

GOT SURVEY?



Beginning in mid-September, PERSI mailed a survey to every employer to gather information about our performance and gain insight on how we can improve service. We requested that the questionnaire be returned to PERSI no later than October 1, 2007. Although a postage-paid envelope was included with the survey to make it easy, not as many have been received as expected. If you haven't sent back your survey, please do it today. PERSI values your opinion. Your feedback will help PERSI evaluate Employer Service Center operations, establish the agenda for

future employer meetings, and determine ways for improving service to employers. If you have already returned your survey, thank you for doing it so quickly. Your promptness is appreciated. The survey results will be shared in *News To Use* once the responses have been tabulated.

NEW INVESTMENT OPTIONS FOR THE CHOICE PLAN 401(K)

In July, the Retirement Board directed PERSI to find a "Sudan-free" investment option to add to the Choice Plan 401(k) program. The Calvert Socially Responsible Balanced Fund was approved by the Board for this option. This fund screens for several social investment restrictions, including companies doing business in the Sudan. This option will be available to members beginning October 12, 2007. PERSI believes offering this fund is a good way to accommodate members who want to make investment decisions based on non-financial criteria. Before selecting this or any other investment option, PERSI recommends that members review the fact sheets available on the PERSI Web site at www.persi.idaho.gov.

The second change to the Choice Plan 401(k) investment options is the replacement of the Dreyfus Premier Mid-Cap Stock R Fund with the Mellon Capital Management Wilshire 4500 Index Completion Fund. The Mellon Wilshire 4500 Index Fund will provide members with a highly diversified, style neutral vehicle that provides access to small and medium sized companies at a very low cost. The Mellon Wilshire 4500 Index Fund consists of the companies in the Wilshire 5000 Index, less the S&P 500 stocks. This option will also be available beginning on October 12th. When the market closes at 4:00 p.m. EDT on October 11, 2007, members with investments in the Dreyfus fund will automatically have their balance transferred to the Mellon Wilshire 4500 Index Fund. Members who prefer not to have their assets moved

into the Mellon Wilshire 4500 Index Fund, may transfer their balance to another investment option before or after the automatic transfer occurs.

Selecting these new options involves the same process as selecting any other option. To change an existing investment choice and/or to transfer money between the fund options, members can call ACS HR Solutions (the plan's record keeper) toll-free at 1-800-437-3774 or go the PERSI secure Web site at www.persi.idaho.gov/choice.htm and select *My Choice Plan Account*. Members should have their Social Security number and 6-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN) ready when they call or log on. Members who don't know their PIN can call ACS or go to the Choice Plan 401(k) Web site and request a "PIN reminder letter."

To begin making contributions to the Choice Plan 401(k), members should obtain a *Deferral Election* (RS 801) form from their payroll clerk or download it from the PERSI Web site. The completed form should be returned to the payroll clerk who will set up the payroll deduction. Contributions of new participants will be invested in the Total Return Fund unless different allocations are authorized. To make investment elections, members should contact ACS **after** completing the *Deferral Election* form. Questions about the Choice Plan 401(k) program can be answered by ACS or by visiting the Frequently Asked Questions page on the PERSI Web site.

RETIREMENT SEMINAR OFFERED TO PERSI MEMBERS

- PERSI joins forces with Social Security and SHIBA -

PERSI is excited to announce its first-ever seminar held in conjunction with two other major retirement-related organizations. Joining PERSI trainers Graydon Wood and Mike Mitchell at the Nampa Civic Center on Tuesday, November 6, 2007, will be representatives from the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Senior Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA). This retirement seminar was designed to share detailed information about retirement in today's world, and to answer specific questions about Social Security, Medicare, and health insurance.

The discussion between PERSI and the other agencies began nearly a year ago. The group had to decide when and where to hold the seminar, and also agree on the role of each agency. With so many complicated issues affecting retirees, covering them all in 4 hours would be impossible. Therefore, the group spent a lot of time identifying the most critical topics and setting an agenda that would allow adequate time for discussion.

Since National Retirement Planning Week is November 11-15, agreeing on a date was one of the easier decisions. Once the "what, when, and where" issues

were settled, deciding on who should be invited was the next major hurdle.

PERSI established an invitation criteria based on age and geographic location. The invitations will go to retired and active vested members age 60-69 living in the Caldwell, Nampa, Meridian, and Kuna areas. All invitations, which will be mailed the first week of October, include a tear-off reservation slip and a postage-paid return envelope. Reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. With only 250 seats available, and more than twice that many invitations being mailed, the reservation list is expected to fill up fast. If any of your employees inquire about the seminar, please direct them to the PERSI Answer Center at (208) 334-3365.

If this first seminar is as successful as everyone expects, there is a good possibility PERSI will host more workshops with SSA and SHIBA in the future. Although this initial workshop will be held in the Treasure Valley, future seminars would be held in other parts of the state.

ENCOURAGE EMPLOYEES TO COMPLETE FORMS ONLINE

Nowadays, the most frequently used forms are available for PERSI members to complete online, eliminating the need for employers to keep paper copies on hand. Even though employers may think providing forms is more convenient for their employees, the paper forms provided are often outdated — and that can cause problems. For example, the beneficiary designation form has changed several times over the years. Yet members are still submitting old beneficiary forms because it's what they received from their employer. PERSI must then request a new form, which means doubling the work for the member. If employers simply direct their employees to PERSI's Web site at www.persi.idaho.gov to complete forms online, it will save time and ensure PERSI receives the right form the first time. Employers who still want or need to hand out forms should be aware that current forms have a date in the lower right corner and also have a barcode, which should make it easy for everyone to distinguish the new forms from the old ones. We appreciate your help in encouraging your employees to complete forms online.

Notes

PERSI legal counsel [Brad Goodsell](#) attended the Council of Institutional Investors Fall Conference in San Diego in September. This well-attended event drew public and private fund trustees and counsel, and featured former President Bill Clinton as the keynote speaker. Among the topics for discussion were international governance, financial reporting, and divestment.