



November 2007

Pension Division Newsletter

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Working Group Update

The Office of the State Auditor's Volunteer Fire Relief Association Working Group held its second meeting of the year on Thursday, November 1. The Group discussed issues surrounding ancillary benefits, which are disability, survivor, and funeral benefits. Discussions focused on whether authority should be granted to pay reduced ancillary benefits for members that are not fully vested and whether the definition of surviving spouse should be updated to reflect the definition used by the Public Employees Retirement Association. After very thorough discussions the Group decided to hold over both topics to the next meeting so that members could think about these complex issues and obtain additional information. The Working Group members also discussed setting a minimum age requirement for disability benefits and decided to take no action on the topic.

Meeting agendas, minutes, and other materials will be posted in the Fire Relief Association Working Group section of our website at www.auditor.state.mn.us. The next Working Group meeting is Tuesday, November 13, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at our Saint Paul office. Topics on the agenda for the next meeting include deferred interest issues and revisiting the ancillary benefit issues. If you have questions regarding the Working Group please contact Rose Hennessy Allen at (651) 296-5985 or Rose.Hennessy-Allen@state.mn.us.

Forfeiture Deadline

There are still about 30 relief associations that have yet to submit some or all of their 2006 reporting year forms. All reporting information must be submitted by November 30 to avoid **forfeiture of state fire aid**. Numerous notices have been sent by mail and email to the late relief associations and affiliated municipalities. If you have questions regarding reporting requirements or need access to the online reporting forms, please contact Gail Richie with the Pension Division at (651) 282-6110 or Gail.Richie@state.mn.us.

Second Certification Deadline

The Office of the State Auditor is pleased to announce that 144 volunteer fire relief associations and other entities met all reporting requirements to be certified as eligible for receipt of their state aid in the second round of aid disbursements. The second certification deadline for state aid was November 1, with aid payments being disbursed on or about November 15. A listing of the fire state aid amounts is posted on the Office of the State Auditor's website. Click on the link to "Forms," on the left side of the main page and then click on "Pension." Finally, click on the link to "2007 State Fire Aid Amounts."

Selected Relevant Statutes Booklet

An updated version of the Selected Relevant Statutes booklet is now available on the Office of the State Auditor's website. The booklet contains many of the state laws applicable to volunteer fire relief associations, and includes law changes enacted this past session. Relief association trustees are encouraged to download the booklet for reference when updating bylaws, making investment decisions, or calculating benefit payments. To access the booklet click on the link to "Forms" on the left side of the main page and then click on "Pension." Finally, click on the link to "Volunteer Fire Relief Associations – Selected Relevant Statutes."

If you have questions please contact us:

Paul Rosen, Pension Analyst
(651) 282-5430 Paul.Rosen@state.mn.us

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

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

Stephen McDaniel, Student Intern
(651) 282-2391 Stephen.McDaniel@state.mn.us

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