



Employees' Retirement System of the City of Milwaukee

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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 2011 to January 2012 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, 2012, the federal income tax withholding tables have been changed to reflect the new 2012 tax rates. 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.

If you would like to change your tax withholding for federal or WI taxes, you may download the tax withholding form from our website at: www.cmers.com under "Benefits" "Pension Payment Information" "Tax withholding". If you do not have internet access, you may contact the ERS office and we will mail you the required form.

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 2011 will be mailed by Tuesday, January 31, 2012. (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, 2012, 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 2011 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 2011.

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" "Pension Payment Information" "Tax withholding". 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).

IMPORTANT FEBRUARY DATES

February 12- Lincoln's birthday

February 14- Valentine's Day

February 20- Presidents' Day

February 21- Wisconsin Primary Election

February 22- Washington's Birthday

*The ERS office will be open on all the above dates.

Recently Retired ERS Members

Cheryl Adams- MPS
 Gregory Baker- MMSD
 Lynn Bauer- DCD*
 Karen Boeing- MPS
 Lavern Booker- MPD-Civilian
 Betty Borden- MPS
 Gwen Bouras- DPW
 Michael Bourdo- MPS
 Ronald Bratel- DPW-Infrastructure
 Fred Brown- DPW-Sanitation
 Sandra Camp- Library
 Edward Clay- DPW-Infrastructure
 Gary Colorez- DPW-Operations
 Raul Correa- DPW-Water
 Reginald Counce- DPW-Sanitation*
 Thomas Crawford- MMSD
 Norman Currie- DPW- Infrastructure
 Nancy Dayton- Library
 Doyle Dempsey- Neighborhood Services
 Rebecca Doyle-Huber- Assessor
 Duane Drewicz- DPW-Infrastructure
 Trina Dright- MPD-Civilian
 Phu Duong- DPW-Infrastructure
 Thomas Ebert- DPW-Infrastructure
 Earl Equitz- DPW-Fleet Services
 Sandra Fair- MPS*
 Foster Finco- Neighborhood Services
 Claude Foster- DPW-Infrastructure
 Mary Frank- MPS
 Steven Fritsche- Neighborhood Services
 Noe Fuentes- Housing Authority
 James Fuhrman- DPW-Forestry
 Steven Fyfe- MPD
 Richard Gaeth- MPD
 Mary Ellen Gomez- Employes' Retirement System
 Ruth Gomez- Health
 James Gottsacker- DPW-Infrastructure
 Yvonne Greer- Health
 Gregory Gregory- Library*
 Michael Greylak- Neighborhood Services
 Jan Grocholski- DPW-Forestry
 Maria Gutierrez- MPD-Civilian
 Marian Hartner- Common Council
 Daniel Hass- MFD
 Sandra Hassenfelt- Redevelopment Authority
 Ronald Helget- DPW-Infrastructure
 Arvilla Herro- MPS
 James Hughlett- DPW-Sanitation
 Michael Hurley- DPW-Sanitation
 Erna Ingram- MPS
 John Jankowski- MMSD
 Leo Jankowski- DPW-Water
 Edwin Johnson- MPD
 Annie Jones- Health
 Jacqueline Jones- Assessor
 Robert Jones- Neighborhood Services
 Elizabeth Kieren- DPW-Forestry
 Robert King- MPD
 Delois Kinlow- MPS
 Sandra Kordus- MPD-Civilian
 Douglas Krimmer- Neighborhood Services
 Karen Kupferschmidt- Health
 Florian Kurth- MPD-Civilian
 Marion Kusnick- Library
 Robert LaMalfa- DPW-Water
 Ruby Lane- MPS
 Henrietta Lee- MPS

Recently Retired ERS Members

James Lengling- DPW-Water
 Russell Lepak- MFD-Civilian
 Patricia Lewis- MPS
 Robert Litzau- DPW-Infrastructure
 Susan McDonell- MPS
 Sharon McKinnie- MPD-Civilian
 John Medley- MFD*
 James Michalski- Comptroller
 Amos Mietz- DPW-Municipal Equipment*
 Linda Morales- DPW-Infrastructure
 Waldemar Morics- Comptroller
 Neil Mrotek- DPW-Water
 Dennis Murawski- DPW-Sanitation
 Dennis Norton- MPD
 Emmanuel Obiora- DPW-Sewer
 Sue Pergande- MPS
 Edward Pero- MFD
 Patricia Peschi- MPS
 Thomas Petri- MMSD
 Elizabeth Ann Ploszaj- Comptroller
 James Poliak- MFD
 Jeffrey Propp- Health
 Randy Pucek- Neighborhood Services
 Henry Reed- Wisconsin Center
 Patricia Reid- MPS
 Agnes Revels- MPS
 Edwin Reyes- Employee Relations
 Diana Reynolds- MPD-Civilian
 William Ripp- DPW-Engineers*
 Gloria Robinson- DCD-Public Housing
 Michael Roney- Comptroller
 Michelle Ryan- MPS
 Joanne Salas- Library
 Roger Schroder- DCD-Public Housing
 Donald Schuda- DPW-Fleet Services
 Scott Schumann- DPW-Fleet Services
 Joseph Seidita- DPW-Infrastructure
 Barbara Shaw- MPS
 Kathleen Shepherd- Comptroller
 Brian Smith- DPW-Water
 Hazel Smith- Library
 Thomastine Smith- MPD-Civilian
 Patricia Stawicki- Mayor
 Dorothy Stribling-Lewis- MPS
 Duane Stuermer- DPW-Water
 Sandra Sutton- Library
 Karen Taughinbaugh- Assessor
 Mary Taylor-Jackson- MPD-Civilian
 Anthony Thompson- DPW-Fleet Services
 Gary Tillman- DPW-Fleet Services
 James Timm- MPD
 Sandra Trammell- DPW-Operations
 Almira Trotter- DPW-Administration
 James Ulma- DPW-Fleet Services
 Dawn Vrana- DPW-Water
 Terry Wagner- DPW-Water
 John Waite- DPW-Infrastructure
 Wayne Wasserman- DCD*
 Therese Welbes- MPS
 Janis Wilcox- MPS
 Sharon Wodke- Health*
 Carol Wolslager- DPW-Water
 Melvin Wright- DPW-Municipal Equipment*
 Michael Zander- DPW-Infrastructure
 Sherry Zaruba- MMSD

*Deferred Retirement

IN MEMORIAM**ERS Retirees who have recently died:**

Shelvy Bandy- MPS
 Robert Baumgart- MPD
 Howard Berndsen- Municipal Equipment
 Dorothy Cebar- MPS
 Jacque DaCota- DPW-Sewer
 Curtis Dalton- DPW-Sanitation
 Arliss Evans- MPS
 James Fields- DPW-Operations
 Shirley Fitzpatrick-Administration- ISD
 Thomas Fuss- MFD
 Alta Handel- Library
 Patrick Hanrahan- Bldg Inspection
 David Hollins- DPW-Street Maint
 Jerome Huebl- DPW-Sanitation
 Eugene Jamrozy- MFD
 Stella Jaskulski-MPS
 Johanna Johnson- Library
 Patricia Knurowski- MPS
 Vivian Lemanski- MPS
 Betty Macari- MPS
 Mary Martino- MPS
 Donald Meyers- Bridges & Bldgs
 Lenore O'Donnell- MPS
 Rosemary Peters- City Development
 Ronald Rehm- MFD
 John Richter- DPW-Water
 Bernice Scherbert- MPS
 Kathleen Schreiber- MPS
 Dolores Smagalski- MPS
 Rose Stachowski- Library
 Mary Stoke- Emergency Gov't
 Evangelyn Sweet- MPS
 Ann Warford- MPD-Civilian
 Sonina Williams- MPS
 Leopold Zembrowski- DPW-Water
 Richard Zuba- MPD

2-1-1**Information & Referral Search**

2-1-1 provides free and confidential information and referral. Call 2-1-1 for help with food, housing, employment, health care, counseling and more. This service is available in most states. For Wisconsin, it is available in Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, and Washington counties. Alternative numbers are (414)773-0211 and (866)211-3380. Learn more about 2-1-1 by going online to <http://www.211us.org>.

Your February, 2012 benefit payment will be mailed on February 28, payable on February 29. Retirees with direct deposit will have their payments in their accounts on February 29. Affidavits for lost January checks will be taken beginning February 10.