

# RETIREMENT NEWS

NEBRASKA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

STCO • APRIL 2016

## Record Keeper Contract Renewed

### IN THIS ISSUE...

Record Keeper Contract Renewed .....	1
PERB News.....	1
2016 Legislation.....	2
Electronic Statement Delivery.....	2
Online Financial Tools.....	3
2016 Legislative Report .....	4
Cash Balance Rate .....	4

# NPERS

Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems

### PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT BOARD

**Ron Ecklund**  
Chair

**Janis Elliott**  
Vice Chair

**Denis Blank**  
State Member

**Elaine Stuhr**  
Member-At-Large

**Dennis Leonard**  
Patrol Member

**Kelli Ackerman**  
School Member

**Judge J. Russell Derr**  
Judges Member

**Richard Wassinger**  
County Member

**Michael Walden-Newman**  
State Investment Officer

Director: **Phyllis Chambers**

### RETIREMENT NEWS

Editor: **John Winkelman**

Asst. Editor: **Angela Hatcher**

402-471-2053

800-245-5712

[npers.ne.gov](http://npers.ne.gov)

After completion of a formal Request For Proposal (RFP) process, the Public Employees Retirement Board (PERB) has awarded the contract for record keeping services to Ameritas Life Insurance Corporation. The new five-year contract will go into effect October 1, 2016, and encompasses record keeping services for Defined Contribution, Cash Balance, and Deferred Compensation (DCP) participants.

Under the terms of the contract, the new monthly record keeping fees for Defined Contribution participants will be \$2.30. For Cash Balance members the fee will be \$2.05, and DCP participants will pay a fee of \$1.95.

In addition to the monthly record keeping fees, charges are assessed when a member takes a distribution from their account. Full (final) distributions of account balances greater than \$100 will be charged \$75 and partial distributions or systematic withdrawals will be charged \$5 per distribution.

Ameritas will also charge a monthly fee of \$0.50 for delivery of statements or documents mailed to plan participants. Members can avoid this mailing fee by signing up for

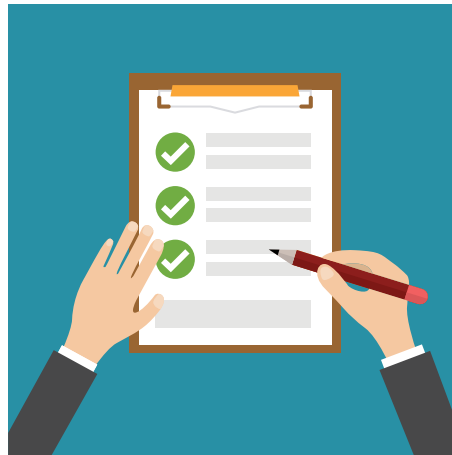
electronic distribution of correspondence – please refer to the companion article in this newsletter for setting up electronic delivery.

Certain member accounts are also subject to *administrative* fees. These fees are utilized by NPERS to cover plan expenses. These fees are assessed in the form of basis points and

based on member account balances. A basis point is calculated at one one-hundredth of a percent. If a member has a \$10,000 account balance, a charge of 10 basis points would result in an administrative fee of approximately \$10 per year. The current administrative fees assessed by NPERS are 5.5 basis points for County Defined Contribution accounts, 1.5 basis points for State

Defined Contribution accounts, and 5.5 basis points for DCP accounts.

Record keeping and administrative fees are reported in the “adjustment” section on member quarterly statements. The PERB and NPERS strive to keep all fees at a minimum for our plan members. Administrative fees are subject to adjustment and any changes will be reported in NPERS’ newsletters and notification placed on the NPERS website.



## PERB Elects New Officers

### RICHARD WASSINGER RETIRES FROM BOARD

At the January 25 meeting, the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Board (PERB) elected the Chair and Vice-Chair for 2016. By unanimous vote, the PERB selected Ron Ecklund as the new Chair and Janis Elliot as Vice-Chair.

Ron Ecklund was originally appointed to the PERB in 2012 as a Public representative. Mr. Ecklund is a certified public accountant and a Director at HBE Becker Meyer Love LLP. He has previously served as a Director and Chair of the Lincoln Electric System Administrative Board, the Lin-



Ron Ecklund

Continued on page 4



*The 104<sup>th</sup> Legislature, second session, convened on January 6, 2016, for a 60-day session that will end on April 20. During this session, the following bills impacting the State and County retirement plans were introduced or “carried over” from the prior session.*

**Provisions may be amended during the legislative session and some bills will not advance out of committee, or be passed by the legislature. Please refer to the Legislation page of the NPERS website for updates and progress as the session continues. The results of the 2016 session will be reported in the September newsletter.**

### LB 236 • All Plans

LB 236 is a carryover bill from the 104<sup>th</sup> Legislature, first session. The bill provides for attachment or garnishment of retirement benefits when a plan member is convicted of or pleads no contest to a felony or misdemeanor and is subsequently found liable for civil damages after the effective date of the act. The bill exempts from garnishment any benefit or annuity payments “reasonably necessary for the support of the member or any of his or her beneficiaries.” If the conviction is reversed, all benefits paid as civil damages would be forfeited and returned to the member.

### LB 922 • Retirement Board

The bill staggers the terms of board members in order to prevent multiple terms from expiring in the same year.

Provisions of this bill have been amended into LB 447.

### LB 986 • Retirement Board

In addition to annual actuarial reports, this bill requires an experience study to review actuarial assumptions be conducted at least once every four years, or at the request of the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee. If the Public Employees Retirement Board does not adopt all of the recommendations in the experience study “the board shall provide to the committee within ten business days after the board’s decision at a public meeting a written explanation describing the board’s analysis and factors considered in reaching its decision.”

In addition, the bill requires a confidential, initial, and final draft of actuarial valuation reports and experience studies be provided to the Governor and the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee.

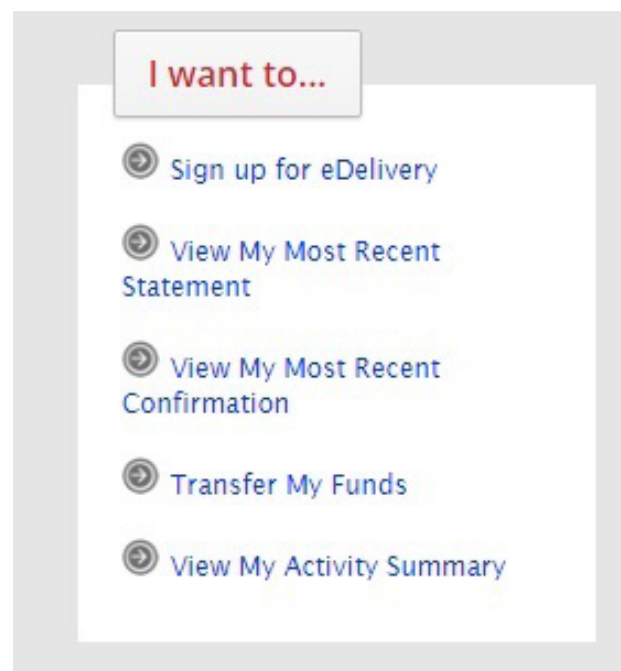
Provisions of this bill have been amended into LB 447.

## Enabling Electronic Statement Delivery

Effective October 1, Ameritas will begin charging a \$0.50 monthly fee to cover the cost of mailing statements and other correspondence. You can avoid this fee and “go green” by signing up for electronic delivery of documents to your home email account.

If you do not have Ameritas online access, the first step is creating an account. You may access step-by-step instructions by clicking on the blue “Ameritas Online Account Access” button found on the NPERS website homepage.

To enable electronic delivery, login to your Ameritas account. At the right side of the page in the “I want to...” section there will be a link titled “Sign up for eDelivery.”



Clicking on this link will direct you to the page where you can add or edit your email and enable electronic delivery.

Change My Email Address

Email :

lcat@email.com

Confirm Email :

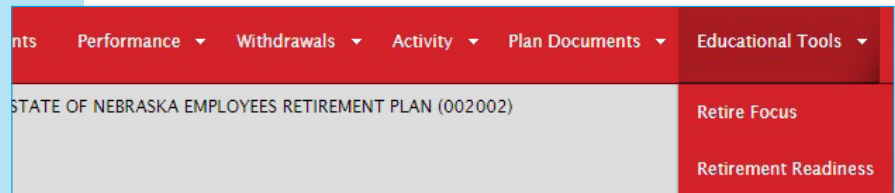
lcat@email.com

☒ Deliver confirmations, statements, disclosures and notices electronically.

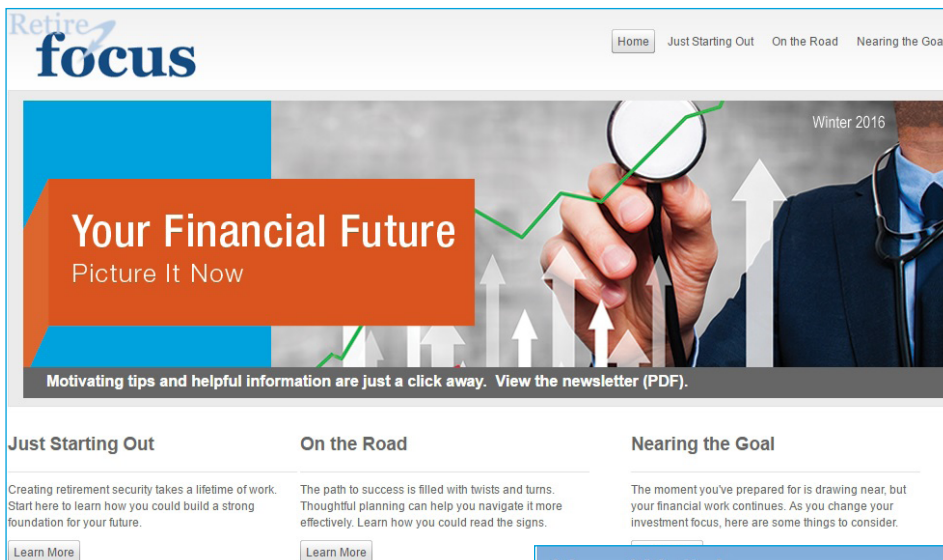
# New Online Financial Tools

In the January 2016 edition of Retirement News we included an article touting the **Financial Facts** page found on the NPERS website ([npers.ne.gov](http://npers.ne.gov)). In this issue we'd like to advise our members of the new financial tools recently added to the **Ameritas** Online Account access.

To begin, log into your Ameritas account and look for the red navigation buttons running across the top of the page. Placing your mouse over the **Educational Tools** text will reveal a drop down menu containing two new options; **Retire Focus** and **Retirement Readiness**.



Clicking on the **Retire Focus** link will open a new window in your browser:



This page has a wide variety of tutorials, articles, and calculators to help you make financial and retirement planning decisions. Information is broken out based on whether you are just starting your path, on the road, or nearing your retirement.

Additional calculators can be found by clicking on **Retirement Readiness** link:

This page contains three calculators to help you estimate your financial needs and expenses during retirement.

## How Well Are You Saving For Your Retirement?



### Start Focusing On Your Retirement

Here's the information you'll need to have handy when using the calculators

- ▶ Your annual salary
- ▶ The amount you contribute to your retirement plan
- ▶ The amount your company matches
- ▶ Your current account balance
- ▶ Your basic asset allocation (broken down by stocks, bonds, and cash)
- ▶ Other savings you have earmarked for retirement, and your spouse's savings

Will You Have Enough To Last Throughout Your Lifetime?

### These Calculators Can Help You Estimate Your Progress

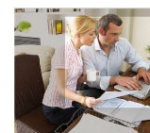
#### Retirement Planner



Determine whether you are on track saving for retirement, and if not, how much you should invest each year to reach your savings goal.

[VIEW CALCULATOR](#)

#### Income Planner



How much income can you expect in retirement? This calculator will help you estimate how much you can afford to spend each year, based on how long you want your savings to last.

[VIEW CALCULATOR](#)

#### Longevity Planner



How long can you expect your retirement savings to last? This calculator can help estimate the likelihood of your savings lasting as long as you need.

[VIEW CALCULATOR](#)

**We encourage our members to review these new features. If you have not already created an online account, step-by-step instructions can be accessed by clicking on the blue **Ameritas Online Access** login button on the NPERS website homepage.**



coln Independent Business Association, and the Lincoln Community Foundation Board. He received his MBA and BS from the University of Nebraska.

Janis Elliott was originally appointed to the PERB in 2009 as a School Plan representative. Janis has served as a Physics teacher at Bellevue Public Schools and is currently the Department Chairperson at Central High School in Omaha. She has served on various educational boards



Janis Elliott

and committees, including serving as the President of the Bellevue Education Association and a member of the Executive Board at the Nebraska State Education Association. Janis has received national and state recognition for excellence as an educator. Janis traveled as an NEA Foundation Global Educator to Peru in 2015 after receiving the NSEA Teaching Excellence Award.

We are sad to report long-time board member Richard Wassinger has decided to retire from the PERB. Initially appointed to the board in 2006 as the County Plan

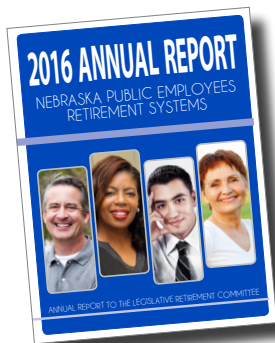
representative, Mr. Wassinger also serves as the Cass County Treasurer. In 2013 he was elected Vice-Chair of the PERB and re-elected to this position in 2014 and 2015. Hall County Supervisor Pamela Lancaster has been appointed by Governor Ricketts as the

new County representative on the PERB. Mr. Wassinger will continue to serve on the board until Ms. Lancaster has been confirmed by the Unicameral.

NPERS would like to congratulate our new officers, and express our gratitude to Mr. Wassinger for his years of service and dedication to the board. We wish him the best in his future endeavors.



Richard Wassinger



## 2016 NPERS Legislative Report

Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems (NPERS) has released its **2016 Annual Report to the Legislature**. The *Legislative Report*, which is presented each year to the Legislative Retirement Committee, contains valuable information on the activities of NPERS and the Public Employees Retirement Board (PERB).

**Plan members can refer to the *Legislative Report* for information on the following:**

- An overview of NPERS, including the mission statement, goals, operating budget, and organizational structure.
- NPERS activities, including past accomplishments, an action plan for the future, and legislation relevant to the retirement plans.
- Information on the retirement plans administered by NPERS, such as funded status, membership summaries, and benefit payment summaries.
- Details on the services offered by NPERS.
- An outline of the policies that govern the PERB.
- And much more!

The **Legislative Report** differs from the NPERS **Annual Investment Report**, which has not yet been released. The Annual Investment Report details information about the various investment options utilized by the NPERS retirement plans.

The **Legislative Report** is available now on the NPERS website ([npers.ne.gov](http://npers.ne.gov)). The **Annual Investment Report** will be released in the coming months.

**NPERS**  
Nebraska Public Employees  
Retirement Systems  
P.O. Box 94816  
Lincoln, NE 68509  
85-28-51

FOR NEBRASKA STATE AND COUNTY EMPLOYEES  
**RETIREMENT NEWS**  
NEBRASKA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEMS  
STCO • APRIL 2016



## QUARTERLY CASH BALANCE RATE

For the quarter beginning April 1, 2016, the rate of return for Cash Balance participants is 5%.

The current and historical Cash Balance rates of return are available via the "Cash Balance Rates of Return & Dividends" link on our website.