

# PERS NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE PAROCHIAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF LOUISIANA

ISSUE 43

October 2006

## ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

At the September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Trustees, the Board approved an organizational change that results in Dainna Tully assuming the position of Administrative Director of the system effective September 16, 2006.

Dainna joined the staff in May of 1991 and has served as the Assistant Director of the system since January of 2000. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from Louisiana Tech University and an M.B.A. from Louisiana State University. Dainna also holds the professional designations of Certified Employee Benefits Specialist (CEBS), Certified Retirement Counselor (CRC) and Certified Retirement Administrator (CRA).

Tom Sims, who has served as the Administrative Director since September of 1992, will now hold the position of Chief Investment Officer. Tom holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from McNeese State University and an M.B.A from Louisiana State University. He holds the professional designation of Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).

When asked to comment on the change, Ms. Terrie Rodrigue, chairman of Parochial's Board of Trustees, said that the move would benefit the system. "Dainna is very experienced and capable of handling administrative responsibilities of our plan, many of which she shares with Tom now. On the other hand, Tom's expertise in investments will be best utilized exclusively on our near two billion dollar portfolio. The system currently utilizes twelve money management firms to keep these funds invested as well as the in-house fixed income management provided by Tom. Maintaining relationships with these firms, with our custodian bank, and with our investment consultant is a very large responsibility. Now is the time to make this change and I'm confident it will serve our organization well."

## SUMMARY OF 2006 LEGISLATION

The Board of Trustees sponsored two bills during the 2006 Regular Legislative Session. Following are summaries of the provisions of these two bills that were successfully signed into legislative Acts.

Act 584 implements a new plan of benefits for employees hired 1/1/07 and later in both Plan A and Plan B. It is important to note that these new provisions will not impact current members unless they terminate, take a refund of their member contributions, and are rehired on or after 1/1/07.

The new plan changes include:

- 1) Five year final average compensation will be used in the benefit calculation
- 2) Eligibility for normal retirement will be modified as follows
  - 7 years at age 67
  - 10 years at age 62
  - 30 years at age 55
- 1) 7 years of service will be required for disability retirement eligibility. In addition, disability will be defined as unable to perform any type of gainful employment.
- 2) Actuarial cost of leave conversion will be paid by the employer at the member's date of retirement.

(continued on page 2)

## SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL FEATURES

An updated version of the Summary of Principal Features has been sent to the printer. These new summaries will be mailed out to participating employers for distribution to all active members during the month of October. These booklets contain a general summary of the features of both Plan A and Plan B through the 2006 Regular Legislative Session.



(Summary of Legislation, cont'd from page 1)

Since these changes will be applied to new hires, the cost control effects will be slight in the first years and will gain in significance in later years. Though these changes implement a slightly reduced plan of benefits, we would like to point out that this new plan is still a very attractive defined benefit plan.

Act 508 provided for the following technical corrections:

- 1) Clarifies the definition of overtime.
- 2) Clarifies that an agency must be a taxing district of a participating parish to enter into an agreement for participation.

## CONTRIBUTION RATE CHANGES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2007

We have previously announced in our June 2006 PERS News that the employer rates for 2007 will increase slightly. Please make note that effective January 1, 2007 the employer contribution rate for Plan A will be 13.25% and the employer contribution rate for Plan B will be 6%. The employee contribution rates for Plan A and Plan B remain unchanged at 9.5% and 3% respectively.

## BOARD MEMBER ELECTION

In October, ballots will be mailed to each participating employer in connection with an election of a trustee from Region 3 which consists of the following parishes: West Feliciana, East Feliciana, St. Helena, Tangipahoa, Washington, St. Tammany, Livingston, East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Iberville, Ascension, St. John, St. Charles, St. James, Assumption, St. Mary, Terrebonne, and Lafourche.

Candidates for this position include the incumbent, Gwen LeBlanc of Ascension Parish and Tim Vial of St. Charles Parish. The term of office is six years beginning January 1, 2007 and running through December 31, 2012. All active members are eligible to vote. Ballots will be due in our office by the close of business on November 30, 2006.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Members frequently call our office and ask if they are able to apply for a loan against their retirement account. The PERS, along with all other state and statewide retirement plans in Louisiana, does not have a loan provision. Therefore it is not possible for a member to apply for a loan against their retirement.

## ORDER FORM

### Parochial Employees' Retirement System

Most of these forms can be found on our website: [www.persla.org](http://www.persla.org)

Please mail the following forms to: \_\_\_\_\_

(Name of Employing Parish)

We are in: Plan "A" \_\_\_ Plan "B" \_\_\_

**How Many**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly Reports
- \_\_\_\_\_ Personal History Update Forms
- \_\_\_\_\_ Refund of Contributions
- \_\_\_\_\_ Personal History
- \_\_\_\_\_ Retirement Application
- \_\_\_\_\_ DROP Application
- \_\_\_\_\_ Brouchures

**How Many**

- \_\_\_\_\_ DROP Quarterly Reports
- \_\_\_\_\_ Election Form for New Employees age 55 and older
- \_\_\_\_\_ Special Tax Notice
- \_\_\_\_\_ SSA 1945 Statement concerning Employment in a Job not covered by Social Security

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Appointing Authority



## SCHEDULE OF REGIONAL MEETINGS

This fall, we will schedule regional meetings for those who administer retirement benefits at the parish or agency level to attend. Due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita last year, we were unable to make these regional meetings in 2005.

In order to review legislative changes that took place during the 2006 Regular Session, we would like to ask that each participating parish or agency send a representative to one of our meetings. This is also an excellent opportunity to have your own administrative questions answered. The meetings are scheduled to last one hour.

October 10—Port Allen—10.00 a.m.  
West Baton Rouge Parish Courthouse  
Council Meeting Room  
880 North Alexander

October 17—Alexandria—10.00 a.m.  
Rapides Parish Courthouse  
Rapides Parish Police Jury Meeting Rm  
700 Murray St

October 11—Metairie—10.00 a.m.  
Joseph Yenni Building  
2nd Floor Council Chambers  
1221 Elmwood Blvd.

October 17—Shreveport—2.00 p.m.  
Caddo Parish Commission  
Admin Conference Rm, 8th Floor  
505 Travis St

October 13—Lafayette—9.30 a.m.  
Lafayette Consolidated Gov't Building  
Council Briefing Room, 1st Floor  
705 W. University

October 18—Monroe—9:00 a.m.  
Ouachita Parish Courthouse  
Police Jury Conference Rm, 2nd Floor  
300 St John

October 13—Lake Charles—1.30 p.m.  
Calcasieu Parish Courthouse  
Police Jury Conference Rm, 1st Floor  
1015 Pithon St

**PROMPT SUBMISSION OF REFUND FORMS:** Many employers submit refund forms for terminated employees along with their quarterly reports. While our office does require the submission of all employee and employer contributions through the employee's termination date before a refund can be processed, we would appreciate submission of refund requests as soon as the employee has completed the form. There are occasions when additional information is required before the distribution can be issued. If our office can review the refund forms as they are completed by former employees, then we will have additional time to gather information needed without further delaying the distribution.

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Terrie Rodrigue Chairman	Jefferson Parish
Gwen B. LeBlanc	Ascension Parish
Tim Ware	Rapides Parish
Jerry Milner	Calcasieu Parish
Rep. Pete Schneider	House Retirement
Sen. Butch Gautreaux	Senate Retirement

### ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

Tom Sims, CFA	Chief Investment Officer
Dainna S. Tully	Administrative Director
Becky Fontenot	Benefits Administrator
Bobbie Deloney	Systems Analyst
Jean Sullivan	Bookkeeper
Geraldine Ferguson	Data Entry Specialist
Eddie Dimaio	Receptionist



PERS NEWS is a quarterly publication of the Parochial Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana, located at 5420 Corporate Blvd., Suite 103, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808.

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🌐Website: [www.persla.org](http://www.persla.org)






# October 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 10/2 Refunds mailed	3	4	5	6	7
8	 Closed for Columbus Day	10 Cut-off for 10/16 Refunds	11	12	13	14
15	10/16 Refunds mailed. Quarterly reports due. Reissue retiree checks.	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Cut-off for 11/1 Refunds	27	28
29	30	 Retiree checks mailed				

# November 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 11/1 Refunds mailed	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Cut-off for 11/15 Refunds	10	 Veteran's Day
12	13	14 Reissue Retiree checks	15 11/15 Refunds mailed	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	 Closed for Thanksgiving	24 Closed for Thanksgiving	25
26	27 Cut-off for 12/1 Refunds	28	29	30 Retiree Checks mailed		

# December 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 12/1 Refunds mailed	2
3	4 Board Meeting	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Cut-off for 12/15 Refunds	12	13	14 Reissue Retiree Checks	12/15 Refunds mailed Quarterly repts mailed	16
17	18	19	20	21  Winter Begins	22	23
24	 OFFICE CLOSED MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 Cut-off for 1/3/07 Refunds	28	29 Retiree Checks mailed	30
31	 OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY NEW YEAR	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3 1/3/07 Refunds mailed			