

# Pension Update

October 2001

Volume 2001.10



DALLAS  
POLICE & FIRE  
PENSION SYSTEM



## Information About Military Service

As part of our country's response to the recent terrorist attacks, some of you may report to active military duty.

Through federal law (the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployments Rights Act—USERRA) and the Combined Plan Document, you have the right to purchase pension service for the period of your military service when you return to your job.

Read below for answers to basic questions regarding how military service affects your pension benefits. Police officers and firefighters should call your department resources for information other than pension benefits.

If I am called to active military duty ...

- *How long can I stay in the military and still receive pension service from the Dallas Police and Fire Pension System?*

Generally, you may obtain pension service for a maximum of five years of military service.

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## Back-Pay Lawsuit Update

Some Members have expressed

an interest in the status of the back-pay lawsuits. No final decision has been made in these cases.



### The History

As you may know, back-pay lawsuits are pending in a number of courts, all stemming from claims that police officers and firefighters were entitled to pay increases to keep parity between the rates of pay of different ranks. The first case to be decided by a trial court was in McKinney in what was called the *Albert* case. The trial court ruled in favor of a group of 16 firefighters whose damage calculations were presented to the court in that case.

The City of Dallas disagreed with the ruling and appealed the case. To expedite review by an Appellate court, the plaintiff's counsel spun off the portion of the case involving damages owed to these firefighters into a separate case, now referred to as the *Arredondo* case. *Arredondo* was promptly appealed to the Dallas Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals received briefs and heard oral arguments in November 2000, but has not yet decided the case.

### The Outcome and Your Pension

If police officers and firefighters win

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■ *What if I become disabled while on military duty?*

- If you cannot return to work because of your disability, your pension benefits will be the same as if you left employment with your department at the time you were called to active duty.
- If you return to your job at the department and a disability develops from something that happened while you were in the military, you will have the same benefits as any Pension System Member who becomes disabled.

■ *What if I die while on military duty?*

In the event of your death, your accrued death benefits will be calculated as if you left employment with the department at the time you were called to active duty.

■ *What will it cost to buy pension service for the period of my military leave?*

You will pay your member contribution of 8.5% of your calculated pay that you would have paid if you had remained in service with your department.

■ *How do I pay for my benefits for the time I served in the military?*

Immediately upon return to employment as a police officer or firefighter, apply in writing to the System for a calculation of the amount required to establish pension credit for your Uniformed Service Leave.

■ *What if I do not return to a position covered by the Pension System?*

Your benefits would be the same as if you left active duty for any other reason on the date you left for military service, and you will not be allowed to purchase the lost pension service.

For more information on this topic, please go to the *FAQ* section of our Web site at [www.dpfp.org](http://www.dpfp.org), or call a benefits counselor at 214-638.3863.

## Helpful Benefit Contacts

### Benefits Open Enrollment Info

<http://cityofdallas.synhrgy.com>

Service Center 1.866.213.2756

**United Health Care** [www.uhc.com](http://www.uhc.com)

1.800.377.2442

**CIGNA Health Care** [www.cigna.com](http://www.cigna.com)

1.800.832.3211

### Dental and Vision Benefits

Safeguard Managed Dental 1.800.880.1800

Safeguard Indemnity Dental 1.800.962.9633

Safeguard Vision Plan 1.800.428.8789

or 1.800.880.1800

Prescription Drug Program 1.888.645.9303

### City of Dallas Employee Benefits

214.670.7002 or 214.670.3581

**Life insurance information** 214.670.4228

**Pension Benefits** [www.dpfp.org](http://www.dpfp.org)

214.638.3863

## *Back-Pay Lawsuit—continued from page 1*

these lawsuits, some Pension Members also may become entitled to increased pension benefits because the pay used to compute benefits will increase.

The Pension System's interest in the lawsuits is to have the City of Dallas provide the appropriate pension contributions and interest if it pays retroactive salary increases. The McKinney Court ruled that the Pension System is entitled to these amounts, and the City has agreed.

The Pension System will keep you posted on any developments in the back-pay lawsuits.

# Board Member Profile—Gerald Brown

Gerald Brown has served continuously on the Board of Trustees for the Dallas Police and Fire Pension System since 1983. He currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees and is a member of the Administrative Advisory Committee. Board Members elected him to the position of chairman after Sergeant Larry Eddington left the Board in 1999. Gerald has served the citizens of Dallas, Texas, since 1975 as a firefighter, currently holding the rank of Lieutenant. He is in charge of the B Shift for Station 11 Engine Company.



LIEUTENANT GERALD BROWN  
FIRE DEPARTMENT  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

When asked about his role on the Board, Gerald commented, “We want to make a good, stable fund with good benefits and increase those benefits when possible.”

About the current state of the Fund and current market conditions, Gerald said, “We’re long-term

investors, and the Fund is well diversified. Looking at past history, the markets will turn around. Sooner or later, things will go back to normal (though I don’t know what that will be). We don’t know what the markets will be like now, after the events of September 11. However, our markets and society are resilient.”

Gerald is an active member of the Texas Association of Public Employee Retirement Systems (TEXPERS), the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS), and has served as an Advisory Board member of the Real Estate Investments for Pension Funds. He has been a speaker at numerous pension seminars and conferences. He attended the University of Texas at Arlington.

## We Are Here to Help

We thank those Members who have recently provided feedback (both pro and con) on articles in the *Pension Update*. We promise to do our best to provide clear, understandable information to you. If you have any questions, please call us and ask for a benefits counselor. Our benefits counselors are trained to answer all your pension questions. Call 214.638.3863.

## Look Who Retired



**Dixie R. Dickerson**

**Clarence D. Lindsey**



**C.D. Asbill, Jr.  
Daniel B Charnota  
James T. Dailey  
Tommie D. Elliott  
Donald H. Fitzgerald  
Robert S. Gage  
John C. Holt, Jr.  
Jimmie L. Kyser**

**Jerry W. McDonald  
Edward W. Patterson  
David C. Phillips  
Mary L. Stout-Naulty  
Pamela G. Walt  
Wendel M. Warren  
Donald A. Whitten**



*Correction:* Our apologies for including Charles Luedeker in the September retiree list. Mr. Luedeker retired previously.



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*“Serving Those Who Protect the Dallas Community”*

## **The News in Brief**

- **Board Holds Annual Workshop**—In October of each year, the Board of Trustees participates in a four-day, off-site workshop to establish a work plan for the following year. Investment advisors, legal consultants, actuaries, and staff give presentations that help form the work plan. At this time, the Board also will consider possible amendments to the Plan. These meetings always result in a better understanding and consensus of the best options to make the System grow and prosper and improve benefits for Members.
- **Annual Reports Complete**—The *2000 Annual Report* containing financial information about the Pension System will be ready to distribute in November. Your copy of the *Condensed Annual Report* will be arriving at your home soon. These reports and many other items of interest are on our Web site at [www.dpfp.org](http://www.dpfp.org).
- **Notice to End of Year DROP/Retirees**—Many people plan to retire or enter DROP at the end of each year. Either of these decisions requires a counseling session. To receive the time and attention you may require, please schedule an appointment as soon as you can.
- **Happy Thanksgiving!** The Pension Office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 22 and 23.

### **Board of Trustees**

Gerald Brown, Chairman  
Gary W. Edge  
Donald W. Hill  
John Loza  
John Mays  
Rector C. McCollum  
Mary Poss  
Steve Shaw  
Maxine Thornton-Reese  
George Tomasovic  
Steve Umlor  
Richard Wachsmann