



**Employees' Retirement System  
City of Milwaukee  
789 North Water Street, Suite 300  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 286-3557 or (800) 815-8418**

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

## October 2019 Retiree Newsletter

### 2020 Health Insurance Benefits

\*\*\* Please do not call the ERS regarding health insurance if you are a MPS, MMSD, United Water, Veolia or MATC retiree. Contact your agency directly. \*\*\*

The Health Benefits Open Enrollment period started on Monday, October 28, 2019 and ends on Friday November 15, 2019. If you do not wish to change your health and prescription drug benefits plan, you do not need to do anything.

#### **Please make note of the following:**

- There will be 2020 plan design changes to both health plans offered by the City to its retirees (UHC Choice EPO and UHC Choice Plus PPO), so you should review the 2020 Retiree Benefits guide carefully.
- There will be a rate increase for retirees under the City's health plans (approximately 3% for retirees under the age of 65 years, and approximately 6.7% for retirees 65 and over).
- Any benefit changes you make during the 2019 open enrollment period will take effect on January 1, 2020. You will continue to be covered under your current health plan through December 31, 2019.
- If you did not receive an Enrollment Packet or you are not currently enrolled in a City health insurance plan and wish to receive a packet or enrollment form, call the ERS Open Enrollment Hotline at (414) 286-3689.
- If you are choosing to drop your City of Milwaukee retiree coverage, both Medicare retirees and retirees without Medicare, you must notify the ERS in writing at least 30 days in advance. Please note that you must maintain health insurance coverage if you ever plan to return to the City of Milwaukee's retiree coverage. At that time, you will be required to provide proof of creditable coverage during the period that you were not covered by the City's plan.
- The ERS does not send automatic confirmations upon receipt of open enrollment forms. If you would like to receive confirmation of receipt, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for this purpose when submitting your form. We also recommend that you keep a copy of your open enrollment form for your records prior to mailing it to the ERS.
- **Open Enrollment Fairs:** The City scheduled five Open Enrollment Fairs that are open to all City employees and retirees. Three dates will still be available at the time of this newsletter's publication (please see "important dates" below for more information).

### Important Dates in November

The ERS will be CLOSED Thursday, Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> and Fri. Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### Open Enrollment Fairs:

- Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-5 pm - DPW Field Headquarters, 3850 N 35<sup>th</sup> St
- Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2-5:30 pm - DNS Lake Tower, 4001 S 6<sup>th</sup> St
- Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-5:30 pm - Fire & Police Academy, 6680 N Teutonia Ave

#### Also:

- November 3rd– Daylight Saving Time Ends (set clocks back)
- November 11th– Veterans Day
- November 16th- Veterans Day Parade- Milwaukee
- November 28<sup>th</sup>- Thanksgiving Day

**Your November 2019 benefit payment will be mailed on Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, and made payable for Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. Direct deposit payments will be in your account on Wednesday, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>. Affidavits for lost October checks will begin on Monday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>.**

#### *In Memoriam*

*ERS Retirees who have recently died:*



Emmett Arnold-DPW-Sanitation  
Doris Arvan-MPS  
Frederick Bennett-Wisconsin Center  
Boleslaus Betlinski-MFD  
Thomas Bono-DPW-Infrastructure  
Herman Burbach-DPW-Sanitation  
Grace Czerwinski-MPS  
Gary Davey-DPW-Sanitation  
William Drew-City Development  
Joseph Faust-DPW-Sewer  
Jeanette Gibbs-DPW-Water  
John Goggin-MFD  
Loretta Hoedel-Health  
Pamela Holtz-DPW-Water  
Patricia Huben-Health  
Robert Janke-MMSD  
Ronald Krusick-MPD  
Dorothy Laurence-MPS  
Emerson Morray-Assessor's Office  
Quentin Oliva-MPD  
Marvin Palk-MPD  
Cecilia Pehowski-MPS  
Faye Pohl-MPS  
Kathleen Puerner-MPD  
Geraldine Richards-MPS  
Sylvia Rivers-MPS  
Donald Rode-MFD  
George Roemer-DPW-Infrastructure  
Grace Schneider-MPS  
Ronald Severson-DPW-Sanitation  
Karen Smukowski-MPS  
Eugene Tobiasz-Building Inspection  
Larry Vanderberg-MFD  
Debra Von Hofmann-MPS  
Mark Wagner-DPW-Infrastructure  
Naomi Walker-DER  
Jacqueline Warren-MPD  
Loren Washington-MFD  
Carol Wasielewski-Health  
Donald Wenzel-MPD  
Jerry Wiesmueller-MPD  
Melvin Wright-DPW-Municipal Equipment

## **Be Careful of Scam Artists**

Protect your personal information, do not fall prey to phone or email scams. Occasionally an ERS payee falls prey to a phone scam. We cannot emphasize strongly enough that you should never provide personal information, such as your social security number, bank account number, date of birth, etc., to anyone who makes an unsolicited phone call to you. Under no circumstances will the ERS, your bank, credit card company or any governmental agency, including representatives for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare) ever call you to verify this information—they will already have it in their records. These scam artists can sound very convincing over the phone.

Scammers also use caller ID spoofing, where the name of the company/ governmental agency will show on your caller ID, even though they are not a representative from that company or governmental agency. If the caller gives you a phone number to call to verify they are from that agency, do not call that number. Hang up and call the customer service number printed on your statement, the company's website or phonebook.

For more information about how to report phone fraud, visit <http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0076-telemarketing-scams>

Additionally, never respond to an email requesting that you provide personal information to verify an account or to re-activate that account or service. Delete email and text messages that ask you to confirm or provide personal information (credit card and bank account numbers, social security numbers, passwords, etc.). Legitimate companies do not ask for this information via email or text.

## **The Census Is Hiring**

The Census Bureau must conduct a census every ten years. The information collected is critical to a community's ability to seek federal support for many public programs and political representation. The official Census will begin on April 1, 2020.

If you are interested in being part of the Census team, the first step is to complete the online job application at <https://recruitment.2020census.gov>

You will need your social security number, home address, email, phone number, date of birth, and place of birth. If you run into issues during the application process, you can call 1-855-562-2020 and select option 1 for tech support or 3 to speak with someone at your area census office.

## **Veterans Day Freebies**

We have quite a few retirees who are veterans. Here is a website of free meals and other deals for Veterans Day.

<https://www.thespruce.com/veterans-day-free-meals-1357348>

All you need is some form of valid ID that you are a veteran. This would include a membership card to a veterans' service organization, i.e. American Legion, VFW or a copy of your DD214.



## **Recently Retired ERS Members**

James Ausprung- Veolia  
Wayne Conley- Wisconsin Center\*  
Kathleen Cox- City Development\*  
Dawn Crowbridge- DPW-Administration  
Darrell Dalton- Housing Authority\*  
Darren Davis- MPD  
Richard Decker- DPW-Infrastructure  
James Friedrichs- Neighborhood Services\*  
Andrew Garncarz- MFD  
Ricardo Gracia- MPD\*  
Kevin Gray- DPW-Infrastructure  
Gabriel Heim- MPS  
Nancy Hoffmann- MPS\*  
Carla Jackson- MPS\*  
Kenneth Jackson- DPW-Water  
Kenneth Jacobs- DPW - Sewer  
Mark Kaminski- MMSD  
Dennis Koback- MFD  
Carolyn Lambert- MPS\*  
Lajoyce Lewis- MPS  
Mary Lohmeier- Common Council  
Daniel Makinen- MFD  
Steve Mares- MPD  
Richard Mc Quown- MPD  
Mark Moore- MPS  
Jacqueline O'Claire-Isler- Wisconsin Center  
Snezana Ognjanovic- MPS  
Rafael Rivera- MPD  
Dennis Ryan- DPW- Sanitation\*  
Paul Schramka- MPS  
Charles Silkey- MPD\*  
Jane Sizemore- Health  
Steven Skalecki- DPW - Water  
Alexandra Smith- MPS  
Charles Smith- MPS  
Michael Sullivan- DPW-Infrastructure  
Israel Villodas- MPS\*

**\*Deferred Retirement**

## **Be a Leader: Be an Election Worker!**

The City of Milwaukee Election Commission needs you! We are looking for dependable people residing in Milwaukee County to assist as election workers at voting sites throughout the City in 2020. Election workers are especially needed for the April 7<sup>th</sup> (Spring Election & Presidential Primary) and November 3<sup>rd</sup> (General Election) elections. Election work is non-partisan and provides a great way to participate in the democratic process.

You can apply to work as an Election Inspector (must reside in Milwaukee County). These positions are paid: \$130/day. You must attend training, which is also paid. Fluent bilingual (English/ Spanish or English/Hmong) individuals are especially encouraged to apply. For applications and more information, visit [www.milwaukee.gov/election](http://www.milwaukee.gov/election) or contact us at: [electionworker@milwaukee.gov](mailto:electionworker@milwaukee.gov).