

RSA Publications and Notifications

Member Handbooks

(ERS, TRS, State Police, and JRF)

Each Member Handbook presents an overview of mandatory participation, creditable service, vesting, disability and service retirement, preretirement death benefits and postretirement employment. Each agency is sent a supply of the handbooks. Each new member is mailed a handbook upon receipt of an enrollment form from the employing agency. A handbook can be requested at any time.

RSA-1 Deferred Compensation Plan Member Handbook

RSA-1 is a voluntary deferred compensation plan governed by Section 457 of the Internal Revenue Service Code. The RSA will provide an RSA-1 Enrollment Packet at the request of the member or the agency.

Educational Opportunities

The RSA offers its members several opportunities for retirement education. Retirement Preparation Seminars are offered at various sites throughout Alabama. This program helps members to begin or continue their planning and preparation for retirement. The Ret Prep Seminars are full-day programs. Schedules for these seminars are released once a year. The registration packets including the schedule are mailed to Human Resource Offices and Payroll Offices. All schedules and forms are placed on the RSA Web site for our members' convenience.

The RSA also offers mid-career seminars for members with 1-19 years of service credit. They are called Control Your Money Game. The half-day seminar will help you get and stay on track for retirement.

Individual counseling appointments are offered across the state as well. These are twenty-minute appointments with an ERS counselor. The counselor will answer your questions and review your estimate of benefits. Schedules are released once a year and are placed on the RSA Web site.

ERS members are always welcome to come to the RSA Headquarters Building on Union Street in Montgomery. To avoid long waiting times, schedule an appointment by calling Member Services at 877.517.0020.

RSA Annual Report

In February of each year, the RSA publishes the Annual Report. The report provides information about assets, investments, membership, the RSA Boards of Control, RSA departments, and financial statements.

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)

The CAFR, which is published annually, provides more detailed financial and actuarial information about the RSA.

RSA Newsletter

The monthly *Advisor* is mailed to each RSA active member, RSA retired member, and any other persons or organizations interested in the RSA. The *Advisor* informs recipients of important topics regarding the TRS, ERS, RSA-1, PEIRAF, PEEHIP, legislation, investments and counseling schedules. Comparisons of insurance and retirement benefits provided by other states and current information regarding Social Security, taxes and Alabama's economic and political climate are also featured.

RSA Web Site (www.rsa-al.gov)

The RSA Web site publishes RSA's member handbooks, the *Advisor*, Annual Reports and information about the ERS, TRS, PEIRAF, RSA-1 and PEEHIP benefits. News from RSA features updates on policies,

procedures, new legislation, federal laws and other late-breaking events. The Web site also offers links to other state and federal agencies, as well as RSA's investments, such as the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail and the Grand Hotel.

Legislative Updates keep members informed about legislative news, current legislation and archive legislation. The Retirement Benefits Estimate Calculator and DROP Calculator allow members to estimate retirement benefits under the Maximum allowance and Options 1, 2, and 3, and if eligible, DROP benefits. Information about Retirement Preparation Seminars, Agency Seminars and Individual Counseling Sessions is listed under Retirement Planning.

Annual Statement of Account

The ERS provides each member a Statement of Account for the year ending September 30. The statements are mailed directly to the member's home mailing address in early December.

The Statement of Account verifies current year contributions and accumulated interest. The total service credit, interest, service purchases, previously taxed contributions, non-taxed contributions, and balance are also provided. The member's designated beneficiary and mailing address as of September 30 are listed. Statements are mailed in late November of each year.

RSA-1 Statement

For those electing to participate in the RSA-1 Deferred Compensation Plan, a statement is sent to the member's mailing address quarterly. The member's designated beneficiary is listed.

DROP Account Statement

Each DROP participant receives a statement shortly after the close of each fiscal year (September 30) detailing the preceding year's transactions and giving a year-end account balance.

Postretirement Employment Notification

Each year, the ERS provides the participating agency information regarding postretirement earnings limitations and the requirement for certifying postretirement employment information.

The law mandates that the employer notify the ERS when a retired, RSA member is employed full-time. If the retired, RSA member is not employed full-time, the agency must notify the ERS when the retiree's earnings exceed the earnings limit.

Terminated Account Information Request

The ERS may request mailing address information from participating agencies about former employees whose retirement accounts have been terminated due to an absence of participation. The ERS reviews terminated accounts throughout the year and will try to locate the former member to be able to return contributions. Vested accounts (with 10 years of service) will not be terminated.