

## ***HEALTH BENEFITS E-NEWS***

*Department of Human Resource Management  
Office of Health Benefits*

*July 1, 2006*

### ***2006 Open Enrollment Overall Totals Up from 2005***

The number of total individuals making elections during Spring 2006 Open Enrollment increased by 621, or 4 percent, over the Open Enrollment period last year. In addition, 1,185 more people used Employee Direct for elections, a growth of 16 percent. For more details, including an Open Enrollment summary, activity for Employee Direct, Health Plans, Health Membership, Medical Reimbursement and Dependent Care Reimbursement accounts, as well as total activity by agency, visit the 2006 Open Enrollment report at <http://www.dhrm.virginia.gov/healthbenefits.html>. See the first item on the News and Announcements sidebar on the right.

### ***Virginia Retirement System Adopts Single Phone Number***

You can now call the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) using one toll-free number: 1-888-VARETIR (827-3847). The Richmond area number, 804-649-8059, has been discontinued. The move to a single customer phone number is the result of a new system that integrates phone and Web technology. This new system gives VRS staff more capabilities to serve employers, members and retirees better.

Although a single number will serve all customers, employers still have a dedicated Employer Support Team to assist with their VRS questions, such as plan coverage, rates, legislation, policies, procedures and payroll matters. The telephone system prompts employers to enter their five-digit agency code number, which sends them directly to the Employer Support Team.