

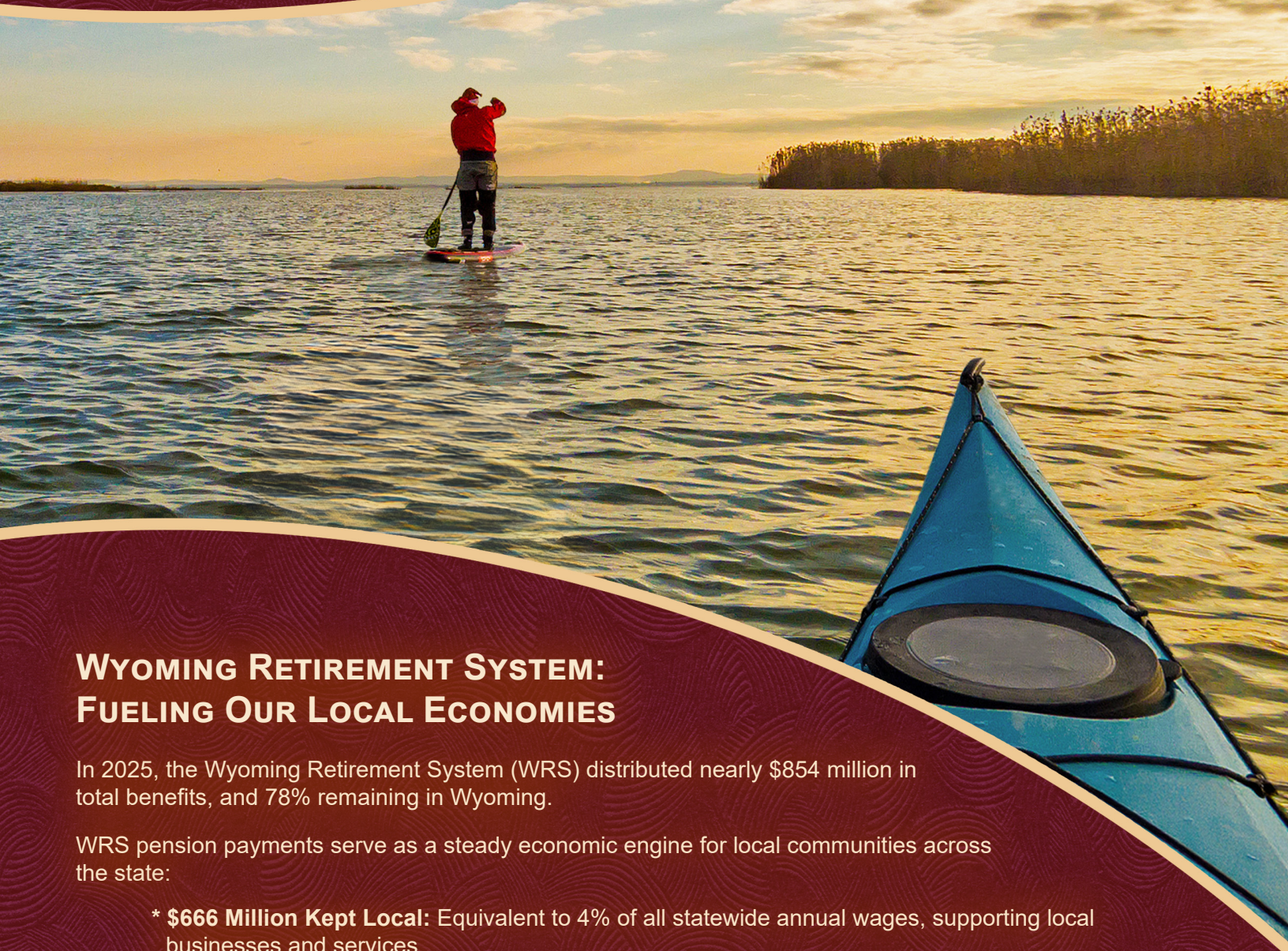
PATHWAYS

Your Journey to Retirement

WRS MEMBER NEWSLETTER | FALL 2026



RETIREMENT SYSTEM



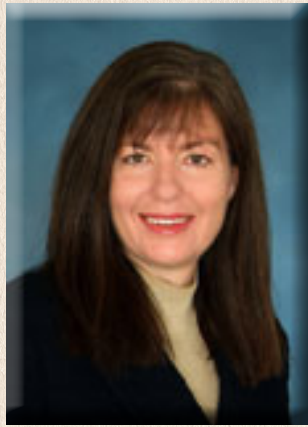
WYOMING RETIREMENT SYSTEM: FUELING OUR LOCAL ECONOMIES

In 2025, the Wyoming Retirement System (WRS) distributed nearly \$854 million in total benefits, and 78% remaining in Wyoming.

WRS pension payments serve as a steady economic engine for local communities across the state:

*** \$666 Million Kept Local:** Equivalent to 4% of all statewide annual wages, supporting local businesses and services.

*** 27,419 In-State Payees:** Reaching 4.7% of Wyoming's population and supporting 11.5% of households statewide.



Tina M. Leiss
WRS Executive Director

WELCOME TO OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tina M. Leiss was appointed Executive Director of the Wyoming Retirement System in August 2026. She brings extensive leadership and executive experience in public pension administration, having previously served as Executive Officer and Operations Officer for the Public Employees' Retirement System of Nevada (NVPERS).

"You, our members, are the driving force behind our mission, and my commitment is to ensure you have the resources and strong representation you need to thrive now and in retirement."
- Tina M. Leiss, WRS Executive Director

FOCUS ON YOUR FUTURE: OCTOBER IS NATIONAL RETIREMENT SECURITY MONTH

October marks National Retirement Security Month, originally established by Congress in 2006, which is a nationwide effort dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of saving for a secure financial future.

Get retirement-ready this October! WRS will be hosting a daily tip series from October 19–23 on our website and Facebook page to help you maximize National Retirement Security Month. Here is a sneak peek at what we'll cover:

- * **Target-Date Funds:** Hands-off portfolios that adjust risk as you age.
 - * **1% Contribution Boost:** Small changes now, yield big long-term rewards.
 - * **Preparing for Retirement:** Key steps to take before you retire.
- ...and much more, be on the lookout mid-October!



TEST YOUR AUTUMN & EQUALITY STATE KNOWLEDGE! (Answers at the bottom)

1) What pigment turns leaves red and purple as chlorophyll breaks down in autumn?

- A) Anthocyanin B) Carotenoid
C) Melanin D) Xanthophyll

3) What was the nation's first National Monument, established in Wyoming in 1906?

- A) Grand Teton
B) Devils Tower
C) Ayres Natural Bridge
D) Fossil Butte

2) Before pumpkins, what root vegetable was traditionally carved for Halloween in Ireland and Scotland?

- A) Potatoes B) Beets
C) Turnips D) Radishes

4) In October 1924, Wyoming elected Nellie Tayloe Ross as the nation's very first female _____?

- A) 1st Woman Elected to U.S. Senate
B) 1st Female Governor in U.S. History
C) 1st Female Supreme Court Justice
D) 1st Female Secretary of State

5) Roughly how many wild bison roam Yellowstone during their autumn migration?

- A) 1,500 B) 3,000
C) 5,000–6,000 D) 12,000

Answers: 1. A) Anthocyanin — Produced when sugars get trapped in leaves during cool October nights.
2. C) Turnips — Irish immigrants switched to pumpkins because they were larger & easier to carve!
3. B) Devils Tower — Designated on September 24 / October 1, 1906, under the Antiquities Act.
4. B) First female Governor in U.S. history — She served as Wyoming's 14th governor from 1925 to 1927.
5. C) 5,000–6,000 — One of the largest free-ranging bison herds in North America.

KEEP YOUR WRS ACCOUNT SECURE

Update Your Info: Maintain up-to-date mailing, phone, and email information in your online account portal.

Practice Account Hygiene: Use strong, unique passwords and never share account credentials. WRS staff will never call or email asking for your personal login and password credentials.

Stay Alert Against Scams: WRS will never ask for login passwords or personal banking credentials via phone, email, or direct message.



MAXIMIZING YOUR 457(b) Deferred Compensation: UNDERSTANDING CATCH-UP OPTIONS

Participants closer to retirement can increase their tax-deferred savings through IRS catch-up provisions:

- **Age 50+ Catch-Up:** Contribute up to an additional \$8,000 (ages 50 - 59 & 64+) or \$11,250 (ages 60 -63) annually.
- **Special Catch-Up:** Within 3 years of your normal retirement age, you may contribute up to double the regular annual limit by utilizing unused contributions from past years.
- **Contact:** WRS Deferred Compensation Team at 307-777-3325 or email wrs.457pln@wyo.gov.

RETIREFEST



3RD ANNUAL WRS RETIREFEST DRAWS OVER 350 MEMBERS!

WRS hosted its 3rd Annual RetireFest, welcoming more than 350 members for a fun, information-packed event dedicated to helping public employees discover how to "Find Your WY" in retirement!

WRS staff worked the tables, handing out swag bags and connecting attendees with key experts from WRS, EGI, and Medicare. Members gathered valuable benefit insights, enjoyed live music, and won exciting giveaways. A huge thank you to everyone who joined us this year. We can't wait for RetireFest 2027!

In the meantime, if you have questions about your benefits, our educators are happy to help. Give them a call at 307-777-3314 or email them at wrs-educators@wyo.gov





RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Wyoming Retirement System
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SECURING THE FUTURE: WRS INVESTMENT TEAM RESULTS AND LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION

- **Portfolio Performance:** As of June 30, 2026, the pension fund reached \$13.9 billion, achieving an 18.38% annualized return and placing WRS in the top 5% of pension funds and endowments.



WRS Chief Investment Officer Named Allocator of the Year:

Congratulations to WRS Chief Investment Officer Sam Masoudi, CFA, CAIA, on being named a recipient of the *Titans of the Industry – Allocator of the Year 2026 Award!* This award recognizes Sam's high-conviction portfolio strategy and results-driven leadership in guiding one of the most efficiently run public pension programs in the country.

Sam Masoudi has 30+ years of financial industry experience. He has been the CIO for the Wyoming Retirement System since 2013.