



LookOut

February 22, 2002

Volume 6, Issue 4

ORS Mission:
We deliver pensions, related benefits and services to promote the future financial security of our customers.

ORS Vision:
Fast, easy access to complete and accurate information and exceptional service.

ORS Calendar

February

Pension Paydate ----- 25th
Judges Board Meeting - 27th

March

Public School Employees
Board Meeting ----- 7th
EMPAC Book Sale ----- 12th
State Employees'
Board Meeting ----- 14th
Pension Paydate ----- 25th

April

Public School Employees
Board Meeting ----- 11th

Retirement preps for Early Out

On Tuesday, February 5, 2002, Governor **John Engler** announced his Early Out retirement proposal for eligible state employees. Since then ORS has been actively preparing for the anticipated increase in state employees applying for retirement.

Preparations that have begun include:

- Creating a special Early Out application packet.
- Gathering a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) and answers for consistent

communications regarding the Early Out.

- Creating an online benefit estimator to include the calculations for someone retiring under the Early Out.
- Planning for special Early Out Retirement seminars for active employees and Human Resource Offices across the state.



See Early Out on page 2

Thank you Space Coordinators!

On behalf of all ORS staff, the *LookOut* would like to express our thanks to our Space Coordinators for all of their hard work to renovate our work environment. While we realize there is still much to be done with the renovation of the core area and wing B, we want to thank them not only for their assistance with wing A renovation plans but also for their work to move us to our new work areas so efficiently.

Hooray for our Space Coordinators!

Space Team members include: **Sandy Ball, Ann Beach, Terry Jacobson, Meg Leonard, and Linda Mahlow.**



Above: **Ben Taylor** enjoys his new working environment in wing A.

Meet the Green Team!

The newly-formed "Green Team" has set up an area between pillars F1.13 and F1.12 in wing 3B to help us recycle non-returnable products. In addition to office paper currently collected by the state, the Green Team has bins for items such as newspapers, catalogs and glossy magazines, glass and plastic bottles, styrofoam, and aluminum cans.

The volunteers who are helping us preserve the earth's resources and reduce waste

and pollution are **Mary Anderson, Charmaine Collings, Jan Darling, Beth Nurenberg, Kathleen O'Connell, Kathy Parisian, Lisa Schmidt, Mary Sheltraw,** and **Sara Vanderlind.** Team members from DMB Finance include **Pat Jorae** and **Nonnie Strubble.**

Let's all give them a hand – in the form of applause *and* assistance!



Mark your calendars!

Be sure to mark your calendars for ORS All Staff Meetings on Tuesday, May 21, and Tuesday, November 19. Specific times and details will be announced closer to these dates.

Early Out

Continued from page 1

- Appropriating additional resources as necessary for the anticipated influx of Early Out retirement applications.

Since the announcement of the proposal on February 5, Customer Information Center (CIC) staff has experienced a significant increase in the number of walk-in customers, phone calls, and e-mails, all interested in retiring under the Early Out proposal. **Jon Seeger**, CIC manager, commented, "Normally on a Thursday and Friday in February we would receive 2,100 calls. On February 7 and 8 that number was more than 4,300." Total calls for the week was 9,348. Last year during the same time period they only received 6,624 calls. As of February 14, more than

1,800 emails have been received regarding the Early Out. The number of walk-in customers have also increased from 15-19 a day the week before the proposal was announced to 25-30 a day after the announcement.

All employees immediately eligible to retire under the Early Out will receive an application packet in the mail within 10 days once the legislation is signed into law.

Once the proposed list of FAQs has been approved it will be made available first to ORS staff, and then published on the web site. Additionally, it will be given to all human resource directors throughout the state to share with their employees.

Customers are being reminded that in order for the Early Out proposal to become

law it must be passed by both the House of Representatives and Senate, and signed by the Governor. Additionally, it's important to encourage customers to keep checking the ORS web site for the most up-to-date information regarding the proposal.



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