

March 27, 2007

MONTHLY NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE FUND SECRETARY

All members are aware of the tragic death of firefighter William F. Grant, who died on Friday morning, March 23, 2007. Our most sincere condolences go out to his wife Sharon and his children Kristin, Caroline and Daniel. Please keep Bill's family and the members of Truck 51 as well as all the members of Engine 84 and all those who responded to this terrible accident in your prayers through this time of grief.

Remember that the Grant family and the families of all our fallen members will continue to need our support in the future.

As part of the Chicago Fire Department family, the Fund is committed to providing for the needs of the Grant family.

Widows and Orphans Fund

The Fund was pleased to receive an unexpected donation in the amount of \$68,214.52 from the estate of Sylvia Slegl for the Gift Reserve Fund. The Slegl family did not indicate any specific relationship or reasoning for this donation and is not seeking any notoriety.

All members should reflect on the fact that every act in the conduct of our duty impacts upon the lives of the people we serve in ways we may never know or understand.

All donations made to the Fund are used to provide gifts for our neediest widows and orphans. Each December the Fund has provided gifts to all children beneficiaries and to all widows receiving the minimum annuity.

Pension Protection Act of 2006

The Fund has advised its members that in January of 2007, President Bush signed the Pension Protection Act into law. One of the provisions of the Act allows retired "public safety" personnel to pay for retiree health insurance premiums with "pre-tax" dollars when paid on behalf of the retiree by the pension fund.

We have subsequently been made aware of a determination by the IRS that payments to self-insured programs offered by municipalities do not meet the requirements of the Act. This is going to prevent the Fund from implementing this act for our retired members enrolled in the Annuitant Program at this time. As of this writing, the National Conference of Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS) is pursuing both an administrative ruling to allow "public safety" personnel enrolled in these self-insured programs such as the City of Chicago's Health Care Plan for Annuitants. NCPERS is also pursuing more comprehensive legislative changes ensuring that all eligible public safety personnel can take advantage of the provision. We will advise all members of any technical corrections of the Pension Protection Act.

Retiree Informational Mailing

The Fund has completed its process of mailing personal information sheets to all of our retired members in our efforts to make sure that all members have current family and beneficiary information on file.

Approximately 20% of all active members needed to make some updates to their information. After we complete all retired members, we will send this informational letter to all members currently on disability. The Fund intends to include this information annually with the mailing of our annual report. All members should remember to update their own information as changes to their family status occur.

Pre-Retirement Seminars

The Fund is conducting a pre-retirement seminar on Saturday, March 31, 2007 and it is COMPLETELY BOOKED.

The next seminar is tentatively scheduled for November 10, 2007.