

# PENSION UPDATE

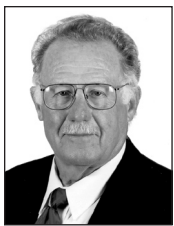


Volume 2005.05, May 2005  
Dallas Police & Fire Pension System



## Benefits for Special Needs Children

By Richard Wachsman



I recently spoke with a member who was not aware of the benefits available to his special needs child. I too, have a special needs child, and want to make sure that he is taken care of in the future.

Your special needs child (minor or adult) may qualify for survivor benefits from the Dallas Police & Fire Pension System.

If you have a physically or mentally handicapped unmarried child who cannot support himself or herself or hold gainful employment, your child may receive your survivor benefits beyond the age of 19. However, for the child to be eligible to receive survivor benefits, the handicap must have occurred before the child reached age 23.

If the handicap was self-inflicted, resulted from substance abuse, or occurred during the commission of a felony, the handicapped child will not be eligible for survivor benefits. In addition, if the handicap occurred during your child's employment, the survivor benefit will be offset by any benefits received by the child from the child's employer, former employer, Workers Compensation, or benefits that are provided or paid for by the employer instead of Workers Compensation.

I have worked through a lot of the paperwork and financial planning for my own child, and am willing to talk to you if you have any questions. Please call me at 214.912.6044.

Richard Wachsman  
Fire Pensioner Trustee

*Would you like to learn more about these benefits and also how to protect your child's government benefits? Are you interested in a seminar on these issues? Please let us hear from you! Contact Gale Paul, Pensioner Advocate, 214.382.4422, or 1.800.638.3861.*

## Trustee Election Results

At the regular Board Meeting on April 14, the Board approved the results in the Pension System's Trustee election. Steve Umlor was unopposed for Police Trustee Place 1, and thus was elected. Police members did not need to vote.

A total of 562 Active Fire-Rescue members voted. Gerald Brown was elected with 464 votes (83%) while Willie Reynolds received 98 votes (17%).



Steve Umlor  
Police Trustee



Gerald Brown  
Fire Trustee

John Mays was unopposed for Police Pensioner Trustee, and Richard Wachsman was elected to Fire Pensioner Trustee. The new term begins June 1, 2005 and runs through May 31, 2009.

## Dedicated Staffmember Remembered

William Gerald “Jerry” Baldree, a long-time, dedicated employee of the Dallas Police and Fire Pension System, died peacefully at his home on April 2, 2005. He will be missed greatly by the Board and staff.



Jerry served as accountant and auditor for the System. In this capacity, he was responsible for examining financial records for accuracy, and auditing all Investment Management fees.

Since 1991, Jerry proofed the calculation amounts for almost everyone who retired or entered the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP).

Funeral services were held at Sparkman Funeral Home Chapel in Richardson, TX on Wednesday, April 6, 2005 with Denny Burris, retired Chaplain of Dallas Fire-Rescue, officiating. Internment services were held at the Pattison Cemetery in Emhouse, TX.

## Pension System Calendar

May 18 .....	Police Memorial Ceremony
May 18 .....	Financial Planning Seminar
May 19 .....	Board Meeting
May 30 .....	Memorial Day (Pension Office Closed)
June 9.....	Board Meeting
June 15.....	PREP Seminar
June 19.....	Father's Day
July 4.....	Independence Day (Pension Office Closed)
July 14.....	Board Meeting
July 21.....	Quarterly Board Meeting
July 27.....	Financial Planning Seminar

## Benefits Counseling Services

If you are considering retiring or joining DROP (Deferred Retirement Option Plan), you should meet with a Benefits Counselor at the Pension System.

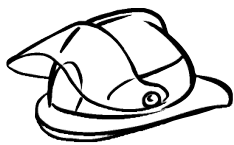
Please schedule your appointment with a Benefits Counselor a minimum of 60 days before your planned retirement or DROP date. Allow more time, if possible. Counseling sessions last about one hour.

After you call for your appointment, we prepare a personalized pension information packet for you. If you wish, we will mail this information to you before you come in, giving you time to review the material, consider the various options, develop questions, and make important decisions that will affect you for the rest of your life. After receiving your pension benefit information, you also may want to consult your tax advisor or accountant before finalizing your retirement plans.

If you do not contact the Pension System before you leave Active Service, any payments that could be made from the Pension System may be delayed. For more information, call the Pension System office at 214.638.3863 or 1.800.638.3861.

## Congratulations Retirees!

### Fire-Rescue



William L. Abbott  
Phyllis G. Allen  
Alan M. Fisher

### Police

Willie D. Cantu  
Michael R. Clay  
Larry P. Heflin  
Richard D. Millward, Jr.  
Jack C. Perritt  
Wesley D. Stout



# 2005 Dallas Fire-Rescue Awards Banquet

The 2005 Dallas Fire-Rescue Awards Banquet was held Saturday, April 30 at the Hall of Nations of the World Trade Center in Dallas.

Two Fire and Rescue Officers, Liane Fischer and Jay Prigmore, received the Distinguished Service Award. The award is the second highest award presented by the Department, and is awarded to the uniformed member who risks their life in an effort to save another.

Texas Air National Guard Master Sergeant Joe Veracruz recently returned from active military service to his job as Driver/Engineer at Station 45. He presented Chief Abraira and the Department an American flag which was flown in Afghanistan and Iraq.



*Master Sgt. Joe Veracruz makes a presentation to Chief Abraira*

## Firefighter Bikers Raise Money for Charity



*Left to Right: Lt. Jerry Rushing, Second Driver Richard Jolly, Cpt. Jennifer Freeman, and Driver Gary Freeman.*

The Dallas Firefighters Chapter of the Wind and Fire Motorcycle Club works to promote charity and motorcycling among firefighters.

They have raised funds for several worthwhile causes, including seriously injured firefighters, and Parkland Hospital's Camp for burned children, Camp I-Thonka-Chi.

For more information, contact Richard Jolly at (214) 629- 7231 or email: [jolly47@aol.com](mailto:jolly47@aol.com).





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## FIRST CLASS MAIL

*Serving Those Who Protect the Dallas Community*

# Technical Issues with Pension System's Voice Mail

The Pension System has been experiencing issues with its voice mail system. We expect those issues to be resolved by the time you receive this newsletter. If you have left us a voice mail message and have not received a response, please contact us again.

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Call us at **214.638.3863**  
or **1.800.638.3861**

Visit our web site at  
**[www.dpfp.org](http://www.dpfp.org)**

e-mail us at  
**[info@dpfp.org](mailto:info@dpfp.org)**

The issues are only affecting our voice mail. You should still be able to reach us by phone Monday thru Friday, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you experience difficulty, please keep trying.

We thank you for your patience and apologize for any inconvenience that this has caused.



Gerald Brown, Chairman  
Steven G. Shaw, Vice Chairman  
Gary W. Edge, Deputy Vice-Chairman

Donald W. Hill  
John M. Mays  
Rector C. McCollum  
Maxine Thornton-Reese  
George J. Tomasovic  
Steven H. Umlor  
Richard H. Wachsman

Richard L. Tettamant,  
Administrator

Brian F. Blake  
Assistant Administrator

Donald C. Rohan,  
Assistant Administrator