



LOOKING FORWARD... TO THOSE GOLDEN YEARS

Ensuring Tomorrow's Benefits through Prudent Management

Spring 2014

**StanCERA's
PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINAR**
Wednesday, May 7th, 2014 ~ 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Agricultural Center – Harvest Hall ~ 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto
Registration from 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. - Seminar will start promptly at 8:00 a.m.

The number of retirees continues to rise. Are you ready? Each year in May, StanCERA hosts a Pre-Retirement Seminar for members planning on retiring within five years. Have you attended one yet?

This year's half-day seminar is designed to help members understand their retirement benefits with education on various issues critical to retirement planning. The agenda includes presentations from StanCERA, Social Security, Mass Mutual Financial Group, County Risk Management, Wells Fargo, Retired Employees of Stanislaus County (RESCO) and RESCO Retiree Health Insurance. Learn what you need to do to plan for a successful retirement.

To register for this seminar, visit StanCERA's website at www.stancera.org or contact StanCERA by telephone at (209) 525-6393 and ask for the reservation desk. **Required reservations can be made beginning April 1st, 2014.** Due to limited seating, priority may be given to first time attendees. Spouses are welcome. All reservation requests will be confirmed by email prior to the day of the seminar.

Election Notices

Watch for upcoming Elections
for

Seat #3, 8 and 8.a.

Seat # 3 is currently held by County Employee
Donna Riley, term expiring on 6/30/2014

Seat #8 is currently held by Retiree Micheal O'Neal,
term expiring on 6/30/2014

Seat # 8.a is currently held by Alternate Retiree
Joan Clendenin, term expiring on
6/30/2014

Notice of Elections will mailed
May 1, 2014

In This Issue...

- Pre-Retirement Seminar
- Election Notices
- Election Results
- Payday Reminder
- StanCERA's Strategic Plan
- StanCERA Investment Returns
- Weblinks
- 2014 Retiree COLA

Published quarterly for members
of the Stanislaus County

Election Results

Fall 2013 brought Retirement Board Seat #7 up for election. The term for Seat #7 is three years, beginning January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2016.

Seat #7 election was held on December 11, 2013, with Darin Gharat remaining as the Safety Representative. Darin Gharat has diligently served on the Board of Retirement from 2003 to present.



Supervisor DeMartini was Re-appointed to the Board of Retirement, Seat 6 by the Board of Supervisors on January 07, 2014.

Pay Day Reminder

StanCERA retirees are paid on the first Federal banking day of each month. If the first of the month falls on a weekend or holiday, your pay date will be the first working day following the first of the month.

This will effect the following pay days:

06/02/2014

09/02/2014

11/03/2014

StanCERA's Strategic Plan

On January 28, 2014 the StanCERA Board of Retirement approved the Organization's 3 year Strategic Plan. StanCERA's strategic plan can be considered a roadmap, which lays out the Organization's 3 year goals and the tasks associated with the achievement of those goals. Over the next 3 years, StanCERA will be focusing on the following 4 goals:

1. *Greater investment awareness* – StanCERA will be moving towards an investment profile that focuses on taking less risk and investing in assets that are more closely aligned with our future benefit payments. Ultimately the idea is to create greater benefit security for our members.
2. *Investment performance assessment and monitoring* – StanCERA's intent over the next 3 years is to move more of the investment reporting, assessment and disposition of those that manage StanCERA's money back in house. Staff will play a greater role in these key variables which will give the Organization a greater level of comfort and transparency.
3. *The future of StanCERA's business and policy practices* – StanCERA is and has been growing rapidly over the last 10 to 15 years. Our asset size and retiree membership has doubled over this period. StanCERA must look at and assess its resource needs on both the technology and human resource side and plan for continued growth.
4. *Achieving greater staff efficiencies* - StanCERA's staff continues to improve in efficiency to better assist our members. Staff will be working together to improve forms, documents and internal processes.

Returns for Period Ending December 31, 2013			
Total Assets \$1,715,711,686			
StanCERA RETURNS	Fiscal YTD	3 Year	5 Year
Total Fund	12.3%	10.9%	14.9%
Policy Index	10.5%	9.4%	13.1%
Domestic Equity	19.2%	17.8%	20.5%
Russell 3000 Index	17.1%	16.2%	18.7%
International Equity	17.0%	7.1%	15.2%
MSCI ACWI - ex US Index	15.5%	5.6%	13.3%
Fixed Income	1.6%	4.6%	7.6%
Barclays Aggregate Index	0.4%	3.3%	4.4%
Real Estate	-4.1%	1.4%	-
Real Estate Index	-4.1%	1.3%	-

Fiscal Year-to-date, the composite fund returned 12.3%, beating its policy index of 10.5% during the same period. Longer term, the three and five-year returns of 10.9% and 14.9% also reigned positive in comparison to the policy index of 9.4% and 13.1%.

Note: Also included in the fund is a 3.7% allocation to the Direct Lending asset class. Due to the nature of this asset class, reportable figures accurately displaying returns, occur toward the maturity of the investment.

Visit www.stancera.org "Quarterly Monthly/Reports" for additional information



2014 Retiree Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)

StanCERA is pleased to announce that this year, retirees of Tiers 1, 2, 4 & 5 will receive a 2.5% Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) effective April 1st, 2014.

The COLA is determined annually and calculated in accordance with Government Code 31870.1 of the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937. The COLA is based on the changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose Area for the proceeding 24 months. The resulting percentage change of the CPI is then rounded to the nearest one-half percent. Although the COLA is effective April 1st, retirees will see the increase on their May 1st retirement benefit (which is for the month of April).

Those who retired before April 1, 1985 will receive a total of 3% as a Cost-of-Living Adjustment due to accumulated carry-over balances. Tier 3 retirees are not eligible for the COLA.

Need a Form or a Document ?

Member Handbook
Available on line at <http://www.stancera.org/memberservices/booklets>

Reciprocity Pamphlet
Available at <http://www.stancera.org/sites/default/files/Reciprocity.pdf>

Buy Back Pamphlet
Available at <http://www.stancera.org/memberservices/leaveofabsence>

Disability Process
Available at <http://www.stancera.org/memberservices/DisabilityProcess>

Dividing Community Property
Available at <http://www.stancera.org/memberservices/dro>

Stanislaus County Employees' Retirement Association
 P O Box 3150
 Modesto CA 95353-3150



Looking Forward ...
 to those Golden
 Years

Stanislaus County Employees'
 Retirement Association - StanCERA

832 12th Street, Suite 600
 Modesto, CA 95354

Board of Retirement

Gordon B. Ford - Chair
 Maria De Anda - Vice Chair
 Donna Riley
 Jason Gordo
 Mike Lynch
 Jim DeMartini
 Darin Gharat
 Michael O'Neal
 Joan Clendenin - Alt. Retiree Rep.
 Jeff Grover

Executive Director
 Rick Santos

Retirement Questions:

StanCERA
 P (209) 525-6393
 F (209) 558-4976
 Website: www.stancera.org
 E-mail: retirement@stancera.org

Board of Retirement Meetings are held the second Wednesday and the fourth Tuesday of each month (with some exceptions), 832 12th Street, Modesto 6th Floor in the Wesley W. Hall Board Room at 2:00 p.m.

The StanCERA newsletter is intended as a source of information, not a legal document or a substitute for the law. If differences appear between the law and the newsletter, the law will prevail.

StanCERA does not administer Retiree Health Insurance.

Board of Retirement Meeting Schedule*

04/09/14	07/09/14	10/08/14
04/22/14	07/22/14	10/28/14
05/14/14	8/13/2014	(No Mtg.)
05/27/14	8/26/2014	11/25/14
06/11/14	09/10/14	12/10/2014
06/24/14	09/23/14	(No Mtg.)

*To View Board actions, please visit our website at www.stancera.org under Agenda and Minutes.

Retiree Payroll Dates

04/01/14	07/01/14	10/01/14
05/01/14	08/01/14	11/03/14
06/02/14	09/02/14	12/1/2014

StanCERA Office Closures

07/04/14	11/27/14	12/25/14
09/01/14	11/28/14	
11/11/14	12/24/14	1/2 day