



General Retirement System City of Detroit

Pension Perspectives

AUGUST 2002

Volume 4, Issue 2

1998 Defined Contribution Plan Update

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General Retirement
System*

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The Retirement System received a favorable determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service dated June 7, 2002. This favorable determination letter assures that pre-tax contributions to the plan qualify for deferred tax status until the participant receives a distribution from the plan. It further affirms that plan earnings may accumulate free of tax and allows for further deferral of tax liability by allowing for rollovers to other qualified plans.

Receipt of this letter ruling from the Internal Revenue Service allows for the implementation of the 1998 Defined Contribution Plan without requiring changes to the ordinance as approved.

The Board has narrowed their search for a pre-election education provider and for an administrator/record keeper to two finalists in each position. Further due diligence is being performed by the Board before making a final selection.

The Board has initiated several searches to select the best investment funds to be included in the investment funds to be offered to participants in the 1998 Defined Contribution Plan.

Retiree Hospitalization/Dental Open Enrollment

The retiree open enrollment dates for hospitalization and dental coverage has been changed to August 1, 2002 through September 13, 2002. This will be the only open enrollment period offered during 2002 for retirees.

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If you wish to change hospitalization or dental carriers, add new dependants to your existing coverage or ask questions about the enrollment you must call the City's Benefits Division at (313) 224-4809, 224-4813 or 888 288-2684. **Please do not call if you are not making a change to your coverage.**

Have you recently moved?

If so, then you must update your address with the Retirement System if you are a retired member or with your human resources representative if you are still an active employee. Important correspondences and information is frequently mailed from this office so it is imperative that this office has the correct address information from its members.



Retired members can change their address by contacting the Retirement System for a Change of Address form or submit written notification which must include the old address, new address, your social security number, the date, and your signature. The change of address form can also be downloaded from our website www.rscd.org if you have internet access. Active employees must contact their individual Human Resource department for their change of address update.



Board of Trustees election results

David Clark was re-elected to the Board of Trustees for a six year term beginning July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2008. Mr. Clark was unopposed in his re-election bid.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

Please use blue or black ink when filling out forms or when sending correspondences to the Retirement System.



The Retirement System website has a Benefit Estimator that you can use to calculate your potential monthly pension upon retirement. Visit our website at www.rscd.org

Reporting a member death to the Retirement System

What should you do when reporting the death of an employee/retiree?

First call (313) 224-3362 extension 239. Second provide employee/retiree's name, social security number, date of death. Third give us your name, address and telephone number. After notifying this office of the death we will contact the beneficiary with additional instructions.

What should you do when reporting the death of a dependent of an employee/retiree?

First call (313) 224-3362 extension 239. Second provide your name, address, social security number and telephone number with the deceased name and date of death. After notifying this office of the death we will contact you with additional instructions.

Following these steps will help make the process run smoothly and efficiently.

See related article on reporting a death to the Social Security Administration on page 5.



Tax law changes (continued from page 2)

will increase by a \$1,000 in 2005 and again by \$1,000 in 2008 when the limit reaches \$5,000. You may be able to deduct these contributions, depending upon your income level. As always, you should check with your financial advisor to see how these changes effect you.

For more information on these changes, visit the IRS website at www.irs.gov.

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Retirement Systems Directory

**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
Cynthia Thomas 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

Tasha Cowan Payroll Supervisor Ext. 240
Lenora Plater Death Notices Ext. 239
Glorecia Russell Estimates Ext. 237
Tenecia Stockton Estimates Ext. 246
Samantha Moore 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
Rena Presbitero Ext. 231
Mary Fladger Ext. 229
Tek-Sin The Ext. 232

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

Co-Op Optical
(800) 368-5160

Heritage Eye Care
(800) 252-2053

Golden Dental Plan
(810) 573-8118

Social Security
Administration
(800) 772-1213

Detroit Retired City Employees
Association
(313) 927-0491

** 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** **

Retiree Corner

Glaucoma Screening

People who have Medicare Part B (medical insurance) are now eligible for glaucoma screening once every 12 months. Glaucoma is the leading cause of blindness in African-Americans and in all adults in their sixties or older. If untreated, glaucoma can cause irreversible loss of vision. It's estimated that in the United States, about half of the people with glaucoma don't know they have the condition. For more information about Medicare visit www.medicare.gov or call 1-800-MEDICARE.

Reporting a death to the Social Security Administration

When you need to report a death to the Social Security Administration, follow these steps:

The person responsible for the beneficiary's affairs should notify Social Security of the beneficiary's death by calling this toll-free number 1-800-772-1213. If monthly benefits were being paid via direct deposit, notify the bank or other financial institution of the beneficiary's death. Then request that any funds received for the month of death and later be returned to Social Security as soon as possible. However, if benefits were being paid by check, do not cash any checks received for the month in which the beneficiary died or thereafter. Return the checks to Social Security as soon as possible. Also, a one-time payment of \$255 is payable to the surviving spouse if he or she was living with the beneficiary at the time of death, or if living apart, was eligible for Social Security benefits on the beneficiary's earnings record for the month of death. If there is no surviving spouse, the payment is made to a child who was eligible for benefits on the beneficiary's earnings record in the month of death.

For more information, contact the Social Security Administration at 1-800 772-1213.

Post July 1, 1998 Retirees Defined Benefit Plan Adjustments

In November, 2001 City Council approved the new Defined Contribution Plan ordinance which included formal approval of newly negotiated Defined Benefit Plan benefit improvements. Over the past several months Retirement System staff has been working to process pension increases and retroactive adjustments for all retirees whose effective date of retirement was July 1, 1998 or later (January 1, 1999 or later for disability retirees). All retirees with an effective date of December 16, 2001 or later received their correct pension amount on their first retirement check so no adjustment is due.

If you are eligible for post July 1, 1998 benefits based on the above dates and have not received an adjustment contact our office at 313-224-3362 or 800-339-8344, extension 235.

Retirement check not in the mail?

NOTE: We ran this article in the very first issue of the Pension Perspectives and felt it was information worth repeating.



If you haven't received your pension check by the 5th of the month, you should contact the Check Disbursement Unit of the Treasury Division at (313)224-3571. If your check has been lost in the mail, they will send you the appropriate forms to stop payment on the check and process a new check for you. If your check has been held for any reason, they will refer you to the proper office.

NOTE: One way to avoid your check being lost is to sign up for Direct Deposit. Direct Deposit insures that your money is in the bank and available on the 1st business day of each month. To obtain the forms necessary to enroll for Direct Deposit, please call (313) 224-3362 ext. 221 or download the form from our website at

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Retirement Systems City of Detroit
2 Woodward Ave. Room 908
Detroit, MI 48226-3413

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TIPS FOR WEB SITE USAGE

To Get Information On:



Click On

Answers to frequently asked questions about Retirement Eligibility, Retirement Options (etc.)	GRS FAQ's button on the top of the GRS Home Page
Viewing or printing Retirement Forms, old issues of Pension Perspectives (newsletter)	GRS Downloads button on the top of the GRS Home Page
Request an Estimate from the Retirement System or to generate an Online Estimate	Benefit Estimate button on the top of the GRS Home Page
To send an email to one of the staff of the Retirement System	Administration & Staff button located on the left column of almost every page. Just click on the staff members email address to send an email to that person.

NOTE:

You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader software installed on your computer to review and print forms. Click on the Adobe Reader button on the GRS Download page in order to get the Free version of the Adobe Reader software.