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Calendar

October

MSU vs. U of M	25
Boo Day	30
Halloween	31

November

Election Day	4
Veteran's Day	11

On The Horizon

- State employees board meeting
- November 6
- Public school board meeting
- November 13

National Save for Retirement Week



Next week is National Save for Retirement Week and, in coordination with Voya Financial™, we'll be promoting NSFRW on our social media channels. In addition, we're celebrating by traveling the state with our Voya™ partners. We'll be visiting Marquette, Traverse City, Detroit, Lansing, and Grand Rapids to discuss all of our retirement plans.

At each location there will be a short presentation the second half of each hour with the rest of the time for Q & A. We're asking members and contributors to bring their password if they'd like access accounts and discuss with an

ORS or Voya representative.

On a personal note, National Save for Retirement Week is a great reminder to review your retirement goals. Should you increase your contribution amount? Are you on target to retire when you've hoped? Do you need to make changes to "right the ship?"

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ORS donates over \$1,600 to local charities



During the six weeks of the State Employees Charitable Campaign, ORS staff participated in many fundraising activities that raised funds for local charities. THANK YOU for your participation - we raised 50 percent more this year - a total of \$1,613.70. You all participated in a survey indicating which charities you'd like to see ORS support, and here is a breakdown of the SECC fundraising efforts: Dessert Auction (\$281 to Old Newsboys); Balloon Pop (\$334 to Ele's Place); Pass the Mascot (\$74.70 to Big Brothers Big Sisters); Penny/Coin Drive (\$351.90 to

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 H, Laurie M, Anthony, and Kerrie</i>)
EPO	Executive Process Owner
ER	Employer Reporting
ORS	Office of Retirement Services
PRIM	Preretirement Information Meeting (<i>public school employees</i>)
PRO	Preretirement Orientation (<i>state employees</i>)
PS	Process Support
SME	Subject Matter Expert
UAT	User Acceptance Testing

Make-a-Wish Foundation); Casual Week Bracelet Sale (\$572.10 to Food Bank Council of Michigan). In addition to our fundraising, DTMB now has over 250 contributors to charities via payroll deduction. Let's take the spirit of competition and giving into the Harvest Gathering this month!

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Michigan Fall color tours



If you haven't had a chance to enjoy the beautiful fall colors around our great state, it's not too late. According to news reports, we should still be able to enjoy nature's bounty for the next two weekends. Here are a few trails or events you may find of interest.

The Traverse City area is a great place to observe Fall's beauty. The Old Mission Peninsula is a perfect spot for an afternoon drive to observe colors and beautiful views of the bay and visit roadside fruit stands among other things. The most spectacular views are along M-37, which runs through the village of Mapleton to the Mission Point Lighthouse.



In Ottawa County, many parks have scheduled nature hikes and kayaking trips to view the fall colors. For more information, you can visit the Holland Area Convention and Visitors Bureau [here](#).

In the Detroit Metro area, visitors can enjoy a river's eye view of autumn foliage on Detroit's Fall Canoe Tours. If a train tour intrigues you, you can enjoy a ride from Tecumseh through the basin of the River Raisin. Get all the details [here](#).

Whether it's a hayride, or visiting an apple orchard or cider mill, it's a great time to get out and enjoy our beautiful state and the extraordinary colors Fall has to offer.

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NAGCDA award

ORS Strategic Intents



- Forge Operational Excellence
- Instill Customer Confidence
- Engage Hearts and Minds



Kerri Vanden Bosch receives the National Association of Government Defined Contribution Administrator Award for ORS along with Ralph Marsh, president of NAGDCA.

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GetFit supports breast cancer awareness

GetFit sponsored PinkFest on October 8 to raise breast cancer awareness and support the National Breast Cancer Foundation. According to a few supporters, this year's event was even better than the kick-off last October! The fundraiser is continuing through the end of this month; check the status [here](#).



[Click here for a gallery of PinkFest pics.](#)

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business briefs

CS stats for Fiscal Year 2014

During the past fiscal year, Customer Service staff received 266,759 calls and answered 48,882 Message Board questions. Wow! Great job.

Reminder: build report available

The September quarterly release was deployed the weekend of September 26. The September/BPR release focused on the enhancement of SERS Overtime calculation as well as other system enhancements and system fixes. You can find the build report in the KL, Process Support Tab, under Builds.

October 2014 *Connections* published

The October *Connections* newsletter will be mailed to approximately 272,000 retirees with this month's pension payment. This edition of *Connections* contains articles about *Strengthening Communities*, *Getting Ready for Medicare*, *Tips for Good Giving*, *What's Your Encore* (Career), as well as the regular columns *A Message from the Director* and *Ask an Expert*. The content is the same for all systems. You can read a copy for yourself [here](#).

ER trainings

On September 25, **Mary Staley** presented to 140 new school business officials, including payroll reporting staff, at the Michigan School Business Officials (MSBO) Fall Introduction to School Business conference.



She provided an overview of important components of ORS reporting, walked through the Employer Information and Reporting websites, described the new ORS reporting training program and discussed reporting compliance including compensation, working after retirement, and new reporting tools.

The new ORS Reporting training program was well received. Hard copies of the Introduction to ORS Reporting were gone in seconds, and the current training webinars generated positive feedback as well.

ER and BPD have presented or will be presenting at several other events in October and November: the Northern Regional MSBO conference, the Michigan Department of Education/MSBO Workshop and the Michigan Community Colleges Business Officers Association conference.

ORS retiree reunion party

The ORS retiree reunion is Thursday, Oct. 23, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at [Tony M's](#). 3420 South Creyts Road, Lansing, MI. 48917-8505. ORS staff members are invited to attend.

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STAFF TRAINING

Amy Buttery, Chantele Geisenhaver, Allison Wardlaw, Joy Bartell, Lyndsay Aldrich, Lois Musbach, Jon Slaughter, Cherie Vaughn, Sean Douglass, Katie Little, Andrew Silva, Amy Price, and John Karagoulis attended Process Mapping training on Oct. 14-15.

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comings+goings

Going

Process Support bid farewell to **Ted Minix**, who accepted a full-time position in the private sector. Ted's last day was October 7.

On The Move

Congratulations to **Dustin Duprest** and **Bobby Hoppes**, who each accepted analyst positions in Employer Reporting beginning October 13.

Mark Howard in Benefit Plan Design accepted a position in the same department as an analyst 12, effective Oct. 13. Congrats to Mark!

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sounding out from you for you

Dominique Davis

I got to know Oprah.

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

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Well, not exactly. I mean, I did get to know more about her, she just didn't get to know me (bummer!).

I attended Oprah's The Life You Want Weekend 2014 Tour at the Palace of Auburn Hills. It's a two-day event (currently in Houston) that is packed with activities to reinvent, restore, and rejuvenate you. There were fun things to do like picture yourself in "your" remade bedroom, complete with an actual photo. Or make a video on when you feel the most beautiful. One of my favorite things was the Twitter wall. Tweets with the hashtag

#lifeyouwantdet were selected to be featured on this electronic billboard, both outside and inside the main arena. Several of mine were chosen!



There were food vendors, tastings from Oprah's personal chef, and giveaways by the sponsors of the tour. I was one of the fortunate VIPs that got a swag bag; over \$400 dollars in stuff and gift cards. *How cool was that??*

One of the highlights was An Evening with Oprah. This was an intimate talk when she shared details of her own aha moments and personal life shifts. All I could do was say wow. The Saturday workshops were led by Oprah and were designed to make you think and reflect on your life now and your life in the future. How do you get that future life? What do you do? How do you start? Do you even know what you want? One of my personal discoveries was that all the great things I want for my daughter's future, I really do want

those same things for myself. And it's okay to want that.

The use of technology was engaging and incredible. It was an exciting and motivating weekend! There are three cities left in this tour. Visit <http://www.oprahweekend.com/> for more information.

State of Michigan

Director:
Phil Stoddard
Edited by Customer
Education

Thanks for reading!!



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Thanks for reading!

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.