ARC Monthly Bulletin – November 2009

Valuable information for ARC's customers

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1. 2009 Annual Report Complete

The FY 2009 annual report for the Treasury Franchise Fund (including ARC) is complete. This report highlights our performance and also discusses some of our future plans. It is available on our website at https://arc.publicdebt.treas.gov/fshome.htm.

2. Change in Customer Management Staff

As a federal shared service provider, we strive to provide the best in customer service. Over the past five years, that charge has been led by Michelle Yanok, our franchise services manager. Michelle has recently accepted an opportunity to work in another area of Public Debt and started in that position on November 9, 2009. In her absence, Jason Hill will be the ARC manager with primary responsibility for customer management. If you have any questions, please contact him at 304-480-7227 or jason.hill@bpd.treas.gov.

3. USASpending.gov

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) of 2006 requires a single searchable website, with free public access, that contains all government spending. That website is USASpending.gov. OMB requested more detailed charge card data than the current high-level data displayed on the site, and GSA formed a working group to respond to OMB's requirements.

OMB and the working group, which includes representatives from ARC, decided on a phased approach to providing the additional detail, and the initial phase is now underway. ARC has provided more detailed information about the changes to our customer contacts, and we will continue to do so as we learn more. For more information, please contact Pam Enlow at 304-480-5567 or pam.enlow@bpd.treas.gov or Karla Buttrey at 304-480-7149 or karla.buttrey@bpd.treas.gov.

4. ARC Prepares for H1N1 (Swine Flu)

In an effort to maximize our preparedness and minimize the effect to our customers, we continue to prepare for the impact that the current spread of H1N1 virus could have on our operations. While to date we have had minimal personnel outages as a result of H1N1, we continue to look for ways to ensure continued quality services. We encourage our customers to share with us any concerns, special needs, or trends that you may have that could result from a flu breakout in your organization. Please feel free to contact Carrie Roe at 304-480-7224 or carrie.roe@bpd.treas.gov.

5. Discoverer Training Scheduled for December

ARC will be providing Discoverer refresher training at no additional charge to our customers to assist in their efforts to effectively integrate new hired staff and meet other potential training needs. We will be conducting Discoverer Viewer training on December 17, 2009, and Discoverer Plus training on December 18, 2009, in Washington, D.C. Existing Discoverer users will receive training details via email. For more information, please contact Oracle Support at 304-480-8000 (Option 3) or oraclesupportteam@bpd.treas.gov.

6. 2009 Federal Benefits Open Season

The 2009 Federal Benefits Open Season runs from November 9 through December 14, 2009. The annual open season allows eligible federal employees to elect or make changes to Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) coverage, Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) coverage, and Flexible Spending Account (FSA) contributions. The 2010 brochures, plan comparison tools, and other open season resource materials are available on the Office of Personnel Management's website (www.opm.gov/insure). For more information about the open season, contact Jennifer Thompson at 304-480-8275 or benefits@bpd.treas.gov.

7. National Defense Authorization Act Contains Several Retirement Changes

On October 28, 2009, President Obama signed the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, which includes several changes affecting federal employee benefits. Some of the changes include allowing retirement credit for unused sick leave for employees covered by the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS); allowing former federal employees to redeposit previously withdrawn FERS contributions; changing the retirement computation formula for employees who want to transition into retirement by working part-time; and phasing in locality pay in place of cost of living allowances for federal employees in Hawaii, Alaska, and other non-foreign U.S. territories. ARC's HR team has sent preliminary information highlighting these changes to all customers receiving ARC's employee benefits services.

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is working to prepare the guidance agencies need to implement the changes, which are effective immediately. ARC's HR team will continue to share detailed information with our customers as it becomes available. If you have questions about the provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act, contact Jennifer Thompson at 304-480-8275 or benefits@bpd.treas.gov.

8. Compliance Sheriff

ARC, in conjunction with U.S. Treasury Departmental Offices (DO), has developed a solution to bring the hosting of Compliance Sheriff to our data center. Compliance Sheriff (developed by HiSoftware) is a hosted test management application that enables organizations to easily validate website and application content against standard and custom organizational policies for accessibility, privacy, and site quality compliance. The Compliance Sheriff solution is currently hosted at a non-Treasury site, which limits the scanning to only public-facing Treasury and Bureau websites. Migrating the hosting to ARC will provide all of the functionality of the current solution, along with the ability to scan Treasury and Bureau Intranet sites through internal Treasury connections. The current schedule calls for implementation at our data center in December. For additional information, please contact Ben Rinehart at 304-480-6891 or ben.rinehart@bpd.treas.gov.

9.   ARC to Participate in GovTrip Executive Configuration Control Board

ARC will be participating in the newly formed GovTrip Executive Configuration Control Board (ECCB). ARC's participation on this board will provide more insight into enhancements requested by other agencies using GovTrip and the relative prioritization of those enhancements. For more information, please contact Diana Bonnell at 304-480-5573 or diana.bonnell@bpd.treas.gov.

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