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On the Horizon

ORS for sale, bidding war begins

The Office of Retirement Services was put up for sale this week. Several well-known companies, ranging from snack food conglomerates to computer corporations are in a bidding war for this valuable asset.

Energizer Holdings was one of the first groups to express interest in ORS. "ORS fits in perfectly with our portfolio of products, including Edge shaving products and Banana Boat sunscreen," Energizer CEO Ward M. Klein said. "They will really add value to our brand. During Michigan's retirement incentives, the workers were fantastic! They just kept going, and going, and going"

Another company interested in purchasing ORS is PepsiCo. PepsiCo has already placed an early-bird bid of \$100 million, promising a \$15 million down payment paid exclusively in 150 million empty cans.

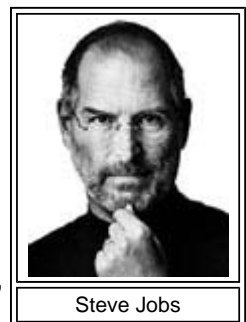
PepsiCo CEO and Chairperson Indra Nooyi said, "It is a good thing this was Michigan, and not Maine, Vermont, or New York, because we would've had to find more cans." Nooyi continued, "Bidding on ORS is an easy decision. Their employees account for eighty percent of our Mountain Dew sales as it is."

Perhaps the most interesting offer so far has been from Apple Inc.

Steve Jobs, co-founder and CEO of Apple Inc., announced big plans for ORS, including giving free iPads to all employees in return for their compliance with the new dress code, which would require them to wear black mock turtlenecks.

Jobs's original goal was to simplify the entire retirement system — one plan that streamlines the whole process, is simple, small, looks good, and is user-friendly. He scrapped that plan when he realized he could not make it hold 20,000 songs.

Apple submitted the largest offer of any bidder—\$450 million—but insisted that the transaction be paid in iBucks, Apple's own currency that Jobs claims, "will one day be the world's strongest currency."



Steve Jobs

- State Police Board Meeting
- April 27
- Earth Day
- April 28
- Public School Board Meeting
- April 31

Quick Links

- [ORS Member Website](#)
- [ORS Employer Website](#)

Commonly Used Acronyms

AST	Application Support Team
BLA	Business Leadership Assembly (<i>EPC, BPOs, and BPLs</i>)
BPD	Benefit Plan Design
BPL	Business Process Leader
BPO	Business Process Owner
CE	Customer Education
CS	Customer Service
DB	Defined Benefit
DC	Defined Contribution
DTMB	Department of Technology, Management and Budget
EPC	Executive Process Council (<i>Phil, Laurie, Tim, and Anthony</i>)
EPO	Executive Process Owner
ER	Employer Reporting
FLB	Forms, Letters, and Barcode
ORS	Office of Retirement Services
PRIM	Preretirement Information Meeting (<i>public school employees</i>)
PRO	Preretirement Orientation (<i>state employees</i>)
PS	Process Support

Despite the bids, no deal has yet been brokered.

LookOut to be outsourced to WikiLeaks

Governor Snyder recently issued an Executive Order that all state governmental newsletters, including inter-departmental newsletters, must be outsourced by the end of this fiscal year. An anonymous spokesperson for the Governor said, "This will save millions of dollars because we can eliminate the positions associated with newsletters."

CE's **Kathy Tober** and **Connie Morse** have worked with WikiLeaks's Director of Operations, Julian Assange, to broker a deal for the ORS LookOut to be published by WikiLeaks. "We also looked into the *Drudge Report*, *Huffington Post*, and *National Enquirer*, but WikiLeaks is clearly the best fit for us," Connie said.

ORS is also discussing the possibility of WikiLeaks taking over the preretirement presentations via webinars, and the ORS website design and maintenance. "If we can accomplish this, we will totally eliminate Customer Education, resulting in huge savings," Kathy said. The BPL and BPO positions would remain as liaisons to WikiLeaks.

"We expect to establish successful partnerships and have signed contracts by the end of this fiscal year," Kathy said. CE staff has stated they are embracing the opportunity to seek employment elsewhere. By reaching out and creating partnerships, it's a win-win situation for our members, the state and ORS.

Service credit sale

Service credit is on sale! Each member of ORS's retirement systems is eligible to purchase as many years of service credit as they wish. The ad below will be emailed to all ORS members on Friday at 4:57 p.m.

SME	Subject Matter Expert
T&T	Tools and Technology
UAT	User Acceptance Testing



- Innovate and Improve Customer Service
- Best In Class Business Practices
- Instill Confidence in Staff Through Quality Communication
- Engage Top Talent to Realize Potential
- Continuously Renewed Business-Driven Technology
- Build Business Capacity Through Education and Development
- Proactive Policy Development and Legislative Strategy



You'll go **SILLY** over these prices!

Service Credit Sale!
NO LIMIT! EVERYONE'S ELIGIBLE!

Save up to **58.2%** on any fraction of a year increment!

TODAY ONLY!

Only 3 minutes left!

Call us! Our customer service representatives are standing by with absolutely nothing better to do!

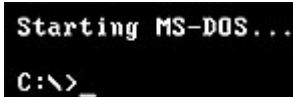
business briefs

Pension payments now available instantly in miAccount

A recent enhancement to miAccount streamlines the entire pension payment process by allowing pending retirees to go from applying online to immediately printing their monthly pension. ORS staff no longer needs to be involved in validating FACs or putting retirees on payroll, and retirees can get their pension payments anytime they wish, as often as they wish. Retirees must agree to ORS's terms and conditions to utilize this payment method - they must promise to only take as much as they're due.

MS-DOS lives at ORS

ORS will migrate to MS-DOS 1.0 on April 4. The use of this classic operating system will simplify all aspects of daily workflow processing. The use of DOS will also save the state thousands of dollars by eliminating the need for a mouse.



Snyder signs toll roads bill to fund retiree insurances

To ensure continued funding for retiree insurance benefits, Governor Snyder has signed a bill turning all Michigan roads into toll roads. All major highways will be toll roads effective May 26, just in time for the Memorial Day weekend travels, and all smaller roads (including dirt and gravel roads) will be toll roads effective August 1. All proceeds from the toll roads will be placed in a special fund for retiree insurance benefits.

April 9 All-Staff Meeting agenda

April 9, 2011, Conference Room A
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

1. **9:00 - 9:12 Welcome ceremony**
EPC Opens the all-staff with a rousing rendition of *Tradition*.
2. **9:12 - 9:37 Ice breaker**
Lansing State Journal columnist John Schneider dunk tank.
3. **9:37 - 9:59 Michigan budget brainstorming session**
We'll break into small groups and help those politicians balance that budget! Make sure to bring your calculators and lots of paper (Dot-to-Dot worksheets available on request).
4. **9:59 - 10:21 Team-building exercise**
Line dancing lessons led by "Long-Hair" Fowler.
5. **10:21 - 10:56 Guest speaker on empathy training**
Oprah Winfrey shares her top empathy tips in a special presentation titled "Yes, but how does that make you feel?"
6. **10:56 - 11:00 Closing**
Hey Jude sing-along.

ORS Director captures widget at QD

ORS Director **Phil Stoddard** was spotted at the local Quality Dairy store with ORS's widget. When questioned by a state trooper, Phil said, "I don't know what we would have done if we didn't find our widget. This little guy brings meaning to our organization and to the great citizens of Michigan."

Phil was not taken into custody and will not face criminal charges. The widget has been returned safely to ORS's custodial closet.



CS's Lois Musbach has lost her mind ... literally!

Last week we got word from Lois Musbach's family that she will not be returning to work at ORS because she simply has no memory of working here.

"Who are you? Retirement? No thank you," Lois said during a phone call yesterday.

After many tests and scans of her brain, doctors have come to the conclusion that after two retirement incentives and the widget escaping, her brain became overloaded and completely blocked out anything related to her job.



Lois has been with ORS for more than 25 years and as one of the most seasoned employees in CS, this is a catastrophe!

"We have so many great minds here at ORS, but without Lois ..." Tim McCormick said as he began sobbing. "What are we going to do!?!"

Her doctors encourage us to look at the bright side: "At least her brain is still intact," one said. "With the overload she was dealing with, it very well could have exploded!"

Comings & Goings

BPD welcomed new spokesperson and retirement ambassador, **Charlie Sheen** on March 31. Charlie will lead outreach efforts to promote the value of retirement plans. He will focus on making sure everyone in Michigan understands that providing retirement plans makes us all "winners."



ORS welcomed motivational coach, **Rich Rodriguez**, on Monday, April 1. Rich will use his former U of M coaching experience to reflect on what not to do if we want to be a winning team.



Many years of practicing and hard work have paid off for **Tim McCormick** - his dream of dancing with the Irish Riverdance group has come true. His last day at ORS is April 1. View [the Riverdance official site](#) to find out when and where you can watch Tim perform.



CE wins award for ORS Success Video

Last Tuesday, the Flying Fickle Finger committee presented CE with the Flying Fickle Finger of Fate award for ORS's Success Video, which premiered at the February 24 Business Meeting.

Customer Education BPL, **Connie Morse** gushed, "We're



not sure why we won; or what this award even has to do with our video, but we've got an awful nice trophy case to put it in!"

Detroit Tigers to play April home games in Florida

Instead of returning to Michigan for their April home games, the Detroit Tigers will ride out Old Man Winter's final pangs in sunny Lakeland, Florida, where the team conducts their annual spring training. And, they're taking ORS with them!



ORS's **Bill Motz** brokered a deal with the Tigers late last night — all April "home" games will take place in the Lakeland stadium, but ORS will lease office space in the Florida stands until the weather in Michigan warms up.

Bill and the Tigers made the call after they saw the forecast for Opening Day. Bill said, "It's hard to concentrate on hitting a baseball or processing retirement applications when the inside of your nose is frozen."

Lakeland's 8,000 seat Joker-Marchant Stadium is a far cry from the 40,000 seat Comerica Park in Detroit, or the climate-controlled General Office Building in Dimondale. Players and staffers are finding ways to adapt. "It's in the seventies, it's sunny, a breeze is coming in off the coast," said CE staffer **Kyle Schafer**. "That's better than an office building any day."

Tigers shortstop Jhonny Peralta was also enthusiastic about the venue change. "On off days, I'm going to Disney World. I can't wait to ride Splash Mountain with Magglio [Ordoñez]!"

Not everyone was supportive, though. Starting pitcher Justin Verlander said, "We've got to get used to the cold. Most of our away games in April are in New York, Cleveland, and Seattle anyway."

Manager Jim Leyland assured Michigan baseball fans the team wouldn't be gone for long. He mumbled, "Well, you see the weather [inaudible] cold, and we [inaudible] the boys [inaudible] every game [inaudible] and back to Detroit in May."

ORS Director **Phil Stoddard** added, "We're proud of the fact that more than 87 percent of our retirees still live in Michigan. However, none of us are retirees, and it's cold out there."

Everyone, pack your bags. We're off to Florida on Monday and will return to Michigan with the Tigers on May 2 — just in time for the annual ORS Detroit Tigers outing in June.

ORS Purpose:

We are an innovative retirement organization driven to empower our customers for a successful today and a secure tomorrow.

The *LookOut* is published by the Office of Retirement Services, Department of Technology, Management and Budget, State of Michigan

Director:
Phil Stoddard
Edited by Customer Education

Thanks for reading!!



Celebrity pictures from ORS employees



Note: Because some of the links in this newsletter point to network resources, some of the links may not work if you are reading this outside of the organization.