Employees' Retirement System Communicator

August, 2010 *No. 8*

Contact Information

Employees' Retirement System

Please contact the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) at **414-278-4207** in Milwaukee or **toll-free at 877-652-6377** outside of Milwaukee for all Pension questions, including Retirement calculations. You can also contact ERS via email at ers@milwcnty.com.

Life & Health Benefits

Please contact the Benefit Division with Life and Health Benefits related questions at: **414-278-4198**. You can contact Benefits via email at benefits@milwcnty.com

From the Desk of the ERS Manager

The Electronic Age

Over the last two years, ERS has been moving toward an electronic records system. All major pension documents (going back to 1938) have been electronically imaged (scanned) into our new V3 pension system for safeguarding. It is now standard practice to scan and store all relevant new documents. Any paper record system is at risk of misfiled documents, lost records and inappropriate access to data. Electronic record storage drastically reduces these types of problems.

Another application for this technology is electronic payments. Currently, 97% of all retirees receive their monthly pension payments through an electronic transfer system called Direct Deposit. Direct deposit virtually eliminates the risk of stolen checks, reduces fraud and gives you more control over your money. Plus, direct deposit allows immediate access to funds from virtually anywhere. Effective October 2010, the Pension Board has mandated direct deposit for all retirees.

The medical field is also embracing this technology. Across the country, medical and information technology professionals have adopted Electronic Health Records (EHR). This system efficiently stores patient information generated at the time of a visit to a healthcare delivery system. You may have seen your doctor entering your information into his portable computer. This gives all treating physicians and facilities within the same care system immediate access to patient information which in turn allows for fully coordinated, safer and more efficient care. The Federal government hopes to someday have a fully integrated EHR system that will link all medical providers and hospitals across the country creating a national health database.

It is amazing how quickly new applications using electronic data are developed, and it can be a bit scary when you personally encounter situations where you are asked to enter your personal information into a blank screen. It is important, however, to realize the many advantages and improved security such systems provide.

ERS Retiree Election Update

Donald F Weber will fill the Pension Board retiree member seat effective November 1, 2010. The seat is being vacated by Marilyn Mayr who served two full terms. Donald was the only candidate meeting the minimum qualifications, and a Board decision was made award this seat to him. Therefore, no retiree election will be needed.

Don was a County employee for 28 years with 21 of those years working in the County Executive's office. He is also a former member of the County Board's Finance Committee.

Newly Retired

Joyce Collins
Melissa Davis
Allen Frystak
Michael Feinberg
Terry House
Brenda Hancock
Stephen Misovy
Denise Merkel
Delia Moffatt
Chad Peplinski
Jane Rohrer
Diane Soderbeck
Donald Szulczewski
Debra Silas-Green
Alexander Sklenarz
Elaine Thomas
Steven Tengren
Mary Wargin

Life & Health Update

REMINDER: Effective January 1, 2011, CMS requires that eligibility data include social security numbers of **all individuals** covered under any Milwaukee County medical plan. **Dependents over one year of age without a social security number in the Pension system by November 15, 2010 will be dropped from medical coverage effective 12/31/2010.** Please contact the Division of Employee Benefits at 414-278-4198 by **August 31, 2010** to provide your dependent(s) social security number. If you have already provided this information, you do not need to call to confirm.

In Memoriam

Please keep the families of these recently deceased retirees and spouses in your thoughts:

Marietta Barman
Jeralean Beamon
Julia Borkovec
Mary Burger
Michael Cook
Lewis Cromwell
Mildred Daley (Thomas)
John Dlapa
Gabriele Gruendler
Lillian Hansen
William Heinauer
Sylvia Hernandez
Dorothy Hower (Charles)
Ruth Koch
Wanda Kotowicz
Carlos Lewis
Marie Mastopietro
Lillie Matthews
Noreen Merkel (Russel)
Marion Merrill
Walter Schiller
Bernice Sobczak
Jeanette Sowle (Gerald)
Marion Steele
Robert Troupe
Robert Wall
Karen Ward

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