



# ***Policemen & Firemen Retirement System City of Detroit***



## ***Pension Perspectives***

FEBRUARY, 2000

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

*Board of Trustees  
Policemen & Firemen  
Retirement System*

*Dennis W. Archer  
Mayor*

*William L. Fairweather*

*Gil Hill  
Council President*

*Laura Isom*

*Benny Napoleon  
Chief of Police*

*Michael V. Nevin*

*George Orzech*

*Derrick Royal*

*Ronald J. Stempin  
Chairman*

*Shafter Terry, III  
Treasurer*

*Charles E. Wilson  
Fire Commissioner*

### **A smooth Y2K transition**

The Board of Trustees and staff of the Policemen and Firemen Retirement System would like to take this time to assure our members that all is definitely well with the Policemen and Firemen Retirement system. Although much was made about the Y2K transition, we are happy to report that our systems came through the transition unscathed. All major operations are functioning normally as we enter the start of the year 2000. We do not anticipate any problems in the future but we are carefully monitoring the situation.

During the past few years, the Retirement System has implemented a comprehensive effort to effectively prepare for Y2K. As a result, we fully expect to continue to serve members and retirees on an ongoing and reliable basis. Should any major unanticipated problem arise, we will provide updates through our Web site ([www.rscd.org](http://www.rscd.org)).

In early 1998, the Retirement System began taking action to ensure that the data processing systems would properly process date and time data from, into and between the 19<sup>th</sup> (yes we have retirees born in the 1800's) and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. There were well over a million lines of code reviewed and over 700 programs were modified and/or replaced. Several work years of highly skilled effort went into this daunting task to bring a successful operation into the year 2000. **Was it all needed? YES! Could we have survived without it? In short, NO!** Our testing showed that our mission critical areas would not operate without modification or replacement, retirees would not be paid, retirement estimates could not be calculated, and supporting functions would be at a standstill. The continued operation of mission critical areas depended upon these changes being made successfully, and they were!

Although delivery of services, including electronic transfer of funds, is

<b>In This Issue</b>	
Actively Speaking (For Active Employees)	pg. 2
Important Numbers	Pg.4
Retiree Corner (For Retired Employees)	pg. 5

### **Sorry for the delay**

The staff of Pension Perspectives would like to apologize to the members for the delay in mailing this newsletter to you. We felt it would be best to delay the printing in order to get the most current information, regarding Y2K.

*Continued on page 2*

# Actively Speaking

## Y2k continued

dependent upon many external entities, according to the latest information available, the Retirement System has no indication of problems with the delivery of such services. However, because problems may still arise, despite everyone's best efforts, we developed contingency plans for key components, including January retirement payments, ensuring that retirees would be paid regardless of the possibility of problems.

RSCD will continue efforts to provide quality service now and into the 21st century.



## Do you have a creativity streak?

The Board of Trustees would like to invite all members and their families to submit their own illustrations or photographs for the cover of the June 30, 2000 Annual report of the Retirement System.



The art work or photography used for the cover of the annual report has been selected by the Annual Report Committee of the Board of Trustees. The Board has decided to open the process to select the cover design to the creativity and ideas of their many constituents.

The following guidelines will assist you to understand the theme the Board tries to achieve:

- Police and Fire / City of Detroit Theme
- Design can be either an illustration or a photograph

All submissions must be mailed to the Retirement Systems Office to the attention of the Annual Report Committee and must be received by May 15, 2000. Notification of the committee's selection will be announced in the August, 2000 newsletter. Illustrations or photographs submitted will not be returned.

If you wish to submit a design for possible use on the cover of an Annual Report booklet of the Retirement System, please do so with a letter which reads as follows:

Policemen and Firemen Retirement System  
 908 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center  
 Detroit, MI 48226  
 Attn: Nicholas Degel, Executive Secretary

Dear Trustees:

In response to the article in the February, 2000 issue of Pension Perspectives, I offer this attached design/drawing/idea/concept for your consideration for use on the cover of the Annual Report.

The attached represents my design and ideas and I offer it as a contribution to the Retirement System with the understanding that I will not receive payment of any kind. I authorize the Policemen and Firemen Retirement System to use my design/drawing/idea/concept for the cover of any Annual Report of the Retirement System

your signature goes here

Submission without the foregoing letter will not be accepted. The Board of Trustees of the Policemen and Firemen System thanks all of those who submit designs/drawings/ideas/concepts for consideration by the Board of Trustees. This is an opportunity for the "artist" in you to be recognized by others.

## Census 2000 is around the corner

On April 1, 2000, Census Day, the future of the City of Detroit will be in the hands of all Detroiters. For every man, woman and child missed in the 2000 Census, Detroit will lose \$3,000 in state and federal funds per person over a 10-year period.

It is important that every Detroit resident respond to the Census. Each completed form that is mailed in on April 1, 2000 will help to provide vital information that will affect the quality of life for all Detroiters. For example, federal, state and local funds for health care, police protection, senior advocacy, information and referral services. In addition, assistance to the needy and handicapped is made available from grants determined by Census information. Our responses determine the number of seats the state will have in the U. S. House of Representatives, plus maintain and increase vital services for our younger generation, including WIC and Headstart.

Children are a major focus in the 2000 Census, especially in Detroit. Nationally, children accounted for more than half of the undercount in the 1990 Census. Sadly, Detroit was among one of the nation's largest cities with a devastating undercount of children: 6.2 percent. The U. S. Census Bureau is hoping to alleviate the problem of overlooking children by adding a new question aimed at grandparents and adults who act as caregivers. Remember, Census 2000 is your chance to make sure that the new century begins with an accurate and complete picture of your community.

Census is protected by law and the Census Bureau, by law, cannot give anyone answers to Census questions. The Census does not ask for Social Security Numbers, Driver's License Numbers, or for any citizenship documents. It is important to remember that your support can lead to a more accurate count in our community. Start by setting the record straight by helping dispel myths about the confidentiality and uses of the

census. Reassure others about Census confidentiality.

As April 1, 2000 approaches, the City of Detroit is continuing to work inform all citizens about the Census process. Help will be available in filling out the form at neighborhood Questionnaire Assistance Centers throughout the City.

(continued on page 6)

## Benefits Division Offices Moved

The Benefits Division of the Human Resources Department has moved their office to 1300 Rosa Parks Blvd., Detroit, Michigan 48216. The toll free number for the Benefits Division remains 888-288-2684. The local phone number will be changed, but was unknown when this newsletter was sent to the printer.

## What to bring to your retirement interview

Ready to retire? Make your retirement interview a smooth event by being prepared. Your interviewer will need certain documentation from you. Listed below are the items you will need to bring with you at the time of your retirement interview.

- ⇒ Proof of Birth (yourself and your beneficiary) acceptable documents include:
  - \* Birth Certificate
  - \* Marriage License
  - \* Registration of Birth
  - \* Voter's Certification
  - \* DD-214 form (Military discharge)
- ⇒ Letter from your department (intent to retire)
- ⇒ If it is a Disability Retirement, also bring:
  - \* Name & Address (including zip) of doctors you wish the Retirement Systems to contact

Having this information readily available can make the interviewing process flow smoothly.

**PENSION PERSPECTIVES**

**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  
Thomas Berriman 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**

Myron Terrell Ext. 240  
Tasha Cowan Death Notices Ext. 239  
Glorecia Russell Estimates Ext. 237  
Veronica Thomas Direct Deposit Ext. 221

**Annuity**

Cynthia Thomas Ext. 244  
David Cetlinski Ext. 242  
Latisha Moon Ext. 241  
Tenecia Stockton Ext. 243

**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** \*\*\*



# *Pension Perspectives*

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

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO.  
788

PENSION PERSPECTIVES

## Census 2000 continued

In early March, 2000, the Bureau will send out an advance letter to all Detroit residents. The actual questionnaire will be mailed-out to households between March 20<sup>th</sup> and March 22<sup>nd</sup>. By April 1, 2000 all questionnaire forms should be filled out and mailed back in.

The City is also encouraging everyone to become a "Knowledgeable Neighbor" This program, developed by the City of Detroit, is calling for volunteers from every City block to volunteer to help count the households that do not return their Census forms. A "Knowledgeable Neighbor" only has to report the number of people living on their block. No names or personal information is required. To volunteer, call the Detroit Census 2000 Operation Center at (313) 967-2000.

For more information on how you may help, contact the Detroit Census 2000 Operation Office at 567-2000, or visit the City of Detroit Census website at [www.ci.detroit.mi.us](http://www.ci.detroit.mi.us).

## City cancels contract with Universal Standard Health Care

Universal Standard Health Care has provided lab test coverage for all Blue Cross/Blue Shield Traditional covered employees and non-Medicare retirees since November, 1992. During 1999, Universal Standard was placed in bankruptcy.

The City's contract with Universal Standard was cancelled and Blue Cross/Blue Shield began providing lab services on November 1, 1999. All affected employees and retirees should have received a mailing from the City Benefits Division detailing this change.

If you are covered by Blue Cross/Blue Shield Traditional insurance and have not received a mailing, contact the City Benefits Division at 1-888-288-2684.

### **Reminder:**

For questions regarding health insurance claims or services rendered, contact your insurance carrier and not the City Benefits Division. Telephone numbers for health care providers can be found on page 4.