



**Employees' Retirement System
Of the City of Milwaukee**
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*January 2011
Retiree Newsletter*

Visit Our Website: <http://www.cmers.com/>
Questions/comments e-mail norm@cmers.com

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:
PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE NEWSLETTER**

What if my check amount is different from last month?:

COLA Increase:

Compare your December 2010 to January 2011 direct deposit notification or check stub. Were you eligible for a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase? More than half of our retirees receive COLA increases effective January 1st of each year. (The remaining retirees receive their COLA increase on their retirement anniversary.)

Tax changes:

Effective January 1, 2011, the federal income tax withholding tables have been changed to reflect the new 2011 tax rates. Even though Congress extended the tax cuts in 2011, the "Making Work Pay" credit was allowed to expire on 12/31/2010. As a result, the credit that was built into the 2010 federal withholding tax tables is no longer there. If you currently have federal tax withheld from your benefit and this withholding is being done in accordance with the tax tables (not a flat-dollar amount), you may notice a change in your tax withholding. If you have a flat dollar amount, the amount withheld will not change.

1099-R Information:

The Internal Revenue Service has started an optional program where payers may replace the first five digits of the recipients identifying numbers with the letter x. For example, a social security number would appear as xxx-xx-1234. This change is to enable better protection of personal identifying information for the recipients. ERS is again taking part in this program, so when you receive your 2010 1099-R, your social security number will be masked.

Other 1099-R Information:

Forms 1099-R (tax reporting for your pension payments, similar to the W-2 you received as an active employee) for the tax year 2010 will be mailed by Monday, January 31, 2011. (All 1099R's will be mailed on the same date, but they may arrive at your address at different times. The post office will be delivering millions of these forms at about the same time, so there is a possibility your form might be delayed in the mail.)

If you have not received your form by February 15, 2011, please call the ERS office to request a replacement. Please note that these forms are produced and mailed offsite; therefore, they will not be available on a walk-in basis. Requests will be processed in the order received.

1099-R forms may be returned to our office if we do not have your current mailing address – including seasonal moves. As we mentioned in several previous newsletters, ERS cannot take address changes over the phone. A change of address form is available on our website; you can call our office and request a change of address form or simply take a standard-sized sheet of paper and provide the new information. Be sure to include your printed name and signature.

If you are a recent retiree and you received a GPS lump-sum bonus during 2010 and elected to rollover all or part of your GPS lump sum bonus, you will receive a separate 1099-R for your GPS lump sum bonus rollover. If you elected to receive all or part of the GPS lump sum bonus in cash, the payment you received in cash will be included with the 1099-R containing your monthly annuity payments.

If you receive multiple benefits from the ERS (e.g. your own benefit as well as a survivorship benefit from the account of your deceased spouse), you will receive a separate 1099-R for each benefit you received in 2010.

If you receive a Duty Disability benefit from the ERS, you do not receive a 1099-R because this benefit is not taxable or reportable to the IRS.

If you owe additional income tax this year or are getting a large refund, you might want to adjust the amount of your tax withholdings. You may download the tax withholding form from our website at: www.cmers.com under "Benefits and Forms", "Forms". If you do not have internet access, you may contact the ERS office, and we will mail you the required form.

***The ERS staff is not allowed to give tax advice or answer tax questions. We cannot recommend how much you should have withheld or tell you if you need to file a tax return. Please consult the applicable IRS instructions or a tax professional. There are taxpayer assistance programs, often at no cost, through organizations such as AARP and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA).

Diabetes Testing Supplies – Medicare Retirees

In order to get your testing supplies covered at 100%, you will need to have your pharmacy submit the claim under your Medicare Part B, pay out-of-pocket for the balance, and submit to DeanCare Rx for reimbursement, using their Pharmacy Claims Member Reimbursement Form. To request this form call Dean Heath Plan Customer Service at (800) 279-1301. You can also download the form at the ERS website www.cmers.com

<u>Recently Retired ERS Members</u>	<u>Recently Retired ERS Members</u>	<i>In Memoriam</i> <i>ERS Retirees who have recently died:</i>
<p>Israel Acosta -DCD-Public Housing Gregory Amos -MFD Patricia Arms -DPW-Water William Averill -Assessor's Office Barbara Avery -DCD- Development Center Danny Babb -DPW-Water Cynthia Balistreri -DPW-Parking Ralph Baren -DPW-Parking Clyde Battle -DPW-Infrastructure Richard Bednarski -DPW-Sanitation Richard Belmore -MPD Reed Bonneville -DPW-Infrastructure Charles Bradford -DPW-Infrastructure Barbara Butler -MPD-Civilian Ki Ho Choi -DPW-Infrastructure Leslie Coleman -Library David Cook -DPW-Sewer Lynne Craig -Library Joanne Debarge -MPS Cynthia Denny – ERS* Paul Dietrich -DPW-Water Sandra Dobrzynski -Health Kim Dziobkowski -DPW-Infrastructure John Egan -DPW-Infrastructure Johnie Farmer -Assessor's Office James Fields -DPW-Fleet Services Karen Francis -DPW-Water Cheryl Fuhrman -MPS Sheryl Funk -MPS James Gaines -MPS Thomas Galasinski -DPW-Fleet Services Danial Galonski -DPW-Water William Gardner -DPW-Infrastructure Ramon Gely -MPS* Dawn Gorski -MPS* Margaret Graham -MPD-Civilian Timothy Helm -Health Christine Hill -MMSD* Gregg Hotson -DPW-Sewer Daniel Huba -MFD Herbert Hughes -DPW-Water Paul Ihlenfeld -DPW-Infrastructure Joseph Jeschke -DPW-Infrastructure Dale Johnson -Port of Milwaukee Gary Jones -DPW-Municipal Equipment*</p>	<p>Peter Joneth -DPW-Administration Paul Kaminsky -DPW-Forestry Robert Kessen -DPW-Forestry Barbara Klapka -MPS Christine Koch -MPD Lois Ksobiech -MPS Donald Kunkel -DPW-Fleet Services Arnold Lauret -DPW-Fleet Services David Leonard -Dept of Neighborhood Services Eleanor Lundy-Wade -Health* Michael McCabe -MMSD Sharon McGuire -DPW-Parking Delores Moore -MPS Emerson Morry -Assessor's Office Kent Oberle -DPW-Infrastructure Sharon Ostergaard -Health Shirley Peavie -DPW-Infrastructure Dennis Pennock -DPW-Fleet Services James Powalisz -DPW-Sanitation Christine Prevetti -Library Robert Priebe -Library Karen Radtke -Library Ana Rivera -MPS Richard Schultz -Library Harold Simelton -DCD-Public Housing Leonard Skoczek -DPW-Infrastructure William Smith -DPW-Fleet Services Joseph Soriano-DPW-Infrastructure Michael Spencer -DPW-Infrastructure David Stanosz -City Attorney Michael Sykes -MPD William Trindl -City Treasurer Jean Vitrano -MPS* Richard Wahlgren -MFD Donald Walker -DPW-Forestry Irma Ward -MPS Martha Washington Tillman -MPS Kristina White -Health Jennette Wilder Zastrow -MPS Michael Williams -DPW-Water Jimmie Wilson -DPW-Forestry Michael Wylie -DPW-Infrastructure Nao Tou Xiong -Health Raymond Young -DPW-Infrastructure</p>	<p>Mildred Altshul- Comptroller Thomas Bentley- DPW-Water Susan Boser- MPS Edward Breitbart- Tax Commissioner Anna Brezgel- Library John Bruno- MFD Thomas Busalacki- DPW-Sanitation Ardene Cameron- MPS Harriet Demos- MPS Geraldine Ehardt- MPS Dorothy Herbst- MPS Dorothy Hetzel- MPS Erich Kasten, Jr.- Municipal Equipment Eugene Kloss- MPD Paul Knapek- MPD Myrtle Loichinger- MPS Dorinda Lucky- MPS Angeline Lunde- MPS Charlotte Machnik- Model Cities Agency Chester Mehring- MPD Pearl Michalski- MPS Marilyn Miller- Library Mike Parish –Traffic Eng & Electrical Services Charles Rades- MPS Henrietta Robinson-Avant- MPS Evelyn Seiser-Fleussus- MPS William Stawicki- MPD Lawrence Ternes- Tax Commissioner Fred Warnke- Building Inspection</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">*Deferred retirement</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">*Deferred retirement</p>	<p>Your February, 2011 benefit payment will be mailed on February 25, payable on February 28. Retirees with direct deposit will have their payments in their accounts on February 28. Affidavits for lost January checks will be taken beginning February 10.</p>