



North Carolina Retirement Systems

Retirement Monitor – February 25, 2010

A monthly newsletter for public sector human resources and payroll specialists from the Retirement Systems Division of the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer.

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2009 Annual Benefits Statements Go Electronic

For the first time, 2009 Annual Benefits Statements will be available to active members in ORBIT (Online Retirement Benefits through Integrated Technology) only; statements will not be mailed.

The annual statements are scheduled to be available in members' personal ORBIT accounts in May 2010.

To access the statements, employees must log-on to their personal retirement account in ORBIT, or register if this is the first time the employee is accessing his or her account.

Neither Retirement Systems representatives nor employers have access to members Annual Benefits Statement. We ask that you please provide computer access for employees who do not have access to a computer at the work place.

More will be communicated on the statement in the coming months. As with past years, frequently asked questions and a user guide will be available in March on the "Employers" section of the Retirement Systems' Web pages at www.myncretirement.com to help you better answer your employees' questions.

Annual Compensation Limits Remain Unchanged for 2010

Federal and State laws impose limitations on compensation of members that is reportable and subject to contributions to qualified retirement plans. These limitations apply to the TSERS, LGERS and CJRS, and may be adjusted from year-to-year pursuant to Section 401(a)(17)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The limitations for calendar (tax) year 2010 are as follows:

For any member of a State-administered retirement system who was hired prior to January 1, 1996, the annual limit on compensation subject to retirement contributions in calendar (tax) year 2010 remains the same as in 2009 at \$360,000.

For any employee hired on and after January 1, 1996, who is a member or becomes a member of a State-administered retirement system, the annual limit on compensation subject to retirement contributions in calendar (tax) year 2010 remains the same as in 2009 at \$245,000.

Retirees Can Manage Health and Financial Needs with HR InTouch on ORBIT

In partnership with the State Health Plan, NC Retirement Systems is enhancing online capabilities and services for retirees with HR InTouch.

Available through ORBIT, HR InTouch will provide 24-hour online access to health and financial wellness information and resources. Retirees can enroll and update information in the State Health Plan, and will find links to our partners, such as the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund. There are also videos on health and wellness and featured documents with information on financial management in retirement and Medicare enrollment.

Medicare-eligible employees may contact the State Health Plan directly for assistance. For information on Medicare eligibility, go to www.medicare.gov.

HR InTouch will be available through ORBIT on March 29.

Disability Training Session

The Retirement Systems Division's Educational Retirement Group will hold a TSERS disability training session on March 4, 2010. The session will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at:

J Iverson Riddle Developmental Center
Conference Room Administration Building
300 Enola Rd
Morganton, NC

Since seating is limited, registration is required. Please register to secure your seat (reserved on a first come, first served basis) by sending an e-mail to:

Jeannie.Alston@nctreasurer.com.

2010 Retirement Planning Conferences Schedule

The Educational Retirement Group of the Retirement Systems Division with the Department of State Treasurer conducts retirement conferences for members of the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System and the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System. The conferences provide an orientation for new members, pre-retirement planning information for members closer to retirement and educational information for personnel officers and others who handle retirement matters. The sessions also offer information on the N.C. 401(k) and N.C. Deferred Compensation (457) plans. Registration is not required. Some locations may charge a parking fee.

For members unable to attend their local conferences who would still like to receive the information provided, the PowerPoint presentations shown at the conferences are available on the [Employers](#) and [Active Employees](#) sections of the Retirement Systems Web site under "Retirement Planning Resources."

There are two presentations: one for Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System (TSERS) members and one for Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System (LGERS) members.

Below is the schedule of Retirement Planning Conferences. **TSERS sessions will begin at 9:30 a.m. and LGERS sessions will start at 1:30 p.m.** All of the 2010 dates are available on the Employer section of the Retirement Systems Web site at www.myncretirement.com. **We request that members who plan to attend a conference please check our Web site regularly or contact Member Services (telephone numbers below) for schedule updates.**

Member Services employees at the Retirement Systems Division are happy to help with questions. Please call 1-877-627-3287 (toll-free) or 919-807-3050 (Raleigh area only). Members may also schedule an appointment to meet with a counselor. We ask that members request and receive a retirement estimate before scheduling an appointment. Members should complete a [Form 309](#) to request an estimate.

March 3, 2010	Craven Community College Orringer Auditorium 800 College Ct New Bern, NC
March 10, 2010	Elizabeth City State University Kermit E White Graduate Center, Room 117 1704 Weeksville Rd Elizabeth City, NC
March 16, 2010	Greensboro Coliseum Complex Odeon Theatre 1921 W Lee St Greensboro, NC
March 25, 2010	Richmond Community College Cole Auditorium 1042 West Hamlet Ave Hamlet, NC
March 31, 2010	Salisbury Civic Center 315 S Martin Luther King St Salisbury, NC
April 7, 2010	Sandhills Community College Owens Auditorium 3995 Airport Rd Pinehurst, NC
April 13, 2010	Robeson Community College ADL Auditorium 5160 Fayetteville Rd Lumberton, NC
April 20, 2010	City of Charlotte Street Maintenance Division Building, Room 301 4411 Northpointe Industrial Blvd Charlotte, NC
April 28, 2010	Southwestern Community College Myers Auditorium, Room 148-B 447 College Dr Sylva, NC
April 29, 2010	Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center Auditorium 455 Research Dr Mills River, NC

Retirement Systems Contact Information

- Employers with ORBIT Payroll Reporting questions should call 1-877-NC-ORBIT (outside the Raleigh area) or 919-807-3055 (Raleigh area only). For all other questions, contact the NC Retirement Systems Division's Employer Education and Services Unit at EESU@nctreasurer.com or call toll-free 1-877-807-3131 Option 2 (outside Raleigh area) or 807-3131 Option 2 (Raleigh area only).

- Active Employees with questions or in need of information or forms should contact the Division's Member Services unit toll-free at 1-877-627-3287 (for outside Raleigh area) and (919) 807-3050 (Raleigh area only).
- Retirees with questions or in need of information or forms should contact the Division's Member Services unit toll-free at 1-877-733-4191 (for outside Raleigh area) and (919) 733-4191 (Raleigh area only).

Remember, to better serve our Spanish-speaking customers, the Retirement Systems' Call Center is staffed with a representative who can assist members with translating Retirement Systems' information and addressing their retirement-related questions.

The Retirement Systems Division manages retirement benefits for more than 820,000 working and retired N.C. public employees. The North Carolina Retirement Systems continue to rank within the top five systems nationally. With approximately \$67 billion in assets, the Systems comprise the 10th largest public pension plan in the United States.