

THE RETIREMENT BOARD
of the
**FIREMEN'S ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND
OF CHICAGO**

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ELECTED TRUSTEES
ANTHONY R. MARTIN, Secretary
DAN P. FABRIZIO
MICHAEL J. SHANAHAN, President
WALTER M. CARLSON, Annuitant Member

EX-OFFICIO TRUSTEES
First Deputy Fire Commissioner, CHARLES STEWART III
City Treasurer, STEPHANIE NEELY, Vice President
City Comptroller, STEVE LUX
City Clerk, MIGUEL del VALLE

March 31, 2011

In addition to the benefits granted to members and spouses each month, the Secretary will also be presenting, for informational purposes only, items of interest that may affect our members.

Questions regarding any member's specific situation should be addressed directly to the Fund Office.

MONTHLY NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE FUND SECRETARY

ELECTIONS TO LOCAL 2 EXECUTIVE BOARD

I would like to extend my congratulations to all the winners in the recent Local 2 elections. With all of the challenges facing unions and pensions here in Chicago and throughout the country, we at the Fund are committed to providing all necessary information to assist all those involved in fighting to protect the health of our participants retirement system and the benefits provided to our members.

RETIREE" ONLY" BREAKFAST

The Fund in conjunction with Local 2's Retiree Committee will be hosting an "All Retiree" Brunch at DeLaSalle H.S. in order to inform our participants on current issues impacting upon the Fund and our participants benefits. This event is for **Current Retirees Only**. This brunch will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2011 beginning at 10:00 a.m. Space is limited to the first 400 respondents. Please contact Tugi at Local 2 if you are interested in attending this brunch.

CURRENT MILITARY PERSONNEL AND VETERANS

The Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008 (the "HEART Act") provides tax breaks and incentives for military personnel and affected how employers treat the wages and benefits of employees on military leave. The HEART Act also requires qualified retirement plans, such as that provided by Article 6 of the Illinois Pension Code for fire personnel, to provide to the survivors of individuals who die during qualified military service receive the same additional benefits (other than benefit accruals for the military service period) the plan would have provided had the participant resumed employment and then were either injured and/or died.

Additionally, in the case of death or disability during qualified military service , the HEART Act permits plans to provide accruals on the same basis as if the individual had returned to employment and then died or became disabled. Each governmental retirement plan must be amended to comply with the HEART Act requirements by January 1, 2012.

To address the required HEART Act amendments, the Firemen's Annuity and Benefit Fund of Chicago has proposed an amendment to the Illinois Pension Code which would make it clear that all pension funds created under the Code are required to comply with the mandatory requirements of the HEART Act. The proposed legislation is currently pending and we hope to have it adopted during the current legislation session, scheduled to end on or before May 31, 2011. We will advise you as to the bill's progress in the upcoming months.

Further information regarding the HEART Act, and its mandatory and optional provisions, is available by contacting the Firemen's Annuity and Benefit Fund of Chicago or by going to Pub. L. No. 110-245.

LEGAL UPDATE

The most difficult decisions as a Trustee involve votes in which there are adverse implications for a participant. As many of our participants are aware, the Board voted to deny a member his pension due to the commission of numerous arson fires in which the Board decided that there was a "nexus" between the participant's service as a firefighter and the crimes for which he was convicted. The Board's decision was subsequently overturned by Judge Leroy Martin. The Board appealed Judge Martin's decision. On Thursday, March 31st 2011, the Illinois Appellate Court overturned Judge Leroy Martin and unanimously affirmed the decision of the Retirement Board's denial of pension benefits to former member, Lt. Jeffrey Boyle.

Thank you.



Anthony R. Martin
Fund Secretary

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 except the Secretary. 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.