



**Public Employees
Retirement Association**
of New Mexico

la VOZ

The Voice of the Public Employees Retirement Association of New Mexico

Summer
Retiree Edition

PERA 2014 Board

OFFICERS

MUNICIPAL MEMBER

Ms. Patricia (Patty) French, Chair
City of Albuquerque
(505) 480-1335

RETIREE MEMBER

Mr. Dan Mayfield, Vice Chair
(505) 259-0528

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Mr. James B. Lewis
State Treasurer
(505) 955-1120

Ms. Dianna J. Duran
Secretary of State
(505) 827-3600

STATE MEMBERS

Capt. Roman D. Jimenez
New Mexico State Police
(505) 382-2500

Ms. Paula Fisher
Children Youth & Families Dept.
(505) 841-2400

Ms. Jackie Kohlasch
Taxation & Revenue Department
(505) 383-0176

Mr. John Reynolds
Public Regulation Commission -
Utility
(505) 986-9163

MUNICIPAL MEMBERS

Mr. Louis Martinez
Albuquerque Bernalillo County
Water Utility Authority
(505) 768-3675

Mr. Dan Esquibel
City of Santa Fe
(505) 490-6482

COUNTY MEMBER

Mr. Stuart Logan
San Juan County
(505) 947-5680

RETIREE MEMBER

Ms. Loretta Naranjo-Lopez
(505) 246-9601

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Wayne Propst
(505) 476-9301

Letter from the Board Chair

Dear Member:

In August, PERA will conduct an election to fill a position for a State representative on the PERA Board.

The Board oversees the PERA Fund, currently at \$14.5 billion, and oversees the PERA benefit for 55,000 active members and 35,000 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 upcoming election is your opportunity to have a voice in the future of PERA. If you are eligible to vote for the State representative, please take a moment to do so when you receive the ballot in the mail.



On behalf of the Board, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Board Member Dan Esquibel. For the past year, Dan has served as a Municipal representative on the Board, having been chosen to finish the term of a previous Municipal Member who resigned. He has been an important member of the Board and we congratulate him on his election to a new, four year term.

As always, I want to thank all of PERA’s employees for the work they do for our membership. I know we have a group of talented, hardworking employees at PERA and they help carry out the Board’s priority of providing excellent service to our members. We can always do better though and the Board appreciates hearing from you on how we are doing. Over the next several months we will be reaching out to our members to see how we can enhance our communications with you and we expect to see improvements in our web site and other outreach tools in 2014 and 2015.

Again, look for your ballot in August and be sure to vote!!

Patricia “Patty” French
Board Chair

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 Wants Your Help

PERA is developing a new strategic plan and we would like to hear from you! As part of PERA's long-term planning process, PERA has brought together a diverse group of PERA employees to develop a strategic plan that will guide PERA for the next five years. This group will be seeking input from stakeholders throughout the state, including PERA's active members and retirees. In addition PERA will be requesting participation from PERA's executive staff, managers, staff, the PERA Board, contributing employers and others.

PERA is anticipating that information from all stakeholders will be gathered over the summer and will be



compiled and reviewed and then used to prepare a strategic plan by December 2014. This plan will guide the agency until 2020. Once completed, the strategic plan will be used to improve communication within the agency and have an ultimate goal of improving services provided to all of our members and retirees.

As members of PERA's pension fund we encourage and value your input with this process. Your feedback will be anonymous and the member and retiree survey will be short. Thank you for your important contribution. You can access and fill out the survey on the PERA website at www.pera.state.nm.us.

It is Election Time

2014 Election to the PERA Board of Trustees

On April 25, 2014, the PERA Election Committee met to verify the candidates for the 2014 PERA Board election. The Committee's report was accepted by the PERA Board on May 13, 2014.

Current Board member Dan Esquibel was the only individual who submitted nominating petitions for the Municipal Member position. The Election Committee verified that Mr. Esquibel submitted the required 150 signatures to be an eligible candidate. PERA rules state that if only one person is nominated for a non-retired Board member position, the election shall be cancelled and that person will automatically be declared the winner for the position. As a result, the PERA Board cancelled the Municipal Member position election for 2014 and declared Mr. Esquibel the winner. Mr. Esquibel will start his new term of office in January 2015.

The PERA Election Committee verified the signatures for the three candidates for the State Member position. Those candidates are Tirzio Lopez, Annette Martinez-Varela and Roman Jimenez. Information for each candidate is on PERA's website under PERA Board Elections.

PERA will mail out the ballots for the state election on Friday August 15, 2014 to members who are currently under the state retirement plan. Ballots need to be received by the Main Santa Fe Post Office by noon on September 19, 2014 to be counted. Ballots received after this date are invalid and will not count toward the election results. Please make sure you vote early so your vote will count.

For further information on the election process contact Karen Risku, PERA Deputy General Counsel, at 505-476-9351.



You Asked the Question



Q : I am planning on moving out of New Mexico within the next 6 months to another state that has state income taxes. What do I do about the taxes for each state?

A : When you move you will need to update your address with PERA so that you will continue to receive information such as your 1099R tax form. The PERA form to change your address is the *PERA Change in Records Form*. The next form you will need to complete is a new *PERA Tax Deduction Form*. You will need to indicate you no longer want PERA to withhold New Mexico state taxes. If PERA receives this form prior to the 20th of the month it would take effect for that month. Both forms are available on PERA's web-

site at www.pera.state.nm.us/forms.

Unfortunately, PERA cannot withhold other state's taxes. You would need to check with that state's Taxation and Revenue Department for its requirements.



Q : I need to make some changes to health insurance benefits, can PERA help me?

A : You will need to contact New Mexico Retiree Health Care Authority (NMRHCA) about health insurance questions. NMRHCA covers the health and life insurance of most retired public employees in New Mexico. Their number is 1-800-233-2576. Their website address is <http://www.nmrhca.org/>



Q : I retired in August 2011. I am wondering if and when I will receive my first Cost-Of-Living Adjustment (COLA)?

A : COLA letters will be mailed the latter part of July. The PERA system will run a program in July to calculate the COLA for retirees. The RIO online system will not show the COLA until that time. Since your retirement date was in 2011, you will receive your first COLA in July of 2014. Remember, your July pension payment will be direct deposited on the last working day of July. If a portion of your pension payment is from the Educational Retirement Board (ERB), you would need to contact them about the COLA on their portion. Their contact information is:

Toll-free: 1-866-691-2345

Website is <http://www.nmerb.org/index.htm> or send an email to ERB-memberhelp@state.nm.us.

To visit one of their offices where ERB benefits specialists will assist you:

SANTA FE

701 Camino de los Marquez

Post Office Box 26129

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Phone: (505) 827-8030

General Fax: (505) 827-1855

ALBUQUERQUE

6201 Uptown Blvd. NE, Suite 204

Albuquerque, NM 87110

Phone: (505) 888-1560

Fax: (505) 830-2976



2014 PERA Annual Meeting

The PERA Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 25 starting at 9:00 am. The meeting will take place in the Senator Fabian Chavez, Jr. Board Room in the PERA offices located at 33 Plaza La Prensa, Santa Fe. All members and retirees are welcome to attend. The winner of the 2014 State Board election will be announced during the annual meeting.

PERA Fund Status

For the current fiscal year through May 31, the PERA Fund is up more than +15%. The PERA Fund is at an all-time high of \$14.5 billion as a result of this strong performance. This record high reflects a full recovery of the losses from the financial crisis and recent recession. The PERA Board is focused on continuing this upward trajectory of strong, stable returns. Specifically, PERA is in the process of adjusting the composition of its investment portfolio to best position the Fund going forward. The broadly diversified investments in the PERA Fund will be reallocated to position its investments to deliver long-term, consistent returns for PERA members.

The current 2014 fiscal year performance is a direct result of strong equity markets and balanced fixed



income markets. Interest rates remain low as central banks intervene while quantitative easing programs run their course. Most developed market economies moved in a steady, low-growth direction for the housing, employment and economic production sectors. Emerging markets have begun to rise from the depths of the prior year's economic downturn; providing renewed opportunities to join the modest progress of developed markets.

For the 2014 fiscal year-to-date, the S&P 500 Index of the largest U.S. corporations was up +22.07%, the MSCI EAFE Index of international developed market corporations was also up +22.39%, while the Barclay's 10 Year Treasury rate was +3.27%.