



## Pension Division Newsletter

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### *Volunteer Fire Relief Association Working Group*

As mentioned in our August 2007 newsletter, the Office of the State Auditor will be reconvening the Working Group again this fall. The purpose of the Working Group is to bring together the major volunteer fire relief association stakeholders to develop relationships, facilitate communication, discuss relief association issues, and make the pension process easier and more effective.

The proposed schedule for the Working Group is as follows: Tuesday, October 23, Thursday, November 1, Tuesday, November 13, Thursday, November 29, and Thursday, December 6. All meetings will be held from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. The meetings are open to the public and are scheduled to take place at our main office at 525 Park Street, Suite 500, Saint Paul, MN 55103.

The Working Group contact list, meeting agendas, meeting minutes, and other meeting materials will be posted on our website at [www.auditor.state.mn.us](http://www.auditor.state.mn.us). Topics for the first meeting include an overview of recently enacted relief association laws, audit reporting requirements, and a discussion of a requirement to report evidence of theft. If you have questions regarding the Working Group please contact Rose Hennessy Allen at (651) 296-5985 or [Rose.Hennessy-Allen@state.mn.us](mailto:Rose.Hennessy-Allen@state.mn.us).

### *Return to Service Limitations*

Occasionally, a member of a relief association will retire and receive a service pension payment, and then subsequently decide to rejoin the fire department. Current state law contains language that limits a volunteer firefighter's ability to rejoin the same volunteer fire department after receiving a service pension from that department. The law specifies that if a volunteer firefighter rejoins the same fire department after retirement, no additional service pension amount is payable to the person, no additional service is creditable to the person, and the person must repay any previously received service pension. Please note that the language applies if the firefighter rejoins the same department, even if the individual doesn't rejoin the relief association. There is an exception, if certain other requirements are met, for individuals returning to full-time employment with the fire department.

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*If you have questions please contact us:*

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