



Employees' Retirement System of the City of Milwaukee

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Member Account Statement Hotline: (414) 286-3689
Questions or comments: e-mail norm@cmers.com

2016 ERS NEWSLETTER FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS AND MEMBERS ON DEFERRED STATUS

Please read both sides of this newsletter! It contains important information regarding your ERS benefits.

Information regarding the ERS and Benefits can be found:

- **Website:** Please visit our website at www.cmers.com to view information about the ERS and use our online calculator to estimate your future pension benefits (see ERS Member Self Service paragraph for more information).
- **Member Handbook:** The ERS is currently updating the Member Handbook. You can also view the current handbook on our website.
- **Brochures:** The ERS has developed a series of brochures outlining specific ERS benefits including information on the retirement process, disability benefits, estimated service retirement benefits, etc., available online or upon request.

Active Members If you are currently working for the City or one of the City Agencies - MATC, MMSD, MPS, HACM, RACM, Veolia, or WCD, please keep your address current by *notifying your employer* of any address changes. The ERS receives updated address information from your employer.

Deferred Members It is imperative that you keep us informed of any address and name changes so we can contact you when you are eligible for your benefit. For **address changes:** a Change of Address Form is available on our website (click on *Forms* and print the *Change of Address Form – Deferred/Retired Members* form) or by contacting our office. For **name changes:** please submit a written request with the following information a) your signature, b) your ERS person ID number (located on upper right-hand side of your enclosed Member Account Statement) or social security number, and c) documentation of the name changes (e.g., marriage license).

Pre-retirement Seminars for General City Employees The Department of Employee Relations (DER) is coordinating pre-retirement planning sessions for General City employees (this does not include Fire and Police personnel or City Agencies, which will be scheduled by the Department or Agency) planning to retire in the next few years. The next sessions are scheduled for June 3, 2016, August 26, 2016, and November 18, 2016. Representatives from the ERS, Deferred Compensation, and the Social Security office will be present to provide an overview of pension, group life insurance, health and dental insurance, deferred compensation, and Social Security. Please contact your department's Training Coordinator to sign up for one of these sessions.

ERS Member Self Service (MSS) From the www.cmers.com home page, active and deferred members are able to set up a user account by registering with our website. To register, you will need to select a user identification and password, know your e-mail address, social security number (optional) or ERS person ID number, first and last name as it appears on your paycheck, and date of birth. The entry of your private information is protected by VeriSign security. Once registered, members can sign in using their secret user identification and password. MSS features include the ability to:

- View your personal profile, correct personal information, change family status
- View information about your member account (contributions, service credit)
- Calculate and print a pension benefit estimate using information the ERS has on file or using information you enter, request official benefit estimates; register for and be reminded of retirement counseling sessions
- Print Active/Deferred Member Beneficiary Change Forms for Pension Benefits and Life Insurance Beneficiary Change Forms

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

We welcome your inquiries. You can contact the ERS via e-mail at norm@cmers.com. In addition, ERS specialists are available to answer questions over the telephone.

Update your e-mail To better serve you, we are exploring ways to improve how we communicate with you. Although e-mail will not replace our current communications with you, it is a great way to provide members with timely reminders and links to internet resources. Please help us build our list of member e-mail addresses by sending an e-mail to norm@cmers.com.

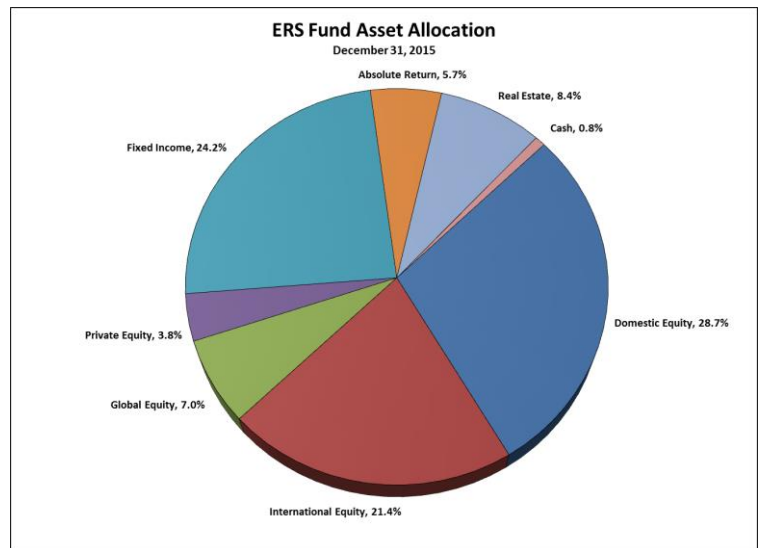
New Group Life Insurance (GLI) Plan for Sworn Police in the MPA A new GLI plan design was negotiated between the MPA and the City, and will go into effect May 1, 2016. A special open enrollment period will occur March 14 to April 1. Please anticipate additional information sent via mail, or visit our website at www.cmers.com then click on *Benefits* → *Life Insurance* → *Life Insurance Plan* → *MPA (effective 5/1/2016)*. You may also call the Life Insurance Hotline at 414-286-6157.

Beneficiary Information for Active and Deferred Employees If you need to change your pension beneficiary information: go to www.cmers.com - click on *Forms* and print the *Beneficiary Change Form – Pension Benefits - Active/Deferred Members* or contact our office and a form will be sent. Please read the instructions carefully on the forms before completing them in order to avoid making errors. Be sure to have two people witness the form who are not named as beneficiaries—make a copy for your records.

NOTE: Group life insurance beneficiary designations are separate from pension beneficiary designations. If you need to update your life insurance beneficiary(ies) and are an employee of the City of Milwaukee, HACM, RACM, or WCD, go to www.cmers.com - click on *Forms* and print the *Beneficiary Change Form – Life Insurance* or contact our office and a form will be sent to you. All other employees please contact your Human Resources office; the ERS does not handle your life insurance coverage.

ERS Benefits Are Securely Funded The ERS funding ratio decreased slightly for 2015 as reported by Buck Consulting, the ERS independent actuary. The funded status of your Plan as of January 1, 2015, based on the fair market value of assets was 100.4% down from 102.4% in the prior year's report. The ratio as of January 1, 2016, will not be determined until the actuary presents the results of the valuation later this year.

Investment Update The City of Milwaukee pension Fund earned a return of 0.5%, net of fees, in 2015. Despite the U.S. unemployment rate falling to a post-crisis low of 5.0%, U.S. equities only managed to eke out slight positive returns. Geopolitical strains continued to cause volatility in International markets, and falling energy prices, which would typically be expected to help equities, turned into a negative, as market participants worried that producer bankruptcies due to extremely low prices, not seen since the early 2000s, could cause weakness in other sectors of the economy. The Fund's equity portfolio had a return of -0.8%, with domestic returns of -0.3% outperforming international returns of -0.7%. Fixed income lagged, with a return of -2.6%. The Fund's recently completed absolute return allocation was a bright spot, with a return of 4.7%. Private Equity performed very well, with a return of 12.4%. Over the prior 12 months ending September 2015, the ERS' real estate allocation of \$402.5 million produced a 12.6% return, net of fees. The market value of the Fund on December 31, 2015 totaled approximately \$4.7 billion.



Annuity and Pension Board An 11-member board of trustees governs the ERS. The President of the Common Council appoints three members; the Mayor appoints three members; three members are elected by the active membership; one member is elected by the retired membership; the City Comptroller serves as an ex-officio voting member. Current Board Members and their term expiration dates, or until replaced, are as follows:

John Barmore (Chair)	Elected Active	December 31, 2018*
Karen Ellenbecker	Appointed by Common Council	April 19, 2016
Larry Holland	Appointed by Mayor	April 19, 2016
Thomas Klusman	Elected Retiree	December 31, 2017
Rudolph Konrad	Appointed by Common Council	April 19, 2016
Comptroller – Martin Matson	Ex-Officio	
Ald. Michael Murphy	Appointed by Common Council	April 21, 2014
Mark Nicolini	Appointed by Mayor	April 19, 2016
Gerald Pace	Appointed by Mayor	April 19, 2016
Carmelo Patti	Elected Active	December 31, 2016**
Gust Petropoulos (Vice Chair)	Elected Active	December 31, 2017***

* Upon expiration of this term, an Active Fire employee shall be elected (by Active Fire employees) to this position.

** Upon expiration of this term, an Active General City employee shall be elected (by Active General City employees) to this position.

*** Upon expiration of this term, an Active Police employee shall be elected (by Active Police employees) to this position.

The Board meets monthly to assure the proper governance and oversight of the Fund. The meetings are public and members are welcome to attend. Past Meeting Minutes are available at www.cmers.com - click on *Library* → *Board Meeting Minutes*.