



Retirement Plan Services Communicator

October 2016

No. 10

From the Desk of the Director

Falling leaves and temperatures, shorter days — are you ready for the changes? As we get ready to spend more time indoors than out, Fall is a good time to make sure homes continue to be safe — replace the fire alarm and carbon monoxide detector batteries, replace the furnace filters, clean the chimney, bring in the hose and turn off the outside water taps, etc. These are all things on my list. Are you doing the same? And don't forget to turn back the clocks at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 6.

The Pension Board welcomes a new Retiree Board Member in November. David Zepecki will begin his term on November 1, 2016. Mr. Zepecki brings his 25 years of County government experience to the Pension Board, including service on the County Board of Supervisors.

We say good-bye and thank you again to D.A. Leonard who provided his service on the Board representing and supporting retiree interests.

The 2015 Annual Report of the Pension Board is now available online: ([county.milwaukee.gov/departments/human resources/retirement/Reports/Annual](http://county.milwaukee.gov/departments/human%20resources/retirement/Reports/Annual)). We also have a small supply of hard copies; contact ERS if you would like one.

If you have questions, comments or concerns regarding your pension or health care benefits, please let us know. Contact us by email at ERS@milwaukeecountywi.gov. We will respond as quickly as possible. We have local (414-278-4207) and toll-free (877-652-6377) phone numbers. Both have an automated menu for your convenience.

Marian Ninneman
Director – Retirement Plan Services

By Vivian Aikin

CARBON MONOXIDE DANGER

The arrival of colder weather and the heating season is a good time to raise awareness about the danger of carbon monoxide (“CO”) in our homes. Carbon monoxide is known as the “silent killer” because it is an odorless, colorless gas that is difficult to detect. CO can build up indoors and poison people and animals who breathe it. The CO molecules displace the oxygen in our bodies resulting in poisoning. Statistics compiled by the Center for Disease Control show an average of 430 deaths in the U.S. each year and an estimated 20,000 people annually treated in hospitals and emergency rooms for CO poisoning. With some simple actions such as proper maintenance of fuel-burning appliances and use of carbon monoxide detectors, CO poisoning can be prevented.

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“Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”

– St. Francis of Assisi

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In our homes, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide. Some common residential sources of CO are:

- ◆ Furnaces or boilers
- ◆ Gas stoves and ovens
- ◆ Fireplaces, both gas and wood burning
- ◆ Water heaters
- ◆ Clothes dryers
- ◆ Power generators
- ◆ Motor vehicles
- ◆ Power tools and lawn equipment

You can lower the chance of having a carbon monoxide incident in your home by having chimneys, heating systems, water heaters and any other gas, oil or coal-burning appliances professionally inspected and serviced each year. Here are some other safety tips:

- ◆ Install and maintain CO detectors on every level of your home
- ◆ Choose a CO detector that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory (Underwriters' Laboratory, for example)
- ◆ Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height of the detector
- ◆ Check or replace the battery when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall
- ◆ If the CO detector's alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location either outdoors or near an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside your home is accounted for and call for help. Remain in a fresh air location until emergency personnel arrive and give an "all clear".
- ◆ If you need to warm a vehicle, move it out of the garage immediately after starting it. Never run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- ◆ During and after a big snow, make sure vents for your dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow build-up
- ◆ A generator should only be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors and away from windows, doors and vent openings
- ◆ Never use a gas or charcoal grill of any kind indoors

Identifying CO poisoning is difficult because the symptoms are subtle and often mimic the flu or other illnesses. This makes carbon monoxide poisoning especially dangerous because people may ignore early signs, eventually lose consciousness and be unable to escape to safety. Signs and symptoms of CO poisoning include: dull headache, weakness, dizziness, nausea or vomiting, shortness of breath, confusion, and/or blurred vision. Carbon monoxide poisoning is perilous for people who are sleeping or intoxicated. Victims may have irreversible brain damage or even die before anyone realizes there is a problem.

The best advice is if you suspect you or someone you're with may have been exposed to carbon monoxide, get into fresh air immediately and seek emergency medical attention.

From the Benefits Department

OPEN ENROLLMENT 2017

This year's open enrollment period and informational sessions will be held from **December 5, 2016 through December 14, 2016**. During this year's sessions, the Milwaukee County

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Benefit's Division staff will be presenting on the Medicare Advantage plan for Medicare eligible retirees and their dependents. Also, the Milwaukee County Benefit's Division and representatives from the medical and pharmacy plans will be present to answer questions. Retirees are welcome to attend any of the sessions listed below; **attendance is optional**. Watch your mail in late November for additional information.

<p>Monday, December 5</p> <p>Washington Park Senior Center – Main Hall 4420 W. Vliet Street 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM - Presentation for Medicare Eligible Retirees 2:30 PM - 4:00 AM - Vendor Fair</p>	<p>Wednesday, December 7</p> <p>Wilson Park Senior Center – Main Hall 2601 W. Howard Avenue 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM - Presentation for Medicare Eligible Retirees 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM - Vendor Fair 11:30 AM – 1:00PM - Lunch Break 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM – Presentation for Medicare Eligible Retirees 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM - Vendor Fair</p>	<p>Friday, December 9</p> <p>Clinton Rose Senior Center 3045 N. Martin Luther King Drive 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM - Presentation for Medicare Eligible Retirees 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM - Vendor Fair</p>
		<p>Tuesday, December 13</p> <p>Boerner Botanical Gardens – Lower level Multimedia Room 9400 Boerner Drive 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM - Presentation for Medicare Eligible Retirees 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM - Vendor Fair</p>

September

Congratulations to Our Newest Retirees!

Marilyn Booker
Susan Born
Renee Cottier
Vicki Dembowiak
Kevin Demitros
Lori Dotson
Sharon Doyle
David Gardison
Bobby Ray Hentz

Cheryl Hill
Patrick Kenney
Rita Lee
Vera Mannery
Steven May
Rinda Melton
Carmen Mills
Richard Myer
Duane Nelson
Linda Olson

Nicole Owens
Christopher Pollard
Matthew Schoenherr
Debra Solorio
Jennifer Turner
Anne Varick
Sheridan Washington
Patrick Walker

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In Memoriam

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

Norbert Block
Cruzanthia Brooks
Sheila Clayton
Thomas Curley

George Fischer
James Krause
Lorraine McKibbins
Manuel Ramos

Margaret Schwacher
Mary Strohl
Ione Trachsel
Helena Vucicevic
Louise Whitcomb

Market Value of Pension Fund Period Ending August 31, 2016

Total Fund Composite	\$1,663,933,758
Fixed Income Composite	\$277,606,429
US Equity Composite	\$418,648,899
International Equity Composite	\$326,348,269
Hedged Equity Composite	\$182,070,353
Real Estate Composite	\$168,671,800
Infrastructure Composite	\$152,336,759
Private Equity Composite	\$113,502,475
Total Cash Equivalents	\$24,748,774

2016 Check Disbursement Schedule

Monday October 31
Wednesday November 30
Friday December 30

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