



NEWS TO USE

A newsletter for PERSI employers

November 2008

- Employer Survey
- Employer Meeting
- Remember to Vote
- Notes

ANNUAL EMPLOYER SURVEY

The annual employer meetings have ended, and that means it's time for PERSI to gather feedback on how you feel the Employer Service Center (ESC) has performed during the last 12 months.

In mid-to-late November, the annual Employer Survey will be mailed to all employers. Last year the response was good, so PERSI is hoping for the same or even greater participation this year.

The survey is about the same length as last year — 15 questions; however, it is a little more specific this time. It focuses more on the employer meetings and using online tools than last year's survey. To make returning the survey easy, it will once again include a postage-paid return envelope.

The survey is the best way for employers to let PERSI know what works and what doesn't. It's an easy way to let PERSI know what you think of the service you've received, the processes we use, and the assistance we provide. Your responses help drive ESC activities from year to year, so please take a few minutes to complete the survey when it arrives. The results will be shared in a newsletter once the data has been analyzed.

Thank you for helping PERSI continually improve service to employers. If you have questions about the survey, contact Patrice Perow at (208) 287-9261 or patrice.perow@persi.idaho.gov.

EMPLOYER MEETINGS SUCCESSFUL AGAIN THIS YEAR

Based on meeting evaluation forms from the 2008 Employer Meetings, it's been another successful year. The meetings were well attended; in fact, nearly half of all PERSI employers participated in the 22 meetings held throughout the state during the past 2 months.

The 3-hour program covered the newly designed PERSI Web site, focusing on the employer section specifically. A good deal of time was spent on the Employer Portal and the Employer Online Guide, a knowledge base tool exclusively for employers. The PERSI database was also covered in depth to help employers understand what is stored in the system and to see how member records appear.

Also covered at this year's meetings:

- Employer Self Review and the Employer Data Review -- programs designed to improve timeliness and accuracy of reporting (both

programs will be rolled out next year)

- Online training program based on the Training and Certification Program introduced at the 2007 Employer Meetings
- New Choice 401(k) Plan materials
- Frequently asked questions and addressing specific situations
- *Back to Basics* refresher

As you can tell, if you missed the meetings, you missed a lot. We hope to see even more of you at next year's meetings.

When the employer survey arrives (see article above), please let PERSI know what topics you'd like included in next year's meetings. If you'll talk... we'll listen. Thanks for supporting the employer meetings, and for completing and returning the 2008 Employer Survey.

REMIND YOUR EMPLOYEES TO VOTE



PERSI encourages employers to remind their employees to vote in this year's General Election. Polls will be open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 4th.

For detailed information about voting, registering for the first time or confirming registration, finding your polling place, and other such information, visit the Idaho Votes Web site at idahovotes.gov.

"Participation is the essence of Democracy and your participation is vital to the well being of your community, state and our country. Thank you for getting involved."

-- Ben Yursa,
Secretary of State



Voter registration in Idaho is at the county level with the County Clerk acting as the chief registration official of the respective counties. The state allows same day registration as long as eligible voters go to their polling place, complete a registration card, provide a document that contains a valid address in the precinct (such as a utility bill), and present a photo ID.

Notes

For the 16th straight year, PERSI received the prestigious Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) award for excellence in financial reporting for the 2007 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The annual report is available on the PERSI Web site at www.persi.idaho.gov or by calling PERSI at (208) 334-3365 from Boise or toll-free at 1-800-451-8228 from elsewhere in the state.

Executive Director [Alan Winkle](#) participated in the Public Pension Coordinating Council (PPCC) meeting held in Washington, D.C. PPCC is a coalition of three national associations that represent public retirement systems and administrators.

PERSI Processing Center Manager [Susan Shaw](#) is retiring after 24 years at PERSI. The hiring process is underway to find a replacement. The position is expected to be filled by the first week of November.

The search also continues for a new deputy director to replace [Don Drum](#) who accepted the executive director position. This recruitment effort has just started. When a replacement is hired, it will be announced in the PERSI newsletters.

Fiscal technician [Steve Jones](#) has accepted a role as PERSI's technical writer, replacing [Larry Sweat](#) who recently assumed a project coordinator role. Steve will work on PERSI's internal knowledge base and update/create forms. Larry will track the progress of the many projects PERSI undertakes each year and keep them on track for completion.

[Cindy Clark](#) joined PERSI as an Office Specialist 2. She will work in the mail room, send out surveys to members, and support processing center activities.



Retirement Board Chairman Jody Olson presents award to PERSI Financial Officer Jim Monroe (l) and Senior Accountant Debbie Buck (c).