

TRS News Break

Alaska Teachers' Retirement System

Planning Ahead: Tips to Prepare for Retirement

Here are some tips to keep in mind as you prepare for your retirement journey.



- 1. Don't wait until the last minute.** Visit with a counselor early in your career or at least three to five years before retirement to see what your retirement numbers look like. Counselors can help you to develop a plan for retirement and discuss all of the programs available to you.
- 2. Save a little, or a lot, just save something.** Some people don't think they can save much, but you just need to start somewhere. Even if you start with just \$50 or \$100 each month it's never too early to start putting extra money away for retirement. If you are in the 25% income tax bracket, for every \$100 you contribute, you will only see a \$75 reduction in your net pay.
- 3. Get a raise? Save that too.** If you were able to make ends meet prior to your pay bump, add your raise to the amount you contribute to your retirement savings plan. If you do this every time, it will help you have more retirement income in the future.

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Report from the Field: Meet Tony Brakes

Tony Brakes has worked for the Division of Retirement and Benefits since 1999. Over the past twelve years, Tony has held a variety of positions throughout the Division. His first position was in Benefits, he then moved on to Supplemental Benefits System/Deferred Compensation Plan (SBS/DCP), Pre-Retirement (now called Retirement Customer Service Center or RCSC), Pension Adjustments, Survivor Benefits and most recently, Appeals. Tony is now the Attachment Specialist. He handles claims under divorce, dissolutions, or Qualified Domestic Relations Orders (QDROs), and implements IRS



Tony Brakes
Attachment Specialist
Division of Retirement
and Benefits

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IRS 1099-R Forms to be Mailed in Late January

Additional Information Available at Alaska.gov/drb

If you are a retiree, survivor or dependent, or if you took a refund during calendar year 2011, your 2011 IRS Form 1099-R will be mailed at the end of January. Detailed information related to this form is available on our Web site under **What's New > Retiree Updates**. There you will find an introduction to your 1099-R and a variety of scenarios that could apply to retirees and

beneficiaries who received distributions in 2011.

If you would like us to mail you a copy of the 1099-R News, please call the Retirement Customer Service Center at (800) 821-2251 or (907) 465-4460 in Juneau between 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Alaska Time, select option "1," or you can email us at doa.drb.retireepayroll@alaska.gov. ♦

Alaska Retirement Management Board Meeting

February 16 - 17

Centennial Hall, Juneau

Alaska Retirement Management Board (ARMB) meetings are open to the public. Minutes of past meetings and meeting agendas can be found at alaska.gov/drb/boards/. If you have questions, contact Judy Hall, ARMB liaison, at (907) 465-3749.

Report from the Field: Meet Tony Brakes

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Levies and orders from the Child Support Services Division (CSSD). Having experience in so many areas has helped Tony to develop a wealth of knowledge for, and a lasting connection with, the Division.

Tony was born and raised in Juneau and has lived there most of his life except for a couple of stints in Hawaii and Durango, Colorado. Tony attended school at local institutions and graduated from Juneau-Douglas High School in 1990. He continues to be involved in the local community, coaching football and wrestling, where he also serves as a mentor. Tony enjoys the outdoor life that Southeast Alaska offers as he regularly partakes in hiking and biking activities. He enjoys spending time with family and friends and often takes his adventures "out-the-road."

The one piece of advice that Tony would like to offer members is "Save, save, save. Save until it hurts. There is no better time than the present to bolster

your retirement savings."

What Tony likes most about his job is that it is a gratifying experience to teach people or guide others on the path to accomplish their goals. It is particularly interesting when he finds himself on the other side of the desk from people who have helped him in life, especially teachers. People who once led Tony to where he is today are now asking him for guidance and he is happy to help. He enjoys imparting information that assists people in making decisions to take them in the right direction.

Being in a position where he is able to build lasting relationships with people is very important to Tony. His experience with the various sections has given him unique insight into retirement and benefit issues, which helps him to better serve members with their respective inquiries and general requests for service. ♦

*"Save,
save, save.
Save until
it hurts."*

-Tony Brakes

Finding a Good Financial Planner

Ten Steps to Guide Your Search

Article provided by the State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Banking and Securities.



1. **What experience do you have?** Find out how long the adviser has been in practice and the companies he or she has been associated with. Choose an adviser with a minimum of three years experience.
2. **What are your qualifications?** The term “financial planner” is used by a lot of people. Ask the planner what qualifies him/her to offer financial advice. Consider whether the planner received a designation or recognition from a professional organization.
3. **What services do you offer?** Some planners offer advice on a lot of topics: like stocks and insurance. Some don’t sell anything; others receive a commission on whatever they sell you.
4. **What is your approach to financial planning?** Ask about the type of clients and financial situations the planner has experienced. Some planners look at the entire picture, other focus on trouble areas. Be sure the planner meets your style, whether aggressive or conservative.
5. **Will you be the only person working with me?** Watch for the bait and switch. Find out if the planner is going to do the work himself, or handoff to a junior assistant.
6. **How will I pay for your services?** Planners are paid in different ways. Know how your planner makes

a living since it could influence the advice given. Fee-only planners don’t receive commissions and most base their services on an hourly rate. The majority of planners receive commissions on what they sell.

7. **How much do you typically charge?** You wouldn’t let a mechanic work on your car without an estimate. An estimate should include a breakdown on the fees and commissions you will be charged and how they will be charged.
8. **Could anyone besides me benefit from your recommendations?** Ask for a written disclosure of any conflicts of interest the planner may have. A planner who sells insurance gets a commission. You’ll want to know that before he recommends a policy for you.
9. **Have you ever been disciplined by a governmental or regulatory agency?** Not everyone who calls themselves a financial planner is a registered investment adviser or broker. Check the following to see if the financial planner has had any action taken against them:

If your planner is a registered investment adviser, you can ask for a planner’s registration form known as “Form ADV.” If you don’t receive a copy of the planner’s registration form you can view it online at by visiting the Investment Adviser Public Disclosure (IAPD) Web site at adviserinfo.sec.gov. IAPD provides information about current and former Investment Adviser Representatives (IARs), Investment Adviser firms registered with the SEC and/or state securities regulators, and Exempt Reporting Advisers that file reports with the SEC and/or state securities regulators.

You can also check the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Broker Check at finra.org/Investors/ToolsCalculators/BrokerCheck/

If you can’t find what you are looking at one of the locations above, contact the Securities Division in your state. If you are in Alaska you can call (907) 465-2521 in Juneau, (907) 269-8140 in Anchorage, or (888) 925-2521 statewide.

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Retirees in Touch: More Music for Dave Stancliff



After 23 years of public service it was a big change for me to leave the work crowd behind and settle down in my quiet little town of Tok, Alaska. The adjustment from a solid routine to freewheeling was not as easy as I thought it would be. However, retirement has turned out to be a busy time for me.

What has made retirement most enjoyable is being able to have more time for family and friends and personal interests, especially music. During my work years, music was at first a hobby and later developed into a profession. Once retirement came I was able to invest more time, and with the solid source of retirement income I could count on, I was able to be more committed to becoming a musician. With the help of my many wonderful music friends around the state, I was able to round up many of the songs I had played over the years and finally get them recorded. Since retirement, I have produced two original music CDs.

Over the years, I have written and performed many songs and played at numerous festivals. My first Juneau Folk Festival appearance was in 1981 at the

Alaska State Museum. Each year various friends and entertainers join me on stage for the fun and excitement. Now, in addition to the folk festival, every summer evening in Tok I take part in “Songs of the Last Frontier,” a live Alaska music show which I originated and produce. It has become a main focus for me since retirement.

With my renewed commitment to music, my five children and eight grandchildren can hear their dad and grandpa singing and playing here in Alaska. Having the peace of mind that is provided by medical coverage and a steady income from my Alaska retirement has truly been a blessing for me and my family.



We want to hear your retirement story. Are you volunteering, traveling, involved in the community or just enjoying life? Let us know where you are living now, what you are involved in, where you were employed and how your State of Alaska retirement has allowed you to enjoy new adventures in retirement. Email your stories to susan.stopher@alaska.gov. ♦

Finding a Good Financial Planner

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10. Can I have it in writing? You're entitled to a written agreement covering all of this. Get it or leave.

For additional information on Financial Planning, contact these organizations:

**Association for Financial Counseling,
Planning, Education**

www.afcpe.org

Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc.

www.cfp.net

Financial Planning Association

www.fpanet.org

National Association of Personal Financial Advisors

www.napfa.org

**North American Securities Administrators
Association**

Investor Bill of Rights

nasaa.org/2715/investor-bill-of-rights/

Division Staff Participate in Goodwill Events in 2011



Division of Retirement and Benefits (DRB) staff members continue to “pay it forward” to those with a need of help in our community. This year DRB staff members collected 65 pounds of nonperishable foods for Juneau’s homeless shelter and made a commitment to the AWARE (Aiding Women in Abuse and Rape Emergencies) Shelter by providing soaps and toiletry items. An annual drive for socks, gloves and toys last Christmas season for children was also a great success.

Planning Ahead: Tips to Prepare for Retirement *(continued from page 1)*

- 4. Meet with a counselor regularly.** Numbers are always changing so it is important that you check in on your progress with a counselor so they can give you the most current information.
- 5. Prepare, prepare, prepare!** Contributing money to retirement savings plans helps you to prepare for a reduced income in retirement.
- 6. Cash in your leave.** Check with your employer to see if you have an option to cash in leave by adding it to a retirement account. Some employers offer it while others do not.
- 7. Look at ways you can reduce your debt.** Pay off your house, car or any other debt with a monthly payment during your working years so that you can comfortably live on a reduced income in your retirement years.

Take the first step in getting familiar with



your retirement plan by contacting one of the Division of Retirement and Benefits Counselors to make an appointment at (907) 465-4460 or you can email Donna Yancey at donna.yancey@alaska.gov.

Let Us Share Your Retirement Savings Story

We are looking for TRS Members who are interested in sharing tips and stories about saving for retirement. Send your retirement saving ideas to susan.stopher@alaska.gov to be featured in an upcoming Newsbreak.

Where Are You?

Review this List from the Division of Retirement and Benefits

The Division of Retirement and Benefits is trying to locate people who no longer have a correct address in our system. If you have a current address or any other information for anyone listed below, please contact Lyn Fiehler in the Accounting Section

toll-free at (800) 821-2251, ext. 5713 or (907) 465-5713.

Please note: Some people might have the same name as you or may have a new last name due to marriage, divorce, or name change. Any information you can provide will be appreciated.

Adams, Wayne W.	Henzl, Kelly M.	Pionk, Darcy A.	Scovell, Robert L.
Alexander, Herbert L.	Hernandez, Gabriela	Plack, Christopher M.	Scranton, Kathy S.
Allen, James	Hicks, Claudine A.	Podems, Andrew M.	Selmer, Erik Brooke
Alstrom, Robert	Jacko, Kimberly A.	Prall, Lisa M.	Severson, Ruth A.
Alverson, Martha A.	Jones, Niki L.	Quinn, Kelly J.	Sharp, Faye N.
Atwood, Dana L.	Jordan, Mai	Rackley, Veronica A.	Shipe, Susan L.
Aune, Erin L.	Korkiala, Ray E.	Raines, M. Diane	Shryock, Patricia M.
Bailey, Brenda S.	Korroch, Karrie J.	Raney, Sarah L.	Silverman, Sharon
Barron, Bernard	Kovach, Jessica L.	Reich, Frederick C.	Silvis, Sherlyn A.
Bates, Amanda L.	Krebs, Lisa F.	Reichert, Heidi	Smith, David W.
Bohne, Jeremy R.	Krebs, Robert A.	Rials, Charles Lawrence	Smith, Leeann S.
Boisvert, Michelle	Lacefield, Donna	Rigenhagen, James I.	Somby, Ande
Brickley, Robert F.	Lamar-Mcalpine, Veronica	Rigenhagen, Ruth A.	Stalford, Kara
Brinkerhoff, Coleen S.	Lawhon, James N.	Ring, Elizabeth A.	Stevens, Colleen
Caballero, Kathleen E.	Leckwold, Cara A.	Rivero, Juan	Sweeney, Judy T.
Carstens, Torklid	Legassick, Matthew G.	Rizer, Jennifer M.	Tillinghast, Jeffrey K.
Carter, Robert J.	Madsen, Kristine G.	Rochin, Angele F.	Troth, Jennifer M.
Dizon, Antonio M.	Massey Jr., Wayne H.	Rockwell, Mary Helen	Turner, Kathy A.
Dobler, Tina L.	Maxwell, Kelly M.	Rogers, Thomas J.	Twarakavi, Navin Kumar C.
Donegan, Brenda J.	Millington Jr., Johnnie E.	Rohloff, Joan R.	Valencia, Jonathan
Elterman, Genevieve K.	Moody, Donna K.	Rohn, Barbara A.	Valencia, Mary K.
Erickson, Elizabeth S.	Morden, Lisa	Rost, Leland F.	Vandecarr, Hillary L.
Escarate, Osvaldo E.	Nagasaki, Yumi C.	Rulon, Phillip J.	Vincent, Vicki L.
Fishbaugh, Anna L.	Nelson, Craig A.	Samuy, Norman P.	Weiss, Debra K.
Fresquez, Gary	Nie, Matthew J.	Sargent, Tamara S.	Weller, Thomas
Grabowski, Steve B.	Nishikawa, Misa I.	Scheaffer, Jean S.	Whinston, Amy
Green, Vickie	Odell, Kathaleen M.	Schimschock, Beth S.	Williams, Amy R.
Grunda, Joshua P.	Olinger, Steven D.	Schneider, Sally L.	Yaw, Patricia
Hacskaylo, Christine	Olson, Candace W.	Schofield, Yvonne V.	Young Iii, William E.
Haering, Frances A.	Osborne, Catherine B.	Schuster, Jennifer	Zaragoza, Ernestine L.

Benefits Fair Coming to Fairbanks in March

For All PERS and TRS Members

Do you wish you knew more about your retirement benefits? Wonder how to choose the right investment options in your defined contribution plans? Attending a Benefits Fair will provide you with the answers to these questions and more.

A Benefits Fair is scheduled for Fairbanks March 29 - 31, 2012. The Fair will cover a wide range of topics for all members of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) and the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS), from those newly hired to those ready to retire.

Educational opportunities will include seminars on retirement eligibility and pension decisions, AlaskaCare health plans for active employees and retirees, financial education, Social Security and



Medicare. For more details about the upcoming Fairs, visit our Web site at alaska.gov/drb.

Don't face retirement alone. Join us at the Fair! ♦

Benefits Fair	
Fairbanks Fairbanks Princess Hotel	
March 29 - 31, 2012	
For Benefits Fair schedule and descriptions, check the seminar page at alaska.gov/drb . For questions contact Judy Hall by email at judy.hall@alaska.gov or call (800) 821-2251. Fair presentations are on a first-come, first-seated basis.	
Retirement Plan Education Seminars	
The Retirement Process	Supplemental Benefits System (SBS) and Deferred Compensation Plan (DCP)
Fairbanks Fairbanks North Star Borough School District Administration Building	Fairbanks
February 15, 2012 - <i>Boardroom</i> 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	None scheduled, check DRB Web site for updates.
March 7, 2012 - <i>Room 341</i> 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	
Juneau State Office Building, 6th Floor Conference Room	Juneau State Office Building, 6th Floor Conference Room
None scheduled, check DRB Web site for updates.	March 8, 2012 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
	April 12, 2012 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
	May 10, 2012 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Register for seminars online at alaska.gov/drb or call (800) 821-2251, in Juneau (907) 465-1443. Dates, times, and locations of seminars are subject to change or cancellation, depending on participation.

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The Alaska Department of Administration complies with Title II of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The PERS Newsbreak is available in alternative communication formats upon request. To make necessary arrangements, contact the ADA Coordinator for the Division of Retirement and Benefits, at (800) 821-2251, or in Juneau (907) 465-4460, or contact the TDD for the hearing impaired at (907) 465-2805.