

General Retirement System City of Detroit Newsletter
STRIVING TO MAKE RETIREMENT EASY!

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Trustee Tasha L. Cowan has been a servant leader with the board for more than seven years. Cowan shares with us how she is here to help active members and retirees every step of the way.

1. How many years have you served on the General City Retirement System board?

I became elected in May 2013 and am currently serving in my second term. I am also part of the Employee Benefit Plan Committee.

2. What role did you have working for the City prior to being the Non-Departmental Trustee?

Prior to my board role, I had the unique pleasure of helping members and retirees for more than 16 years through my positions as payroll supervisor, annuity supervisor and PayMaster supervisor in the pension system office.

3. Who or what shaped your ambition to serve the General City Retirement System board?

Two reasons led to serving on the board: First, I love serving people. I believe very strongly in helping anyone who comes in contact with me. If I have the knowledge, I pass that along. Knowledge is very powerful. Especially knowledge that helps individuals make wise decisions that pertain to retirement. I answer thoroughly in a manner that will make the most sense. Second, it is great to learn more about what goes on with the investments funding our pensions. I was intrigued to understand how to properly invest, diversify, and make wise decisions that help ALL of us. It is an honor to serve and help these people. We truly need one another in order for us to survive and be successful.

4. How are you helping implement greater awareness amongst City employees and retirees on issues affecting their pension plan?

Working with my colleagues, our focus is to be a unified front to best educate our members to make wise decisions before retirement. We try to convey reminders on implementing direct deposit or updating their current address. We're here to help active members move toward paperless communication and self-service records methods. I'm here to serve everyone by phone or in the office.

5. What advice would you give to current City employees to ensure they will be ready for retirement?

The board strives to emphasize that active members need to keep their beneficiaries and benefits up to date. Some only fill out this data once they become employed, but they need to make sure it remains correct years later. Also, active members should get an estimate prior to retirement so they can best understand what the numbers mean and that this amount is for the rest of their life.

6. Has the pandemic altered how the City needs to serve its employees and retirees?

The board is paying close attention and staying the course. We understand the volatile market and are safeguarding the plans. We are looking out for our participants and know it is vital to keep everyone up to date with what is happening.

7. What is a career highlight that you have had while serving the City of Detroit?

The highlight throughout my career is serving people and helping my colleagues. That work shows our members we are sincerely in this to help. An example - the board is working together to move into using advanced technology as we start this new decade.

8. What do you want your legacy to be on the board?

Servicing active members and retirees and sharing how to decipher critical retirement information. Whenever anyone needs help, they can contact me at 313-920-9387 or by email at tlcowan@rscd.org.



Tasha L. Cowan,
Non-Departmental Trustee

IMPORTANT DATES

All meetings are currently being held via teleconference in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act and the Governor's COVID-19 Emergency Order. Members of the public may refer to our website for teleconference information for each meeting.

Aug. 5: Board Meeting

Aug. 17: Investment Committee Meeting

Aug. 19: Board Meeting

Sept. 2: Board Meeting

Sept. 16: Board Meeting

Oct. 7: Board Meeting

Oct. 21: Board Meeting

Oct. 26: Investment Committee Meeting

Nov. 4: Board Meeting

Nov. 18: Board Meeting

Dec. 2: Board Meeting

Dec. 14: Investment Committee Meeting

Dec. 16: Board Meeting

OFFICE HOURS

The Retirement System Office has now reopened to the public, by appointment only. If members want to retire, they can still complete the Retirement Application Packet which is accessible via our rscd.org. Select Member Resources and then select Forms. All forms can be accessed via the website. The staff continues to respond to emails and phone calls, process annuity loans and refunds and other requests as quickly as possible. If you have any questions, please contact our office at (313) 224-3362. Thank you for your patience.

2020 CENSUS

Please participate in the current U.S. Census. Whether an active or retired employee, and no matter where you live, it is critical to complete your census form. An accurate count ensures proper funding and representation locally and in Washington D.C.

ELECTION RESULTS

Incumbent trustee Kimberly Hall-Wagner, Esq. was re-elected to serve on the board as Active Trustee for the term expiring June 30, 2026.



BENEFICIARIES

Reminder! Please keep all beneficiary information up to date for both annuity and death benefits. If you are an active member who needs to change beneficiary information, you can complete the form and mail to or drop off at our office. Forms can be accessed at rscd.org/member_resources_/forms.php.



RETIREEES

GO GREEN!

Experience the benefits of going PAPERLESS! Our new web-based ERP Intelliplan system is seeking to reduce paper documents and provide members more efficient service. Complete actions online, 24/7:

- Update address, telephone, or email address
- Access direct deposit information
- Complete tax information

Need assistance signing up? Call our office at (313) 224-3362 and ask for Kristal Fulwiley.



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