

California Legislation Approves an Alternate Retirement Program for Certain New CalPERS Members

Effective August 11, 2004, Senate Bill 1105 amended the California Public Employees' Retirement System. This amendment establishes an Alternate Retirement Program (ARP) for certain new state employees and will impact Cal Expo and district agricultural associations (DAAs).

Alternate Retirement Program Overview

In short, the ARP provides a retirement savings program in lieu of a retirement benefit under CalPERS during the first 24 months of an ARP member's employment. SB 1105 didn't amend CalPERS membership requirements or other CalPERS benefits, such as health, dental, death or disability. Moreover, SB 1105 didn't amend the PST Program eligibility requirements. An employee is subject to ARP contributions only when they qualify for CalPERS membership and if first hired on or after August 11, 2004. The new mandatory program is administered by the Department of Personnel Administration's (DPA's) Savings Plus Program, with CFSA being responsible for collecting and transmitting the funds to the DPA for Cal Expo and the DAAs. These fairs should have already received detailed information about the program from the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Human Resources Branch (HRB).

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California Construction Authority Welcomes Two New Employees to its Sacramento Staff

With a full calendar of new projects on the horizon, the California Construction Authority (CCA) has hired Dan Brown and Pieter Tiche to help out.

Dan Brown joined the CCA team in June as a project inspector. He previously worked at the El Dorado County Building Department as a senior building inspector and brings more than 15 years of experience as an ICC/ICBO certified building, plumbing, mechanical and energy code inspector and plans examiner to his new post. A journeyman carpenter for 20 years, Dan also has extensive experience in all phases

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History Making Horses Gallop on California Fair Turf

When you think of historical sites throughout California, chances are "county fair racetracks" aren't on your Top 10 list, unless, of course, you've already read the "Fairly Spectacular" article on www.bloodhorse.com. Written by Morton Cathro, a retired newspaper reporter living near the Pleasanton Fairgrounds, this article focuses on several of the history making horses whose galloping hooves have crossed the finish lines at California fair racetracks.

Did you know Spectacular Bid's dam was born on the Loma Rica Ranch near Palo Alto? This rather "unspectacular," plain roan filly, ironically named Spectacular, went on to surprise everyone by winning four races within 10 starts in 1973. She even set a six-furlong track record at the Pleasanton fair, and ran second in a Bay Meadows stake before her retirement

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New DWC-1 "Employee Claim Forms for Workers' Compensation Benefits" are in the Mail

Patti Nevin, CFSA's workers' compensation claims administrator, reports that CFSA has mailed copies of the newly revised DWC-1 Employee Claim forms to all members of CFSA's workers' compensation pool program. If you haven't received yours, please let

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Add these Important WFA Event Dates to Your Calendars and PDAs

Monday - Wednesday, November 8-10

California Fairs Alliance Fall Conference at the Capital Plaza Holiday Inn, Sacramento

Sunday - Wednesday, January 16 - 19

WFA Convention at the Reno Hilton, Reno, Nevada
Watch your e-mail for more information on both events. In the meantime, for information, please contact Lindsay Shama, 916/927-3100.

Notes & News from CFSA's Purchasing Services

If you'd like to place an order or if you have questions about any of the items listed here, please contact Karen Galloway, 916/263-6191.

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"The right to be heard does not automatically include the right to be taken seriously."

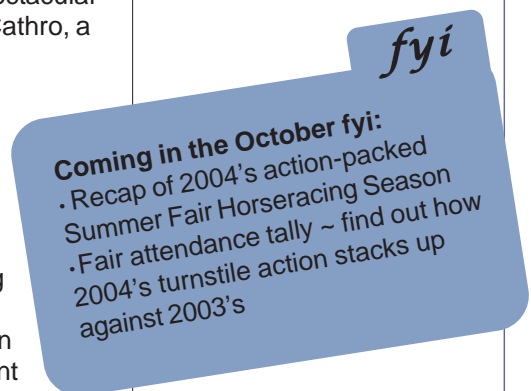
~ Hubert Humphrey



September 10, 2004
Issue 4, Volume 14

Let's hear from you!
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“Let us not be too particular; it is better to have old second-hand diamonds than none at all.”

~ Mark Twain

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August 6, 2004
Issue 3, Volume 14

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New Retirement Program, continued

How the Program Works

During the first 24 months of an ARP member's employment, he or she is considered a member of CalPERS, but, instead of contributing to CalPERS during this period, they will have 5 percent of their monthly gross pay over \$513 deposited into a 401(a) Plan. This is a mandatory contribution and employees cannot opt out. (There are no employer contributions during this 24 month period. Each fair is responsible for its own CFSA and DPA administration costs.)

Beginning with the employee's 25th month of employment, both the employee and his employer will begin making contributions to CalPERS; contributions to the ARP will cease.

During the 47th - 49th months of employment, employees will have the opportunity to use their ARP contributions to purchase CalPERS service credit earned during the first 24 months of employment or they may elect a full distribution (lump sum) of their ARP assets.

If, during this election period, the employee decides to purchase CalPERS service credit earned during the first 24 months of employment, the fair is responsible for funding that portion of the liability not paid for by the employee's ARP account.

If you have questions about the ARP, please call Jan Sell, 916/654-0999 or Signe Wright, 916/654-0419 at HRB, or CFSA's Rick Wood at 916/263-6147.

CCA Adds Staff, continued

of the construction process.

Pieter Tiche, came on as a project manager in July and brings more than 14 years of experience to the job. Before joining CCA, he was the optional fair funding programs officer for the Division of Fairs and Expositions, and has worked on a variety of construction projects.

Pieter holds an Associate of Science degree in agriculture, and a Bachelor of Science degree in agri-business, with concentrations in international marketing and international policy from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

History Making Horses, continued

and date with destiny: a stallion named Bold Bidder.

Born in 1976, Spectacular Bid turned in 26 wins from 30 starts, was Horse of the Year in 1980, won the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness, and turned out to be a stellar brood-mare sire. His 268 daughters have produced, so far, 657 winners (including 79 stakes winners) with earnings of more than \$57 million. Here are some other interesting horseracing facts:

Cathro reports that the filly, Spain, winner of the Breeders' Cup Distaff and \$3,540,542 in prize money — more than any other mare on American turf to this day — competed first at Pleasanton, then Solano and San Mateo.

Cavonnier, won his first race at Sonoma, and went on to win the El Camino Real Derby and the Santa Anita Derby. He ran in the 1996 Kentucky Derby, only to lose by a nose.

Casual Lies, who called Pleasanton home, ran second in the 1992 Kentucky Derby and was third in the Preakness.

So, next time you're at the track, take a minute to really look at each race's winners — you could be witnessing California

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New DWC-1 Employee Claim Forms, continued

her know at 916/263-6172. The new forms are to be put into use immediately, Patti emphasized, so toss or recycle your old forms. Please note: Fines could be imposed for continued use of the old forms.

Purchasing Services News & Notes, continued

Tax Forms

How's your fair's supply of W-2, 1096 and 1099 tax forms? January will be here before you know it and with the new year comes tax reporting. Karen Gallay, CFSA's purchasing agent, notes that some form providers offer discounts for early ordering. If you need forms, this is the time to place your order.

Office Supply Catalogs

Both the Office Depot and Corporate Express 2004-2005 catalogs are now available. If you'd like a copy of either one or both, let Karen know and she'll make sure to include copies in your next order. There's no charge for the catalogs.

Late or Incomplete Orders

If you've ordered products through CFSA and your delivered order is late or incomplete, please contact Karen immediately. All orders are shipped directly to you so CFSA has no way of knowing of any problems unless you report them. And when you do, CFSA will help straighten things out.

Horses, continued

horseracing history in the making!

To read the original article, please go to <http://opinions.bloodhorse.com/viewstory.asp?id=23407>.
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