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i INFORMATION

Fiduciary Focus Series to Debut in Sponsor E-News

Plan sponsors and fiduciaries recognize that prudent fiduciary due diligence over their company-sponsored retirement plan is one of the most important responsibilities they hold. To help manage the increasing scrutiny of regulatory agencies relative to fiduciaries and fiduciary due diligence, we will be offering you more frequent and targeted communications on how to better fulfill your fiduciary responsibility.



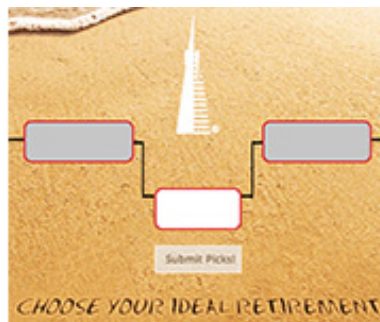
Beginning last month with the article, *Mitigating Fiduciary Risk Through Routine Drills*, *Sponsor E-News* will feature a recurring series entitled *Fiduciary Focus* to help your plan's fiduciaries manage their responsibilities.

Choose Your Ideal Retirement Bracket Giveaway Resonates With Plan Participants

Bracket busted? There's still time to for you and your employees to get in the game with Transamerica Retirement Solutions! With the first round completed, we're a third of the way into our *Choose Your Ideal Retirement Bracket*

Giveaway—and we've already seen a lot of engagement. More than 6,700 users have engaged with the campaign so far:

- 28% are retirement plan participants referred via emails promoting the giveaway
- 28% are plan sponsors
- 27% are retirement plan participants referred via our participant website



In addition, of the 1,170 users who have entered the random drawing for gift cards, 84% identify themselves as having a retirement plan account with Transamerica

Retirement Solutions. Moreover, 40% indicated they want to be informed about future similar types of campaigns, demonstrating that they enjoy engaging in this manner.

Check out the matchups, see which ideal retirements are winning, and submit your picks [here](#).

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MONTHLY MARKET INSIGHT

MARKET COMMENTARY

Rebound in Spending on Services Paints Brighter Consumer Outlook

In this month's market commentary, the experts at AllianceBernstein discuss the contribution that [consumer spending on services](#) is making to overall consumer spending. With an annualized increase of 4.1 percent in the fourth quarter of 2014, real consumer spending on services posted its largest quarterly increase since 2000, nearly matching the 4.2 percent increase in overall consumer spending for the quarter. With spending on services accounting for two-thirds of overall consumer spending, the fourth quarter increase is significant. The professionals at AllianceBernstein believe that the increase in consumer spending on services, along with the accompanying increase in service jobs, "should bring about faster growth, more jobs and more core inflation."



We hope these articles provide you valuable information that you can distribute to your employees as part of your ongoing education efforts.

INVESTOR EDUCATION

Alternating Market Leadership

This information from Putnam reminds investors of the [importance of diversifying](#) their investment portfolios across asset classes. No one asset class is consistently the top performer year after year. Diversification can help manage risk and may improve performance results.

Transamerica Retirement Solutions does not provide investment advice. AllianceBernstein L.P. and Putnam Investments provide investment advisory services for some of the investment choices offered in Transamerica's retirement plans. AllianceBernstein L.P. and Putnam Investments are not affiliated with Transamerica.

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LEGISLATIVE / COMPLIANCE

FIDUCIARY FOCUS

Applying the Fiduciary Standard of Care When Approving Plan Distributions

Plan fiduciaries are well aware of their responsibility to assure that participants' contributions are deposited into their 401(k) accounts in an accurate and timely manner.



However, they may be less aware of their responsibilities in facilitating the withdrawal of funds from a 401(k) plan. Among other things, the fiduciary standard of care requires that a plan fiduciary:

- always act solely in the interest of plan participants and beneficiaries, and in doing so --
- must act "with the care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent man acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aims" (ERISA Section 404(a)(1)(B)).

When a participant requests an allowable withdrawal or distribution, the fiduciary should approve the transaction and authorize payment as quickly as possible. Otherwise, participants could attempt to show that the delay was discriminatory or punitive, or that it was a violation of the required notice period or the Summary Plan Description's benefits denial window. In any case, a participant could claim a detrimental impact from the delay.

Transamerica's online withdrawal and distribution approval process makes it very convenient for a plan fiduciary to approve withdrawal requests and facilitate timely payment. But, whether the fiduciary is approving online or the more traditional "hard copy signature," the distribution should be approved and submitted for payment as quickly as possible to help assure that the fiduciary is living up to the fiduciary standard of care in administering the plan.

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COMPLIANCE CALENDAR

March 15 – September 15

Annual Plan Contributions

Make 2014 Plan Year contributions, if any, to a qualified plan by 3/15, or 9/15 with a corporate tax extension.¹

April 1 – July 31

Form 5500

Expect signature-ready electronic Form 5500, summary annual report (SAR) and IRS form 8955-SSA from your plan's recordkeeper (the SAR is not filed with the Form 5500). The Form 5500 requires electronic signature and electronic filing to the Department of Labor's filing system.

April 1

Required Minimum Distributions (RMD)

If previously requested by the plan participant or third party administrator, upon receipt of the completed RMD form, Transamerica will issue trustee authorized RMD² payments to participants who turned 70½ or retired in 2014 and postponed their first RMD payment to 2015.

April 15

Excess Deferral Refunds

Deadline for issuing excess deferral refunds (deferrals that exceed the Internal

Revenue Code section 402(g) limit).³

¹ Actual deadline is 2½ months following fiscal year-end. If your fiscal year does not end on December 31, please discuss actual dates with your service provider. If contributions are to be deducted they must be deposited prior to the filing of the corporate tax return which may not be March 15 or September 15.

² RMDs must commence no later than 4/1 of the year following the later of (a) the calendar year in which the participant attains age 70 ½, or (b) if permitted by your plan, the calendar year in which a non-5% owner retires. However, if a participant is a 5% owner, the RMD must commence by 4/1 following the calendar year in which a participant attains age 70 ½ regardless of employment status. Participants who are non-5% owners may be entitled to defer payment until retirement if they are still employed at age 70 ½ (if permitted by your plan). For RMD purposes, a 5% owner is anyone who owns more than 5% of the employer (including ownership due to family attribution rules).

³ Participants who are 49 years old or younger in 2014 cannot exceed the annual limit set by the IRS in Internal Revenue Code section 402(g) which is \$17,500 for participant's pre-tax contributions and any Roth contributions (deferrals) to a 401(k) plan. Participants who are 50 years old or older in 2014 are allowed to make pre-tax contributions and any Roth contributions (deferrals) to a 401(k) plan totaling \$23,000, which consists of pre-tax and Roth contributions that cannot exceed \$17,500, as well as, catch-up contributions that cannot exceed \$5,500. Excess deferrals made in 2014 must be distributed to the participant, with related earnings, by 4/15/2015. Failure to make these corrective distributions could result in plan disqualification.

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Transamerica or Transamerica Retirement Solutions refers to Transamerica Retirement Solutions Corporation.