tier III) salaries for calculating a retirement pension benefit, an employee must work at least 115 days in this payroll year. Weekends and holidays count toward the 115 days, as well as any annual leave an employee may take, as long as the employee returns to work for at least one day. For 2010, the 115th calendar day falls on April 25. Because April 25 falls on a Sunday, an employee must work on Monday, April 26 in order for the weekend days to count toward the total of 115 days. Seasonal or part-time employees may have to work longer to qualify under this rule.



TRS employees

To use this year's salary as one of the three highest annual-based contract salaries, an employee must work and receive compensation at least two-thirds of the *school year* (115 days), either full-time or part-time. Holidays count (but not weekends) toward the 115 days, as well as any annual leave an employee may take, as long as the employee returns to work for at least one day. The school year runs from July 1 to June 30 but because schools start on different dates, a definitive date for the 115th day cannot be given.

Deferring Unpaid Annual/Personal Leave

For State of Alaska employees only

If you are a State of Alaska employer and have employees participating in the state's

Deferred Compensation Plan, make sure they know that when leaving state service employees can defer unpaid annual and/or personal leave into their deferred compensation account. This will reduce their tax liability and increase their investment balance in the plan. For more information, employees can contact Phil Gutleben by e-mail at phil.gutleben@alaska.gov or by phone, toll-free, at 1-800-821-2251 or in Juneau at 465-2071.

Online Enrollment for the Deferred Compensation Plan Goes Live



For State of Alaska employees only
State of Alaska employees may now enroll in the Deferred Compensation Plan (DCP) or make changes to their deferral amount online through [Great-West Retirement Services](#). Prior to March 1, 2010, employees had to submit a paper form to enroll in the DCP or to make changes to their account. Paper forms are still available under "[Deferred Compensation Plan](#)" on the [Forms page](#) on the Division's website. If you or your employees have questions, please contact Great-West Customer Service at 1-800-232-0859.



PERS and TRS Publications Available Online

The following PERS and TRS publications are available at the "[Publications](#)" link on the [Division of Retirement and Benefits website](#):

PERS Publications:

[PERS Comprehensive Annual Financial Report](#)
[Actuarial Valuation Reports and Supplemental to the Valuation Reports](#)
[Financial Statements](#)

TRS Publications:

[TRS Comprehensive Annual Financial Report](#)
[Actuarial Valuation Reports](#)
[Financial Statements](#)

To navigate to any division reports, follow these steps:

1. Go to the division's website at www.doa.alaska.gov/dr/
2. In the "Quick Links" column on the right, click on "[Publications](#)"
3. Click on the appropriate system, plan or fund.
4. Select the report you want to view.

If you prefer a hard copy of these reports, please contact the Division of Retirement and Benefits at (907) 465-5711.

Updated Forms and Brochures

The following forms and brochures have been updated since the last newsletter. Please be sure to use only the updated forms. Printing from the [Forms & Brochures page](#) on the division website will assure you always have the most current version.

Form No.	Description

We hope you find this employer newsletter helpful. If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to contact us. Any feedback from you will be greatly appreciated. Click here for [past issues](#) back to 2008. Email any comments to the editor, [Barbara Kelly](#).

Accounting Section (907) 465-1444	Pension Adjustments Unit (907) 465-1400
Audit Section (907) 465-5707	Pre-Retirement Services Unit (907) 465-5700
Deferred Compensation Plan (907) 465-5700	Retiree Payroll Section (907) 465-1447
Dependent Care Assistance Plan (907) 465-4464	Retirement Processing Unit (907) 465-1477
Disability Unit (907) 465-1153	Supplemental Annuity Plan (907) 465-1600
Divorce/Dissolution Unit (907) 465-5699	Survivor Benefits Unit (907) 465-5695 or (907) 465-3369
Insurance Benefits Section (907) 465-8600	

Employers' Edge is published monthly by the

Alaska Division of Retirement and Benefits

State Office Building

333 Willoughby Avenue, 6th floor

PO Box 110203

Juneau, AK 99811-0203

Phone: (907) 465-4460; Toll Free: 1-800-821-2251; Fax: (907) 465-3086;

email: [Retirement & Benefits](#); TDD: (907) 465-2805