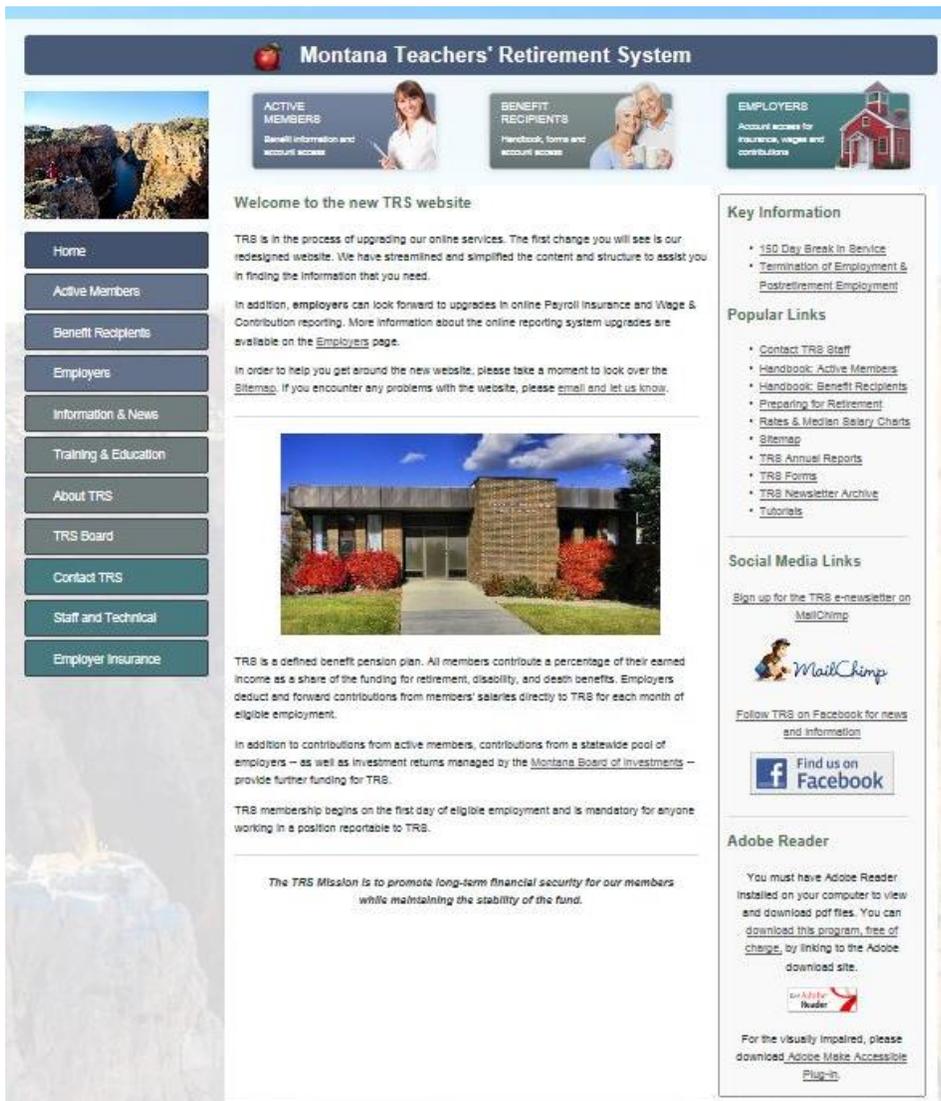


TRS Horizons

www.trs.mt.gov

TRS Online Services

The TRS website has a new look — we have streamlined and simplified the content and structure. We hope that it will assist you in finding the information that you need quickly and easily.



In addition to the website, we are also in the process of upgrading our legacy software system that allows you to access your account. Employers will be the first to experience the account upgrades in the Insurance Deduction System and Wage & Contribution Reporting System.

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Active Member Handbooks

In order to spend wisely on printing and mailing costs, we have only sent the TRS Active Member Handbook to new TRS members and those near retirement.

The Handbook is always available on our website or by contacting TRS.

facebook

Stay up-to-date with TRS

Events, workshops, and training dates as well as news that might interest you. Look for us at :

MontanaTeachersRetirementSystem



TRS Staff News

Are you a working retiree?

Since the last newsletter, TRS has welcomed new staff members:

Daisy Wiseman/Retired Benefits Technician: grew up in Helena after spending her early years in Michigan. She spends her time with crafts and on her motorcycle. Daisy works with our retired members.

Jeanie Schmidt/Quality Control Technician: Jeanie is originally from Harlowton. She received her degree in social work from Carroll College. She is a sports enthusiast as well as an avid reader.

Nolan Brilz/Accounting & Fiscal Manager: is also a native of Helena. He graduated from University of Montana with a degree in Business Finance. You can find Nolan outside golfing or hiking, or playing softball or basketball.

Rachelle Spatz/Benefits Officer: is a native of Helena who has been a state employee for 14 years. She graduated from Montana Tech with a degree in Business Administration and enjoys golf. Active members and those preparing for retirement will be working with Rachelle.

Vicki Taborsky/Administrative Assistant: is another native of Helena. She has worked in public service with the state for many years, including 15 years with the Montana Motor Vehicle Division. In addition to spending time with her two dogs, Vicki enjoys crafts such as sewing.



You can find contact information for TRS staff on our website at www.trs.mt.gov.



While a majority of our members do not return to work after retiring, some of you do.

If you are considering working in a position that is reportable to TRS, you should be aware that TRS has strict requirements for returning to work including termination of employment, attaining retired member status, and the 150 calendar day break in service. In addition, there are limitations on your earnings as a retired member.

When you are employed, as a working retiree, by a TRS employer in any capacity, you are both required to notify TRS within 30 days of:

1. The execution of a contract or
2. The first date on which you provide service.

Written notification must be made by using The Retired Member and Employer Notice of Postretirement Employment form (TRS Form 146) which is available as a pdf file to download from our website or by calling TRS.

In addition, you are required to provide supporting documentation for the terms of employment, the duties and functions of the position, and all amounts and compensation. If you work for more than one TRS Employer, you will need to fill out the form and provide the documentation for each.

You are required to submit this form whether or not you are receiving compensation, if you are a volunteer or if you are an independent contractor.

We encourage you to contact TRS if you have any questions at all about postretirement employment.

In addition, we have information posted on our website that directly address these issues in more detail.



Employers: New Online Reporting Systems

In addition to upgrading our website, TRS is also upgrading the online reporting systems for Employers. The new reporting systems will be rolled out in two phases.

- **Insurance Deduction:** this module has been thoroughly tested by TRS staff and TRS Employer test groups. It will be fully implemented and available for all employers in Fall 2014. We will offer training for Employers on using the system at workings during the MASBO Summer Conference in Billings (June 18-20), on the TRS website, and through online webinars.
- **Wage and Contribution:** this module is currently in the development phase. Again, it will be thoroughly tested by TRS staff and Employer test groups. We expect to roll out this module in Fall 2014. We will also offer training materials for Employers through the website and webinars.

In a recent test session, the Employers who participated gave us this feedback: “easier to use and navigate,” “easy to correct data,” “easier to understand the system,” “great improvement,” and “the sooner the better for implementation.” Our staff has been using the system for a few months now, and they agree, the new system is a significant improvement.

Key Information

The 2013 Legislature passed a number of laws that directly impacted TRS members. The topics that have been of most concern to our active members, retired members, and employers are: termination of employment, 150 calendar day break in service, volunteering, and postretirement employment. The following information is intended to clarify some of the recent questions we have encountered. Please visit the TRS website to see more detailed information on each of these topics.

Termination of Employment

You have terminated employment in a position reportable to TRS when you are no longer performing *any* work or providing *any* service on behalf of the employer in *any* capacity. You must terminate *all* positions with all TRS employers.

If you are not yet 60 years old and you have a pre-arranged agreement for postretirement employment (written or verbal) with your pre-retirement employer, you have not terminated employment and are not eligible for retirement benefits.

Retired Member Status

You attain retired member status when you have filed an application for a retirement allowance with TRS, terminated employment, and received your first benefit payment.



150 Calendar Day Break in Service

All TRS Members who retire — no matter their employer — are now required to complete a break in service of at least 150 calendar days before they are eligible to return to employment as a retiree under the guidelines established in TRS law.

As a “tax qualified” defined benefit pension plan, TRS is required by the IRS to only pay retirement benefits to individuals that have actually retired. 150 calendar days — more than one summer or semester break — allows TRS to ensure that a true separation from service has occurred for each retiree.

Postretirement Employment

If a TRS retiree is performing any of the duties or services that they, or any other employee, would have performed as an active TRS member — during the 150 calendar day break in service — that retiree *has not* actually terminated employment and they are not eligible for retirement benefits.

This applies even if the retiree is not being compensated for their work as a volunteer, or is working as an independent contractor or an employee of a third party.

Upon completion of the 150 calendar day break in service, a retiree can return to work in a position reportable to TRS and continue to receive retirement benefits. Return to work is subject to strict requirements regarding eligibility for retirement benefits and strict limitations on the amount of compensation a retiree can earn.

Please join us in thanking Board Chair, Robert Pancich, for his dedicated service on the TRS Board. Bob came with a wealth of experience in the financial realm both in private and public sector work including time as an investment officer with the Board of Investments and as an administrator with the Montana Economic Development Board.



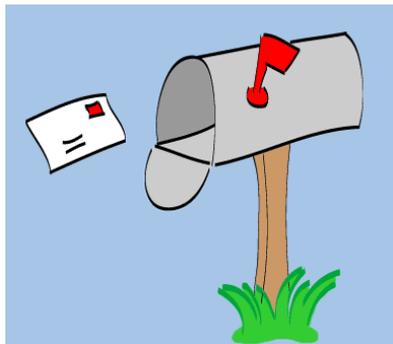
Bob joined the Board in September 2009 and his tenure will end on July 1, 2014.

TRS Governing Board Members

Name	Seat	City	Email	Term Expires
Robert Pancich, Chair	Public Member	Great Falls	RPancich@mt.gov	July 1, 2014
Lisa Cordingley	Public Member	Helena	LCordingley@mt.gov	July 1, 2015
Janice Muller	Active Member	Hamilton	JMuller@mt.gov	July 1, 2016
Marilyn Ryan	Retired Member	Missoula	MRyan2@mt.gov	July 1, 2016
Kari Peiffer	Active Member	Kalispell	KPeiffer@mt.gov	July 1, 2017
Scott Dubbs	Active Member	Lewistown	SDubbs@mt.gov	July 1, 2018



Remember — the post office does not forward or hold any mail from our office, it is returned to TRS.



Please be sure that TRS has your

- ◇ ***correct,***
- ◇ ***current mailing address.***

In compliance with the Americans with disabilities act of 1992, alternative accessible formats of this newsletter will be provided upon request.

Please contact:
trsoutreach@mt.gov

or call us at
406-444-3134

E-newsletter

We are delighted that so many of you have signed up for our e-newsletter; however, many of you have not entered your current mailing address. In this case, you will receive both a paper and an electronic version of the newsletter.

To help us save costs, enter your mailing address when you sign up so that we can remove you from our paper mailing list (for newsletters only!).

Email trsoutreach@mt.gov with any questions.

xx copies of this public document were published at an estimated cost of \$xx per copy, for a total cost of \$xx which includes \$xx for printing and \$0.00 for distribution.



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