



February 8, 2002

Volume 6, Issue 3

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.



Contracts Approved: Project Moves Ahead

Great news! Contract negotiations are done and the State Administration Board approved the contract with Covansys on Tuesday, February 5. Long days and hard work went into this effort. Both the Covansys and State contract teams did a great job and deserve our appreciation.

While the contract teams have been off doing their thing, the rest of the Covansys team, Business Process Owners (BPOs), and other ORS staff have continued work on the project. Some of the project activities include:

Detailed Project Design/System

Requirements: The BPOs have asked ORS staff experts to help with identifying Stage 1 and 2 system requirements for Employer Reporting, Benefits Management, and Call Center functions (also known as Customer Relationship Management). This level of detail will give the Covansys team the information needed to develop the new system.

Data Analysis: The existing SRVS (State Retirement Visual System) wage database was delivered to Covansys. Information Technology

Services Division (ITSD) is in the process of extracting data from ARMS (Automated Retirement Management System) and ARS (Automated Retirement System) databases. Covansys will extract the data, rules, edits, and computations from these systems for use in the new system.

Infrastructure: The project team continues to meet with other agencies such as eMichigan, Michigan Information Process Center (MIPC), Telecommunications, and HRMN (Human Resources Management Network) to discuss the needs and expectations in each partnership.

Vision ORS Change Management:

The change management team has continued to develop plans to communicate with and support our customers and ORS staff with the changes and opportunities coming with the development of the new system.

If you have any questions about the project or related issues, please talk with any project team member (BPOs, EPOs, Ray McIntosh, and Norm Buckwalter).

ORS Calendar

February

President's Day ----- 18th
Pension Paydate ----- 25th

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
State Police
Board Meeting ----- 18th



ORS welcomes Covansys staff members who will be spending the next several months with us working on the Vision ORS project. Back row: **Mario Petricola, Dan Wissel, Tom Smith, Steve Hawley, Bob Nerone.** Middle Row: **John Quinn, Mpho Komanyane, Shannon Murch, Karen Gee, John Dougherty, John Karmilowicz, Tarun Kumar.** Front (standing) **Tim Brown, Kathy Manning.** Seated: **David Nesbitt, Jadie Wheeler, Usha Koka, Amuthapandian Pandian, Prashant Katiyar.** Missing from the photo: **Richard Earley, Mani Neti, Alvaro Ortega, and Rolly Tolly.**



Policies & Procedures

*Check out these Policy & Procedure updates at
G:\Pol_Proc.*

New:

- ITR54 Documentation Procedures for ORS Developed Desktop Applications
- ORS87 Requesting Reservation of a DMB-GOB Conference Room in Groupwise

Obsolete:

- OPER187 Preparing Correspondence Orders for Processing

Updated:

- CS5 Including Insert With Retiree Warrant Mailing
- ITR18 Adding Incoming Requests to the Automated File



Published by: State of Michigan
Department of Management
& Budget
Office of Retirement Services
P.O. Box 30171
Lansing, MI 48909-7671

Director: Chris DeRose

Editors: Rosemary Baker
Robert Glennon
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Printed by authority of 1984 P.A. 431
Number printed: 235
Total cost: \$61.89 Cost per copy: \$0.26

Ready to “Swing?”

Eager anticipation — that’s the general feeling around ORS as many of us prepare to “swing” back to Wing A of the General Office Building. We’ve been “living” in dinky and dingy cubicles since last summer, when crews went to work in our former space. We’ve watched their progress — heating, lighting, flooring, and walls torn out and replaced; then new wiring and ceilings, dazzling new carpet and paint, and finally the assembling of office modules.

The Renovation Team (**Sandy Ball, Ann Beach, Terry Jacobson, Meg Leonard, and Linda Mahlow**) has put together a detailed plan for another seamless swing. Staff members who are moving, along with files, phones, computers, and other necessities for job tasks, should be functioning in their new homes by mid- to late February, again without a break in service to customers. Can’t wait!?!

Top right: A typical example of our current offices — living out of boxes in a 6x6’ cubicle.

*Middle right: **Mike Bialkowski** gets rid of unneeded paper during his unit’s Cleanup Day, in preparation for the big move.*

Lower right: The new space is taking shape, slowly but surely!



EMPAC Gives Hugs & Kisses



Valentine’s Day will soon be here, and that puts EMPAC in the mood for an ORS fun-at-work event. Since ORS always enjoys “guess how many” games, a “Guess How Many Hugs and Kisses” contest is in order. No, it’s not a trick, it’s a jar filled with Hershey’s Hugs and Kisses. Take a good look at the jar and give it your best estimate.

Due to our move into 3A during Valentine’s week, stay tuned for where the jar and entry slips will be located. The winner of the prize — that tasty, tantalizing jar of chocolate — will be announced on Thursday, February 14.



How well do you know our presidents?

1. On the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the only two men who signed it and later became president died within hours of each other. Who were these “in sync” men?
2. Four months into his presidency he died of pneumonia, after contracting a cold while giving his January inaugural address outdoors without a coat. Who was the man who should have listened to his mother?
3. Despite his reputation, this president was very softhearted. After accepting General Lee’s surrender, he allowed the Confederate soldiers to keep their horses for “plowing in the spring.” Which president was not a horse-trader?
4. This president married the great-granddaughter of Pochahontas. Who was married to an Indian princess?
5. Thanks to his mother, this president was raised to use kind words about others. He avoided bad-mouthing or expressing feelings of hatred in public. Who was this “General”ly nice guy?
6. “Born in the U.S.A.” should be this president’s theme song. He was the first elected president who was a natural American citizen. Who was this star-spangled baby?
7. Bill Clinton wasn’t the only president threatened with impeachment. What other president beat that rap?
8. Which recent president had a famous photo of himself shaking hands as a teenager with President Kennedy?
9. Which president is jokingly referred to as the “Pardon Me” guy?
10. Who was the only divorced president?



- Answers:**
1. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams
 2. William Henry Harrison
 3. Ulysses S. Grant
 4. Woodrow Wilson
 5. Dwight Eisenhower
 6. Martin Van Buren
 7. Andrew Johnson
 8. Bill Clinton
 9. Gerald Ford – he granted many pardons during his presidency
 10. Ronald Reagan from Jane Wyman

◀ Lisa Schmidt and Rosemary Baker show their patriotism on Red, White, and Blue Day. They are standing in front of the Veterans Board, honoring ORS family and friends who served, or are serving, in the U.S. Armed Forces.