



December 2009

Pension Division Newsletter

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Working Group Update

The Working Group held its last regularly-scheduled meeting of the season on Tuesday, December 8. Working Group members reviewed draft legislation for each of the topics on which the Group had previously reached consensus. The Group also continued its discussion on survivor benefits. A number of issues regarding survivor benefits have been considered, including the desire to pay benefits to a trust, to allow members to have the ability to designate family members with medical or financial needs to receive benefits, and to limit the duration or amount of payments for monthly plans that pay the benefits for an extended or unlimited period of time.

The Working Group decided to hold an additional meeting in January to wrap up its discussion on survivor benefits. The January Working Group meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 12, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at our main office in Saint Paul.

Working Group agendas and meeting materials are available on the Office of the State Auditor's website at <http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=reliefworkinggroup>. If you have questions regarding the Working Group proposals, please contact Rose Hennessy Allen at (651) 296-5985 or at Rose.Hennessy-Allen@state.mn.us.

State Aid Certification Update

The Office of the State Auditor is pleased to announce that all but two volunteer fire relief associations submitted their 2008 reporting year forms prior to the forfeiture deadline on November 30. State law requires automatic forfeiture of state fire aid for relief associations that do not file all reporting information by November 30. We would like to thank the relief association trustees, municipal representatives, accountants, and the Pension Division team who worked right up to the deadline to ensure that reporting forms were submitted.

Relief associations that submitted all required reporting information before the forfeiture deadline, but after the last round of state fire aid payments was disbursed, may be eligible to receive their aid in the next round of aid payments. The next round of state fire aid payments will be on or about March 15, 2010. A list of the 2009 state fire aid amounts is available on our website at <http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20090924.000>.

Statements of Economic Interest Reminder

Every year each board member and the chief administrative officer of a volunteer fire relief association are required to complete a *Statement of Economic Interest*. The Statement must be filed with the chief administrative officer of the relief association and be made available for public inspection during regular office hours at the association's office.

The chief administrative officer of the relief association must submit a *Certified Listing of Individuals Who Filed a Statement of Economic Interest* form to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board by **January 15**. This form must list all individuals who have filed *Statements of Economic Interest* with the relief association for the preceding 12 months, along with the address of the office at which the statements are available for public inspection.

The *Statement of Economic Interest* and *Certified Listing of Individuals Who Filed a Statement of Economic Interest* forms are available in the Forms section of the Office of the State Auditor's website under "Pension Forms" at:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20070105.001>.

Minnesota State Deferred Compensation Plan

Volunteer firefighters are eligible to participate in the Minnesota State Deferred Compensation Plan. This plan offers a tax-deferred savings plan that can help supplement other retirement benefits. Volunteer firefighters may also choose to roll over their relief association service pension to their deferred compensation account. Volunteer firefighters who would like to enroll in the deferred compensation plan must do so before terminating public employment. Additional information about the Minnesota State Deferred Compensation Plan is available at <http://www.mndcplan.com/>.

2009 Schedule Form

The Pension Division is performing preliminary reviews of 2009 Schedule (SC-09) forms that have been submitted. While the SC-09 was required to be certified to the municipality or independent nonprofit firefighting corporation by August 1, 2009, the form is not required to be submitted to the Office of the State Auditor until March or June 2010, with the relief association's other 2009 reporting information. However, in order for member data to be pre-populated on your 2010 Schedule form, the SC-09 must be received and reviewed.

We anticipate that the 2010 Schedule form will be released in January. We plan to release the 2010 form earlier than usual so that relief associations and municipalities can use it for forecasting and budgeting. If you haven't submitted your SC-09 form yet, please do so at your earliest convenience so that we can pre-populate your 2010 form.

In addition, we have received a number of questions from relief association trustees regarding revisions to the SC-09 form. Some relief associations would like to revise the investment earnings that were projected on the SC-09 form to take into consideration investment gains since August 1, when the form was certified. As previously stated, the Schedule form is required to be completed during July and certified to the municipality or independent nonprofit firefighting corporation by August 1. After it's been certified, the form should not be revised to update revenue or expenditure amounts that deviated from the projected amounts. Any deviations between forecasted and actual revenues and expenditures will be reflected on the 2010 Schedule form.

If you have questions please contact us:

Aaron Dahl, Pension Analyst
(651) 297-2765 Aaron.Dahl@state.mn.us

Michael Johnson, Pension Analyst
(651) 282-5430 Michael.A.Johnson@state.mn.us

Gail Richie, Office & Administrative Specialist
(651) 282-6110 Gail.Richie@state.mn.us

Luke Hinz, Pension Analyst
(651) 296-6279 Lucas.Hinz@state.mn.us

Sara Toft, Student Intern
(651) 282-5376 SToft@auditor.state.mn.us

Rose Hennessy Allen, Pension Director
(651) 296-5985 Rose.Hennessy-Allen@state.mn.us