

# Fiscal Flyer

CFMA-Issue 5

March 2005

## MAKING YOUR LUNCH RESERVATIONS

Your **lunch reservations** should be made using the Internet. Visit the CFMA luncheons web page (see link below) and click on the "Place Setting." You can register each month or sign up for all the lunches in one visit. Please register by 12 PM on the Wednesday before the lunch. If you need to cancel after you register, please email Dottie Relaford before noon on the Wednesday before the lunch. [dottie.relaford@state.co.us](mailto:dottie.relaford@state.co.us).  
<http://www.state.co.us/cfma/Luncheons/lunch.htm>



### March Luncheon

Place: Beef Palace – Serving Carved Beef and Chicken

Time: March 10, 2005 11:45am -1:30pm

Speaker: Lt. Governor Jane Norton



## President's Corner By *Roger A. Cusworth*



**If you have not heard, our speaker this month is Lt Governor Jane Norton. You are not going to want to miss this one. It is not very often that we can get someone at that level of state government to address our group. Please encourage everyone in your office to attend.**

Spring is just around the corner. That can only mean the CFMA is gearing up for some of our biggest activities of the year. In order of appearance, we have the Bowl-A-Thon, award nominations for employee, manager and accounting office of the year, CFMA/CIMA/CSMA Spring Conference, and Scholarship Committee.

What does that mean for you? CFMA needs your participation to make each of these activities a success. While last year's Bowl-A-Thon was a great activity, we need greater participation from our members. Cindy Howe is working hard to make it a fun filled day. Get your teams together, get the registered and get your donations.

Likewise with our annual awards, we had some very well deserving winners last year, but the committee would like to have more options to choose from. The accounting professionals get very little recognition for their hard work. Now is the time to give your staff, manager or office the well-deserved recognition. There can only be one winner in each category, but just the effort to recognize your co-workers will be very much appreciated. The CFMA website as all the information you need.

The Spring Conference will again be held in Breckenridge at the Beaver Run Conference Center on May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. If you want to come up on Wednesday, the 18<sup>th</sup>, many of our vendors will already be there and we will have a vendor night to give our vendors a little more exposure. CFMA is close to finalizing our break-out sessions. We promise that each of you will find numerous beneficial sessions, not just from CFMA, but also from CIMA and CSMA. As we were putting the sessions together, everyone on the committee wanted to attend all the sessions. It is not too early to contact Beaver Run Conference Center to make your reservations. Registration will start sometime in late March.

Last, but not least, the Scholarship Committee is in need of volunteers to review and score the applications. Brent Voge is leading up that committee. Please contact him if you would like to serve. It is a great committee to serve on in that it does not last very long and you get a free lunch out of it.

As always, CFMA is here to serve you. Please contact any of the Board members with your comments, compliments, or concerns.



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## The Bean Counter's Underground Press

By Alan Boisvert

Everybody is worried about their pension and their Social Security. President Bush has flat come out and labeled Social Security as a crisis. State Treasurer Coffman has done much the same for PERA. The Governor has called for doing away with the defined benefit plan for California state workers and teachers beginning with new employees after July 1, 2007.

Folks, let me tell you that this is a crisis of biblical proportions and the only solution is complete reversal of the path that we have been led down. These funds are all in trouble because they rely on the wages of the poorest of us to fund the retirements of the richest of us. This has to be stopped and stopped soon.

My proposal is the Reverse Pension. This would work exactly like the reverse mortgage. The reverse mortgage is where you get a monthly payment from the bank as you live in your house, and when you die the bank owns the house, or at least the portion that represents the principal, and accumulated interest on their payments to you.

My Reverse Pension would work the same. From the time you start to work for the State, PERA would pay you a stipend every month. When you retire, or terminate, then you would have to pay all of it, plus interest at 8.5 percent back to PERA. This would work for everything. Suppose your life insurance company paid you \$36.50 a month and then when you died, your estate paid them \$50,000. If the opposite is a good deal for them then this must be a good deal for you.

So, if retiring under PERA is a good deal for you, the opposite must be a good deal for PERA. I'm sure they would jump at it. Obviously, there would have to be limits. You couldn't work more than 40 years or pass the age of 70 ½. Otherwise you could beat the system by not retiring. If you become disabled then you have to start paying PERA immediately a small stipend until you reach age 65, when you would have to begin paying them the regular retirement amount.

Don't laugh now, because this gets even better. The amount you pay PERA would be based on your lowest average salary (LAS). Clearly, you would want to start at the bottom and stay there for three years before you began to work your way up. Also, be careful not to be a peak performer, because you don't want those huge bonus checks to up your LAS. If you terminate before retirement age then you have to give PERA all the money they gave you, plus interest at 75 percent of the complement of the actuarial determined rate of return. Whatever that is.

Social Security would work differently since it is a Pay-As-You-Go system. Folks under Social Security would not work between the ages of 18 to 65. Instead, they would try to live on \$1,397 per month while they watch daytime TV and prepare themselves for the workplace. At age 65 they would enter the workforce and begin paying 6.2 percent of their salary (employer pays the same) until they die in order that Social Security can loan the money to the Federal Government, then get it back in 2018 so they can pay Social Security back.

This system has flaws that PERA doesn't have. For example, it is not actuarially sound; which is a sound that people make when the assets don't equal 100 percent of the liabilities. It is not certain how long people over 65 will live and can contribute to the productive capacity of this country. Furthermore, most resident aliens would move back home when they reached 65, rather than go to work in the sweatshops of America.

Regardless of these minor questions, a crisis is a crisis and something has to be done now. My proposal is as good or better than any others that have been put forward. I am certain of this because I have studied in great detail all the others and what they lack is any details. Furthermore, my proposal would not be implemented until January of 2030, which is when PERA says I will die. Once dead, then I wouldn't mind working for the State for the rest of my life. Besides, who would notice?



"The opinions expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Colorado Fiscal Managers Association, its Board, or its members."

2003-2004

OFFICERS

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Vice President Mindy Densmore

Secretary Lavynia Washington

Treasurer Mary Pearce

E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR THE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS CAN BE FOUND ON THE CFMA WEBSITE:

[HTTP://WWW.STATE.CO.US/CFMA/HOME.HTM](http://www.state.co.us/cfma/home.htm)

*“Attend three CFMA luncheons this year and get the 4<sup>th</sup> lunch free!” – CFMA Board*

*CFMA’s very popular buy three get one free lunch program is in place for the upcoming year. If you attend all eight lunches this year, CFMA will pay for two of them. To assist in the record Keeping process, please register each month using the Web site registration and be sure to use the same name. For example, Roger Cusworth and Roger A Cusworth are treated as two people in the database used to track free lunches. You also need to be sure you check in each time you attend a luncheon.*

*In case you are wondering, your attendance from last year does not carry over to this year.*

MEMBER BENEFIT

*Educational Assistance Program*

If you are taking college courses, you may be eligible for reimbursement of up to 50% of your tuition and book costs.

Click on the Educational Assistance Program link to find out more, or contact Mindy Densmore [mdensmore@spike.dor.state.co.us](mailto:mdensmore@spike.dor.state.co.us) if you have any questions.

<http://www.state.co.us/cfma/Education%20Program/education.htm>



**2005 Bowl-A-Thon**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 23**

**FUN! PRIZES !!**

It's not too early to start putting together your team and asking for pledges and/or contributions. This year's theme is Mardi-Gras; so start planning your costume or accessories!

The deadline for submitting team rosters to Cindy Howe is **April 1**. Team rosters can be FAXed to Cindy at 303-894-7885. This is a worthwhile event and it's success depends on the participation of the members. Please submit your forms to Cindy Howe so that facility and lane reservations can be confirmed.



*“I have come to the conclusion that politics are too serious a matter to be left to the politicians.”*

*~ Charles De Gaulle*

*French general & politician (1890 - 1970)*