



# Retiree News

## Summer 2009

### Retirement Board

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### Inside This Issue

#### Page 2

Legislative Report Continued

#### Page 3

PERS Weathers Challenging Investing Market

Two Prestigious Awards Earned for Financial Reporting

#### Page 4

Address Changes

PERS' Office Closure Dates

## 2009 Legislature Final Report

During the 2009 Legislative session, the Retirement Board was committed to maintaining the integrity of the system while supporting the benefits provided to our members and beneficiaries. Changes were made to the benefit structure for newly hired members of the system on or after January 1, 2010. No changes were made for existing members or the benefits payable to our current retirees. A listing of the bills related to PERS are summarized below.

**Assembly Bill 92** - This bill, effective July 1, 2009, revises the re-employment provisions for retired judges and justices.

**Assembly Bill 488** - This bill, effective July 1, 2009, revises provisions governing the allowances that may be paid to a retired public employee who accepts employment or an independent contract with a Nevada public employer in a position for which there is a critical labor shortage.

**Assembly Bill 493** - This bill requires the Public Employees' Retirement Board to identify and report concerning investments of money from the Public Employees' Retirement System in certain scrutinized companies with certain business activities or connections to Iran's petroleum sector.

**Senate Bill 41** - This bill, effective July 1, 2009, contains technical language changes for PERS and the Judicial Retirement System as requested by the Retirement Board. The bill revises certain administrative provisions and provides clarification of choices within the Judicial Retirement System.

**Senate Bill 174** - This bill, effective July 1, 2009, exempts certain retired public employees who are servicing as volunteer firefighters from certain consequences of reemployment with a public employer.

# 2009 Legislative Final Report - continued

**Senate Bill 427** - This bill makes various changes to the system which mostly affect new members who will be enrolled in the PERS system on or after January 1, 2010. **The bill makes no changes to the benefits of current members and retirees.** Below we have provided the benefit provisions in effect for current members and the changes from SB 427 that will be applied to new members enrolled on or after January 1, 2010.

## **Benefit Eligibility Requirements**

<u>Current Regular Members</u>	<u>Newly Hired Reg. Members</u>	<u>Current P/F Members</u>	<u>Newly Hired P/F Members</u>
5 years at age 65	5 years at age 65	5 years at age 65	5 years at age 65
10 years at age 60	10 years at age 62	10 years at age 55	10 years at age 60
30 years any age	30 years any age	20 years at age 50	20 years at age 50
		25 years at any age	30 years at any age

## **Benefit Multiplier**

### Current Regular and P/F Members

Years of service earned or purchased prior to July 1, 2001 multiplied by 2.5%

Years of service earned or purchased on or after July 1, 2001 multiplied by 2.67%

### Newly Hired Regular and P/F Members

All years of service earned or purchased multiplied by 2.5%

## **Average Compensation**

### Current Regular and P/F Members

The average of a member's 36 consecutive months of highest compensation

### Newly Hired Regular and P/F Members

The average of a member's 36 consecutive months of highest compensation, with a provision that each 12 month period of salary may not increase greater than 10% of the prior 12 months of salary reported. Salary increases due to promotion and assignment related compensation are excluded from the salary cap calculation.

## **Early Retirement Reduction**

### Current Regular and P/F Members

4% reduction in the benefit for each year the member is under the full retirement age

### Newly Hired Regular and P/F Members

6% reduction in the benefit for each year the member is under the full retirement age

## **Post Retirement Increases**

### Current Regular and P/F Members

2% in the 4th, 5th and 6th years, 3% in the 7th, 8th and 9th years, 3.5% in the 10th, 11th and 12th years, 4% in the 13th and 14th years, and 5% in 15th year and every year thereafter

### Newly Hired Regular and P/F Members

2% in the 4th, 5th and 6th years, 3% in the 7th, 8th and 9th years, 3.5% in the 10th, 11th and 12th years, and 4% in the 13th year and every year thereafter

For more information regarding each bill, please refer to the PERS website at [www.nvpers.org](http://www.nvpers.org) or the State of Nevada Legislature website at [www.leg.state.nv.us](http://www.leg.state.nv.us).

# PERS Weathers Challenging Investment Markets

The financial crisis was the catalyst for disappointing total returns for PERS in fiscal year 2009. But it was one of our best years in terms of competitive returns versus our peers as the Retirement Board skillfully navigated one of the most challenging investment markets in a generation.

PERS' investment philosophy centers on maintaining diversified exposure to the global capital markets and systematically buying assets low and selling them high. To implement this strategy, we emphasize a simple, low cost structure that relies primarily on asset allocation and rebalancing.

This traditional, high quality philosophy was the key to our relative success in fiscal year 2009. PERS ended the fiscal year with \$18.7 billion in assets, and a one year return of -15.8%. This return ranks in the top 20% among other large public pension funds.

PERS was able to outperform in this volatile market environment due to the Board's disciplined rebalancing policy. PERS bought U.S. and non U.S. stocks as the markets dropped, positioning the fund to profit during the recent rally. In total, rebalancing generated more than \$115 million in additional profits this fiscal year and positioned the fund to capitalize on a future economic recovery.

PERS' long term returns have met the plan's funding needs by generating a 25 year average annual return of 9%. PERS continues to be one of the lowest risk state pension plans for long term periods, while ranking in the top 15% in terms of risk/return efficiency.

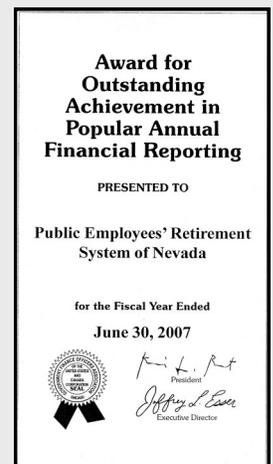
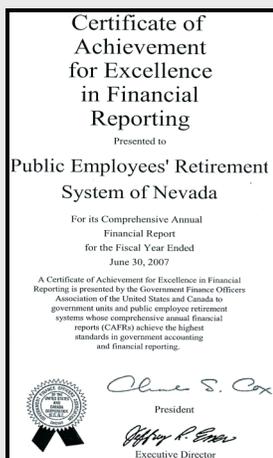
It is critical to adhere to sound investment principles during volatile times. The Board's unwavering commitment to its common sense investment philosophy and disciplined implementation of its long term investment strategy will be critical to PERS' future success.

## Two Prestigious Awards Earned for Financial Reporting

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to Public Employees' Retirement System of Nevada by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. This was the eighteenth consecutive year the System has achieved this prestigious award.

A subset of the CAFR is the Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) which provides an overview of financial, investment, and statistical information in a simple, easy to understand format. The information is derived from the CAFR. The GFOA has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to the Public Employees' Retirement System of Nevada for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,000 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago, IL, and Washington, D.C.





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## Address Changes: Keep PERS and the Post Office Updated

It is very important to keep your mailing address current with PERS and the post office as well. Every month, thousands of pieces of mail are mailed from PERS. Important information may not reach you if your address is not up to date. In addition, your post office also keeps a record of your mailing address. You may experience a delay in your mail if post office records differ from the PERS records. Therefore, it is important to keep both agencies informed of any mailing address changes. You may update your mailing address with PERS through your secure account on the PERS website or notify us in writing. Contact your local post office to receive instructions regarding their address change procedures.

### PERS' Office Closures

Monday, September 7, 2009	Labor Day
Friday, October 30, 2009	Nevada Day
Wednesday, November 11, 2009	Veterans' Day
Thursday & Friday, November 26—27, 2009	Thanksgiving & Family Day
Friday, December 25, 2009	Christmas
Friday, January 1, 2010	New Years' Day

This publication is intended to provide general information. If there is any conflict between this information and Nevada laws or PERS policies, the laws and policies will supersede this information. *Retiree News* is a quarterly newsletter for retired members and benefit recipients of the Public Employees' Retirement System of Nevada. Comments or suggestions may be directed to: PERS, Newsletter, 693 W. Nye Lane, Carson City, Nevada 89703