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Alaska Division of Retirement and Benefits



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STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

DIVISION OF RETIREMENT AND BENEFITS

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

November 23, 2011

The Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor
Members of the Alaska State Legislature
Alaska Retirement Management Board
Employers and Plan Members

We are pleased to present the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) of the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) (System) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011. The CAFR is intended to fulfill the legal requirements of Alaska Statute (AS) 14.25.004(a)(8).

The CAFR provides comprehensive information on the financial operations of the System for the fiscal year. Responsibility for the accuracy, completeness and fairness of the information presented rests with the management of the System. To the best of our knowledge and belief, the enclosed information is accurate in all material respects and is reported in a manner designed to fairly present the financial position and results of operations of the System for the year ended June 30, 2011. All disclosures necessary to enable the reader to gain an understanding of the System's activities have been included.

KPMG LLP, Certified Public Accountants, have issued an unqualified opinion on the Systems' basic financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2011. The independent auditor's report is located at the front of the Financial Section of this report.

The management's discussion and analysis (MD&A) is also located in the Financial Section of this report. The MD&A provides an analytical overview of the financial statements. This letter of transmittal is designed to complement the MD&A and should be read in conjunction with it.

The CAFR is divided into five sections:

- **Introductory Section**, which contains the letter of transmittal, the administrative organization of the TRS, and a list of the members serving on the Alaska Retirement Management Board (ARMB);

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- **Financial Section**, which contains the Independent Auditor's Report, MD&A, basic financial statements, required supplementary information, and additional information;
- **Investment Section**, which contains a report prepared by the investment consultant, a report on investment activity, investment results, and various investment schedules;
- **Actuarial Section**, which contains the Actuarial Certification letter and the results of the most current annual actuarial valuation; and
- **Statistical Section**, which includes additional information related to financial trends, demographic and economic information, and operating information.

Profile of the System

The System was established in 1955 to provide pension and post-employment health care benefits to teachers and other eligible participants. Senate Bill 141, signed into law on July 27, 2005, closed the DB Plan effective July 1, 2006, to new members and created a Defined Contribution Retirement (DCR) Plan for members first hired on or after July 1, 2006. Beginning in fiscal year 2007, the System consists of: (1) the DB Plan and (2) the DCR Plan. This report includes both plans. The DB Plan includes the pension plan and the Alaska Retiree Health Care Trust. The DCR Plan includes the DCR trust, occupational death and disability plan, retiree major medical plan, and the health reimbursement arrangement plan.

Reporting Entity

The System is considered a component unit of the State of Alaska (State) for financial reporting purposes. Due to the closeness of the System's relationship to the State, it is included in the State of Alaska CAFR as a fiduciary fund.

The Commissioner of the Department of Administration, appointed by the Governor, is responsible for administering the System. In order to meet the statutory requirements of administering the System, the Commissioner appoints the Director of the Division of Retirement and Benefits (Division). The Director is responsible for the daily operations of the System.

The ARMB, constituted effective October 1, 2005, replaced the Teachers' Retirement Board (effective July 1, 2005) and the Alaska State Pension Investment Board (effective October 1, 2005).

The ARMB is responsible for:

- adopting investment policies and developing investment objectives;
- providing a range of investment options and establishing the rules by which participants can direct their investments among those options, when applicable;
- establishing crediting rates for members' individual contribution accounts, when applicable;
- assisting in prescribing policies for the proper operation of the System;
- coordinating with the System Administrator to have actuarial valuations performed;
- reviewing actuarial assumptions and conducting experience analyses;

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- contracting for an independent audit of actuarial valuations and external performance calculations; and
- reporting the financial condition of the System to the Governor, Legislature, and individual employers participating in the System.

Major Initiatives

The System continues to make progress on several ongoing projects. Most of these efforts are focused on the following improvements: improving customer service, technology, methods for employers to submit information, methods for members to obtain information, and continued compliance with accounting requirements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), as applicable.

The System continues to assess and retool its communication efforts, which include printed handbooks, newsletters, and website content. The System strives to ensure that all communication material is clear, accurate, and user-friendly.

The System also endeavors to provide the highest degree of customer service to all its members. The Division recently established a central Retirement Customer Service Center to improve phone service and provide faster processing of all customer requests.

The System is a participant in a multi-agency project procuring and implementing Virtual Call Center functionalities for the phone system. These features will enable the Customer Service Representatives to provide faster and higher quality service to members. The Division implemented the Virtual Call Center functionalities in February 2011.

The System activated a new redesigned website in early January 2011. The new website uses a modern navigation model, is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and uses many “best practices” techniques of the web industry.

The System offers a broad array of fairs and seminars directed toward both active members and employers. A new seminar offered throughout the State of Alaska is titled “Marketing the Defined Contribution Retirement Plan.” The goal of the seminar is to assist employers with successfully marketing the DCR plan. In addition, the System continues to expand its Benefits Fairs with the goal of educating members about all benefits available from early career through to retirement, encouraging healthy living and how to best use the health plan.

Funding Requirements

The System’s consulting actuary, Buck Consultants, presented the results of the June 30, 2010, actuarial valuation report to the Plan Administrator and the ARMB. The assumptions and benefits are explained in the Actuarial Section of this report.

Based on the most recent valuation report, the TRS has a funding ratio (actuarial value of DB Plan assets divided by actuarial liabilities for pension and postemployment healthcare benefits) of 53.6%. The DB Plan’s unfunded actuarial accrued liability (actuarial liability minus actuarial value of DB plan assets) totals approximately \$4.1 billion. The unfunded liability continues to be addressed at all levels of the State. The Governor’s budget proposes

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to provide funding to TRS employers in order to maintain an appropriate level of employer contributions while also paying the actuarial required contribution rate adopted by the ARMB.

Investments

On June 30, 2011, the DB Plan's investment portfolio was valued at \$4.7 billion and earned a 21.40% return for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011. The DCR Plan's investment portfolio was valued at \$105 million for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011. Over the past five years ending June 30, 2011, the DB Plan's investments earned a 4.37% return. The ARMB has statutory oversight of the System's investments and the Department of Revenue, Treasury Division, provides staff for the ARMB. Actual investing is performed by investment officers in the Treasury Division or by contracted external investment managers. The ARMB reviews and updates investment policies and strategies and is responsible for safeguarding invested assets.

Accounting System

This CAFR has been prepared to conform with the principles of accounting and reporting established by the GASB. Specific accounting treatments are detailed in the Notes to the Financial Statements found in the Financial Section of this report.

Internal Controls

System management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of internal controls to protect TRS assets from loss, theft, or misuse and to ensure adequate accounting data is compiled for the preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The cost of internal control should not exceed anticipated benefits; the objective is to provide reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance that the financial statements are free of any material misstatements.

Awards

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the System for its CAFR for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2010. The Certificate of Achievement is a prestigious national award that recognizes conformance with the highest standards of preparation of state and local government financial reports.

In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government entity must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized CAFR. This report must satisfy both U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year. We are confident our current CAFR continues to meet the Certificate of Achievement Program's requirements and are submitting it to the GFOA for consideration.

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Acknowledgements

The preparation of this report is made possible by the dedicated services of the staff of the Department of Administration, Division of Retirement and Benefits, Department of Law, and the Department of Revenue, Treasury Division. It is intended to provide complete and reliable information as a basis for making management decisions, as a means of determining compliance with legal provisions, and as a means of determining responsible stewardship of the TRS financial resources.

The report is available on the web at alaska.gov/drb/trs/trscafr.html and mailed to those who submit a formal request. This report forms the link between the System and the membership. The cooperation of the membership contributes significantly to the success of the System. We hope the employers and plan members find this report informative.

We are grateful to the Alaska Retirement Management Board, the staff, the advisors, and to the many people who have diligently worked to assure the successful operation of the System.

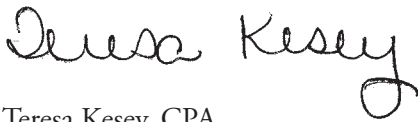
Respectfully submitted,



Becky Hultberg
Commissioner



Jim Puckett
Director



Teresa Kesey, CPA
Chief Financial Officer

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Presented to

Alaska Teachers' Retirement System

For its Comprehensive Annual
Financial Report
for the Fiscal Year Ended
June 30, 2010

A Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting is presented by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada to government units and public employees retirement systems whose comprehensive annual financial reports (CAFRs) achieve the highest standards in government accounting and financial reporting.

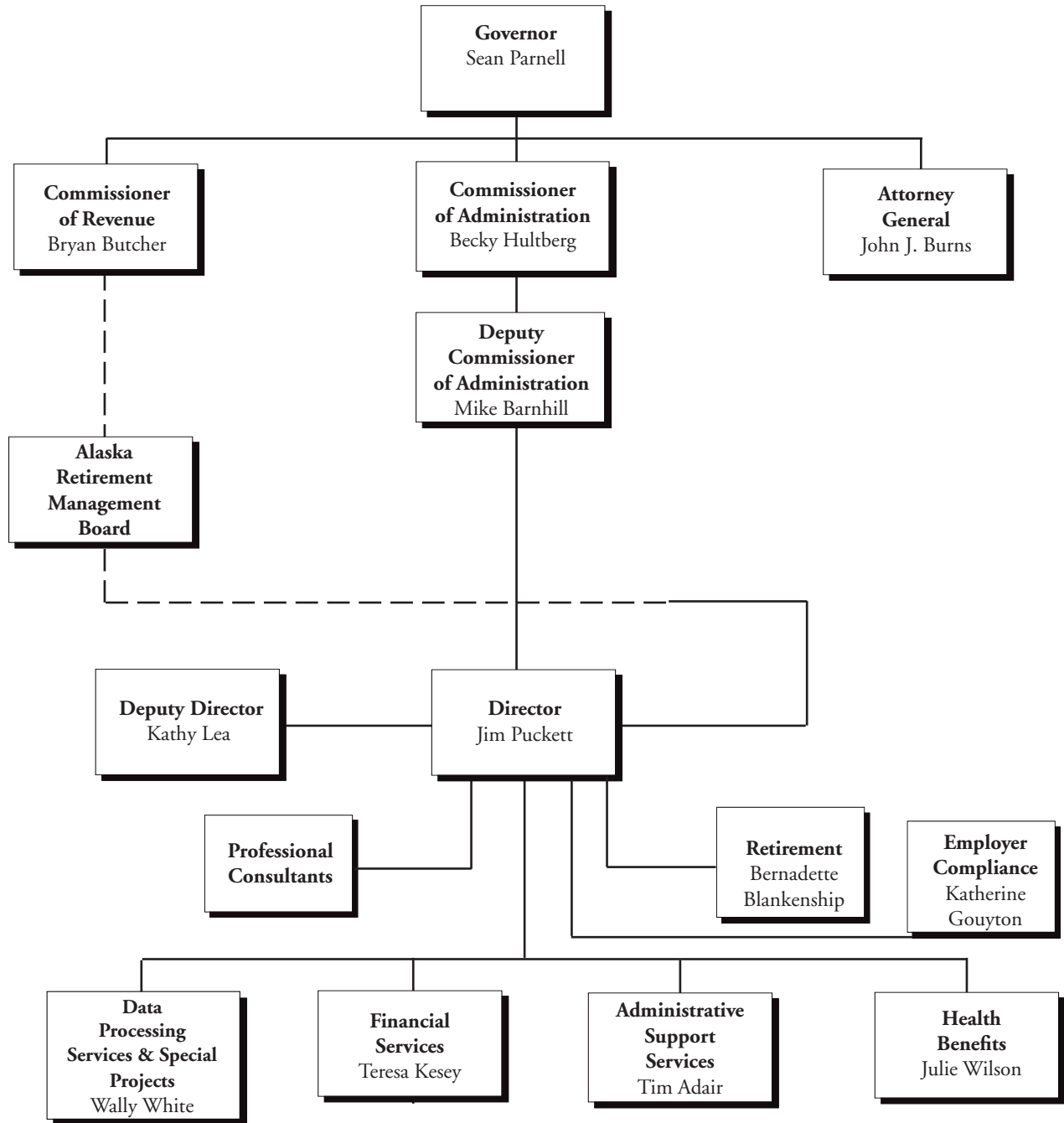


President

Executive Director

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ORGANIZATION CHART



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Section Responsibilities

The **Retirement Section** is responsible for providing comprehensive retirement counseling to the participating members and employers in the plan. This section appoints members to retirement and maintains benefit payment information.

The **Health Benefits Section** is responsible for the administration of health, disability, and life insurance. This section provides benefits counseling and plan change information to the membership.

The **Financial Section** is responsible for maintaining the employee and employer records and accounts in each of the plans administered by the Division, producing financial statements and reports, and assuring compliance with the Internal Revenue Service requirements.

The **Data Processing Services and Special Projects Section** supports the information systems the System uses. Responsibilities include planning, development, data base design, programming, and operational support of the data processing systems, including the Local Area Network.

The **Administrative Support Services Section** is responsible for budget preparation, fiscal management of appropriations, procurement of professional services, supplies, and equipment. The section manages the systems' record center containing the member's physical records and performs other administrative functions such as legislative tracking and personnel management.

PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANTS

Consulting Actuary

Buck Consultants
Denver, Colorado

Independent Auditors

KPMG LLP
Anchorage, Alaska

Benefits Consultant

Buck Consultants
Denver, Colorado

Third-Party Healthcare Claim Administrator

Wells Fargo Insurance Services of Alaska
Anchorage, Alaska

IT Consultant

Computer Task Group
Anchorage, Alaska

Legal Counsel

Joan Wilkerson
Jessica Schrader
Toby Steinberger
Assistant Attorney Generals
Juneau, Alaska
Ice Miller LLP
Indianapolis, Indiana

Consulting Physicians

Kim Smith, M.D.
Melissa Hynes M.D.
William Cole, M.D.
Juneau, Alaska
Thomas Rodgers M.D.
Ford, Washington

A list of investment consultants can be found on pages 73-74 and on the Schedule of External Management Fees on pages 82-83.

ALASKA RETIREMENT MANAGEMENT BOARD

Gail (Anagick) Schubert, Chair, is the Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel for the Bering Straits Native Corporation, and President/CEO of several of its subsidiary entities. She is an attorney licensed to practice law in the states of Alaska and New York. Mrs. Schubert serves as Chair of the Alaska Native Heritage Center, Chair of Akeela Treatment Services, Chair of the Alaska Retirement Management Board, Vice Chair of the Alaska Native Justice Center, Vice Chair of Khoanic Broadcast Corporation, Treasurer of the Bering Straits Native Corporation, and as a board member of the Alaska Federation of Natives, and the Alaska Native Arts Foundation. She is also a member of the Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission. Mrs. Schubert received her undergraduate degree from Stanford University, and holds a Law Degree and Masters Degree in Business Administration from Cornell University.

Sam Trivette, Vice-Chair, is on the national executive board of the American Federation of Teachers Retirees and was formerly President of the Retired Public Employees of Alaska. Mr. Trivette retired from public service after more than 32 years serving as Chief Probation Officer, Director of Community Corrections, Executive Director of the Parole Board, and as a probation and correctional officer. He is President of Quality Corrections Services, and on the board of directors of the Alaska Public Employees Association. Mr. Trivette has also served as an officer in a number of national and statewide professional organizations as well as many not-for-profit organizations around Alaska. He has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Alaska, Anchorage and has completed postgraduate work in public administration, law and psychological counseling.

Gayle W. Harbo, Secretary, retired after teaching mathematics in Fairbanks for 25 years. She also served as math department chair, as advanced placement coordinator, on the district curriculum, evaluation and budget committees, and twice as chair of the Lathrop Self-Evaluation for Accreditation Committee. Ms. Harbo is a member of Alpha Delta Kappa, AARP, National Retired Teachers of Alaska, Fairbanks Retired Teachers Association, National Council of Teacher Retirement Systems, the NCTR Education Committee, and the Alaska Teachers' Retirement Board. She is also a co-manager of a family trust. Ms. Harbo was named Alaska Teacher of the Year in 1989. She holds a Bachelor's of Science in Mathematics from North Carolina State University, and a Masters in Teaching from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and has completed an additional 40 hours in mathematics, counseling, law and finance.

Bryan Butcher was appointed Commissioner of the Department of Revenue by Governor Sean Parnell in November, 2010. Prior to that, he worked at the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) as the director of governmental relations and public affairs and advised Governor Parnell on economic development issues. He also served as vice president of the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation. Before joining AHFC in 2003, Mr. Butcher worked as a finance aide for the state House and Senate finance committees for 12 years. Mr. Butcher holds a bachelor's degree in speech communications from the University of Oregon. He is a lifelong Alaskan, born and raised in Anchorage.

Kristin Erchinger is currently finance director for the City of Seward, having worked for the city in finance positions since 1994 including a year serving simultaneously as finance director and acting city manager. She became the finance director in 2000. Ms. Erchinger is past president of the Alaska Government Finance Officer's Association and represents that organization in the Alaska Municipal League. She also served on the Providence Alaska Region Board, the Graduate Medical Education Committee, the Alaska Municipal League Board, and the Board of the American Society for Public

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Administration, Alaska Chapter. Ms. Erchinger earned bachelor's degrees in international studies and Japanese language and literature, both from the University of Washington, and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Becky Hultberg was appointed Commissioner of the Department of Administration by Governor Sean Parnell in December 2010. Most recently Ms. Hultberg served as the regional director of communications and marketing for Providence Health & Services Alaska, leading the organization's efforts around communications, marketing, physician relations and web development. Her past positions include serving as vice president of public relations and strategy for Bradley Reid & Associates and as press secretary in the office of former Governor Frank H. Murkowski. A lifelong Alaskan, Becky was born in Anchorage and raised in Kenai. She holds a bachelor's degree in history from Abilene Christian University, in Abilene, Texas, with minors in economics and public service. Ms. Hultberg lives in Juneau with her husband, Jeff, and children Sophie, Brandt and Dane.

Martin Pihl came to Alaska in 1962 to work for Ketchikan Pulp Company, becoming President and General Manager in 1987 until his retirement in 1994. He then served as Acting Executive Director for the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation in 1994-1995. Mr. Pihl serves as a director of National Bank of Alaska and on Wells Fargo Bank's Alaska Statewide Advisory Board, as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Alaska Timber Insurance Exchange, and as a regent for Pacific Lutheran University. He is also a member of several advisory boards including Holland America-Westmark-Ketchikan Advisory Board, Ketchikan Ports and Harbors Advisory Board, and Alaska Airlines Southeast Alaska Community Advisory Board. Mr. Pihl holds a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of Washington and has been a CPA since 1958.

Tom Richards recently retired after serving 29 years as a mathematics, science and economics teacher in Fairbanks and North Pole. He currently works as Transition Coordinator at the Fairbanks Youth Facility. Mr. Richards received a bachelor of science from the University of Idaho (Moscow) in 1976 with a major in zoology and a minor in chemistry, and obtained his State of Alaska teacher certification in 1978 with a secondary endorsement in biological science and mathematics. In 1999, he received a master of science in education from Western Oregon University (Monmouth) with an emphasis in information technology. He continues to enjoy Alaska with his wife, Debbie.

Michael R. Williams is currently a Revenue Auditor for the Alaska Department of Revenue, performing audits of large, multi-state and multi-national corporations since 1998. He is also a partner and principal owner of Williams & Payne, LLC, a tax preparation and consultation business in Anchorage. Mr. Williams has also worked as a tax consultant for Deloitte & Touche and as a tax auditor for the State of Utah. He has served as Secretary for ASEA/AFSCME Local 52, as trustee for the ASEA Health Benefits Trust, and is a member of the National Association of Enrolled Agents. Mr. Williams holds a Bachelor's degree in Accounting & German and a Master of Professional Accountancy from Weber State University.