



SPRING 2009

PENSION NEWS

PUBLICATION OF THE FIREMEN'S ANNUITY & BENEFIT FUND OF CHICAGO

TWENTY SOUTH CLARK STREET - SUITE 1400 * CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60603 * TELEPHONE: (312) 726-5823

Office Hours - 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. - Monday thru Friday

<http://www.fabf.org>

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FROM THE SECRETARY

ANTHONY R. MARTIN

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Current Conditions Impacting on the Fund

The majority of our participants are already aware of the severe declines across the financial markets around the world. These declines began in October of 2007 and have affected every investment asset class. Whether one works in the private sector or public sector, has a 457 deferred compensation plan or 401(k) type retirement account, the ripple effects of the housing bubble, and the subsequent implosion of some of the world's largest financial institutions has led to panic selling among investors, resulting in declines across global financial markets. Large institutional investors including the Firemen's Annuity and Benefit Fund of Chicago have not been immune from these declines. We continue to experience much of the volatility experienced in the markets.

In addition to the deteriorating investment climate, nearly 2.6 million Americans lost their jobs last year causing many families to lose their homes. These unemployment foreclosures are in addition to those caused by bad loans made by lenders who irresponsibly loaned money to people who couldn't afford the home they purchased. Unfortunately, this year the bad news has gotten worse. The pace of job losses has accelerated and the pace of foreclosures is expected to continue. In addition to the pain felt by millions of Americans, state and local government tax receipts have fallen behind, forcing municipalities to make difficult decisions about the type and level of services that they can continue to provide going forward.

Public Employee Retirement Systems (PERS) like our fund are by their nature, long term investors. Our stated investment policies take into consideration that there will be periods of significant market volatility. History demonstrates that, while it may take time, even recessions as deep as this one will end and markets will rebound. This is why institutional investors historically do not react quickly to market changes. If institutional investors such as pension funds did, then the markets would be in

substantially worse shape than they are currently. Many of you may remember that in 2002, after the technology bubble, the market value of Fund assets declined substantially. This was followed by five years of growth.

The City, Trustees, civic organizations and you, our participants, are all aware of our underfunded status. However, it must be noted that the problems faced by the Fund are not caused solely by the current investment climate. All of our actuarial studies indicate that our funding ratio is below that which is considered acceptable for a public pension plan, a situation that has persisted for decades. All of our participants should also be aware of this from the reports distributed annually to our members. We at the Fund have faced this challenge by striving to obtain superior investment returns while being reasonably cautious in not exposing our investments to unnecessary risk.

The Fund's single biggest problem is the fact that current combined employer/employee contributions are significantly less than current benefit payments. Existing State statute requires that the City contribute an amount equal to 2.26 times the 9 1/8% of salary contributed by participants. The City has contributed 2.26 times contributions made by all participants. However, the current benefit structure and the amortization of the unfunded liability indicate that the City would need to contribute more than 5.00 times the employee contribution to fully fund promised future benefits. This formula, in place since 1981, doesn't factor in 30 years of increased benefits for our members. Private sector funds that are still in existence have much more stringent rules governing the required amounts of funding.

The longer contributions are allowed to remain inadequate, the worse the problem will become. During the five year period 2004 through 2008 the Fund has paid out an average of \$64 million more than it has received in annual employee and employer contributions on a simple cash flow basis.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Employer</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Diff</u>
2008 (est)	37.1	74.8	111.9	184.2	(72.3)
2007	38.0	72.3	110.3	179.3	(69.0)
2006*	40.9	92.6	133.5	174.3	(40.8)
2005	33.1	58.6	91.7	163.8	(72.1)
2004	35.1	54.9	90.0	154.2	(64.2)

* 2006 significant increase in employer contributions reflects the 2003 contractual retroactive salary payments.

Legislative benefit enhancements that have been successfully fought for by Local 2 have not been adequately funded. That is not to say that all of the benefits that have been enacted have been done so without any consideration of our funding dilemma. Local 2 successfully obtained \$50 million in additional funding during the early 1990's. Additionally, in 2004, Local 2 was able to obtain from the Municipal Fund, the City contributions, paid on behalf of paramedics transferred from the Municipal Pension Fund to the Fire Fund in 1983, which helped to offset some of the additional costs. It has been nearly 30 years since there has been any adjustment to the required contribution levels made by the employer and/or the employee. The funding situation has been ignored too long and as a result, even in the absence of a recession, you clearly see from the table above how the Fund's situation has gotten worse.

Members may have heard of the special "Mayor's Commission" on the status of the City's four pension funds. Local 2 President Tom Ryan, Elected Trustee Dan Fabrizio and our Fund's Executive Director continue their work on this commission. It really is no secret that many of the State's pension funds are in dire straits. The City also has to find ways to improve the funding of its pension systems. It must be determined how much additional funding is needed and what will be the sources and timing of this funding. The current economic climate has been a big factor, making future projections of necessary funding that much more challenging.

The Constitutional Convention referendum was defeated on November 4, 2008. The Constitution provides clear and unambiguous language that no pension benefit can be "diminished or impaired". It is difficult to say what delegates to the convention would have done with the current provisions affecting pensions and other laws affecting disability benefits, workers compensation and collective bargaining. Local 2 worked very hard to get out the vote on this issue and is to be congratulated for its efforts on all of our behalf.

SB 2520 – Terminally Ill Active Members

On Tuesday, February 17, 2009, Governor Patrick Quinn approved SB 2520, subsequently titled Public Act 95-1036. The Fund is pleased that the following technical correction language has been included in Article 6 of the Pension Code:

(40 ILCS 5/6-151.2 new)

Sec. 6-151.2. Disability benefits; terminally ill.

Notwithstanding any other provision of Sections 6-151, 6-151.1, and 6-154, an active fireman who is certified to be terminally ill by a Board-appointed physician may, upon such certification, make application with the Board for a determination that the participant is eligible to receive a disability benefit, even though, at the time, the participant has the right to receive salary. However, an active fireman may not receive any such disability benefit payments at the same time the participant receives salary.

This bill allows for our brothers and sisters who are diagnosed with a terminal illness to make application for occupational disability before their one year lay-up is exhausted. Over the years, some of our brothers and sisters were adversely affected by the statutory limitation on the Board of Trustees. In spite of all the efforts by Chicago Fire Department Personnel, current and former Board members and Fund staff over the years, this language was needed to better enable all of us who serve our participants at a time in which they and their families need all our support.

Our thanks go out to Local 2 Director of Political Action Dan Fabrizio and to the legislators who held up the passage of the bill until this language was included. Well Done !!

Annuitant Health Care Program - 2007 Plan Year Reconciliation Refunds

I am pleased to report that many (but not all) members participating in the City of Chicago Health Care Plan for Annuitants will soon receive a small refund representing the overpayment of premiums during the 2007 calendar year.

An auditor working on behalf of the funds and the independent class counsel has completed the lengthy process of reviewing the City's reconciliation of actual costs to the rates that were established based on estimates developed by a health care actuary.

The whole process which is embodied in the Korshak Settlement Agreement(s) is quite intricate. The reconciliation process ensures that actual costs are shared in accordance with the settlement language. The minimal dollar amount of the refunds being issued indicate that the estimates used in determining premiums are fairly accurate.

Please give the City until April to get all appropriate refunds out.

Ende, Menzer, Walsh & Quinn Retirees' Widows' and Children's Assistance Fund

We recently announced that the City of Chicago has graciously agreed to include the Ende, Menzer, Walsh & Quinn Retirees' Widows' and Children's Assistance Fund in its 2009 campaign of the City of Chicago's Employee's Charitable Payroll contributions Program. ***We expect that all members will be given this opportunity to contribute as a part of the payroll contribution program sometime during the month of March.***

The inclusion of our widows' and children's fund in this program is the culmination of a dream of our late member and former Fund president, Joseph F. Quinn. Joe always hoped for a way that would allow our active members to become actively involved in the support of our neediest widows and orphans. The establishment of the Ende, Menzer, Walsh & Quinn Fund as a legal 501 (c)(3) charity and its inclusion in this program provides this mechanism.

During 2008, the Ende, Menzer, Walsh and Quinn Fund provided nearly \$700,000 in assistance to the nearly 700 widows whose monthly benefit from the Firemen's Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago is \$1,200.00 per month or less and each of the approximately 100 children of deceased firefighters and paramedics receiving benefits from the Fund. The generosity of our members as well as friends of the Chicago Fire Department has made support for our neediest participants possible.

DO THE MATH... If every member contributed \$5.00 per paycheck (pre-tax), the fund would receive approximately \$25,000 per pay period. That's \$600,000 per year. That would easily provide a substantial increase in our ability to provide much needed assistance to our neediest of widows and orphans.

Active members should watch for the City's distribution for this 2009 campaign. We anticipate that the City's election forms will be distributed sometime during the month of March. It will either be mailed to your home or enclosed with an upcoming payroll distribution.

Retired members can elect to have an automatic deduction taken from their benefit check. Please consider a monthly gift and complete the form on the next page.

Let's all do what we can to help take care of our own.

Estate Planning

One of the Fund's attorneys, Mary Pat Burns, has graciously agreed to provide information on estate planning, a subject which I believe all participants should become aware of, in order to protect your family. This information is on pages 14 and 15, and is also part of our retirement seminars.

Pension Fund Office Holidays

The Pension Office will be closed on the following dates:

*Monday, March 2, 2009 (Pulaski Day)
Monday May 25, 2009 (Memorial Day)
Friday, July 3, 2009 (Independence Day)
Monday, September 7, 2009 (Labor Day)*

*Monday, October 12, 2009 (Columbus Day)
Wednesday, November 11, 2009 (Veterans' Day)
Thursday, November 26, 2009 (Thanksgiving Day)
Friday, December 25, 2009 (Christmas Day)*

**THE ENDE MENZER WALSH & QUINN
RETIREES' WIDOWS' AND CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE FUND**

AUTOMATIC DEDUCTION AUTHORIZATION FORM FOR RETIRED AND DISABLED PARTICIPANTS

- Yes, please deduct \$ _____ from my benefit check as a one time donation to the gift fund.
- Yes, please deduct \$ _____ each month from my benefit check as my monthly donation to the gift fund.

Name (please print)

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Signature

YES, I WOULD LIKE MY DEDUCTION TO BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE (Ende, Menzer Walsh & Quinn Fund)

Please return this form to: The Firemen's Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago
20 South Clark Street Suite 1400
Chicago, Illinois 60603

Signed authorization forms received by the 20th of any month will impact that month's benefit check. Forms received after the 20th will be reflected in the subsequent month. Authorized deductions will continue until otherwise retracted.

To all who support this Fund, Thank you !

Family Status Information

When firemen are first hired by the City of Chicago and go through the academy, they are inundated with paperwork to register for many benefit options. After completing a thorough review to verify the family status and beneficiaries of our participants, it was discovered that at least 20% had not looked at this paperwork since initially completing these applications at the academy, and needed to make updates. The most common oversight has been a current beneficiary on the death benefit directive.

Given the feedback from this exercise, I would advise all members to verify their beneficiary information at any company where you may have a life insurance policy.

The companies you should contact are:

Chicago Fighters Union Local No. 2
(773) 536-0450
www.iaff-local2.org

\$1,000.00 payable upon any manner of death to all active and retired members of Local 2 in good standing

Prudential Insurance
(800) 778-3827
www.prudential.com

- Up to \$25,000 per labor contract with the City
- \$5,000 per labor contract with the City for accidental death & dismemberment
- Optional Insurance for multiple of annual salary
(These policies are for any manner of death for all sworn active and disabled members)

Met Life
(800) 634-5007
www.metlife.com

Optional Universal whole life insurance

Retired Firemen's Association & Mutual Aid
(312) 427-7111

Optional Life Insurance payable to all participants

Monumental Life
(800) 638-3080
www.monlife.com

Optional term and whole life insurance

You may also want to contact any of the credit unions that you belong to. The numbers of the credit unions are:

Chicago Firefighters Credit Union
(773) 581-5253

Beneficiaries listed on accounts

Chicago Fireman's Assoc. Credit Union
(312) 791-0834

Beneficiaries listed on accounts

Chicago Officer's Assoc. Credit Union
(312) 226-6310

Beneficiaries listed on accounts

All participants should also check with Nationwide, the deferred compensation program, to verify personal information with them. You can contact Nationwide at (312) 443-1975.

Upon completing this inventory, all members should keep this information in a safe place where those that are handling your affairs can find it and contact the necessary offices.

Remember, it is up to you to verify your personal information with each and every organization/company individually. Just because you change your information with the Fire Department and the City of Chicago's Benefits Management Office, don't expect that information to be filtered through the fire department to any other organization.

DECEASED PARTICIPANTS FROM JUNE 1, 2008 TO JANUARY 31, 2009

NAME	DATE OF DEATH	
JAMES P ASHE	08/21/2008	CAPTAIN
ETHEL M BENWARE	06/03/2008	WIDOW OF FRANCIS J BENWARE
FRANCES BIEDRON	01/01/2009	WIDOW OF LOUIS J BIEDRON
ROBERT J BINGHAM	08/14/2008	LIEUTENANT
DONALD W BLIDY	08/09/2008	FIREFIGHTER
GLORIA BOGDA	12/26/2008	WIDOW OF NORMAN C BOGDA
RICHARD BOJAN	07/26/2008	LIEUTENANT
ALICE M BOLDT	10/04/2008	WIDOW OF ALBERT F BOLDT
WALTER D BUDDE	09/02/2008	LIEUTENANT
PATRICK A BURKE	12/26/2008	BATTALION CHIEF
WALTER D BURKE	11/04/2008	CAPTAIN
GERALD F CAMPBELL	09/25/2008	FIREFIGHTER
WILBERT CARRADINE	11/07/2008	LIEUTENANT
ROY O CARROLL JR	07/01/2008	CAPTAIN
PETER CASEY	07/07/2008	FIREFIGHTER
GEORGE F CHICVARA	01/19/2009	FIREFIGHTER
VICTOR CHUDZIK	08/02/2008	FIREFIGHTER
CAROLYN J COGGINS	07/11/2008	WIDOW OF JAMES T COGGINS
CEDRIC COLLINS	07/28/2008	EMT LIEUTENANT
LAURETTA CONNORS	08/08/2008	WIDOW OF JOHN J CONNORS
ANTHONY D COYLE	10/26/2008	FIREFIGHTER
JERRY CUSUMANO	11/22/2008	CAPTAIN
EDWARD W CYGAN	06/29/2008	FIREFIGHTER
FRANK DELAURENTIS	06/19/2008	FIREFIGHTER
GENROSE DIORIO	11/27/2008	WIDOW OF ALEX L DIORIO
LOUIS J DIPINTO	09/07/2008	LIEUTENANT
JOSEPH J DOYLE	09/18/2008	FIREFIGHTER
JETHELL L ELLISON	12/31/2008	WIDOW OF CLARENCE E ELLISON
LORRAINE C ENGELMAN	11/30/2008	WIDOW OF PAUL W ENGELMAN
*FLORIAN P FALK	05/31/2008	FIREFIGHTER
PHILIP J FALOONA	09/02/2008	LIEUTENANT
IRENE FEDEROWSKI	12/12/2008	WIDOW OF FRANK A FEDEROWSKI
JOHN FIELDS JR	09/20/2008	LIEUTENANT
RICHARD P FLANAGAN	01/06/2009	FIRE ENGINEER
DONALD FLOURNOY	06/23/2008	FIREFIGHTER
GENE D FRANK	11/05/2008	FIREFIGHTER
BRADLEY FRIEDRICHS	07/01/2008	FIRE ENGINEER
JOSEPH J GASKA	12/12/2008	FIREFIGHTER
WILLIAM P GRANNON	11/01/2008	FIREFIGHTER
JOHN F GRANT	11/30/2008	FIREFIGHTER
FRANCE M GROTH	08/23/2008	WIDOW OF CARL F GROTH
AGNES GUMINSKI	12/24/2008	WIDOW OF JOHN A GUMINSKI
DANIEL J HALL	12/09/2008	FIREFIGHTER
BARBARA HANLON	07/20/2008	WIDOW OF ROBERT F HANLON
EDWIN A HANSEN	07/10/2008	FIRE ENGINEER
JOHN T HARRINGTON	08/03/2008	LIEUTENANT
HOWARD HIVELY JR	10/07/2008	FIREFIGHTER
JOHN M HOFFMAN	01/13/2009	CAPTAIN
MARGARET T HOPEWELL	08/23/2008	WIDOW OF ROGER C HOPEWELL
VIRGINIA HOTTINGER	01/09/2009	WIDOW OF EUGENE J HOTTINGER
VERONICA HUNTER	12/26/2008	WIDOW OF LEROY E HUNTER

DECEASED PARTICIPANTS FROM JUNE 1, 2008 TO JANUARY 31, 2009

EDWARD T JABB	10/11/2008	FIREFIGHTER
RUSSELL JACOBSON	09/20/2008	FIREFIGHTER
EDWARD A JASNOCH	01/12/2009	FIREFIGHTER
EVELYN VIRGINIA JEMIOLA	07/31/2008	WIDOW OF EDWARD JEMIOLA
IRENE A JUERKE	09/21/2008	WIDOW OF HARRY C JUERKE
ALBERT A KAHLER	08/16/2008	FIREFIGHTER
ROBERT E KALL	09/23/2008	LIEUTENANT
RAYMOND S KAPPEL	06/05/2008	FIRE ENGINEER
LINDA G KARBOWSKI	08/22/2008	WIDOW OF KENNETH KARBOWSKI
THOMAS M KARNER	10/24/2008	LIEUTENANT
PATRICIA A KATTNER	09/02/2008	WIDOW OF MELVIN H KATTNER
MICHAEL T KELLY	09/30/2008	EMT LIEUTENANT
PHILIP J KELLY	12/07/2008	CAPTAIN
RUTH V KELLY	11/01/2008	WIDOW OF THOMAS A KELLY
MARGARET A KENNEY	12/13/2008	WIDOW OF GEORGE D KENNEY
MARGARET H KENNY	12/18/2008	WIDOW OF MARTIN KENNY
MICHAEL J KERRIGAN	06/03/2008	LIEUTENANT
WILLIAM M KLEINICK	08/11/2008	EMT CAPTAIN
LEROY A KLODE	12/29/2008	FIRE ENGINEER
ROBERT S KUBIAK	10/13/2008	FIRE ENGINEER
RUTH KUSCHILL	10/28/2008	WIDOW OF MICHAEL KUSCHILL
DOROTHY M KUSKO	10/01/2008	WIDOW OF EMIL W KUSKO
*ESTELLE R LABUDA	06/01/2008	WIDOW OF JOSEPH F LABUDA
OWEN LAVIN	09/26/2008	LIEUTENANT
DONALD M LEIGH SR	09/30/2008	LIEUTENANT
EUGENE LENNON	08/03/2008	FIREFIGHTER
JANE L LEWANDOSKI	01/12/2009	WIDOW OF WALTER T FITZGERALD
JAMES A LYNAM	07/22/2008	LIEUTENANT
IRWIN D MAAS	12/27/2008	LIEUTENANT
EMILY M MATULA	10/21/2008	WIDOW OF JOHN THOMAS MATULA
ROBERTA L MCGINTY	08/28/2008	WIDOW OF LAWRENCE D MCGINTY
JACK MCGOVERN	01/02/2009	LIEUTENANT
KEVIN MCMAHON	06/26/2008	AMBULANCE COMMANDER
RAYMOND J MCMAHON	09/21/2008	LIEUTENANT
BERNARD J MCMANUS	12/19/2008	FIREFIGHTER
JAMES D MCNULTY	09/27/2008	FIREFIGHTER
JAMES J MUGNAI	11/25/2008	FIREFIGHTER
JAMES A MURPHY	12/03/2008	FIREFIGHTER
ROBERT E MURPHY	01/24/2009	LIEUTENANT
MARY MURRAY	07/26/2008	WIDOW OF FRANCIS J MURRAY
*JOSEPH H NASH	06/01/2008	BATTALION CHIEF
MARION A NICE	07/26/2008	WIDOW OF RAYMOND J NICE
ANTHONY G NINCEVICH	08/07/2008	FIRE ENGINEER
ROBERT L NUGENT	11/11/2008	FIREFIGHTER
MARY L OBRIEN	07/02/2008	WIDOW OF JOHN R OBRIEN
MARY C OCONNELL	09/22/2008	WIDOW OF JAMES N OCONNELL
MARY OKEEFE	06/21/2008	WIDOW OF JOHN OKEEFE
EDWARD OMALLEY	06/07/2008	FIRE ENGINEER
WALTER E ONEIL	06/19/2008	CAPTAIN
STELLA G PALAGI	01/23/2009	WIDOW OF GENE P PALAGI
HAROLD PAULUS	11/05/2008	FIREFIGHTER
ANTHONY PAVLIK	09/17/2008	LIEUTENANT
*WALTER C PETERSON	05/31/2008	DEPUTY DISTRICT CHIEF - COMMANDING OFFICER

DECEASED PARTICIPANTS FROM JUNE 1, 2008 TO JANUARY 31, 2009

MARY M PFEIFFER	06/03/2008	WIDOW OF JOSEPH M PFEIFFER
ELIZABETH A PIETROWSKI	10/01/2008	WIDOW OF SYLVESTER L PETROL
HELEN NANCY PURCELL	11/08/2008	WIDOW OF JAMES E PURCELL
THOMAS C QUIGLEY	01/14/2009	CAPTAIN
DONALD QUINN	06/21/2008	LIEUTENANT
BETTY REILLY	09/19/2008	WIDOW OF JAMES E REILLY
BERNICE M RETZKE	07/23/2008	WIDOW OF STANLEY J RETZKE
RAYMOND J RICKERT	11/29/2008	BATTALION CHIEF
BETTY M ROHDE	08/05/2008	WIDOW OF CONRAD W ROHDE
JOHN B RUDDY	08/04/2008	FIREFIGHTER
BARBARA A SCHENKE	06/27/2008	WIDOW OF ROBERT H SCHENKE
KATHERINE F SCHMIDT	10/17/2008	WIDOW OF ROBERT N SCHMIDT
KENNETH T SCHMIDT SR	06/16/2008	FIRE ENGINEER
JEROME SCOTT JR	06/02/2008	LIEUTENANT
FRANCIS SCRIVEN	08/19/2008	FIREFIGHTER
JAMES J SHANAHAN	12/19/2008	FIREFIGHTER
LOUIS J SHUKSTOR	01/03/2009	FIREFIGHTER
CONSTANCE H SIEBERT	10/22/2008	WIDOW OF HOWARD L SIEBERT
DONALD SOBIESKI	12/30/2008	LIEUTENANT
MARGERIE STAEBEN	01/28/2009	WIDOW OF SARRAN A STAEBEN
ROBERT D STEFFEN	12/11/2008	FIREFIGHTER
JOHN R STONE	12/14/2008	FIREFIGHTER
EARL F STRANDBERG	07/30/2008	FIRE ENGINEER
ROBERT I SULZER	11/01/2008	FIREFIGHTER
WALLACE C TARGOS	08/07/2008	FIREFIGHTER
CRYSTAL C TAYLOR	06/17/2008	WIDOW OF DONALD L TAYLOR
CHARLES TORTORELLO	11/08/2008	BATTALION CHIEF
FRANCIE TOWNSEND	09/09/2008	WIDOW OF LEON TOWNSEND
RONALD W TRACY	06/30/2008	LIEUTENANT
RAYMOND J VESELY	06/24/2008	FIRE ENGINEER
VERNON J WARREN	01/07/2009	LIEUTENANT
WAYNE P WHEELER	12/15/2008	LIEUTENANT
HELEN M WIEDEMAN	11/07/2008	WIDOW OF CHARLES H WEIDMAN
WILLIAM J WILKINSON	07/27/2008	BATTALION CHIEF

*Denotes information received after publication of the last newsletter

Our Deepest Sympathy To the Families and Friends Who Have Lost Love Ones

REQUIRED DISCLAIMER

The information set forth herein is believed to be reliable but is not guaranteed as to accuracy or completeness by, and is not to be construed as a representation of the Firemen's Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago, the Retirement Board (the "Board") or any member of the Board. The information and expressions of opinion contained herein are subject to change without notice. All expressions of opinion, whether or not expressly so stated, are intended merely as such and not as representations of fact. Financial information contained in this newsletter is as of a certain date, is unaudited and should not be relied on.



CHARITY SOFTBALL GAME



After the monsoon rains flooded out our scheduled game on September 14th, we took to the field the following Sunday and many supporters enjoyed Chicago style 16” softball at its finest. This game was all for fun and ultimately for the charities that benefit Fire and Police causes, including Fire and Police widows.

Our sincere appreciation to the entire Chicago Blackhawks organization and their Alumni Association for all of their energy and assistance in helping organize the event and for their most gracious donation of \$5,000 to the event.

We are also extremely grateful to the Windy City Thunderbolts for the use of their stadium, the Chicago Fire Department and the Chicago Police Department for their involvement, The Pipes and Drums of the Emerald Society, The Chicago Fire Department Pipes and Drums, The Chicago Fire Department Honor Guard, The Chicago Police Department Honor Guard, Katie Basic and all of the families and friends who volunteered.

Thanks to the families of firefighter William Grant and Officer John Knight for helping us support many others from our extended Fire & Police families that depend upon us all.

And Finally, my thanks to all who attended the game or bought raffle tickets to support the day.

The Chicago Blackhawks coaches, players and alumni have expressed their enthusiasm in playing again this September. We are looking forward to this re-match and will pass along all the information and details when it becomes available.

2009 RETIREMENT SEMINARS

THE FIREMEN'S ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND OF CHICAGO PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINARS 2009

SATURDAY MARCH 28, 2009 (3C EMS-3) SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2009 (1A EMS-2)
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2009 (2A EMS 2)

8:00 A.M. ROLLS & COFFEE
8:20 A.M. INTRODUCTION
8:30 A.M. WILLS & ESTATE PLANNING
9:45 A.M. LONG TERM CARE
10:30 A.M. BREAK
10:45 A.M. RETIREE MEDICAL BENEFITS
11:45 A.M. LUNCH
12:30 P.M. SOCIAL SECURITY
1:30 P.M. DEFERRED COMPENSATION ACCOUNTS
2:30 P.M. ADJOURN

FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING ACADEMY, 558 West DeKovan Chicago, Illinois 60608

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH ARE PROVIDED

RSVP REQUIRED: CALL (312) 726-5823 AND SPECIFY WHICH DATE

*(THIS SEMINAR IS PROVIDED FOR THOSE MEMBERS WITHIN 3 YEARS OF ACTUAL
RETIREMENT)*

THE FOLLOWING ANNUITIES AND BENEFITS HAVE BEEN GRANTED

JULY, 2008

Minimum Formula Annuities:

FF JAMES L BERNARD, ENGINE 32
*LT RONALD BOEHM, ENGINE 23
EMT FF EDWARD T FITZGERALD, 213A
FF LARRY G GARZA, TOWER LADDER 5/ENGINE 23
DEPUTY FC JAMES E KEHOE, HEADQUARTERS
FF COLEMAN STEPHENS, TRUCK 35

Occupational Disabilities:

LT PATRICK J BRACKIN, 6TH DIS. REL.

Duty Disabilities:

FF JAMES M ZAKRZEWSKI, TOWER LADDER 10

AUGUST, 2008

Minimum Formula Annuities:

*FF KEVIN P BARRETT, TRUCK 55
EMT LT TERRENCE COLE, FPB-CENTRAL
*FF WILLIAM COSGROVE, OFI
*FF CARL R HOPKINS, OFI
FF ROLAND IRLWEG, ENGINE 94
FF THOMAS R RUPICK, TRUCK 9

AUGUST, 2008 (continued)

Minimum Formula Annuities:

*FF DANIEL J RUSSELL, ENGINE 28
PA GEORGE SEANIOR, AMBULANCE 51
FF SANTIAGO SOLIS, ENGINE 26
LT JOSEPH J THOMPSON, TRUCK 61
FF GEORGE H WHITING, ENGINE 18
FF WILMA J WILLIAMS-LINNEAR, FPB -CENTRAL

Occupational Disease Disabilities:

FF DEL LORENZ, TRUCK 57
FF PA TIMOTHY MALONE, ENGINE 108
PA PHILIP D MASTRIANNO, AMBULANCE 42

Duty Disabilities:

PA KELLY A ULREICH, AMBULANCE 39

SEPTEMBER, 2008

Minimum Formula Annuities:

LT DONNELL DIGBY, FPB-CENTRAL
CAPT FRED GAWRYK, TRUCK 15

THE FOLLOWING ANNUITIES AND BENEFITS HAVE BEEN GRANTED

SEPTEMBER, 2008 (cont)

Minimum Formula Annuities:

LT KENNETH IWAI, 2ND DISTRICT RELIEF
FF MICHAEL J LOPER, TRUCK 13
FF JEFF RASCHKE, AIR/MASK
CAPT WALTER V RUCINSKI, ENGINE 9
FF MCKINLEY SPENCER, ENGINE 32

Occupational Disabilities:

LT EUGENE J ABBOTT, ENGINE 30
LT JOHN BARANOWSKY, ENGINE 8
EMT BC GEORGE M KORDA, BATTALION 12

Duty Disabilities:

EMT BC THOMAS J MAGLIANO, BATTALION 22

OCTOBER, 2008

Minimum Formula Annuities:

FF JAMES A BRICHETTO, TOWER LADDER 63
FF NATHAN CLARK, ENGINE 99
*FF THOMAS P DALY, ENGINE 116
*CAPT WILLIAM F GRAVES, 1ST DISTRICT RELIEF
FF JOHN R MUNIZZI, ENGINE 32
*PIC JON OLSEN, 2ND DISTRICT RELIEF
FF HARRY WHITTMON, TRUCK 16

Occupational Disease Disabilities:

FF STEVEN A ADDESSO, AIR/MASK
EMT ENG DONATO BINETTI, ENGINE 11
ENG ROBERT F DZIEDZIC, ENGINE 11
ENG JAMES L MOORE, ENGINE 45
FF JAMES P SAMPSON, TRUCK 26

Duty Disabilities:

LT GREGORY G EDINGBURG, AIR/MASK
PA DAVID M PECK, AMBULANCE 35

NOVEMBER, 2008

Minimum Formula Annuities:

ENG MICHAEL BLAUL, ENGINE 119
*CAPT ELREE COX JR, FPB- SOUTH
*ENG DONALD G ENGELHARDT, MIDWAY
*ENG MICHAEL E HEIN, ENGINE 126
*BC NORMAN S HOLLAND, 1ST BATTALION
*LT DONALD J KLINGER, TRAINING/HAZ MAT
*FF JEROME T MENDOZA, TRUCK 31
FF FABIAN PAGAN, SUP/SERVICES
CAPT ALLEN A SCHLUETER, ENGINE 43
EMT CAPT ROBERT K WARD, ENGINE 127

Occupational Disease Disabilities:

LT STEVEN M KOLECKI, TRUCK 49

Duty Disabilities:

EMT LT JAMES P KLEINICK, ENGINE 32
LT ROBERT J KORANDA, ENGINE 60
PFO ROBERT C ZANGE, NORTH REL.

DECEMBER, 2008

Minimum Formula Annuities:

FF ROBERT J ANDERSON, COMMAND VAN 273
LT HAYWARD ASHFORD, TOWER LADDER 37
ENG ROBERT E BAILEY, ENGINE 19
LT PA JOHN P CLANCY, ENGINE 76
ENG DANIEL J FALARDEAU, ENGINE 44
ASST DCP ROXANE GIOIA, FIELD DIVISION-NORTH
FF JAIME GONZALEZ, TOWER LADDER 5
EMT CAPT TERRENCE M HARTY, ENGINE 29
ENG JOHN KOLODZIEJCZAK, ENGINE 32
PIC COLLETTE M KUMIEGA, AMBULANCE 46
EMT BC RICHARD J LUBY, 14TH BATTALION
EMT LT ROBERT LUGO, ENGINE 1
LT ROBERT L MARKHAM, ENGINE 28
BC CARLOS F MOSQUEDA, FPB-NORTH
BC LARRY E MUSE, FPB-CENTRAL
FF JOHN P OMALLEY, TRUCK 30
FF ERNEST OSBORNE, FIRE PREVENTION
CAPT JESSE PONCE DE LEON, TOWER LADDER 5
FF RONALD F REGAN, TRUCK 31
DDC DONALD L RICE, FPB -HQ
CAPT KEN STEPHENS, FPB-NORTH
EMT BC TERRANCE P WHIRITY, TRUCK 28
LT STEPHEN E WHITMAN, FPB-CENTRAL
ENG RICHARD L ZIOLKO, ENGINE 43

Occupational Disease Disabilities:

FF ROBERT N MOREHEAD, ARIAL TOWER 1

Duty Disabilities:

FF JOHN G BILKA, SQUAD 2
PIC SEAN A HANNON, FIELD DIV. NORTH
EMT LT KIRT T JENSSEN, HAZ/MAT/511
PA BARRY MCLEAN, AMBULANCE 59

JANUARY, 2009

Minimum Formula Annuities:

EMT BC MARK SANCHEZ, BATTALION 11

Duty Disabilities:

FF MICHAEL MCPHILLIPS, ENGINE 84
ENG TIMOTHY S SOBOS, ENGINE 46

FEBRUARY, 2009

Minimum Formula Annuities:

ENG RICHARD P ANDERSON, ENGINE 96
FF TERRENCE E CLANCY, TRUCK 57
FF GREGORY H DAIRYKO, AIR MASK
FF KEVIN GRANT, TRUCK 50
FF ANTHONY C PLUMMER, ENGINE 104
EMT CAPT JEFFREY SMITH, ENGINE 73

Occupational Disease Disabilities:

EMT LT THOMAS W CARADINE, TRUCK 45

Duty Disabilities:

FF KIRBY BRUNO, TOWER LADDER 34
PA MARCUS R SOMOGYI, AMBULANCE 7



Chicago Blackhawks Alumni Association Dinner. Chicago Fire Department members present plaques to association members.
 (Pictured Back row: Sara Bailey, Pete Hassen, Grant Mulvey, Brian Campbell, Eileen Doherty-Rich, Patrick Sharp, Tony Martin, Tom Minnick, Tim O'Brien. Front row: Sal Ferrara, Jack O'Callahan, Troy Murray, Reggie Kerr

On January 12, 2009, Chicago Fire Fighters Union Local 2 Director of Public Relations Tim O'Brien, Pension Fund Secretary Tony Martin and FF Tom Minnick attended the Chicago Blackhawks Alumni Dinner. At the dinner, the Blackhawks management, alumni and players were acknowledged for their support of Chicago Firefighters and Paramedics. Their generosity in participating in last year's softball game, along with their own financial gift of \$5,000, is greatly appreciated.

Last year, as a result of the generous support of Chicago Firefighters, Paramedics, citizens and organizations like our own Chicago Blackhawks, the Ende, Menzer, Walsh, & Quinn Widows' and Children's Assistance Fund provided nearly \$700,000 in much needed financial assistance to approximately 700 widows and all the children of firefighters and paramedics who have passed while in active service of the Chicago Fire Department. I would also like to express our appreciation to all who participated and volunteered to help run this event. We look forward to the opportunity to hold this event again this year and as information becomes available, we'll pass it on.

Lastly, I would like to thank Blackhawks Alumni President, Cliff Koroll, who was unable to attend the dinner due to hip surgery. We hear that he is doing well and wish him a speedy recovery. A lot of firemen look forward to hitting everything he pitches in 2009's rematch.

****Mary Patricia Burns is partner at the firm Burke, Burns & Pinelli. This law firm has been the Fund's Legal Counsel for many years. The information included in this article is not meant to be legal advice. Please contact an attorney when considering estate planning.*

What inheritance do you want to leave your spouse? How about your kids? Do you have something special that you wish to bequest to a certain grandchild or friend?

If you want to be in control of who gets what when you die, you need an estate plan. An estate plan allows you to decide where your hard-earned assets go. Without it, state law will dictate how your money and prized possessions are to be divided among your relatives.

If you think your estate is too small to worry about, think again. When you total up the value of your home, cash, investments, retirement plans, insurance policies, automobile, jewelry, household furnishings, etc..., it is often easy to find that your estate is valued at several hundred thousand dollars. You will want a clearly-defined legally-valid plan to make sure all this loot goes to whom you want and when you want.

So what goes into an estate plan?

Basically, an estate plan involves either a will or a living trust. A will is a document by which you regulate the rights of others over your property or family after your death. A living trust is a legal alternative to a will. It works much like a will, allowing you to direct the disposition of your estate at death, but it has the added benefit of providing a mechanism for managing assets in the event you become disabled.

Here's a quick rundown of just some of the benefits of having a will or living trust:

1. State does not control where assets go.
2. Can provide for special financial needs of spouse/dependent children, and designate guardians to take physical custody and control of any minor children in the event there is no surviving spouse.
3. Can control not only WHO gets inheritance, but HOW and WHEN he or she gets it.
4. Can remember individuals whom the law would otherwise omit, e.g., surviving parents or brothers or sisters.
5. Can name an executor or personal representative of choice and grant that person discretion as to how to deal with any unique circumstances that might arise.

In addition to the above, wills and living trusts can save money on taxes and help avoid messy disputes among surviving family members.

Wills are relatively easy and inexpensive to put together in most cases, and are completely revocable during life. You can change your mind as many times as you want. They also can be updated and amended to fit changing circumstances.

A living trust is like a will in that it gives you complete control over all assets during your lifetime with the full authority to choose who gets what upon your death. The difference is that such assets are first transferred to a trust, with you (or somebody you choose) named as administrator. Thus a living trust avoids the time, cost and public exposure of the probate process upon your death. It also enables you to protect your own future by designating a successor trustee to take over in the event you ever become disabled.

The important thing to keep in mind is that if you don't take action in regards to your estate planning, the state will do it for you. The probate process entails a court representative deciding how to split up your assets, a situation that can sometimes lead to confusion and disappointment among those left behind. As noted above, it also can be expensive and time-consuming.

Before calling an attorney to begin the estate planning process, you should consider these questions:

1. Who should receive your estate:
2. Which of your assets should a particular beneficiary receive:
3. When should the assets be distributed:
4. Who should I appoint to be guardians of my minor children:
5. Who will manage your estate after your death, or if you become disabled:

Whether you choose to do a will or a living trust, you will need to determine the value of your estate. Cash, stocks and bonds, personal residence, other real estate owned, 401k or other retirement plans, annuities, life insurance policies, works of art, cars and boats, jewelry and household furnishings are among the assets that should be included. In short, everything you own can be considered part of your estate.

Tax ramifications should also weigh heavily into your estate planning. Generally, the so-called “marital deduction” allows you to leave your entire estate to your spouse without those assets being subject to any federal estate tax. But if you do not have a spouse, or you choose to leave your estate with somebody else, it can be costly.

Current estate tax rates run as high as 45 percent for amounts in the estate over \$3.5 million (by comparison, the federal income tax rates are annually limited to 38.6 percent). In 2011, the top estate tax rate rises to 50 percent on any amount in the estate over \$1 million. With a new administration and Congress, more changes could be on the way.

A will or living trust can help you make sure more of your hard-earned money ends up in the hands of your loved ones rather than Uncle Sam. With a will, for example, you can take full advantage of estate tax savings by setting up a trust or setting forth specific directions regarding payments of obligations. A living trust offers similar flexibility.

Yet another aspect of estate planning involves disability. What if you get in an accident and can no longer function effectively in terms of controlling your financial affairs? What happens to your assets then? How would your spouse and children be protected?

If you were to suddenly become disabled without a plan in place, your family could be forced into a very costly and time-consuming slog through the judicial system to gain control over your financial affairs. One way to avoid this problem is to have a living trust with a designated successor trustee, as outlined above. Another way is to designate a specific person as “power of attorney,” granting him or her sole authority to take control of your assets without having to go to court.

For health care matters, a “living will” or “power of attorney for health care” can make sure that the health decisions made for you when you become disabled are those you would make for yourself. Such decisions could include the continuation or discontinuation of life support measures. Without one of these documents in force prior to disability, state laws determine how those decisions are made for you.

In most of these cases, the process can be done simply and at very little cost.

Estate planning might not be high on your list of priorities in these difficult economic times. But in many ways it is the best investment you can make. It requires only a little bit of time and thought, with the promise of an immediate payoff in the peace of mind you will find knowing that you have done right for those loved ones left behind.

FROM THE RETIREE TRUSTEE

WALTER CARLSON

Hello to all our retired and widowed members. I hope everyone is weathering these difficult economic times. Every member I talk to remains extremely grateful for the job, the benefits and for the health care program.

Since it is income tax season, I trust that all retirees participating in the City's Annuitant Health Care Plan have received a letter from the Pension Fund Office advising them of the amount of health care premiums deducted from their retirement check. Under the Pension Protection Act of 2006, retired public safety officers can legally deduct up to \$3,000.00 of the premiums paid for health, dental and vision insurance from their adjusted gross income. Many members reach the \$3,000.00 maximum with their health insurance premiums alone.

I have recently written several letters to our International Union in Washington D.C. and several of our elected representatives, asking them if they would consider increasing this limit to \$3,600.00. The increase would better enable many of us who signed up for Local 2's dental and optical plan to deduct those premiums also. I will keep trying and keep everyone informed.

Stay healthy – Spring is just around the corner.

FIREMEN'S ANNUITY & BENEFIT FUND
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