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Colorado PERA Welcomes DPSRS Retirees and Benefit Recipients

On behalf of the Colorado PERA Board of Trustees and staff, it is my pleasure to welcome you to PERA. You now join over 440,000 school, state, local government, and judicial retirees and employees as members of the 23rd largest public pension plan in the United States.

The merger of DPSRS with Colorado PERA has been many years in the making and allows employees working in any district in the State to move to a job at another school district and not have to worry about the impact on their future retirement benefit.

Now that the merger is finally upon us, the PERA Board and staff looks forward to being a constructive part of the retirement plans of both the active members and retirees of Denver Public Schools. We work hard to serve our members in ways that meet their retirement needs—from creating programs and enhancements to meet long-term financial goals, to providing innovative ways for members to access, learn about, and maintain their retirement information.

PERA has many resources and benefits available to its members and retirees. I encourage you to read the information in this newsletter about the benefits and programs that PERA offers to its membership. You will also find a wealth of information about PERA on our Web site at www.copera.org.

Once again, welcome to PERA! The PERA Board and staff are honored to work for you. We take this obligation very seriously and welcome your input. 

Meredith Williams
Executive Director
Colorado PERA



*Meredith Williams
Colorado PERA
Executive Director*

About This Newsletter

PERA produces a *Retiree Update* newsletter every December to inform all PERA retirees and benefit recipients about important year-end benefit and tax information. As a retiree under the DPS benefit structure, you can also expect to receive this newsletter every December. 

Welcome to Colorado PERA

Information for DPSRS Retirees and Benefit Recipients

As a result of legislation enacted in 2009 (Senate Bill 09-282), on January 1, 2010, the entire DPSRS membership along with existing DPS hourly employees, future DPS employees, and DPSRS-covered employers will become PERA members and PERA-affiliated employers in a separate Denver Public Schools (DPS) Division of PERA.

On January 1, 2010, the DPS Division of PERA will include the following:

- Existing DPSRS membership (Active contributing members, retirees, and Affiliate members)
- Existing hourly and part-time DPS employees
- Future DPS employees
- While DPSRS will not exist after January 1, 2010, your service and account balance will remain intact under the DPS benefit structure offered by PERA.

Payment of Retirement Benefits After January 1, 2010

You will continue to receive your benefit payment the same way you are receiving it now—by electronic funds transfer (EFT) or by mail. If you currently also receive a benefit from PERA, the two benefits will not be combined and will remain two separate payments.

Annual Increases or Cost-of-Living Increases

PERA calls the annual payment made to benefit recipients an “annual increase” and pays the applicable increase to most retirees with the March benefit. Please read the “Annual Increase Information for DPSRS Benefit Recipients” article on page 8 for more information about this annual payment.

About Colorado PERA

The Colorado Public Employees’ Retirement Association was established in 1931 by the Colorado General Assembly, at the request of a group of State employees who foresaw the need for a safe and secure retirement system. PERA continues to serve more than 440,000 public employees by providing lifetime retirement benefits and other voluntary investment and insurance products.

Like DPSRS, PERA is a “qualified” retirement plan under the Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a). As a defined benefit plan, PERA pays benefits based on a benefit formula that is set by law. For most PERA members, PERA serves as a substitute for Social Security.

The function of PERA is to provide present and future retirement or survivor benefits for its members.

Membership in Colorado PERA

As a retired member of Colorado PERA, you join thousands of other school, state, municipal, judicial, and other local government retirees who receive pension benefits from PERA.

Colorado PERA membership includes:

- Employees of the State of Colorado
- All school districts
- Judges in the Colorado judicial system
- Many municipalities, special districts, public health departments, and other local government entities

Governance of Colorado PERA

Colorado PERA operates by authority of the Colorado General Assembly and is administered under Title 24, Article 51, of the Colorado Revised Statutes. As an instrumentality of the State, PERA regularly reports to various legislative committees and the State Auditor conducts an annual financial audit of PERA. Benefits, contribution rates, and some investment parameters are legislated by the Colorado General Assembly.

Board Structure

Colorado PERA is governed by a 16-member Board of Trustees; 11 Trustees are elected by the membership for four-year terms and serve without compensation. The State Treasurer and three Governor appointees also serve as voting Trustees. A Denver Public School Division seat is held by a non-voting ex officio Trustee. According to State law, Trustees shall include the following:

- Four members of the School Division
- Three members of the State Division
- One member of the Local Government Division
- One member of the Judicial Division
- Two retirees
- State Treasurer (ex officio)
- Three members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate
- One member appointed by DPS (ex officio, non-voting)

Management of Colorado PERA Investments

A significant source of revenue to Colorado PERA is income from the investment portfolio. The PERA Board of Trustees has the responsibility for the investment of PERA’s funds. These funds are invested in common stock companies,

Most PERA members do not pay into the Social Security system while working for a PERA-affiliated employer. Because of this, your Social Security benefit may be reduced by the Government Pension Offset (GPO) or the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). For more information, please see the PERA & Social Security brochure.

corporate bonds, U.S. Treasury and other government securities, mortgages, real estate property, and other investment vehicles. PERA staff manages about 60 percent of the PERA investment portfolio. The remaining amount includes international, real estate, and alternative investments that are externally managed.

Working After Retirement

Provisions of the merger law allow retirees under the DPS benefit structure who are working for a PERA employer prior to December 31, 2009, to continue to work without restriction for that same PERA employer. If you are a retiree under the DPS benefit structure and you are working for a PERA employer on December 31, 2009, you will be grandfathered and not subject to the law that limits working after retirement for PERA retirees as long as you remain with that employer. Any other employment with another PERA employer including DPS or DPS charter schools will be subject to PERA's working after retirement limits. Please see the "Working After Retirement Overview" on pages 6-7 for more information.

Colorado PERA's 401(k) and 457 Plans

Retirees who work after retirement for a PERA employer may invest additional funds for retirement through PERA's 401(k) Plan and the PERA 457 Plan (if the employer offers the 457 Plan to its other employees). In 2010, you may save 100 percent of compensation up to \$16,500 (compensation is in most cases, gross salary, less the PERA contribution). Contributions and earnings are tax-deferred, which means you won't pay taxes on this income until you withdraw it from the Plan. Members age 50 and over may make additional contributions.

Long-Term Care Insurance Program

A voluntary long-term care insurance program is available through MetLife (Metropolitan Life Insurance Company). The program offers protection that is affordable and flexible. PERA members, retirees, and their eligible family members may apply for coverage with reduced underwriting and discounted rates at any time.

Confidentiality

Colorado PERA does not disclose any information about a PERA member's/retiree's account to anyone other than the member/retiree without an authorization release allowing PERA to release information to specific individuals/entities.


- **PERA's Authorization to Release Information**—This is a general release form that allows Colorado PERA to release information about your PERA account to specific individuals/entities (it does not allow changes to be made to your account). This form does not cover the release of health care information for PERA members and/or benefit recipients enrolled in PERACare.
- **PERA's Authorization to Use and/or Disclose Personal Health Information**—This form authorizes the release of your health plan information to specific individuals/entities.

Both of these authorization release forms only give a third party the right to discuss your account. Neither form gives the third party the right to make any changes or request actions on your account. If you want to grant authority to a third party to make changes to your account, you need to complete and submit a power of attorney. PERA does not provide power of attorney forms.

The authorization release forms can be printed from the PERA Web site at www.copera.org.

For More Information

Colorado PERA provides has the following services and resources to help keep you informed about your PERA membership:

- **Colorado PERA Web site (www.copera.org)**
PERA's Web site has a variety of information about PERA and its benefits. Publications and forms also may be ordered or downloaded from the site.
- **Personal Identification Number (PIN)**
By using a PERA PIN, you may access your PERA and PERA 401(k) account information. PINs may be requested on PERA's Web site by clicking on the Account Access icon or by calling PERA's Customer Service Center at 303-832-9550 or 1-800-759-7372. PERA anticipates that retirees in the DPS benefit structure may request a PIN in mid 2010.
- **Retiree Report Newsletter**
All PERA retirees are mailed the PERA *Retiree Report* twice a year. This newsletter has valuable information for all PERA retirees.
- **Retiree Update Newsletter**
All PERA retirees are mailed the PERA *Retiree Update* every December. This newsletter contains helpful year-end information for all PERA retirees.
- **Publications**
PERA publishes a variety of publications to help members and retirees understand their retirement plan. Publications may be ordered or downloaded from PERA's Web site or by calling PERA.
- **E-Mail PERA**
You may e-mail PERA through the "Contact Us" link at www.copera.org. However, due to privacy concerns, we will not e-mail specific financial information regarding your account. 

Income Tax Withholding

PERA will continue to withhold income taxes based upon the information on file with DPSRS

Since the merger goes into effect on January 1, 2010, your 2009 1099-R will reflect tax and withholding information on file with DPSRS. Your 2010 1099-R will reflect your PERA benefit under the DPS benefit structure.

Colorado PERA is providing you with the following information to help you understand how federal and state income tax rules affect your benefit. This information is not intended as tax advice. Specific questions about your taxes should be directed to the IRS, the Colorado Department of Revenue, or your personal tax consultant.

Federal Income Tax

- Your benefits are subject to federal income tax.
- If you retired before July 1, 1986, and used the Three-Year Recovery Rule, your entire benefit each year is taxable.
- If you retired before January 1, 1987, and did not use the Three-Year Recovery Rule, a fixed portion of your annual benefit is tax-free for your lifetime.
- If you retired after 1986, retirement benefits you receive after you recover your tax-paid contributions are fully taxable.
- The nontaxable portion of your benefit represents your DPSRS tax-paid contributions. The taxable portion of your benefit is calculated using the IRS Simplified General Rule if your retirement date is after December 31, 1990.
- Annual increases and any supplemental benefits you received are fully taxable.
- If you retired before 1991, the taxable portion of your benefit is not calculated; you may use the General Rule or the IRS Simplified General Rule (if you qualify), to report the taxable portion of your annual benefit if your retirement date is before November 19, 1996.
- You must use the Simplified General Rule for all retirements after November 18, 1996.

Federal Withholding Choices

- Examine the amount of your income tax withholding each year to make sure you have enough withheld.

- Penalties may be incurred under the estimated tax payment rules if sufficient tax is not withheld from your monthly benefit and your estimated tax payments are not adequate.
- Use the *Withholding Preference Form* in the *Taxes on PERA Benefits* brochure to instruct Colorado PERA how to handle federal income tax withholding. You have the following options:
 - Withhold nothing.
 - Withhold federal income tax based on the federal tax tables using your marital status and the number of withholding exemptions you specify.
 - Withhold federal income tax based on the federal tax tables using your marital status and the number of withholding exemptions you specify plus an additional dollar amount.
 - Withhold an exact dollar amount.
 - Withhold a fixed percent of your benefit.
- If you did not provide withholding instructions, federal law requires that federal income taxes be withheld at the rate for a married individual claiming three exemptions.
- Even if you had no withholdings, you still may owe income tax and should complete the appropriate federal tax forms.

Colorado State Income Tax

- Colorado residents who are age 55 through 64 can take advantage of a Colorado state income tax exclusion for up to \$20,000 of pension income received each year; Colorado residents who are age 65 and over have a \$24,000 pension income exclusion. Pension income includes benefits and any other retirement income you may receive.
- If you made contributions between July 1, 1984, and December 31, 1986, please review the Colorado Department of Revenue's publication, *FYI—For Your Information: Subtraction from Income for Recipients of PERA or Denver Public Schools Retirement Benefits*.
- If you live outside of Colorado, you will need to check with your state's revenue agency to obtain details about any state income taxes you may owe.

Federal tax tables change in January; your net benefit amount may be different on your January 2010 benefit payment.

You will need to complete a PERA Withholding Preference Form if you would like to make changes to your tax withholdings.

Tips When Calling PERA

- If you move outside of Colorado and have previously designated Colorado State Income Tax be withheld from your benefit payment, you must instruct PERA to remove this withholding if it no longer applies. This will not be removed automatically.

Colorado State Withholding Choices

- Colorado state income tax will be withheld if you specifically request it. Your withholding options are similar to federal withholding options. Income tax for other states are not withheld due to the variety of tax regulations for each state.

For More Information

IRS Publications

- IRS Publication 575—*Pension and Annuity Income*
- IRS Publication 939—*General Rule for Pensions and Annuities*
- IRS Publication 524—*Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled*
- IRS Publication 554—*Tax Guide for Seniors*

IRS publications are available on the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov or by calling 1-800-829-3676.

Colorado Department of Revenue Publications

- FYI #16—*Subtraction from Income for Recipients of PERA or Denver Public Schools Retirement Benefits*
- FYI #18—*Pension Subtraction for Married Couples When Both Spouses Receive Social Security*
- FYI #25—*Pension/Annuity Subtraction*

Colorado Department of Revenue Publications are available on the Department of Revenue Web site at www.revenue.state.co.us or by calling 303-238-7378. ☎

1099-R Mailing Information

- 1099-Rs will be mailed by January 31.
- Please allow five business days after January 31 for postal delivery before calling PERA if you have not received your 1099-R.
- Your 1099-R will be sent to your address on file at PERA.
- To have your 1099-R forwarded to another address, PERA must receive your signed request in writing by January 8. You may fax your signed request to 303-863-3825.

Answering more than 210,000 phone calls a year, it's no wonder that PERA's Customer Service Center is a hub of activity on any given day. To help us continue to provide excellent customer service to our retirees and members, please keep in mind the following tips when calling PERA's Customer Service Center:

- **Have your Social Security number available when you call**

Using your Social Security number allows the Customer Service Representative to access the appropriate file more quickly. (If you're receiving a benefit after the death of a member or retiree, you also need to have the member's or retiree's Social Security number available when calling.)



- **Listen to the automated selections offered when you call the Customer Service Center**

PERA frequently has a recorded message answering the basic concerns of a topic that is causing a lot of people to call in with the same question.

- **Call the health care, vision, or dental plan first to find out about providers' benefit coverage and identification cards**

Call PERA when you have questions about premiums, enrollment, and eligibility issues.

- **Write us when you move**

We need your current address for sending your statement, tax forms, health care information, and other important documents.

- **Order forms and publications from PERA's Web site at www.copera.org**

If you have access to the Internet, you can download and print a variety of PERA publications and forms. ☎

Heavy Call Volume Days
It may take PERA's Customer Service Center longer to answer your call if you contact them at these times:

- The first three workdays of the month
- Mondays
- The first day after a holiday

Working After Retirement

Overview of how PERA's working after retirement limitations might affect your benefit

The following information is an overview of the PERA working after retirement limitations. For detailed information on the limitations, please review the Working After Retirement booklet that is available on the PERA Web site or by calling the PERA Customer Service Center.

If you are a retiree under the DPS benefit structure and you are an active PERA member as of December 31, 2009, you are not subject to the working after retirement limitations as long as you remain employed with that employer. You will continue to accrue a benefit under the PERA benefit structure after January 1, 2010.

Any employment with a PERA employer other than your pre-merger employer, including DPS and DPS charter schools, will be subject to the working after retirement limits. If you leave your pre-merger employer and return to work for any employer, you will no longer continue to accrue a benefit under the PERA benefit structure and you will be subject to the PERA working after retirement limits.

If you are not in the "grandfathered" situation described above, the following working after retirement limitations may apply to you as a retiree under the DPS benefit structure.

Working for a Private Company/Non-PERA Employer

There are no limits on the amount of time you may work for an employer that is not performing services for a PERA employer or an employer not affiliated with PERA.

- You do not need to complete any reporting or disclosure forms.
- Your PERA benefit will not be impacted for any work you complete for a non-PERA employer.

Working for a PERA Employer During Your First/Effective Month of Retirement

- You may not work in any capacity (paid or volunteer) on the first business day of your effective month of retirement, otherwise your retirement will not be effective.
- PERA will reduce your benefit by 5 percent for each day or partial day you worked during your effective month of retirement.

- Any time you work during the effective month of retirement will count toward the 110 days/720 hours annual limit.
- Employer contributions are due to PERA on your earnings.
- You must complete the *Report of Work During the Effective Month of Retirement* and submit the form to PERA (the form is available on the PERA Web site or by calling the PERA Customer Service Center).

Working for a PERA Employer After Your First Month of Retirement

- Under Colorado law, you are limited to working 110 days/720 hours per calendar year.
- If your work exceeds 110 days or 720 hours, PERA must reduce your benefit in a future month by 5 percent for each day in excess of the limit.
- The 110 days/720 hours work limit applies to all service and disability retirees including:
 - Retirees hired by a PERA employer through a business you own or operate and you provide services to the PERA employer as an employee of the PERA employer
 - Retirees working for a company owned or operated by an affiliated party (generally, a family member or business partner) who is hired by a PERA employer to perform services as an employee
 - Retired judges working outside the Senior Judge Program
- The 110 days/720 hours work limit does not apply to the following retirees:
 - Retirees serving as state legislators
 - Retired judges participating in the Senior Judge Program
 - Retirees working in positions vacated by employees called into active military duty
 - Retirees performing work as an independent contractor
 - Retirees who retired prior to June 3, 1994, and who are employed at a public college or university, and in a position covered by an Optional Retirement Plan.



Working During a Transition Year

Once you retire and receive a PERA benefit, any work that is done either in a transition year or as part of the 110-day limitation is considered working after retirement. Service credit is not earned during this time and benefits will not be recalculated. The only time a benefit would be recalculated and service credit earned is if a retiree suspends his or her benefit, returns to PERA membership, and earns at least one year of service credit.


Disability Retirees

- PERA disability retirees under the disability program that went into effect January 1, 1999, must coordinate any work after retirement with the Disability Program Administrator.
- If it is determined that you are medically able to earn 75 percent of your predisability earnings, your disability retirement benefit may end.

Employer Contributions

- You are not required to pay member contributions if you work for a PERA employer.
- PERA employers are required to pay employer contributions to PERA on your earnings for all work you perform as a PERA retiree.
- Some employers have reduced the salaries for rehired retirees to compensate for the employer contribution, which is allowed under the law.
- Employer contributions are required to be paid to PERA on retiree salaries except in the following situations:
 - You are a PERA retiree providing a product and not a service to a PERA employer
 - You are a PERA retiree who owns and operates a company that is providing services to a PERA employer, but you are not performing services for the PERA employer
 - You are a PERA retiree serving as a state legislator
 - You are a PERA retiree and participating in the Senior Judge Program

Reporting Work

- It is your responsibility to submit the appropriate form to PERA when reporting work after retirement.
- Forms are available on the PERA Web site or by calling PERA's Customer Service Center.
- You must complete and submit the appropriate form(s) below, which apply to your specific work arrangement:
 - *PERA Retiree Returning to Work for a PERA Employer*
 - *Report of Work During the Effective Month of Retirement*
 - *Post-Retirement Work Report*
 - *Disclosure of Compensation for Services Provided Through an Affiliated Party* 

Annual Increase Information for DPSRS Benefit Recipients

On January 1, 2010, the Denver Public Schools Retirement System will cease to exist and will merge into Colorado PERA. As of that date you will become a PERA benefit recipient within the newly created DPS division of PERA. As you may be aware, PERA was required by the merger legislation to submit a comprehensive proposal to the Colorado General Assembly addressing PERA's long term sustainability. The proposal includes a provision to modify the annual increase paid to PERA benefit recipients from a fixed amount of 3.5 percent to an indexed annual increase with an upper limit of 2 percent. Currently, the majority of PERA benefit recipients receive their annual increase in March. For a majority of the DPSRS benefit recipients, the annual increase of 3.25 percent is paid in January. A component of the PERA Board's proposal is to move the date the annual increase is paid to July of every year.


At its November Board meeting, the DPSRS Board of Trustees passed resolution #17 endorsing the comprehensive proposal recommended by the PERA Board of Trustees. As part of that resolution the DPSRS Board requested that the PERA Board apply the same changes to the DPS membership as are being proposed for the PERA School Division members and retirees. This recommendation and request was communicated by DPSRS to the PERA Board at its Board meeting on November 20, 2009.

The legislation authorizing the merger, recognizing the differing dates of the annual increase payments, granted PERA the authority to adjust the payment date of the increase for benefit recipients of the DPS benefit structure to coincide with the date that PERA pays annual increases. After hearing the request of DPSRS to apply the same proposed changes to its membership and based on its authority in the merger legislation, the PERA Board of Trustees, on November 20, 2009, adopted a policy to align the payment date of the annual increase for the DPSRS membership to the date the majority of PERA members receive their annual increase. In recognition of the fact that benefit recipients of the DPS benefit structure normally receive their annual increase in January as compared to the PERA payment date of March, the PERA Board also authorized awarding an increase of .5417 percent in January 2010. This amount signifies two-twelfths of the 3.25 percent annual increase for the months of January and February. The awarding of a unique increase amount is to ensure that by moving the payment date of the annual increase

to the date PERA pays its annual increase, benefit recipients of the DPS benefit structure are not negatively affected. Absent further legislative changes, the majority of benefit recipients of the DPS benefit structure will receive an additional 3.25 percent increase in March 2010.

The PERA Board's comprehensive proposal will be considered by the Colorado General Assembly in the 2010 legislative session. If the PERA Board's comprehensive proposal is passed by the General Assembly and becomes law, the move from a March annual increase payment date to a July payment date would be effective on the date the bill is signed. It is possible that the annual increase payment date of March 2010 could be moved to July 2010 based on the effective date of the legislation. If this were to occur, the annual increase would not only be moved to July 2010, the amount may also be changed to the lesser of 2 percent or the CPI-W.

PERA has previously communicated that the shift in payment date of the annual increase for the benefit recipients in the DPS benefit structure would not occur in the first year after the merger but would occur in 2011. The possibility of the General Assembly passing legislation in a timeframe that would affect the payment date of the annual increase for existing PERA benefit recipients necessitated accelerating the scheduled shift in payment date for benefit recipients in the DPS benefit structure.

If you have any questions regarding this policy change, please contact PERA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-759-7372 or 303-832-9550. 

DPSRS Funded Status

For information about the DPSRS funded status, which was presented by DPSRS to the PERA Board at the November 20, 2009, PERA Board meeting, please review the DPSRS presentation at www.copera.org/pera/about/merger.stm.

2010 Colorado PERA Calendar of Events

Information for DPSRS Retirees and Benefit Recipients

December 2009

- 24-25** Christmas holiday, PERA offices closed
- 29** Year-end EFT statements mailed to benefit recipients
- Benefit checks mailed and direct deposit accounts credited; 2010 PERACare premiums (if applicable) will be deducted for January coverage (benefit amounts may change)

January 2010

- 1** New Year's Day, PERA Offices closed
- 15** Last day for PERA to receive signed requests for any address, tax withholding, or EFT changes to ensure the change will be made for January payroll
- Spring *School Attendance Certification* forms due to PERA in order to continue survivor benefits
- Board of Trustees' meeting
- 18** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, PERA Offices closed
- 29** DPS retirees hired on or before June 30, 2005, who usually receive their full annual increase in January will receive an increase of .5417 percent (2/12ths of 3.25 percent) to align the DPSRS annual increase date with the PERA annual increase payable in March
- Benefit checks mailed and direct deposit accounts credited; 2010 federal and state withholding tables will be in effect (benefit amounts may change)

February 2010

- 15** Presidents' Day, PERA Offices closed
- 16** Last day for PERA to receive signed requests for any address or EFT changes to ensure the change will be made for February payroll
- 26** Benefit checks mailed and direct deposit accounts credited

March 2010

- 15** Last day for PERA to receive signed requests for any address or EFT changes to ensure the change will be made for March payroll
- 19** Board of Trustees' meeting
- 31** Annual increase paid to benefit recipients (subject to legislative adjustment in early 2010)
- Benefit checks mailed and direct deposit accounts credited (benefit amounts may change)

April 2010

- 15** Last day for PERA to receive signed requests for any address or EFT changes to ensure the change will be made for April payroll
- 30** Benefit checks mailed and direct deposit accounts credited

May 2010

- 17** Last day for PERA to receive signed requests for any address or EFT changes to ensure the change will be made for May payroll
- Summer *School Attendance Certification* forms mailed from PERA; must return within 30 days of ending date of term to be eligible for summer benefits
- 28** Benefit checks mailed and direct deposit accounts credited
- 31** Memorial Day, PERA Offices closed

June 2010

- 15** Last day for PERA to receive signed requests for any address or EFT changes to ensure the change will be made for June payroll
- Summer *School Attendance Certification* forms due to PERA in order to continue survivor benefits
- 18** Board of Trustees' meeting
- 30** Benefit checks mailed and direct deposit accounts credited

2010 Colorado PERA Calendar of Events

Information for DPSRS Retirees and Benefit Recipients

July 2010

- 5** Independence Day (observed), PERA Offices closed
- 15** Last day for PERA to receive signed requests for any address or EFT changes to ensure the change will be made for July payroll

Fall *School Attendance Certification* forms mailed from PERA
- 30** Benefit checks mailed and direct deposit accounts credited

August 2010

- 16** Last day for PERA to receive signed requests for any address or EFT changes to ensure the change will be made for August payroll
- 31** Benefit checks mailed and direct deposit accounts credited

Fall *School Attendance Certification* forms due to PERA to continue survivor benefits

September 2010

- 6** Labor Day, PERA Offices closed
- 7-24** PERACare open enrollment materials mailed to all current PERACare enrollees
- 15** Last day for PERA to receive signed requests for any address or EFT changes to ensure the change will be made for September payroll
- 15-17** Board of Trustees' Planning Session
- 30** Benefit checks mailed and direct deposit accounts credited

October 2010

- Oct 1-November 15** PERACare open enrollment; meetings held at various locations across Colorado throughout the month of October
- 15** Last day for PERA to receive signed requests for any address or EFT changes to ensure the change will be made for October payroll
- 29** Benefit checks mailed and direct deposit accounts credited

November 2010

- 1-15** PERACare open enrollment continues; enrollments and changes due to PERA by November 15
- 15** Last day for PERA to receive signed requests for any address or EFT changes to ensure the change will be made for November payroll
- 19** Board of Trustees' meeting
- 25-26** Thanksgiving Holiday, PERA Offices closed
- 30** Benefit checks mailed and direct deposit accounts credited

December 2010

- 15** Last day for PERA to receive signed requests for any address or EFT changes to ensure the change will be made for December payroll

Spring *School Attendance Certification* forms mailed from PERA
- 24** Christmas Holiday, PERA Offices closed
- 30** Year-end EFT statements mailed to PERA benefit recipients who use PERA's EFT (direct deposit) program; keep this statement for 2010 health care premiums that are used for filing tax returns

Benefit checks mailed and direct deposit accounts credited; 2011 PERACare and Medicare Part B premiums (if applicable) will be deducted from December benefit (benefit amounts may change)
- 31** New Year's Eve, PERA Offices closed



Mail Schedule for PERACare Benefits Booklets and ID Cards

Identification (ID) cards and benefits booklets are mailed by the various PERACare plans and not PERA. ID cards are mailed in mid to late December. Even though the plans attempt to allow sufficient time to have ID cards in your hands by January 1, 2010, holiday or weather-related mail delays may occur. If you need care after January 1 and have not yet received your ID card, your provider can verify coverage through your plan's toll-free number. See the inside front cover of the 2010 PERACare Health Program booklets for phone numbers.

Anthem

Benefits Booklets and ID Cards

- All enrollees will receive new plan booklets and ID cards
- Plan booklets are scheduled to mail in early January 2010

Caremark (Prescription drug coverage for Anthem plans)

Benefits Booklets and ID Cards

- All enrollees will receive new benefits booklets and ID cards
- Benefits booklets are scheduled to mail in late December 2009
- ID cards are included in plan booklets; they are not a separate mailing

CIGNA Dental

Benefits Booklets and ID Cards

- New HMO enrollees will receive information and a schedule of charges in mid December 2009
- New PPO enrollees will receive a coverage booklet in early January 2010
- New HMO enrollees will receive ID cards
- PPO ID cards are not issued, but new PPO enrollees will receive a letter from CIGNA instructing how to access care and obtain an ID number if requested

Delta Dental

Benefits Booklets and ID Cards

- All enrollees will receive new benefits booklets
- ID cards are not issued, since dentists can verify coverage online with Delta Dental

Kaiser Permanente

Benefits Booklets and ID Cards

- Medicare booklets will be mailed by January 31, 2010
- For pre-Medicare members, the 2010 Evidence of Coverage (benefits booklet) will be accessible online beginning January 1. A postcard notification announcing this feature will be sent to all members, and members may return the postcard to request a printed copy
- All members will receive new ID cards

Rocky Mountain Health Plans Medicare Plan

Benefits Booklets and ID Cards

- Benefits booklets and ID cards will be mailed to new enrollees in late December 2009

Secure Horizons Medicare Plan

Benefits Booklets and ID Cards


- New enrollees will receive ID cards in mid-December 2009 and benefits booklets in early 2010



Watch your mail in December and January for information from PERACare plan providers as noted below.

VSP

Benefits Booklets and ID Cards

- VSP does not mail booklets or ID cards
- Inform your eye doctor that you are a VSP member and the doctor's office will notify VSP
- Benefits information can be accessed through VSP's Web site (www.vsp.com) or toll-free customer service number (1-800-877-7195) 

To protect your personal information, Social Security numbers are not displayed on ID cards.

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Planning for Medicare Meetings


Retirees and their spouses who will be turning age 65 in the upcoming year may want to attend a PERA Planning for Medicare meeting. Medicare is a whole new world of health care options, and it comes with its own language that you'll need to learn. Most retirees are pleased with Medicare after they transition to it and understand how Medicare works.

Medicare is the federal health program for all individuals over age 65, so the federal government's Social Security and Medicare offices are your sources for information about Medicare. However, because PERA offers its retirees a variety of options for health plans that work with Medicare, PERA staff can provide some help and insight into navigating Medicare.

The meeting is offered in the Denver area and is held the second Tuesday of every month at PERA's



Westminster office. The meeting is not held at the Westminster office in October. Instead, it is offered around the State as part of the PERACare open enrollment meetings.

Seating in Westminster is limited to 65 attendees, so you will need to reserve a space online at www.copera.org with your PERA PIN, or you may call the PERA Customer Service Center at 303-832-9550 or 1-800-759-7372. 

Planning for Medicare Meetings

When: *Second Tuesday of every month (except October)*

Where: *PERA Westminster office (The Pointe)
1120 W. 122nd Avenue
Westminster*

Time: *10:30 a.m. to Noon*

RSVP: *Seating is limited to 65, so please reserve online or by calling PERA's Customer Service Center*