

PENSION UPDATE



Volume 2006.01 January 2006
Dallas Police & Fire Pension System



Important Pension Legislation Pending in Congress

Your help is needed immediately! Two important pension bills before the U. S. Congress require your attention and action.

Both the U. S. Senate and House of Representatives have passed pension legislation. The two bills now must be reconciled in conference committee before becoming law. Included in the bills are two provisions especially important to active and retired police officers and firefighters.

Among provisions in the House bill, HR 2830, is a provision that would permit pensioners to deduct up to \$5,000 from taxable income for health insurance premiums. HR 2830 also would eliminate the 10% penalty from DROP distributions before age 55.

The Senate version, S 1783, includes a similar provision to remove the 10% penalty on DROP distributions after retirement.

If these provisions are important to you, contact your Senator or Representative to urge support in the conference committee. On page two of this newsletter is a sample letter/email you can use as a guide in contacting your Congress members. To be most effective, you should put your communication in your own words. Be sure to include your name and address so the congressman knows you are from Texas.

If available to you, e-mail is the quickest and easiest way to contact your Senator or Representative. Following are the e-mail or web addresses of Texas' two Senators and the three Representatives on the House Ways and Means Committee. The three Representatives are likely to be on the conference committee. You can contact

them as follows:

--Rep. Kevin Brady - rep.brady@mail.house.gov

--Rep. Lloyd Doggett - lloyd.doggett@mail.house.gov

--Rep. Sam Johnson - www.samjohnson.house.gov *

--Sen. John Cornyn - www.cornyn.senate.gov *

--Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison - www.hutchison.senate.gov *

* No direct e-mail address. Contact these Congress members through their website. Click on "Contact Me" or "How to Contact Me".

You may obtain the address and e-mail contact for your own Representative through the House website at www.house.gov. Click on "Representative Offices" on the menu on the left or enter your zip code to find your Representative. Call Don Rohan at the Pension Office at 214-638-3863 if you have questions.

Pension System Looks to the New Year

By Gerald Brown
Chairman and Fire Trustee



The Board and Staff hopes everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We now begin another new year that promises both rewards and challenges.

In 2005, we had both Trustee and Amendment elections. No elections are scheduled for this year.

Last year the world saw both a devastating tsunami and hurricane season. These both had an effect on the investment world. The commodities markets were most influenced, notably the energy sectors. This certainly had an effect not only in the U.S., but on the global markets as well.

See "Looking to 2006" on page 2

There is pending pension legislation before Congress that we are watching (see article on page 1 for more information).

The state supreme court has ordered the legislature to fix state school financing, so there will be at least one special session before June.

The State Pension Review Board has been given orders to develop an early warning system for pension funds. The Staff and Trustees are both involved in this process.

We will continue to monitor these and all pension related items in Austin and Washington DC.

As always if you have questions or comments feel free to call any trustee or the staff.



Gerald Brown
Chairman and Fire Trustee

Sample Letter or E-mail Regarding Pension Legislation
(to be re-written in your own words)

(Date)

The Honorable _____ or
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable _____
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator/Representative _____:

I am a City of Dallas (police officer/firefighter). The Senate Pension Security and Transparency Act (S. 1783) and the House Pension Protection Act of 2005 (H.R. 2830) contain provisions that are important to me in my retirement.

I support Section 1003 of House Bill 2830, which would assist retirees in paying for increased health care costs by allowing them to deduct health care premium expenses from their retirement income similar to the way active employees may deduct premium expenses from their earned income. I also urge its extension to all public employees.

I also support Section 1004 of Senate Bill 1783 to remove early distribution penalties on certain public safety officer benefits.

I request your assistance in retaining and/or making necessary revisions to include these provisions in the final conference agreement for the two bills.

These valuable provisions would assist our public workers in saving for their retirement and remaining financially secure in their retirement years, and would provide certainty to employees and employers with regard to plan provisions and designs.

I appreciate your past support for public retirement issues and hope you will similarly work to see the important provisions outlined above are appropriately addressed in any final conference agreement on House and Senate pension legislation.

Sincerely,

(Your Name)

Pension System Calendar

February 9 - Regular Board Meeting

February 16 - PREP Seminar

February 20 - Presidents' Day (Office Closed)

March 9 - Regular Board Meeting

Next PREP Seminar Scheduled for February 16

Sign up now for the next Pre-Retirement Education Program (PREP) seminar, coming up on Thursday, February 16.

Attending a PREP seminar gives you tools for retirement planning and points to sources for more in-depth financial and legal analysis of your personal finances. In 2005, the Pension System held seven PREP sessions with a total of 291 attendees—almost 50 Members and Spouses per session. Our lineup of informative topics includes Pension System benefits, City of Dallas 401(k) and 457 plans, wills and estates, Social Security benefits, survivor benefits, health insurance, and investing for retirement.

You can reserve space in the February 16 PREP seminar, or in one of the sessions on April 27, June 15, August 16, September 20, October 19, or November 14. Seating is limited. These sessions are very popular and fill quickly, so do not delay. To attend, you must have five or more years Pension Service. The Pension System provides all materials and lunch, and we encourage you to bring your spouse.

To attend, you must send a \$20 refundable registration deposit. If you attend the full day, your check will be returned. Because of the demand for participation, if you reserve a space and do not attend, you will have to wait 12 months before you can sign up again.

For reservations, contact the Pension System at 214.638.3863, 1.800.638.3861, or info@dppf.org.

Extending Our Sympathy

The Board and Staff of the Pension System wishes to express our condolences to the families and friends of two active members who recently passed away.

Robert Becker, 46

Senior Corporal Robert Becker died December 27, 2005, after a six-year battle with cancer. He inspired fellow officers because of his will to keep working as he grew more ill.



In May of 2004, he received the Theodore Roosevelt Association Texas Chapter Police Award, which recognizes Police Officers who overcome hardship and continue to render outstanding service.

Sr. Cpl. Becker continued to work until September of 2005, when he was no longer able to drive.

O'Brien Goldsberry, 59

Second Driver O'Brien Goldsberry, known as "Goldy" to his fellow firefighters, passed away on December 19, 2005, following a brief illness.



A graduate of Richardson High School and Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Mr. Goldsberry also attended the University of North Texas, majoring in music.

In 1975, he became a firefighter, just like his father and uncle before him. Goldy served as a Dallas firefighter for over 30 years.

Congratulations Retirees!



Fire-Rescue

S.R. Chambers
Kenneth D. Cooper
Tommy L. Foster
Larry W. Goldsmith
Richard L. Nunez
Bobby N. Popham
Randall W. Weise



Police

Yvonne A. Baldwin
Eddie J. Barber
Ralph W. Benson
Michael F. Bostick
Joseph Germano
Danny W. Green
Michael A. Grosso
Scott J. Lane
John S. Prachyl
Barbara A. Smith
Barry M. Whitfield



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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Serving Those Who Protect the Dallas Community

Moving? Keep Your Address Current

At the end of February, we will be sending out our annual Benefit and DROP statements. Be sure that the City of Dallas payroll department has your correct address on file.

The Post Office often returns correspondence mailed to Members from the Pension System office due to incorrect addresses. The Pension System receives an updated list of addresses monthly from the City payroll department. Therefore, you should report any change of address to the City of Dallas.



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

Pension System Website Provides Useful Information

Go to www.dpfp.org for:

- Agendas of upcoming Board Meetings
- Minutes of Past Board Meetings
- Latest Pension System News
- Blank Pension System Forms
- Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Published by the
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Fire Pension System**

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

Visit our web site at
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