



**Public Employees
Retirement Association**
of New Mexico

V la VOZ

*Summer
Edition
July 2013*

Retiree Edition

The Voice of the Public Employees Retirement Association of New Mexico

PERA Board

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(505) 476-9301

Letter from the Board Chair



In August, PERA will conduct elections to fill two positions on the PERA Board. Members will have an opportunity to vote for a State or Municipal representative. The Board oversees the PERA Fund, currently at \$13.1 billion, and oversees the PERA benefit for more than 50,000 active members and 30,000 retired members. Board members are your representatives and make important decisions that affect you and future members of PERA. As the saying goes, “your vote is your voice” and the PERA elections are your

opportunity to have a voice in the future of PERA. Although retirees are not voting for a representative this election cycle, your vote in future elections will be just as important.

If you have had an opportunity to call or visit either our Santa Fe or Albuquerque office recently you know that PERA has staff dedicated to assisting you. Customer service is the agency’s top priority and, while we will not always get it right, we strive to provide the best experience possible for our members.

For the past 14 years, one of our employees, Deputy Director Mary Frederick, has served thousands of members and retirees and has done so with dedication, caring and grace. Mary will be joining the ranks of PERA retirees at the end of August and while we are sad to see her go, on behalf of the Board and staff we wish her a long and enjoyable retirement.

While we recognize Mary and wish her well in retirement, I also want to thank all of PERA’s employees for the work they do for our membership. We appreciate hearing from you when we do well and also want to hear from you if there are ways we can do better. Please feel free to reach out to any representative on the Board and PERA management to let us know how we are doing.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Board of the Public Employees Retirement Association is to preserve, protect, and administer the Trust to meet its current and future obligations and provide quality services to Association members.

PERA Fund Trends Up With Strong Returns

After a very healthy start to 2013, the capital markets became skittish by late May and into June. Investors are worried about increasing interest rates and the anticipated reduction (or tapering) in the Federal Reserve's monetary accommoda-



tion policies even while other economic data, such as housing and employment, point to a continuing recovery in the U.S. economy.

The S&P 500 index of the largest U.S. corporations recorded a 2.34% increase in May and a 15.37% increase since January. Globally, the pace of economic growth has slowed. A significant portion of Europe is in recession and China is experiencing a noticeable economic slowdown. Because many U.S. corporations receive a large portion of revenues from international sales, this slowdown can have repercussions on the U.S. equity markets. The MSCI EAFE index of international developed market corporations recorded -2.31% for May but an 8.29% increase since January.

The PERA Fund is diversified across U.S. and non-U.S. stocks and bonds, and alternative assets. This diversification is designed to smooth the ups and downs of individual asset classes. So far in 2013, the diversification and asset allocation of the Fund have contributed to positive results. The total PERA Fund has increased from January 2013 through May 2013 by 7.52% and for the fiscal year to date, July 2012 through May 2013 by 15.86%.

PERA Annual Meeting

The PERA Board and staff welcomes all members and retirees to attend the Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 26, 2013. The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. in the Fabian Chavez Jr. Board Room at the PERA building located at 33 Plaza La Prensa, Santa Fe.

At the Annual Meeting the results of the State and Municipal elections will be announced, and members, retirees and the general public will have the opportunity to bring their comments to the Board.

If you have questions about the meeting, please contact Judy Olson at 505-476-9305.



The COLAs are coming in July

July is the month retirees look forward to because it is the month they receive their Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) if they qualify for one. The 2013 COLA increase will be 2% for qualified retirees whose annual pensions are more than \$20,000. Retirees who retired after 25 years with a PERA employer and whose pensions are \$20,000 or less and those who retired as a disability retiree will receive a 2.5% COLA.

A retiree who retired with a normal retirement prior to the age of 65 and has been retired for two full calendar years will receive their first COLA increase. Disability retirees or retirees who were age 65 at the time of retirement, and who have been retired for one full calendar year, will also receive a COLA in July.

Letters explaining the COLA will be mailed at the end of July to those who qualify to receive a COLA. The letter will state the amount received in the June pension payment and the adjusted payment for July. Remember the July pension payment will be awarded on the last working day of July. For those retirees who belong to either AFSCME or RPENM and have signed up to have dues deducted from their PERA pension check, the dues will be deducted from the July pension payment only.

Social Security Number : XXX-XX-0000		
PERA ID Number: 00000		
	June 30, 2013	July 31, 2013
Gross Pension :	\$1,594.80	\$1,626.69
Federal Tax :	\$173.55	\$180.73
State Tax :	\$45.21	\$47.55
Insurance :	\$124.79	\$124.79
RPENM Dues :	\$0.00	\$0.00
AFSCME Dues :	\$0.00	\$0.00
July Net Amount :	\$1,251.25	\$1,272.62
Monthly Net Amount :		\$1,272.62

It is important that PERA has your current address. If you change addresses, make sure you complete a PERA Change of Records Form located at www.pera.state.nm.us/forms/ChangeInPERARecords7_2012web.pdf or fax your new address to PERA at 505-476-9401. PERA mails the retiree edition of La Voz three times a year. Since you received your La Voz, PERA has your correct address. If you know another retiree who hasn't received anything from PERA, encourage them to check to make sure we have their correct address.

SPOTLIGHT ON - PERA Retirees

Do you have a story you would like to share with other PERA retirees about what you have done after retirement? PERA would love to hear from you. Did you take a trip of a lifetime? Did you start your own company? Let us know.

Past stories include retirees who bought a campground in the Blue Ridge Mountains, wrote a book and showcased their quilting.

PERA has retirees all over the world and we have some pretty amazing stories, we would love to share them.

Send your stories and a single photo to Patricia Thaxton PERA Liaison Officer, P. O. Box 2123, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504 or email to patricia.thaxton@state.nm.us.

Public Employees Retirement Association
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Contact your Retirement Specialist Today:

Northern NM:
Paul Lium (505) 321-2239

Central NM:
Clayton Puckett (505) 362-8814

Southern NM:
Linda Miller (575) 520-2660

Assets rolled over from your account(s) may be subject to surrender charges, other fees and/or a 10% tax penalty if withdrawn before age 59½.

Information provided by retirement specialists is for educational purposes only and is not intended as investment advice.

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