



LOOKING FORWARD... TO THOSE GOLDEN YEARS

Ensuring Tomorrow's Benefits through Prudent Management

Spring 2013

Increase in Member Contribution Rates Effective 2013-2014

Beginning with the first full payroll period after June 30, 2013, StanCERA will begin implementing new employee pension contribution rates. The change in rates is due to a change in the assumptions used to calculate your pension benefits. The assumption that caused the largest change to employee rates is the expected investment return on the assets that are set aside to pay for future pension benefits.

To summarize, the expected investment return on assets was lowered from 8.0% to 7.75%. This means that a greater portion of your future benefits are assumed to come from contributions instead of investment returns. The decrease in the expected investment return means that both you and your employer must pay for a larger portion of your overall benefit and as a result, employee contribution rates are increasing.



The amount of the increase depends on your salary level, the age at which you began work for a StanCERA covered employer and the benefit formula under which you accumulate retirement benefits.

StanCERA staff has put together a calculator that displays the change in your contributions that will commence with the first full payroll period after June 30, 2013. The following is a direct link to that calculator online: <http://www.stancera.org/sections/Calculators/ECRA>. Simply enter the required information and the change in cost will be shown on an annual, monthly and bi-weekly basis.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact StanCERA staff at 525-6393.



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Published quarterly for members
of the Stanislaus County
Employees' Retirement Association

Quarterly Investment Summary

Returns for Period Ending December 31, 2012				
StanCERA RETURNS	Fiscal YTD	3 Year	5 Year	
Total Fund	7.6%	9.0%	3.3%	
Domestic Equity	8.1%	11.9%	1.5%	
International Equity	14.5%	5.2%	-2.2%	
Fixed Income	3.4%	7.3%	7.6%	
Total Assets	\$1,468,870,714			
Indices	Fiscal YTD	3 Year	5 Year	
Policy Index	6.1%	8.6%	2.9%	
Russell 3000 Index	6.5%	11.2%	2.0%	
MSCI ACWI - ex US Index	13.8%	4.3%	-2.4%	
Barclays Aggregate Index	1.8%	6.2%	5.9%	

The composite fund returned 2.0% in the fourth quarter of 2012 and ranked in the 27th percentile among other public funds (1.7% median). The fund beat its policy index (1.4%) during this time period.

StanCERA's Annual Pre-Retirement Seminar

Wednesday, May 8th, 2013 from 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.

Each year in May, StanCERA hosts a pre-retirement planning seminar for members on the horizon of or retiring within five years.

This year's half day seminar is designed to help members maximize their retirement benefits with education on various issues critical to retirement planning.

The agenda includes presentations

from StanCERA, Valley First Financial Services, Social Security, The Hartford, Retired Employees of Stanislaus County(RESKO) and RESKO Retiree Health Insurance.

Learn what you need to do to maximize your retirement.

Required reservations can be made beginning April 1st, 2013.

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. 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.



2013 Retiree Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

A COLA can go up or down, (positive or negative) fortunately we have never had to adjust this vested benefit down and this year is no different. StanCERA is happy to report that there will be a positive COLA in 2013. Based on the following information, retired members or their beneficiaries will receive a 2013 cost of living increase.

Initial Retirement Date	April 1, 2010 COLA	Reduction in Accumulated Carry-Over
04/02/1985 to 3/31/2013	2.0%	
04/02/1983 to 04/01/1985	3.0%	1.0%
04/01/1983 and prior	3.0%	1.0%

Background - Per § 31870.1 of the California Employees Retirement Law, the COLA for StanCERA is determined annually. It is based on year over year changes in the December Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose Area (1982-84 base period). The resulting percentage change in the CPI is then rounded to the nearest 1/2 percent. The COLA increase or decrease cannot exceed 3.0% per year.



Stanislaus County Area Agency on Aging "Project Hope"

Help improve the quality of life for seniors experiencing sadness and emotional difficulties by volunteering for one of two programs sponsored by Stanislaus County Area Agency on Aging.

Peer 2 - needs mature volunteers, ages 55 years and older, to regularly visit older adults who are having trouble overcoming difficulties or facing significant change in their lives, connect seniors to services, help them learn to cope, and provide support. A new training class will begin Tuesday April 30th. The volunteers meet weekly with clients and are expected to meet with the Peer 2 Peer support staff two times a month.

Friendly Visitor - needs volunteers, ages 16 years and older, to provide companionship to seniors who are lonely and have no support. These volunteers are expected to visit two times a month. Training for this program is available to the volunteer at their convenience.

Volunteers for all programs are eligible for mileage reimbursement and must complete a background check (cost is covered by the program).

For more information or to register for training, please call Julia Washington, Volunteer Coordinator at 209-525-4613.

Tier 6 Facts

You may be a Tier 6 member if you were hired on or after January 1, 2013 with a StanCERA covered employer. Your membership began on your first day of full time employment.

Employee contributions are mandatory and are set at a flat rate. Employee Contributions can be refunded only after complete termination from Stanislaus County. The Employer contributions are actuarially determined and are not available as a lump sum payout.

General members must reach the age of 52 and have at least 5 years of service, commonly referred to as being "vested", in order to retire through StanCERA or reach age 70 (regardless of length of service).

Safety Members must reach the age of 50 and have at least 5 years of service, commonly referred to as being "vested", in order to retire through StanCERA or reach age 70.

The factors used to calculate a Tier 6 retirement benefit are Age, Years of Service and Final Average Salary (FAS). FAS consists of a member's highest three years' salary averaged (consecutive 6,240 hours hours).



Tax Withholding Changes Retirees

At least once a year the IRS tax withholding tables are changed, usually in January.

StanCERA encourages all retirees to periodically review your current level of tax withholding and advise you to do so with a qualified tax preparer. Ultimately the responsibility is yours! Retirees, you may download a new tax withholding change form at www.stancera.org or by contacting us at 209-525-6393. You may also wish to visit the IRS website at www.IRS.gov for more information.

Non-retired members, please contact your employer if you have questions regarding your payroll tax withholding information.

Death Benefit While Still Employed



If you die before you have five years of retirement service credit, your spouse/registered domestic partner, dependent child or any other named beneficiary(s), would be eligible for the following death benefits:

- A lump-sum payment of any refundable contributions you have made, plus interest. This amount can be found on your semi-annual member statement, which is mailed in January and July.

PLUS

- One month's compensation for every full year of retirement service credit, up to six month's worth of compensation.

If you have at least five years of retirement service credit your surviving spouse/registered domestic partner partner or minor children will have three options.

1. A lump sum benefit comprised of your contributions plus interest and one month's compensation for each completed year of retirement service in a contributory plan, up to a maximum six months' compensation.

OR

2. A monthly retirement allowance equal to 60% of the monthly retirement allowance, which your beneficiary would have received if you had been granted a non-service connected disability retirement allowance.

OR

3. A combination of a lump sum benefit equal to one month compensation for each year of retirement service completed, up to a maximum of six months' compensation, and a reduced monthly retirement allowance equal to your non-service connected disability retirement allowance continuance less the lump sum benefit paid.

If you have completed five or more years of service in a contributory plan and do not have a surviving spouse or minor children, your nominated beneficiary will receive your contributions plus one month compensation for each full year of retirement service credit, up to a maximum of six months' compensation.

Do you know who is named as the beneficiary of your retirement benefits? You don't want the wrong person receiving your monies, do you? If you have updated your beneficiary with your employer, deferred compensation carrier or with any agency other than StanCERA directly, your beneficiary has NOT been updated. You can get this form on our website at www.stancera.org/forms from your payroll clerk, or by calling StanCERA directly at (209) 525-6393.



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 - Vice Chair
Maria De Anda
Donna Riley
Ron Martin
Mike Lynch
Jim DeMartini
Darin Gharat - Chair
Michael O'Neal
Joan Clendenin
 Alternate Retiree Representative
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

Retiree Health Insurance*

RESCO Insurance Hotline
P (209) 566-1186

Board of Retirement Meetings are held the second Wednesday and the fourth Tuesday of each month (with some exceptions), located at 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 and RESCO are two separate organizations. StanCERA does not administer Retiree Health Insurance.*

Board of Retirement Meeting Schedule*

(No Mtg.)	04/10/13	07/10/13	10/09/13
01/22/13	04/23/13	07/23/13	10/22/13
02/13/13	(No Mtg.)	08/14/13	(No Mtg.)
02/26/13	05/28/13	08/27/13	11/26/13
03/13/13	06/12/13	09/11/13	12/11/13
03/26/13	06/25/13	09/24/13	(No Mtg.)

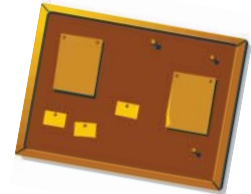
*To View Board actions, please visit our website at www.stancera.org under Agenda and Minutes.

Retiree Payroll Dates

01/02/13	04/01/13	07/01/13	10/01/13
02/01/13	05/01/13	08/01/13	11/01/13
03/01/13	06/03/13	09/03/13	12/02/13

StanCERA Office Closures

05/27/13	07/04/13
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Stanislaus County Employees'
Retirement Association
P O Box 3150
Modesto CA 95353-3150

