



NEWS TO USE

A newsletter for PERSI employers

September 2008

- Employer Meetings
- Undeliverable Email
- Choice Plan Online
- Notes

EMPLOYER MEETINGS BEGIN THIS MONTH

In a few days, employers will start coming together to learn more about the resources and tools PERSI makes available, and to share ideas and success stories about the tasks they perform.

Invitations will be going out via email and U.S. mail. To register, go to the PERSI Web site (www.persi.idaho.gov) and click on the "Quick Links" on the right side of the screen, click on "Register for Employer Workshop" to register. You will receive a confirmation via the email address you used to register.

To ensure there are enough materials and plenty of refreshments for everyone, please register before attending a meeting.

Below is the meeting schedule: General employers will meet from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and school employers from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Treasure Valley

Boise: Tues. Sept. 9 Red Lion Downtowner
Nampa: Thurs. Sept. 11 Nampa Civic Ctr.
Boise: Wed. Sept. 24 Red Lion Downtowner

North Idaho

Lewiston: Tues. Sept. 16 Lewis & Clark St. College
Post Falls: Wed. Sept. 17 Red Lion Templins
Sandpoint: Tues. Sept. 18 Best Western Edgewater

Eastern Idaho

Idaho Falls: Tues. Oct. 7 AmeriTel Lindsay Blvd.
Pocatello: Wed. Oct. 8 AmeriTel
Twin Falls: Thurs. Oct. 9 AmeriTel

Central Idaho

Grangeville: Tues. Oct. 21 Super 8
McCall: Wed. Oct. 22 Holiday Inn Express

The employer meetings are a great opportunity to receive training from PERSI, to hear about the challenges other employers have faced and overcome, to network with employers, and to meet Employer Service Center (ESC) staff. If you have questions about the meetings contact ESC toll-free at 1-866-887-9525 or from the Treasure Valley at (208) 287-9525, or contact Betsy Griffith at (208) 287-9297.

GETTING YOUR NEWSLETTER NOTIFICATION EMAIL

PERSI receives a lot of undeliverable email messages after the *News To Use* notification is sent to employers each month. If you're not getting your notification, please contact Betsy Griffith at (208) 287-9297 or betsy.griffith@persi.idaho.gov to verify your email address. If PERSI does have your current address, but you're still not getting the email, perhaps your spam filter is set to block emails from unknown sources. You will need to change your settings to allow email from PERSI. If you don't want to change your spam settings, you can always go to the PERSI Web site at www.persi.idaho.gov to check for the latest newsletter the first week of each month.

Beginning in September, Betsy will track the undeliverable emails and call employers on the list to verify the accuracy of the email addresses.

PERSI wants to work with employers to resolve the undeliverable email issue. It is the employers' responsibility to keep their email addresses current by notifying PERSI of changes and to also change their spam settings to allow email from PERSI. It is PERSI's responsibility to call employers to verify email addresses to maintain an up-to-date database so you receive your newsletter notification each month. Thanks for helping PERSI resolve this issue.

NEW CHOICE 401(k) PLAN ONLINE TRANSACTIONS

Employers are being asked to let their employees know that effective October 1, 2008, PERSI will go "live" with certain distribution-related transactions relating to the Choice 401(k) Plan. This includes:

- Final (Termination) Distribution*
- Rollover Withdrawals*
 - Withdrawals from any rollover contributions the participant may have made to his/her Choice Plan account
- Age 59½ Withdrawals from the Old Super Saver Plan*
 - Pertains only to the portion of a participant's Choice Plan account that came from the former Idaho Super Saver Plan
 - Only to those participants who are age 59½ or older
 - This feature is NOT part of the Choice Plan 401(k); it applies only to those grandfather situations
- Installment Distributions
 - Option D on form RS804
 - Those members who select the "number of months" payment option (Method B) on form RS804
- Hardship Withdrawals
 - This will be a pre-filled, Web-generated

package with corresponding conversion into a pending distribution transaction

- The transaction is "on hold" until ACS (Choice Plan record keeper) receives the required documentation from the member

* These include the ability to designate online rollover/rollout elections to another plan.

The online distribution request feature will provide advantages to Choice Plan participants and to ACS:

- **Participants:** Quicker receipt of money from their account
- **ACS:** Less labor intensive

In addition, the online process is easy to use and helps ensure all needed details are captured and readable. It also eliminates the need for forms that might be hard to decipher and/or might be missing critical information. And finally, the online process should lower frustration levels caused by delays in processing transactions.

PERSI will be notifying members of these changes in the Third Quarter newsletter that goes out in mid-October. If you have questions about the online enhancements to the Choice 401(k) Plan call PERSI toll-free at 1-800-451-8228 or from the Treasure Valley at (208) 334-3365.

This is just an example of how PERSI continually looks for ways to provide enhanced services to members.

Notes

Executive Director [Alan Winkle](#) and Deputy Director [Don Drum](#) attended the National Association of State Retirement Administrators (NASRA) conference held in Snowbird, Utah the first week of August. The discussions centered around legislative and regulatory changes, investment and portfolio issues, online security, and how political changes will impact the markets.

Technical Writer [Larry Sweat](#) is moving into the position of Project Coordinator as soon as PERSI can fill his old position. In this new role, Larry will monitor resources and help keep projects on track.

The search for a new executive director is still underway. The PERSI Board will be interviewing candidates in September to come up with a short list. When someone is hired, it will be announced in the PERSI newsletters.