

February 23, 2009

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

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 the bill:

(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, many have complained about how some of our brothers and sisters were adversely affected by the statutory limitation imposed on the Board of Trustees. In spite of all the efforts by Chicago Fire Department Personnel, current, former Board members and Fund staff over the years, this language was an important technical correction, better enabling all of us to serve some of our participants at a time in which our participants and their families need 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 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 in comparison the rates that were established based of 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 insures 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 mid March to get all appropriate refunds out.

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

Last month we 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 sometime during the month of March.*

The inclusion of our widow's and children's fund in this program is the culmination of a dream of our late member and former Fund president, Joseph F. Quinn had many years ago. 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.

There are nearly 700 widows whose monthly benefit from the Firemen's Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago is \$1,200.00 per month or less. Additionally, there are 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 have made support for our neediest participants possible.

If every member contributed \$5.00 per paycheck (pre-tax)... DO THE MATH, 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 some of the neediest of our widows and orphans.

Please watch the City's distribution for this 2009 campaign. It will either be mailed to your home or enclosed with an upcoming payroll distribution.

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

Thank you.



Anthony R. Martin
Fund Secretary