



Employees' Retirement System Communicator

November, 2010

No. 11

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

Jeff Aikin

Robert Bergemann

Joseph Brooks

David Brunner

Beatrice Chestnut

Linda Cochran

Beverly Coster

Jason Foecckler

Suzanne Galewski

Catherine Jenkins

Deborah Kuczynski

Cherie Lockwood

Kelley McClendon

Paul Stauffer

Janice Thompson

Carlos Torres

Maureen Weiher

Annie Williams

Cynthia Zemlicka

From the Desk of the ERS Manager

Stability of Our Investment Fund

In recent weeks, there have been several newspaper articles relating to ERS and the stability of our investment fund. These articles often taken an extreme perspective and assume the worst possible scenario. Unfortunately, this alarmist approach often frightens our retirees and causes inquiries to ERS.

An accurate appraisal of our investment fund is that we are over 85% funded and are in better shape than comparable public pension funds across the United States. In 2009, our investment portfolio had increased earnings of over 20%. It is a secure and well-maintained fund.

The County operates a Defined Benefit Plan. Your pension payment is guaranteed regardless of how well the investment fund does. Milwaukee County is the safety-net for our pension program. A 2011 Budget deficit will be addressed through appropriate funding options.

Our mission is to manage your pension funds on a sound, prudent basis so we continue to meet our long-term financial obligations..

Pre-need Funeral Planning

Death, especially our own, is not something many of us feel comfortable discussing. This is one of the reasons preneed planning is so important. If you never discuss what kind of funeral and disposition you want, your survivors are left with the burden of making assumptions about your wishes..

Preplanning a funeral serves many purposes. Let's cover three very important ones. First, you decide what type of funeral and disposition you want. Preplanning allows you the time to think about the details and talk about them with your loved ones. That way there are no surprises and they are prepared in advance for carrying out the details.

Second, your survivors will not have to make last minute decisions. Death brings with it grief, confusion, uncertainty, emotional upheaval and at times, irrationality. Under these tough conditions, it may become extremely difficult for your survivors

Please turn page over for additional information

Employees' Retirement System Communicator

November, 2010

Page 2

No. 11

difficulties in times of stress and sorrow. Establishing a plan well in advance will create peace and comfort for your survivors and can give them a feeling of satisfaction in carrying out your wishes.

Finally, the pre-selection of a funeral home eliminates the efforts to search for one at the last minute. If you preplan your funeral, the funeral home will know what to do at the time of your death, and your family will know who to deal with and what to expect. This can also save on unnecessary expenses.

If you are interested in preplanning your funeral, you can:

- Research the subject. Call local funeral homes for general information. Request brochures and compare different funeral homes with respect to services, costs and goods.
- Request brochures from the Wisconsin Funeral Directors Association, the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)
- Study the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC's) Funeral Rule and obtain FTC brochures on the topics of funerals, caskets and vaults.

Remember, preplanning eliminates uncertainties, surprises and undue stress at a difficult time.

Life & Health Update

Coming soon!

Having trouble understanding your UnitedHealthcare Explanation of Benefits? Have questions on how UnitedHealthcare coordinates payments with Medicare?

A representative from UnitedHealthcare will begin holding monthly sessions for retirees who have billing / coverage questions. Dates and location details will be provided in December's *ERS Communicator*.

In Memoriam

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

Emmett Berger

Carl Birks

Ruth Brust

Sheldon Feldman

Patricia Fuchs

Marjorie Goergen

Kevin Kennedy

Matilda Majgen

Eldora Murray

Myrtle Rappel

Margaret Semmelhack

Dianne Sherwin

Harriet Stoeckmann (Raymond)

Peter Vanderboom (Rosemarie)

Mildred Walsh