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AMERICAN RETIREMENT CORP Form 8-K May 24, 2005

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): May 24, 2005 (May 18, 2005)

AMERICAN RETIREMENT CORPORATION (Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter) Tennessee 01 - 1303162-1674303 (State or Other Jurisdiction (Commission (I.R.S. Employer of Incorporation) File Number) Identification No.) 111 Westwood Place, Suite 200 Brentwood, Tennessee 37027 _____ (Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code) (615) 221-2250 (Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code) Not Applicable _____ (Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report) Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below): |_| Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425) |_| Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12) $|_|$ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b)) $|_|$ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

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On May 18, 2005, our shareholders approved an amendment to the American Retirement Corporation Associate Stock Purchase Plan to increase the number of shares of common stock authorized for issuance pursuant to the plan from 500,000 shares to 1,000,000 shares.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, hereunto duly authorized.

AMERICAN RETIREMENT CORPORATION

By: /s/ Bryan D. Richardson

Bryan D. Richardson

Executive Vice President - Finance and Chief Financial Officer

Date: May 24, 2005