



NEWS TO USE

A newsletter for PERSI employers

March 2007

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MORE ABOUT THE 2007 EMPLOYER MEETINGS

PERSI is finalizing the details for the 2007 Employer Meetings, and it's looking like they will be the most beneficial and exciting meetings yet. Invitations have been sent to employers in the Boise and Nampa areas. If you're outside the Treasure Valley, your invitation will be coming soon.

Requiring an RSVP

Remember, due to limited seating and to ensure each attendee receives the proper time, attention, and training, RSVPs are required for this year's meetings. Each session will be limited to 20 people on a first-come, first-served basis. Because of the space and resource limitations, PERSI cannot make exceptions. So once your invitation is received, be sure to contact Jami Davis at (208) 287-9250 to let her know if you want to attend.

Dates And Times Are Confirmed

All meetings will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end around

4:00 p.m. Attendees will be on their own for a 1-hour lunch. The following dates have been reserved for this year's meetings: (* Full)

Boise	April 10, 11, 12*
Nampa	April 17*, 18*
Sandpoint	April 30
Coeur d'Alene	May 1, 2
Lewiston	May 3, 4
Twin Falls	May 9, 10
Idaho Falls	May 21, 22
Pocatello	May 23, 24
Grangeville	June 5
McCall	June 6

Since employers will receive valuable training designed to make their jobs easier, the dates are expected to fill up fast. (As noted, some meetings are already full.) Besides registration, Jami is also available to answer your meeting questions.

THE BENEFITS OF MAKING AN APPOINTMENT

Members are always welcome to come into PERSI for answers to questions or to discuss specific issues relating to their benefits. While PERSI tries to provide all members with good service when they visit our offices, those who make an appointment receive the best service.

Why Make an Appointment?

By having an appointment PERSI staff can gather information, print documents, audit records for accuracy, and explore options before the member arrives. An appointment may also reduce any waiting time for the member. In addition, when a member drops in without an appointment they run the risk that the best person to assist them with their specific questions may not be available. By calling in advance, members can also be told about any documents they should bring to their appointment.

When To Arrive

If a member has an appointment, there is no advantage to arriving extremely early. PERSI Retirement Specialists adhere to an appointment schedule and can rarely take anyone before their slated time. So if a member arrives too early, they might have a long wait. Conversely, if members arrive extremely late, their appointment may have to be rescheduled or could be cut short if the Retirement Specialist with whom they are meeting has another appointment scheduled. PERSI tries to space appointments to accommodate members' needs.

When referring employees to PERSI, employers should encourage appointments. Appointments can be made by calling the PERSI Answer Center at (208) 334-3365 in the Boise area or toll-free at 1 (800) 451-8228 from other parts of the state.

WHEN SHOULD MEMBERS GET A RETIREMENT ESTIMATE?

PERSI encourages members who are 3 years or less away from retirement to get a Base Plan benefit estimate. This is a great time to verify the member's service history, and it allows time before retirement for corrections to be made should any discrepancies be found. By having an estimate, the member will be in a better position to make retirement decisions, and it may also prove helpful if they are consulting with a financial planner.

When to Request an Estimate

While PERSI is happy to prepare estimates at any time, an estimate calculated today will be inaccurate if the member is planning to retire well beyond the date of the estimate. PERSI gets estimate requests daily from members who are not planning to retire for 5, 10, even 15 years down the line. The most accurate estimates are those calculated closest to the member's actual retirement date. PERSI suggests members make an appointment to meet with a Retirement Specialist, who will not only run an estimate, but also answer questions about PERSI benefits and retirement in general.

Estimates Reviewed in 505 Workshops

Members wanting an estimate and planning to attend a PERSI 505 retirement workshop can accomplish both objectives with a single action. Simply register for the workshop. In addition to the wealth of information provided at the free workshops, members receive

and have a chance to go over their estimates. (When members start thinking about their PERSI estimate, it's also a good time to contact the Social Security Administration to verify work history and request an estimate.)

Estimate Calculator Available Online

Members who want an estimate, but can't attend a workshop or don't need to meet with a Retirement Specialist, should consider using the online estimator on the PERSI Web site at www.persi.idaho.gov. To get started, they should go to the **My Account** tab on the home page and log on to their account. Once logged on, they would scroll down to the **PERSI Account Balances and Projections** link (below the beneficiary information) and click on **I Agree**. A **Personal Statement** page will appear with instructions to help guide members through the estimate process. Because numerous calculations are performed, the estimate will take a few minutes to complete. The estimator is a great tool for tracking retirement options several years before a member actually plans to retire.

Most of us dream of a secure, comfortable retirement. Planning ahead generally makes the going easier. By attending a retirement workshop and reviewing their benefit estimate, PERSI members are in a better position make their retirement dreams a reality.

Notes

PERSI's Executive Director [Alan Winkle](#) attended the National Association of State Retirement Administrators' Conference where he participated in roundtable discussions and exchanged ideas with other directors on issues affecting the pension industry. In addition, he attended the National Council on Teacher Retirement Committee Meeting where he was appointed to the 2007 Administrator Education Committee and the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems' annual Legislative Conference where he networked among representatives from several federal agencies having to do with pension systems.

PERSI's legal counsel [Brad Goodsell](#) made a presentation on provisions of the Pension Protection Act at the January Roundtable of the Idaho Chapter of the National Institute of Pension Administrators. He was also on a panel at the Winter Section meetings of the National Association of Public Pension Attorneys where benefit issues were discussed.

[Dr. J. Kirk Sullivan](#) was reappointed as a trustee on the PERSI Board. His new term will expire on July 1, 2011. [William "Bill" Deal](#), director of the Office of Insurance, has been appointed as a trustee to fill the vacancy left when Pam Ahrens resigned. His term will expire July 1, 2008.