

New
DMB Director
visits ORS
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ORS Look Out

Year 2000



630 Days

April 10, 1998

Volume 1, Issue 18

Public Schools Member Statement production underway

Printing of 301,702 new MPERS Member Statements began this week.

The two-page report, which is mailed to all active MPERS members, includes service credit, and contribution and beneficiary information the employer reported for the member. These statements reflect activity during the 1996-97 school fiscal year, which ended June 30, 1997.

The statement identifies the employer(s) during the 1996-97 school year, what the employing school reported for gross wages and

hours worked for the member. If a member has had an evaluation of service credit, the statement will show cumulative service credit.

The statement also denotes the member's Member Investment Plan (MIP) contributions for the year, their total contributions, and the interest earned. If a person has been a member prior to 1977, has additional service credit or repaid a refund, or had MIP buy-backs, the statement will also show those figures.

In addition, the statement

will show what the current MIP interest rate is, and give the toll-free number for the CIC should the member have any questions about his/her statement.

The mailing, which takes about two weeks to complete, should be the most accurate ever. Past service credit counter problems have been resolved. And more member addresses are correct this year than ever before.

To prepare for the questions that typically follow the Member Statement mailing, A Call Guide is being prepared for staff and for use in conducting staff training.

Six Weeks to Wellness kicks off next Monday in ORS!

When the smoke cleared on Wednesday, 57 ORS staff and household members were signed up for this year's Six Weeks to Wellness (6W2W).

When 6W2W kicks off next Monday, the first week's theme is Diet and Nutrition. Kathleen Anema from Blue Care Network will be here

at noon on Tuesday, the 14th, for a brown bag lunch session in Conference Room M to discuss "Fit for Life," a diet that changes your eating habits for life.

Lisa Schmidt, the ORS Six Weeks to Wellness coordinator says, "I joined in this program last October and I lost seven pounds in eight

weeks and, yes, my eating
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Thought for the Day

Undertake something that is difficult; it will do you good. Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow.

— Ronald E. Osborn

Connections is connecting

After reading the first issue of Connections, our new semi-annual newsletter for retirees, Robin Campbell, one of our retirees now living in Tennessee, e-mailed us to comment on the article about EFT. Said Robin, "Anyone not selecting EFT for the purpose of receiving the monthly pension check is not playing with all their oars in

the water. The system has been around now for years and any bugs that may have been in the system originally have long since been taken care of. If for no other reason than the amount of money diverted for postage and handling from the system on a monthly basis should make EFT mandatory. I can't think of one logical reason why

anyone would be better off receiving their check by mail rather than EFT."

Continued Robin, "I have been receiving my pension check since 1986 via EFT. What a wonderful feeling to know that it will be on deposit just like clockwork. Especially since we moved out of state after retiring. Even that early check during the month of December. What a godsend."

Comings and goings in ORS



Janet Darling

is authorizing pension benefits.

Janet Darling recently moved from her position as Report Processor in Processing to one of the Claim Processing Units, where she

Miriam will be working with administrative hearing cases and other disputes under appeal.

Trish Walker Webb announced the first round of Customer Information Center (CIC) placements include the following:

Positions were accepted by **Patsy Burhans, Tony Contu, Lisa Cook, Sue DeBor, Gordy Hicks, Bill Motz, Anne Watros, Joyce Weber and Michael West. Don Dimitroff** from the Regional Office staff also accepted a position in the CIC. Congratulations to these CIC staffers!

The second round of placements will be announced in the near future.

Judy Rankin is leaving April 15 to join her husband, who has been relocated to Bowling Green, Kentucky. We wish you much success in this move.

6W2W kicks off

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habits have definitely changed."

Other events coming up include an Introduction to Meditation on Thursday, the 16th, and a Walk-a-thon on Friday, the 17th. Mental Health is the second week's theme. Lisa will provide additional information about future activities and events.

Those who signed up for Six Weeks to Wellness will receive a schedule of events.

In February, **Debi MacGregor** was promoted in the Claims Processing area working on refunds. Debi has been with the State since 1975, and with the Refunds Unit since 1995.



Debi MacGregor

Miriam Bender is a legal analyst in Operations. She's from the Department of Education where she was an ad hoc hearing officer.



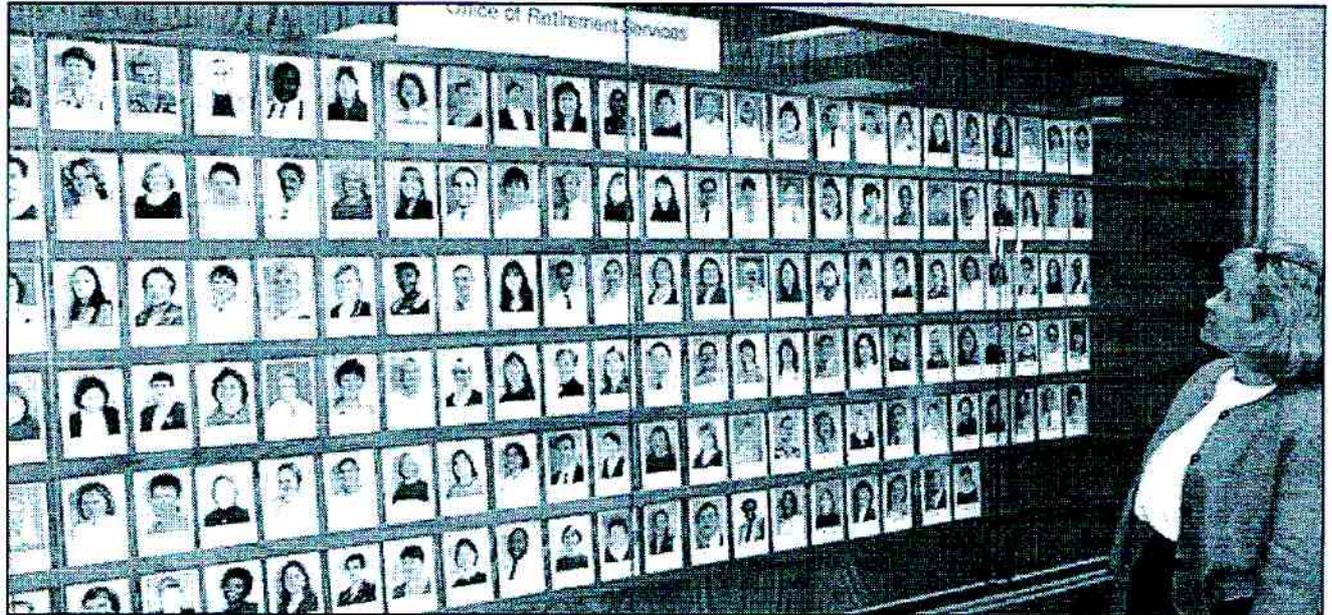
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New photo display debuts in ORS!



Deb Vincent admires the new ORS Photo Board on third floor. Special thanks go to Building Manager Mary Pulido and the DMB Carpentry and Paint shops for their efforts in building and installing the new display.



DMB Director Janet Phipps, left, and Kathe Rushford Carter, Deputy Director for Management Services during their ORS visit.

New DMB Director visits ORS

To learn how the Office of Retirement Services operates, the new Department of Management and Budget Director came directly to the source.

DMB Director **Janet Phipps**, accompanied by **Kathe**

Rushford Carter, Deputy Director for Management Services, paid a visit to ORS on March 31.

After hearing an introduction by ORS Director Chris DeRose, Phipps and Carter

toured the ORS facilities. During the tour, Steering Committee Members Phil Stoddard, Ginger Bomar, Laurie Hill and Deb Gearhart gave a brief overview of their operation and introduced the visitors to staff.

Later, Phipps and Carter met with DeRose and the Division Directors to learn about the reorganization that began last fall. Following a detailed presentation on the new organizational structure, each division director presented a comprehensive explanation of the division's achievements and plans for the coming year.

Chris said, "I appreciate everyone's efforts to make Janet and Kathe feel welcome."

Healthy bake sale on tap!

EMPAC, the ORS Employee Activity Committee, will be having its first fund-raiser – a bake sale – on Friday, April 24th. It will be the same format as previous bake sales: people bring in goods, and others donate money to buy them.

Food items will be located outside Conference Room M, and some items will be down in Finance & Administration, too. This sale will consist of healthy goods only (banana muffins, applesauce cake, fruit, veggies and dip, etc.) because it will be during Six Weeks to Wellness. Please bring in your healthy donations on the morning of the 24th. The proceeds will go to EMPAC and future fun-at-work activities.

MPSERS Web site offers new service

MPSERS members now have a new service on the World Wide Web. A number of MPSERS' most frequently used forms and applications are available for members to print.

The forms and applications are in a Portable Document Format (PDF). These files require Adobe Acrobat Reader software, a free program downloadable off the Adobe Web site, to view and print. The MPSERS site includes a link to the Adobe site so our customers can go directly there to get the free software.

By having the forms available on the Web site, members with Internet access have 24-hour access to the forms without having to wait for a form to be mailed to them. And it saves taxpayers dollars by reducing printing and mailing costs. Additional forms will be made available on the MPSERS Web site in the future, and plans are underway to put SERS forms on-line as well.

We need your LookOut survey!

We're looking for your input and opinions. Survey forms were included with the last issue of the *LookOut*, and we've heard from a number of readers. But we need to hear more.

If you misplaced your survey there are blank forms on the third floor near the CIC mailboxes. And there's a basket there for your completed survey. Help us make the newsletter better.

Plant some new ideas this spring!

Lettuce take a look at this week's scramble. We don't carrot all if you get help in deciphering this issue's riddle because we don't want you to get in a pickle. The point is not to beet everybody in figuring it out while garden what you discover. But rather it's to ponder the seed of meaning within till you see how it relates to reengineering. So furrow your brow and plow through the scramble, making sure to take your thyme. Here it is:

"a rugop combsee a mate henw lal mermesb ear user hegoun fo sleevesmth dan herit nutbocnitrio to serapi het sliksl fo eht soreth!!"

Once you've unscrambled the above, transplant the idea into daily use and watch it grow! As usual, the unscrambled poster will be hung on first and third floors next week.

