



Employees' Retirement System Communicator

March, 2011

No. 4

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

Newly Retired

*Mara Beldavs
Diane Bingham
Elizabeth Coggs
Michael Conner
Sharon Di Pronio
Jerianne Feiten
Kathryn Frey
Dennis Galipo
Brian Groeschel
Julious Hulbert
Mirta Kasper
Mark Leroux
Neil Luebke
Michael Matyas
Claudia Mesich
Earl Milan
Larry Moore
Thomas Nardelli
Larue Nedd
Mary Ann Perry*

From the Desk of the ERS Manager

Higher Inflation On The Way

Retirees living on a fixed income often fear a loss of income. They want to be sure of never running out of money during retirement. However, most senior citizens identify INFLATION as the primary culprit that can slowly drain the life out of their remaining income and assets. Recent surveys indicate that three out of four retirees are unable to keep pace with inflation. The real commentary is that the current inflation rate is relatively low and retirees still can't keep up.

In an environment where inflation is a low 1-3%, fixed incomes still lose ground. Working retirees experience frozen wages with no pay increases, and Social Security has not provided increases for the last two years. This information, combined with the fact that many economists today are forecasting high inflation in the near future, can result in a serious risk in the purchasing power of retirees and a declining standard of living.

Generally, investments are hit the hardest during times of inflation. You may want to restrict your investments to long-term stocks for steady growth, short-term bonds and six month CD's. Cash actually loses value during inflationary times. (For example, a dollar buys a little over two stamps today but bought four stamps 10 years ago.) Keep enough cash to allow you to leave your stocks alone. Real estate and home ownership was once an inflationary safeguard, but now are slowly recovering assets. You may want to explore rental units as a means of offsetting inflation through targeted rent increases.

It is prudent to prepare for this high inflationary period by being proactive right now with your actions. Experts tell us to pay down debt, which includes auto loans, home mortgages and credit cards. Diversify your investments. Reduce spending and increase your savings. Finally, attempt to offset inflation through new revenue streams (part-time employment for example).

Remember that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. You have the power to fight inflation....and win.

Newly Retired Members—Continued

*Carol Pocięcha-Palm
David Rajchel
Dyan Ramos
Karl Streinick*

*Joseph Slusar
Anthony Snieg
Roberta Suhaysik
Anthony Young*



Please turn page over for additional information

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Life & Health Update

MAIL ORDER SERVICES

Medco Mail Order is designed for participants taking medication on an ongoing basis, such as medication to reduce blood pressure, treat asthma, diabetes, or for any chronic health condition. All mail order service prescriptions are filled by registered pharmacists who are available for emergency consultations 24 hours a day, seven days a week by contacting Medco Member Services at 1-866-544-2989

How the Mail Order Service Works

When you order maintenance drugs that you take on a regular basis through Medco Mail Order, you get larger quantities of medication at one time – up to a 90-day supply for only one co-payment per prescription.

If you have an immediate need for your initial prescription, it is suggested that you ask your physician to provide you with two prescriptions, one for a 90-day supply of needed medications plus refills, the second for a 30-day supply of medication. The 30-day prescription should be filled at your local pharmacy for your use while your mail order prescription is being processed.

The first time you use the Medco Mail Order, you will need to complete a *Mail-Order Form* and a *Health, Allergy & Medication Questionnaire* (required with each family member's first order).

Questionnaire data is stored and referenced each time a new prescription is processed to assure against drug reactions. Be sure to provide answers to all of the information requested.

A Medco *Mail-Order Form* is required with your prescription. Obtain a *Mail-Order Form* by calling Medco Member Services at 1-866-544-2989, or at: www.medco.com

Mail your prescription along with your completed *Mail-Order Form* and the appropriate co-payment, to the address on the order form. You may pay by Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express or by check or money order. Please do not send cash.

Your mail order prescription is reviewed by a pharmacist, dispensed by the pharmacist, and verified through quality control prior to mailing. Your order will be processed and your medications will be sent to you along with reorder instructions and a postage paid envelope for future prescription drugs and/or refills. Express shipping is available for an additional charge.

In Memoriam

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

Margaret Anshus
Peter Baxter
Florence Boehringner
Charles Cicirello
Pauline Dean
Dawn Frederickson
Debra Greengrass

Stephanie Gultch
Alvin Harris
Blanche Hoffman
Julianna Kaczmarek
Jeanette Laesch
Jean Martin
Angeline Mikolajczak

Norine Morrell
Lucian Pacholczyk
James Pitterle
Meghin Remsza
Wesley Smith
Sandra Stubbe
Gary Sweeney

Narcissus Szymanski
Joseph Tarillion
Nicolas Terrones
Girthrene Washington
Beatrice Watkins
Donald Wilber