

November 24, 2008

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

WIDOWS' AND ORPHAN'S FUND

On behalf of all members, I am pleased to report that due to the continued generous donations of active and retired firefighters and paramedics, their families and all the friends of the Chicago Fire Department, the Firemen's Annuity and Benefit Fund of Chicago, in conjunction with the Ende, Menzer, Walsh & Quinn Retirees' Widows' and Children's Assistance Fund is providing another \$500.00 gift check to our neediest widows and all orphans during this holiday season.

Thanks again to everyone. These gifts are made possible by both the active and retired members of this department. The many needy members our fire department family which include nearly 700 widows and 100 children greatly appreciate all of our efforts on their behalf.

LEGISLATION AFFECTING MEMBERS DIAGNOSES AS TERMINALLY ILL PASSES

I join with all members and their families in acknowledging Local 2 and Director of Political Action Dan Fabrizio for working toward the inclusion of one of the Fund's technical correction bills into SB 2520, which was passed in the veto session on Thursday, November 20, 2008.


The language in the Bill, which amends 40 ILCS, Act 5, Section 6-151.2 allows members diagnosed as terminally ill to make application for Occupational Disease Disability benefits before their lay-up period is exhausted.

The Board has been aware of this issue for some time and I am pleased that legislative action has finally been taken to enable the department and fund to better assist our members in this difficult circumstance.

GLOBAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

The Board continues to monitor all aspects of the Fund's investment portfolio in these extremely difficult times. As this downturn has adversely affected every asset class, the Fund is committed to its long term diversified investment strategy which has served us well.

Thank you.


Anthony Martin
Fund Secretary