



Retirement Plan Services Communicator

March 2015

No. 2

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From the Desk of the Director

Dear Retirees,

The *Communicator* is back! Our first *ERS Communicator* was created in November of 2008 as a one-page information piece to keep retirees updated on V3, our new pension information system. Over the next few years, the *Communicator* grew from one page to its current size of four (and sometimes four pages aren't enough to include all of the news we'd like share). This year we decided to overhaul the format — hope you like the new look!

Based on feedback from many of you, we continue to research the possibility of making the *Communicator* available electronically. A brief survey will be included in a future *Communicator* asking for your feedback and ideas.

Spring means it's time for the Pension Board's Annual Meeting! The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at the Italian Community Center (631 E Chicago Street). Doors will open at 9 a.m. with refreshments available until the meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. Surface lot parking is available. This is your chance to hear from your Pension Board and others regarding the status of the pension fund. To RSVP please call the ERS office (414-278-4207 or 877-652-6377) no later than Wednesday, April 8, 2015.

Please contact ERS by email at ers@milwaukeecountywi.gov with questions or concerns. We monitor the site frequently throughout the day and respond as quickly as possible. We have both local (414-278-4207) and toll-free (877-652-6377) phone numbers.

Hoping you have plenty of opportunities to enjoy the Spring weather!

Marian Ninneman
Director — Retirement Plan Services

By Vivian Aikin

WIDESPREAD IRS TELEPHONE SCAM

The Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") has released its annual "Dirty Dozen" list of tax scams for the 2015 filing season. Continuing near the top of this list are phone calls from crooks posing as IRS Agents. IRS Commissioner John Koskinen recently issued the following statement: "If someone calls unexpectedly claiming to be from the IRS with aggressive threats if you don't pay immediately, it's a scam artist calling. The first contact with taxpayers is usually through the mail. Taxpayers have rights, and this is not how we do business. These criminals try to scare and shock you into providing personal financial

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information on the spot while you are off guard. Don't be taken in and don't engage these people over the phone."

Typically the scammer will tell you that you owe money to the IRS and you must pay up immediately using a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. In a similar scam, the caller may say you have a refund due and try to trick you into sharing private information. Arrest, jail time, driver's license revocation, deportation and other drastic things are threatened if you do not pay at once. These sophisticated scammers can alter caller ID numbers so it appears the IRS is calling and will offer fake Agent names and badge numbers to persuade call recipients they are legitimate.

The IRS advises there are 5 telltale things the scammers often do that the IRS will not do:

- ◆ Call to demand immediate payment. The IRS will not call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill.
- ◆ Demand that you pay taxes now without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
- ◆ Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card. The IRS typically accepts payment by check.
- ◆ Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- ◆ Threaten to bring in local police or other law enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

The IRS also provides these recommendations:

- ◆ If you know you do owe taxes or think you might owe, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040; IRS workers can help you with a payment issue.
- ◆ If you know you don't owe taxes or have no reason to believe that you do, report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration ("TIGTA") at 1-800-366-4484 or at www.tigta.gov.
- ◆ If you have been targeted by this scam, also contact the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") and use their "FTC Complaint Assistant" at FTC.gov. Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" to the comment section of your complaint.

Remember that the IRS does not use email, text message or any social media to discuss any personal tax issue. For additional information on reporting tax scams, go to www.irs.gov and enter "scam" in the search box. The IRS also has prepared a YouTube video on this topic that you can find at: <http://www.youtube.com/irsvideos>.

Shockingly, TIGTA estimates that since October 2013 the IRS has received reports of 290,000 scam calls with nearly 3000 victims swindled out of \$14 million. So if someone calls claiming to be an IRS Agent and demands that you send money immediately, your best course of action is to hang up and report the incident at once.

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Congratulations to Our Newest Retirees!

January

<i>Bryant Askew</i>	<i>Dianne Mc Swain</i>
<i>Kristen Babe</i>	<i>Michael Mazur</i>
<i>Kim Brinsko</i>	<i>Marianne Osowski</i>
<i>Andrea Brown</i>	<i>Leslie Pierce</i>
<i>Mary Ann Czarnecki</i>	<i>Sheila Ryan</i>
<i>Constance Coffey</i>	<i>Gary Rand</i>
<i>Sabrina Ford</i>	<i>Karen Rimmer</i>
<i>Bonnie Gordon</i>	<i>Linda Seemeyer</i>
<i>Charlene Hall</i>	<i>Karen Schillaci</i>
<i>Elaine Harrison</i>	<i>Janet Strand</i>
<i>Sandra Hesselgrave</i>	<i>Yvonne Summerville</i>
<i>Deann Kaiser</i>	<i>Shirley Triggs</i>
<i>Karen Kaplan</i>	<i>Drexella Ward</i>
<i>Paul LaBonty</i>	

February

<i>Olevia Anderson- Ballard</i>	<i>Krista Doughty</i>	<i>Mary Onorato</i>
<i>Enaida Alvarado</i>	<i>Thea Flasch</i>	<i>Rosalind Perry</i>
<i>Ruben Angeles</i>	<i>Mary Fumo</i>	<i>Ronald Petrus</i>
<i>Mary Aprahamian</i>	<i>Charles Hanel</i>	<i>Larenna Rausch</i>
<i>Raymond Bierle</i>	<i>Laurie Hess</i>	<i>Christine Saloun</i>
<i>L'Tanya Brabham</i>	<i>Valerie Henning</i>	<i>Ernesto Sanchez</i>
<i>Sally Brannan</i>	<i>Gerald Hoernke</i>	<i>Pippo Sava</i>
<i>Denise Brzenk</i>	<i>Mark Jaeckel</i>	<i>Nancy Scherf</i>
<i>Denise Caradine- Beechum</i>	<i>John Kenny</i>	<i>Vanessa Simmons</i>
<i>Kim Carter</i>	<i>Donald Kernan</i>	<i>Helen Storey</i>
<i>Jeanne Cyganiak</i>	<i>J. Nelson Landis</i>	<i>Andrew Thimm</i>
<i>Patricia Davis</i>	<i>Gary Martin</i>	<i>Bernice Trawick</i>
<i>Dennis Dick</i>	<i>Michaelann Murphy</i>	<i>Sheila Vanrixel</i>
	<i>Sharon Murphy</i>	<i>James Williams</i>
	<i>Nena Muslim</i>	

Meet with a UHC Representative

A UnitedHealthCare representative will again be available during 2015 to answer questions regarding services, explanation of benefits and billing questions at different Milwaukee County facilities. Please see the schedule below for the time and location of upcoming meetings. We hope this continues to be a helpful service!

Date	Day	Reserved Time	Location
4/1/15	Wednesday	1:00pm - 4:00pm	Wilson Park Senior Center 2601 W Howard Ave. Room 145B
5/6/15	Wednesday	9:00am - 12:00pm	Clinton Rose Senior Center 3045 N Martin Luther King Drive 1st Floor Conference Room
6/3/15	Wednesday	9:00am - 12:00pm	Washington Park Senior Center 4420 W Vliet St - Meeting Room 2

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In Memoriam

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

*Cathe Altman-Szczerbaty
Bettye Anthony
Catherine Beyer
Alice Brunelli
Ruth Buege
Maxine Canada
Richard Cefalu
Dorothy Coker
Jessie Colbert
Donald Ewig
Louise Grant
Thelma Grisham
Daisy Hackett
Marion A. Johnson
Marion Kaisler*

*Annie Kimbrough
Betty Klink
Ruth Lang
Thomas La Rosa
Rose Mac Laren
Olga Losa
Robert Montaba
Alice Orłowski
Judith Parkinson
Joan Pilot
Lois Pittman
Nannie Polk
Winona Ponder
David Riemer
Daniel Sain*

*Mark Sarnowski
Anita Schroepfer
Leonard Secklin
Kattie Sherman
Delores Spiegl
Bobby Staples
Darlene Starzman
Gary Stewart
Robert A. Stewart
Richard Stover
Sylvia Turner
Arlys Wesolowski
Novella Wilson
Charlie Woodley*

2015 Check Disbursement Schedule

Thursday, April 30	Wednesday, September 30
Friday, May 29	Friday, October 30
Tuesday, June 30	Monday, November 30
Friday, July 31	Thursday, December 31
Monday, August 31	

CONTACT INFORMATION

Retirement Services

In the Milwaukee area:

414-278-4207

Toll Free:

877-652-6377

Email: ers@milwaukeecountywi.gov.

Life & Health Benefits

Phone: **414-278-4198**.

Email: benefits@milwaukeecountywi.gov