

APERS Spective

YEAR END SPECIAL EDITION

APERS getting ready to kick off the first half of 2008 Retirement Seminars

APERS will kick off the first half of our 2008 seminar schedule with 13 seminars from January to June throughout the state. The seminars are designed to provide basic retirement information on such topics as membership eligibility, reciprocity, service credit, purchases of service, vesting, benefits options, DROP and PAW, as well as forms and deadlines. Most of our scheduled seminars happen during work hours but to help members who can't leave work in the daytime, APERS has scheduled three night seminars. Note that all daytime seminars begin at 9 a.m.; and the evening sessions all start at 6:30 p.m. To better help you understand what seminar is right for you, below is a brief description of each.

- **“Getting the Picture” (Morning and Night Sessions)** - This seminar will provide basic information on retirement and the process of retiring. In addition to APERS counseling personnel, there will be a Social Security Administration representative as well. This is a good general discussion of retirement and everyone is encouraged to attend.
- **“The Entire Retirement Process” (Full-Day Sessions)** - In addition to APERS and Social Security, this seminar will include a financial planner and an attorney to discuss estate planning. If available, the full-day seminars will also include a representative from the Employee Benefits

Division (EBD) of the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) to address insurance issues for employees of the state and public school divisions of APERS. Additionally, the seminars will include a representative from CareLink, a non-profit organization whose mission is to assist retirees and family caregivers with information and resources to help improve the quality of life. We strongly encourage anyone who is considering retiring in the next year or two to attend.

Seminar Schedule - January to June 2008

Date & Time	City/Seminar Type	Location
January 15, 2008 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.	Bryant (Night Seminar)	Police and Fire Safety Facility 312 Roya Lane
February 12, 2008 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.	Beebe (Night Seminar)	ASU-Beebe, Wal-Mart Regions Rm. 610 North Pecan
February 22, 2008 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Little Rock (Financial Planning)	State Police HQ/ADEQ Comm. Rm. 1-30 at Geyer Springs Road
March 14, 2008 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Clinton (Morning Seminar)	Clinton Senior Citizens Center 570 Yellowjack Lane
March 18, 2008 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Newport (Full-Day Seminar)	ASU-Newport Student Community Ctr. Merchants Planner Room 7648 Victory Road
March 28, 2008 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Lonoke (Morning Seminar)	Office of Emergency Mgmt. Conference Rm. 210 North Center
April 8, 2008 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Little Rock (Full-Day Seminar)	State Police HQ/ADEQ Comm. Rm. 1-30 at Geyer Springs Rd.
April 18, 2008 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.	DeQueen (Morning Seminar)	Sevier County Courthouse 115 N. Third Street
April 25, 2008 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Osceola (Morning Seminar)	Northeast AR Community Corrections Ctr. 1351 Cyro Rd.
May 6, 2008 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Little Rock (Women's Seminar)	State Police HQ/ADEQ Comm. Rm. I-30 at Geyer Springs Road
June 6, 2008 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Ash Flat (Morning Seminar)	Sharp County Courthouse Annex Courtroom 718 Ash Flat Drive
June 17, 2008 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Van Buren (Full-Day Seminar)	Municipal Utilities Building 2806 Bryan Rd.
June 24, 2008 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.	Sheridan (Night Seminar)	Office of Emergency Management 130 Grant 74

- **“Financial Planning”** - In 2008, we will be offering sessions featuring a financial planner. These programs will be in two parts: Session 1 will focus on investing for the future with explanations of available plans; and Session 2 will address primarily those persons in DROP or those who are eligible for PAW and will be considering different options for their distributions from within these plans.

- **“Women's Seminar”** - There will be two Women's seminars in 2008. This will be an all day meeting to focus on retirement and related issues for our female members. ***Please Note Seating**

Continued on Page 3

A close look at the 1099-R forms that retirees will receive

All APERS retirees will receive their official 1099-R statements after January 31, documenting total APERS retirement income received for the last calendar year. For APERS members who only retired between Jan. 1, and Dec. 31, 2007, this is the first 1099-R you'll receive. The illustration below is an example of one of the forms, which is similar in design to a 1040 that other taxpayers receive for their earnings.

Box 1 - Shows the total amount in distributions you received this year.

Box 2a. Shows the taxable amount of your distribution.

Box 4 - Shows amount you instruct APERS to withhold (if anything) for federal income taxes.

Box 5 - Shows the employee's after-tax contributions, if any, recovered tax-free this year; portions that are your basis in a Roth tax-free account; premiums paid on commercial annuities or insurance contracts recovered tax-free; or non-taxable parts of a charitable gift annuity.

Box 7. Distribution code. This box shows one of 23 numeric or alphabetic codes that designates how your distribution was paid to the retiree. The most common code most retirees will see is 7, Normal Distribution.

Box 10 - State income tax the retiree directs APERS to withhold from retirement income.

These are duplicate copies of the top 1099-R form.

Four left-most boxes contain self-explanatory information such as Payer's address, Payer's Federal I.D. number, Recipient's SSN number, and retiree's name and address.

Getting Your 1099

If you've changed your address in the last year, please inform APERS in writing. If we do not have your correct and most recent address, you probably won't get your 1099! APERS needs any address changes no later than January 18, 2008!

You can use the Change of Address form on the APERS website: www.apers.org, or we can mail you a form if you call us at (501) 682-7800. Persons outside Pulaski County can call toll-free, 1-800-682-7377. We will also accept a handwritten request as long as it has your signature, your social security number and your new address.

Remember to post your Social Security number on any correspondence you mail to APERS.

APERS Direct Deposit Dates

January 2, 2008	February 1, 2008
March 3, 2008	April 3, 2008
April 1, 2008	May 1, 2008
June 2, 2008	July 1, 2008
August 1, 2008	September 2, 2008

Deposits are made on the first workday of each month that doesn't fall on a holiday

Changes to State Employees life & health insurance plans in 2008

APERS is happy to assist EBD in providing you with the following information for State Employees. If you have any questions about health insurance or life insurance issues, please call the Employee Benefits Division at (501) 682-9656. Callers outside Pulaski County may call EBD toll-free at 1-877-815-1017.

Beginning January 1, 2008, there will be two changes in coverage that will affect State Employees and Retirees. One change is regarding a new life insurance vendor and the second change is to the ARHealth Plan regarding Radiology Services.

Life Insurance Changes

For the 2008 Plan Year, Minnesota Life will provide Basic & Supplemental Group Term Life and Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D) insurance coverage for State Employees and Retirees. Minnesota Life is one of the largest group life insurance providers in the country and is also one of the most highly rated companies for financial strength.

Minnesota Life will provide the same level of coverage that you currently have, in addition to added services, comprehensive online self-service utilities, and a lower monthly premium rate. For information about the rates, visit www.ARBenefits.org. Login using your User ID and Password and click on the benefits library tab. You will find the rates under the publications and forms link.

During this change, employees will not have a lapse in insurance coverage. It is necessary, however, that you designate a beneficiary for your life insurance coverage. This person will receive the benefits of the life insurance policy upon your death. When you choose not to designate a beneficiary, the "order of priority" is determined

by the policy. This is the default distribution and is based on a person's relationship to the insured member. This option is considered a last resort, so it is important that you determine the beneficiary of the policy.

To establish your beneficiary and make any coverage election updates, go to www.ARBenefits.org and login using your User ID and Password. Once inside the secure site, click the link for Minnesota Life under the My Membership tab. This will automatically log you into the secure site for Minnesota Life where you can designate your specific beneficiary applicable to your Basic and Supplemental coverage. If you do not have a User ID and Password established, you may self-register online at your convenience by going to www.ARBenefits.org and clicking the "ARBenefits Login" link. If you would like a paper copy, there is one located in the State Retirees Annual Benefits Guide. You also have the option to print the Beneficiary Designation form from the ARBenefits.org library. If you have questions about your existing coverage, coverage options, and/or enrolling, you may contact Minnesota

Life at 1-888-826-2734.

Health Plan Changes

Radiology Services, including services for MRI, MRA, CT, and PET Scans, will be subject to a \$250 co-payment plus a 10% co-insurance for the 2008 Plan Year. The \$250 co-payment plus 10% co-insurance will not apply when provided as part of an Emergency Room visit or in-patient hospital admission. The Plan will cover all radiology services deemed "medically necessary", however, each member will be limited to only one (1) co-payment per Plan Year. This change was approved by the State and Public Life and Health Board on October 16, 2007. The one (1) co-payment maximum only applies to the member's financial responsibility of \$250 co-payment for the first MRI, CT, MRA, or PET Scans. This is not a limit of the number covered radiology services. Any applicable co-insurance will be subject to the Out-of-Pocket maximum.

Information in this article provided by the Employee Benefits Division. For more information, please refer to the Schedule of Benefits in the online version of the Summary Plan Description, located at www.ARBenefits.org.

2008 Seminar Schedule

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is limited* Register early!

If you are pre-registering for any of the sessions, please submit your form by the applicable deadline. If you require a certificate of attendance, please make sure your registration form is marked accordingly. Pre-registering is not required, but encouraged and appreciated. We look forward to seeing you there!

If you have any questions about health insurance or life insurance issues, please call the **Employee Benefits Division** at (501) 682-9656. Callers outside Pulaski County may call the Division toll-free at 1-877-815-1017.

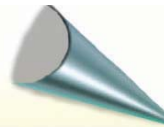


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In this issue for active members ...

- New seminars for January to June 2008!*
- Life insurance and health plan changes effective January 2008!*
- What information is included on the 1099-R Form? Retirement and DROP dates! And more information!*



REMEMBER THESE IMPORTANT FILING DATES

Retirement Filing Dates

Date	Earliest Filing Date	Latest Filing Date
March 2008	December 3, 2007*	January 31, 2008
April 2008	January 2, 2008	March 3, 2008*
May 2008	February 1, 2008	April 1, 2008
June 2008	March 3, 2008	May 2, 2008
July 2008	April 2, 2008	June 2, 2008*
August 2008	May 5, 2008*	July 2, 2008
September 2008	June 3, 2008	August 4, 2008*

* The Filing Deadline for DROP applications is always the last working day of the 2nd month before enrollment, **not the last calendar day of the month!**

DROP Filing Dates

Date	Earliest Filing Date	Latest Filing Date
March 2008	November 30, 2007	January 31, 2008
April 2008	December 31, 2007	February 29, 2008
May 2008	January 31, 2008	March 31, 2008
June 2008	February 29, 2008	April 30, 2008
July 2008	March 31, 2008	May 30, 2008
August 2008	April 30, 2008	June 30, 2008
September 2008	May 30, 2008	July 31, 2008

* If a Filing Date falls during a weekend or on a holiday, the filing deadline becomes the next working day.

APERSpective is a publication of the Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System and is distributed for the information of APERS active members, annuitants, beneficiaries and survivors.

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