



PERSI Executive Director Announces Retirement



PERSI Executive Director Alan Winkle used the April board meeting to announce his retirement. He will be leaving PERSI effective December 31, 2008. The board accepted his letter of resignation and thanked him for all he's done for PERSI over the years.

In his letter to the Retirement Board, Alan expressed his pride in what PERSI has accomplished in the past two decades. Under his leadership, PERSI has grown from a \$1 billion system with \$2 billion in liabilities and 65,000 members in 1986, to one with more than \$11 billion in assets, \$10.5 billion in liabilities, and 118,000 members today. PERSI currently boasts a funded ratio of more than 100 percent and serves over 700 employers. Alan specifically acknowledged the quality and dedication of the staff and the ongoing support he's received from the Board over the years as contributing factors to PERSI's growth and many achievements.

Alan's public service career spans 36 years; 22 of those years have been with PERSI. He became the Executive Director in 1988. Since then, PERSI has changed in many areas:

- Technology capabilities have expanded. The expansion includes upgrading the PERSI network and automating processes, adding imaging and automated workflow, implementing a new Voice-over IP phone system and call routing technology,

and linking the field offices to headquarters with high-speed data lines.

- Customer service has been enhanced. One of Alan's primary goals throughout the years has been to improve and increase customer service to PERSI members and employers. By increasing the number of publications, improving the Web site, and introducing a call center, customer service has improved. By developing an Online Guide for staff and another one for employers, PERSI is able to get accurate information to members and employers in a timely fashion. Because of its success, a number of other retirement systems have taken the Online Guide idea and applied it to their own systems.

- Introduction of the Choice Plan 401(k) in 2001. The Choice Plan 401(k) was a major accomplishment under Alan's leadership. The 401(k) program grew from a voluntary program with three state agencies to a \$300 million statewide program available to all PERSI members.

- Member education program has grown. First initiated as part of the Choice Plan 401(k) rollout, member education has gone from being outsourced to being conducted by two full-time PERSI trainers. The workshops have been updated several times to ensure members have an understanding of their PERSI benefits and are prepared for retirement. Plans to use video conferencing and webinars to extend the program's reach to members in more remote areas of the state are in development.

continued on page 4

Inside this issue:

Using an ATM Safely.....	2
Unclaimed Property	3
Investment News.....	4
Regular Interest Rate.....	4

Insights

USING AN ATM SAFELY

Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) have been around since the early '80s, so these days we take them for granted. But we shouldn't take for granted our safety when using an ATM. While they are a great convenience, they also provide an opportunity for you to be victimized. Crimes are perpetrated on unsuspecting ATM users daily. The majority of ATMs are in well-lit and/or high-traffic areas; but having adequate lighting or being in the presence of other people doesn't necessarily guarantee your safety. The following tips may seem redundant, but they can help make your next trip to the ATM uneventful.

1. Whenever possible, use an ATM in a familiar location, or in a location you know to be safe.
2. Before using an ATM, check out your surroundings. If you're in a somewhat isolated area, or there's anyone who seems to be hanging around for no apparent reason or sitting in a parked car nearby, it's probably wise to go to another ATM.
3. Try to avoid going to the ATM alone. A person who's with someone else is less likely to be victimized.
4. Don't wear expensive jewelry or take other valuables with you to the ATM...it's an added incentive for someone to assault you.
5. Never let a stranger help you with your transaction, even if you're having trouble with the machine.
6. Stand close to the ATM and shield the keypad when entering your Personal Identification Number (PIN) if others are in line behind you. And don't enter your PIN until instructed to do so by the ATM.
7. If you sense the machine is not working correctly or that it has been tampered with, cancel your transaction and go to another ATM.
8. Never force your ATM card into the machine. If your card becomes jammed or is retained, don't reenter your PIN. Contact your financial institution immediately.
9. Never count your cash while standing at the ATM or in public for that matter. Before leaving the ATM, carefully secure your cash and ATM card.
10. Hold on to your printed transaction receipt to compare against your next bank statement.
11. Keep a supply of deposit slips and envelopes at home or in your car so you can complete the paperwork before you get to the ATM, this will minimize the time you spend at the machine.
12. Memorize your PIN, never write it down or disclose it to anyone. Sharing a PIN with others is a leading cause of theft. Change your PIN periodically, and don't use easy-to-guess numbers such as your birth date.
13. If you are using a drive-up ATM, keep your engine running and your doors locked.
14. When you leave the ATM, be aware of anything suspicious. If you believe you are being followed, don't go home; head to an area with lots of people and call 911.

Bank robber Willie Sutton is credited for saying he robbed banks because "that's where the money is." That's also how today's thieves think – there's money at the ATM... and to get the money, they have to get to you. If you are confronted by an assailant who demands money, give it up! No amount of money is worth risking bodily injury or worse. Comply...and try to remember any distinguishing features of the assailant so you can provide a good description to law enforcement when you call 911. Be safe out there!

STAKE A CLAIM TO WHAT'S RIGHTFULLY YOURS

- \$40 million in unclaimed property in Idaho -

There's a small fortune just waiting to be claimed in Idaho. According to the Idaho State Tax Commission Web site, there is currently \$40 million in assets that people don't even know they have or have forgotten about entirely. The assets range in value from \$5 to many thousands of dollars. The average claim nationwide is valued at \$250, and 1 in 8 Americans has unclaimed property. In all, state governments hold more than \$35 billion in unclaimed assets. Some of it could be yours.

Some states hold unclaimed property indefinitely; but that's not the case in Idaho. Beginning last year, property that goes unclaimed 10 years or more reverts permanently to the state; heirs lose all rights to the property. So it might be worthwhile for you to find out if you have "riches" just waiting to be claimed. (FYI: PERSI holds benefits for members indefinitely.)

What Comprises Unclaimed Property?

Unclaimed property isn't just cash, it includes many other types of assets, including:

- Uncashed Money Orders, Cashier's Cheques, and Travelers Checks
- Uncashed Stock or Mutual Fund Dividends
- Oil, Gas, and Mineral Royalty Payments
- Unclaimed Security Deposits
- Uncashed Payroll Checks
- Stock Certificates
- Unused Gift Certificates
- Utility Deposits
- Court Deposits
- HUD/FHA Refunds
- Probate Court Judgements
- Health and Accident Insurance Payments
- Dormant Bank Accounts
- Property Overlooked in the Probate of an Estate
- Uncashed Death Benefit Checks and Life Insurance Proceeds
- Customer Deposits, Overpayments, Credit Balances, and Refunds

The most interesting and often most valuable finds come from the contents of safe deposit boxes belonging to relatives who've died. Items of value originally placed for safekeeping, can turn up years later if missed in probate.

Each year, legal notices appear in the local newspapers advising citizens of the unclaimed assets. A lot of people simply ignore these notices because they think it's unlikely any of the property belongs to them. It only takes a few minutes to check the online database in Idaho, or in any other state where you've resided, to see if any of the unclaimed property belongs to you. The Idaho State Tax Commission Web site is www.tax.idaho.gov/unclaimed.htm. Besides doing an unclaimed property search for Idaho, you can search other states by following the link to the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators.

How To Claim Property

To claim property in Idaho, you'll need to complete a claim form. When submitting the form, you'll need to include some type of personal identification such as a copy of your driver's license or passport. You must provide proof you are the rightful owner of the property. To do this, you will need to provide documents such as utility statements, auto registration, bank statements, tax returns, canceled checks, or marriage and birth certificates.

Ways To Avoid Having Unclaimed Property

To avoid having unclaimed property, notify your bank, broker, credit card issuers, employer, 401(k) administrator, life and health insurance contacts, mortgage lenders, doctors, attorney, accountant, retirement fund, investment accounts, mutual funds, safe deposit box account, and others of any name change or change of address. Also, cash all checks promptly upon receipt and keep a record of all bank and savings accounts. You can indicate your interest in and awareness of all accounts by contacting the holder every 3-5 years.

If you have questions about unclaimed property, call the Idaho State Tax Commission toll-free 1(800)972-7660 ext. 7627; or email questions to lostandfound@tax.idaho.gov. Good luck with your treasure hunt.

- In-house investment expertise was created. PERSI initially relied on outside experts for investment expertise. To bring better control over the assets, portfolio management was brought directly under the Board. PERSI then hired an investment staff, which is now led by Bob Maynard.
- PERSI relocated. To accommodate the growing staff, Alan led the effort to build a new headquarters building that fit PERSI's mission and image. This facility has served PERSI well for the past 14 years. A new "green" building is now being considered.

These changes and PERSI's growth and success are a direct result of Alan's vision and dedication.

Changes in leadership can be difficult. Alan's departure will leave a hole that will be hard to fill...both administratively and personally. It's rare to work with someone who's extremely respected and well liked both inside and outside the organization. Employers, active members, and retirees are invited to attend a board meeting any time this year to personally say good-bye to Alan and wish him the best.

The Board has retained executive search firm EFL Associates to conduct a search for Alan's replacement. The process is expected to take approximately 6 months. When a successor is found, it will be announced in the newsletters and on the PERSI Web site at www.persi.idaho.gov.

Regular Interest Rate Set

The PERSI Board is authorized by law to periodically set the regular interest rate, which is the rate of interest credited to member accounts.

Effective July 1, 2008, members will receive 17.51 percent on member Base Plan accounts until the end of the calendar year. The rules have changed regarding calculation of the regular interest rate credited to member accounts for each calendar year to 90 percent of PERSI's net investment return, with the minimum rate set at 1 percent. The rate for each calendar year is based on the net rate of return at the end of the previous fiscal year, which ends June 30th. The only time credited interest will affect a member's benefit is if a refund of contributions is made either at termination or upon death.

PERSI INVESTMENT NEWS

as of May 31, 2008

Value of the Fund:
\$11,530,622,158

Fiscal Year Change in Market Value:
\$68,043,745

Fiscal Year-to-Date Returns:
1.1%

Month-to-Date Returns:
0.9%

*Posted monthly on PERSI Web site: www.persi.idaho.gov



www.persi.idaho.gov

I D A H O

PERSpectives



Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho

PERSpectives is published quarterly for members of the Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho
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Costs associated with this publication are available from PERSI in accordance with §60-202, Idaho Code 12-05/80,000