



# Policemen & Firemen Retirement System City of Detroit



## **Pension Perspectives**

**AUGUST 2001**

**VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2**

*Policemen & Firemen  
Retirement System  
Board of Trustees*

*Dennis W. Archer  
Mayor*

*William L. Fairweather  
Elected Member-Fire*

*Johnny Golden  
Elected Member-Police*

*Gil Hill  
Council President*

*Laura Isom  
Elected Member-Police  
Chairperson*

*Mark Knowles  
Elected Member-Fire*

*George Orzech  
Elected Member-Fire*

*Derrick Royal  
Elected Member-Police*

*Richard Stein  
Fire Commissioner*

*Shafter Terry, III  
Treasurer*

*Charles E. Wilson  
Chief of Police*

### **Health Insurance Deduction Changes**

After the litigation known as Alkema, et al was settled, The Coalition of Public Safety employees Trust (COPS Trust) increased the hospitalization rates affecting the Bankers Life "traditional" medical insurance of all non DPOA retirees who retired prior to May 1, 1995.

Bankers Life traditional coverage has been administered by the Coalition of Public Safety Employees Health Trust.

Beginning with the June 1, 2001 pension check many retirees experienced an increase in their hospitalization deduction for the Bankers Life Traditional coverage. The reason for this increase is that higher monthly premiums are being charged by COPS Trust for the Bankers Life Traditional coverage. Effective July 1, 2001 rates increased again based on new rates submitted by COPS Trust for the Bankers Life Traditional coverage.

The amount deducted from your monthly check is determined by computing the maximum amount the City of Detroit is obligated to pay toward your coverage based on the labor agreement in effect when you retired. For non DPOA Pre May 1, 1995 retirees the amount the City is obligated to pay is still limited to the Blue Cross Blue Shield Ward (BCBS) rates. If the monthly premium for your coverage exceeds the amount the City is

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### **Board of Trustees election results**

Police Sergeant Johnny Golden was elected to the Board of Trustees to fill the remainder of the term of Sergeant Ronald Stempin, who retired in January, 2001. Sergeant Golden was reelected to a new three year term beginning July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2004.

Fireman Mark Knowles was elected to the Board of Trustees for a three year term beginning July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2004.

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# Actively Speaking

## New look for Annuity Statements

The Annuity Statement you will receive for fiscal year 2000-2001 will have a new look. The statements have been re-designed to allow for more detailed information and easier readability. The new statements allow detailed information on adjustments, refund information, military time purchases and other adjustments to be displayed on the statements. The former statements did not allow for such information.



Captured below is an example of the type of information displayed in the new statements. Depending on the amount of activity generated against your account, your statement may have more or less detailed information displayed.

## Police and Fire Departments get new leaders

On July 16, 2001, both the Fire Department and the Police Department welcomed new leaders.

Richard Stein was named as the new Fire Commissioner. He takes over for Charles E. Wilson who moved to his new position as Chief of Police.

Both gentlemen bring numerous years of city service to their positions.

 <b>City of Detroit</b> <b>POLICEMEN AND FIREMEN RETIREMENT SYSTEM</b> 2 WOODWARD AVENUE SUITE 908 DETROIT, MI 48226-3455 		
<b>Annuity Statement for Fiscal 2000-2001</b>		
<b>JOHN DOE</b>	<b>Social Security Number</b>	000-00-0000
	<b>Pension Number</b>	999999
<b><u>July 1, 2000 Balance</u></b>		
Pretax Contributions	\$7,000.00	
Interest	\$9,867.01	
<b>7-1-2000 Taxable Balance</b>		<b>\$16,867.01</b>
<b><u>Nontaxable Contributions</u></b>		
Pre-1982 Contributions	\$0.00	
1982-1987 Contributions	\$7,468.21	
<b>7-1-2000 Nontaxable Balance</b>		<b>\$7,468.21</b>
<b>Your accumulated balance on July 1, 2000</b>		<b>\$24,335.22</b>
<b><u>2000-2001 Fiscal Year Activity</u></b>		
Pretax Contributions	\$3,782.80	
Interest	\$2,031.77	
Nontaxable Contributions	\$0.00	
<b><u>2000-2001 Fiscal Year Adjustments</u></b>		
<b>Total 2000-2001 Fiscal Year Activity</b>	<b>\$5,814.57</b>	
<b>Total Taxable Balance</b>		<b>\$22,681.58</b>
<b>Total Nontaxable Balance</b>		<b>\$7,468.21</b>
<b>Your accumulated balance on June 30, 2001</b>		<b>\$30,149.79</b>

## Two longtime Retirement Systems staff members retire.

Since the last newsletter, two long time employees of the Retirement System have retired or will retire shortly.

Tom Berriman retired on July 20, 2001. Tom served the City of Detroit for 39 years and 8 months. Nearly all of Tom's service was with the Retirement Systems offices. Tom dedicated himself to assisting City of Detroit employees and retirees with their retirement needs. Tom's knowledge of the history of the Retirement Systems will definitely be missed.

Elaine Poznanski is retiring on August 29, 2001. Elaine served the City of Detroit for 30 years and 7 months. Elaine has spent the past years here in the Retirement Systems accounting division. Elaine was meticulous in her attention to accounting detail, and her efforts will truly be missed.

Rena Presbitero will replace Elaine Poznanski as Principal Accountant for the Policemen & Firemen Retirement System.

We wish all of them much success in their new roles.



## Retiree calls will be answered

The Payroll Division of the Retirement Systems gets a great number of telephone calls each day from retirees about missing pension checks, death notices, direct deposit, etc. The number of calls increase dramatically around the first of each month, especially about missing pension checks. It is the goal of the Payroll Division to return telephone calls by the end of the next working day regardless of how great the number of calls received. However, many callers are insistent on an immediate reply and continue to call several times during the day. This not only fills up the voice mail lines but also prevents other retirees from leaving a message. Please trust that someone from the Retirement System will return your call by the next business day, if not sooner.

Remember, lost or missing pension checks should be reported to the Treasury Division at (313) 224-9344. To avoid missing check problems it is strongly suggested that you arrange for direct deposit of your pension check by calling the Payroll Division at 1-800-339-8344, Ext. 221, to obtain the necessary application forms. Direct deposit is certain, timely, and safe.

All questions and concerns regarding hospitalization rates should be referred to the Benefits Division of the Human Resources Department.



## Staff Change at the Retirement Systems

Due to the retirement of 2 longtime Retirement systems staff members (see related article above), several staff changes have occurred at the Retirement Systems.

Myron Terrell has replaced Tom Berriman in the Administrative Division.

Cynthia Thomas is the new Supervisor of the Payroll Division.

David Cetlinski is the new Supervisor of the Annuity Division.

**PENSION PERSPECTIVES**

**Main Number:  
(313)224-3362  
Toll Free 800 339-8344**

**Administration**

Nick Degel Ext. 204  
Walter Stampor Ext. 206  
Joe Glanton Ext. 203  
Myron Terrell Ext. 202  
Terry Sobczak Ext. 209  
Rick Huddleston Ext. 201

**Administration Support**

JoAnn Harrison Ext. 217  
Kenneth Howard Ext. 256  
Terrie Lawrence Ext. 258  
Janet Lenear Ext. 255  
Juanita Waller Ext. 257

**Interviewers**

Shirley Hill Ext. 218  
Betty Lowe Ext. 219

**Computations**

Deborah Wilkerson Ext. 235  
Cheneta Campbell Ext. 236

**Re-Exams**

Joanne Williams Ext. 238

**Pension Payroll**

Cynthia Thomas Ext. 240  
Tasha Cowan Death Notices Ext. 239  
Glorencia Russell Estimates Ext. 237  
Veronica Thomas Direct Deposit Ext. 221  
Debra Tyler Tax Changes/Due City Ext. 227

**Annuity**

David Cetlinski Ext. 244  
Latisha Moon Ext. 243  
Danielle Westbrook Ext. 241

**Accounting**

Marilyn Roc Berdijo Ext. 230  
Beverly Scruggs Ext. 225  
Angela Keeler Ext. 223  
Eddie Park Ext. 228  
Elaine Poznanski Ext. 231  
Rena Presbitero Ext. 229  
Tek-Sin The Ext. 232  
Denise Miller Ext. 224

**Editor: Pension Perspectives**

Bridgett Hardy Ext. 213

***Important Numbers:***

Blue Cross/Blue Shield Traditional  
(800) 951-BLUE

Blue Care Network  
(800) 662-6667

Blue Cross Preferred Plan  
(313) 225-0843

Health Alliance Plan  
(800) 422-4641

Omni Care  
(800) 925-4550

The Wellness Plan  
(800) 875-WELL

Total Health Care  
(313) 871-7812

Bankers Life  
(313) 961-3990

Han Optical Care  
(800) 445-2363

Co-Op Optical  
(800) 368-5160

Heritage Eye Care  
(800) 252-2053

Han Dental Care  
(313) 961-3990

Social Security Administration  
(800) 772-1213

Policemen & Firemen  
Retired Association  
(810) 795-1734

Cops Trust (A.B.S.)  
(810) 826-4336

\*\*\* All fringe benefit questions should now be referred to the Benefits Division of the Human Resources Department. **Toll Free (888) 288-2684 or (313) 224-4809** \*\*\*



# Pension Perspectives

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 Detroit, MI 48226-3413

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PENSION PERSPECTIVES

## Health insurance (continued from page 1)

obligated to pay, based on the labor agreement, the difference must be deducted from your monthly check in order to maintain your coverage. For example, COPS Trust has increased the Bankers Life Traditional rate to \$950.10 per month for a two person coverage. The BCBS ward rate for a two person coverage is \$691.99 per month. For non DPOA retirees the City is obligated to pay only up to the amount BCBS charges meaning that the difference of \$258.11 must be deducted from the retirees check to

pay the monthly coverage cost.

The timing of the COPS Trust increase may require the City to retroactively charge the increased deduction to March 15, 2001. As this newsletter goes to be printed it has not been decided when or if the retroactive deductions will be taken.

Effective July, 1 2001 new rates for common coverages are as follows:

COVERAGE	COPS TRUST BANKERS TRADITIONAL TOTAL MONTHLY COST	BCBS TOTAL MONTHLY COST	DEDUCTION NON DPOA RETIREES	DEDUCTION DPOA/DPCOA RETIREES
<b>1 Person</b>	\$ 424.36	\$ 329.50	\$ 94.86	\$ 15.31
<b>2 Persons (Retiree &amp; Spouse)</b>	\$ 950.10	\$ 691.99	\$ 258.11	\$ 34.28
<b>1 Person with Medicare</b>	\$ 305.54	\$ 305.54	\$ 0.00	\$ 11.02
<b>2 Persons with Medicare</b>	\$ 605.13	\$ 605.13	\$ 0.00	\$ 21.83
<b>1 Person with Medicare + 1 Person without Medicare</b>	\$ 723.05	\$ 635.31	\$ 87.74	\$ 26.09