

**THE RETIREMENT BOARD  
of the  
FIREMEN'S ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND  
OF CHICAGO**

Suite 300

20 S. Clark Street  
(312) 726-5823  
(800) 782-7425

Chicago, IL 60603-1899  
Fax (312) 726-2316  
<http://www.fabf.org>



**March 1, 2024**

**In addition to the benefits granted to members and spouses each month, the Secretary will also be presenting, for informational purposes only, items of interest that may affect our members. Questions regarding any member's specific situation should be addressed directly to the Fund Office.**

**MONTHLY NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM YOUR RETIREMENT BOARD**

**RETIREE MINIMUM ANNUITY INCREASED**

The Firemen's Annuity and Benefit Fund of Chicago Retirement Board voted at the February 2024 meeting to approve a statutory increase to the minimum retired annuity benefit consistent with the requirements of the Illinois Pension Code. The Minimum Retiree Annuity benefit is to be no less than 125% of the 2024 Federal Poverty Level. February 29<sup>th</sup> checks will reflect this adjustment.

**WIDOW MINIMUM ANNUITY INCREASED**

Also, at the February meeting, the Board voted to approve a statutory increase to the minimum survivor (widow) annuity benefit consistent with the requirements of the Illinois Pension Code. The Minimum Survivor (widow) Annuity benefit is to be no less than 150% of the 2024 Federal Poverty Level. The February 29<sup>th</sup> checks will reflect the new minimum monthly benefit amount of \$1,882.50.

**1099R DELIVERY DISRUPTION**

On January 29<sup>th</sup> all annuitant members were sent a 1099R IRS Tax Form via the United States Postal Service - First Class Mail. These forms are required to be mailed prior to February 1<sup>st</sup> of each tax year. In our estimation, several thousand were received within 3-5 days business days. However, the Fund began receiving numerous calls in the second week of February regarding undelivered forms. At the time of mailing, we expected the USPS to meet a reasonable delivery standard of 10 business days; those expectations were not met. As such, the process of preparing and mailing replacement documents was initiated on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Since that time all members who have contacted the Fund have been provided with a replacement form. Some of you may have received two forms and for that we apologize.

We understand this situation created frustration for those members affected. The Board and staff are also frustrated by this breakdown. We contacted the Postal Service and initiated a request for

**REQUIRED DISCLAIMER**

*The information set forth herein is believed to be reliable but is not guaranteed as to accuracy or completeness by and is not to be construed as a representation of the Firemen's Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago, the Retirement Board (the "Board") or any member of the Board except the Secretary. The information and expressions of opinion contained herein are subject to change without notice. All expressions of opinion, whether expressly so stated, are intended merely as such and not as representations of fact. Financial information contained in this newsletter is as of a certain date, is unaudited and should not be relied on.*

an investigation. Currently, the postal service and the Postal Inspection Office have not provided us with any substantive details as to why the delay occurred. Our records indicate the mail parcels were delivered timely to the main post office at Harrison Street in Chicago, Illinois. Furthermore, we can determine no geographic pattern to the documents that were not delivered timely.

Now what!

- First, we commit to every member that the appropriate form required to prepare your tax return will be provided by the Fund. We understand the urgency to get this done. If you need a replacement 1099R contact the Fund by calling (312) 726-5823 or send an email to [info@fabf.org](mailto:info@fabf.org). The replacement process will continue until all members have received their necessary tax documents.
- Second, we will continue to seek answers from the Postal Inspection Service to determine what may have caused this disruption and report back if we can identify the problem.
- Third, we are looking at digital delivery options or a secure portal to augment our process in the future. For our members that are not able to utilize a digital solution, a mailed form continues to be the best option. However, a secure and readily available digital solution to supplement a mailed copy would provide a significant level of improvement to our membership.
- To that end, we are working on a website enhancement – hopefully, due this summer. Within the new site we are considering options that would allow you to securely access and obtain digital forms including your 1009R. We are stewards of your personal information, and as such we want to proceed with these types of services with the highest level of cyber security.

### **REGISTER YOUR EMAIL WITH THE FUND**

Apparent through this USPS issue is the number of members that have not registered their email address with the Fund. Our progress towards member enhancement through technology begins with eliminating the need to send physical mail. Please consider registering your email by completing this form: [Email Authorization Form](#). We will not use this for any purpose other than member communications. We are legally prevented from sharing your email with any third party, other than a labor organization.

### **PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINAR**

We have limited spots available for the spring pre-retirement seminar to be held at Guaranteed Rate Field (Sox Park) in the Wintrust Conference and Learning Center. The date for the seminar is Saturday, April 06, 2024, from 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM. Please register with the Fund via email at [seminar@fabf.org](mailto:seminar@fabf.org) to confirm participation - seating is limited to 120.

### **LOCAL 2 ANNUAL RETIREE LUNCHEON**

On Sunday, May 19th, from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM please join current and future retirees at De LaSalle Institute (3455 South Wabash Avenue) for a brunch and learn event. The event is open to all retired and disabled members, as well as those considering retiring in 2024. Spouses are welcome. Please contact Local 2 for additional information or to RSVP attendance. Trustees and staff of the Retirement Fund will be attending and available to address questions and concerns relating to pension issues.

#### **REQUIRED DISCLAIMER**

*The information set forth herein is believed to be reliable but is not guaranteed as to accuracy or completeness by and is not to be construed as a representation of the Firemen's Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago, the Retirement Board (the "Board") or any member of the Board except the Secretary. The information and expressions of opinion contained herein are subject to change without notice. All expressions of opinion, whether expressly so stated, are intended merely as such and not as representations of fact. Financial information contained in this newsletter is as of a certain date, is unaudited and should not be relied on.*

**EMWQ WIDOWS AND CHILDREN’S ASSISTANCE FUND RECIPE CHALLENGE**

The 5th Annual First Responders Recipe Challenge took place on February 18, 2024, at PB&J - Pizza, Beer & Jukebox in the West Loop. Their support for this event is very much appreciated.

Congratulations to CFD Ambulance 43 crew - Tatiana Matkowskyj and Betsy Michna, and Chloe Schaul, Warrenville FF and Paramedic. The winning recipe for 2024 sponsored by Pabst Blue Ribbon, was Mojo Pork Sandwiches, Pork Mini Tacos, and Cupcakes with buttercream frosting and candied bacon.



Over twelve hundred dollars were raised to benefit the neediest widows and children of the Chicago Fire Department. The generosity of firefighters, paramedics, retirees, and members of the community make our mission possible. If you would like to donate, please visit [widowsandchildren.org](http://widowsandchildren.org). Thank You!

Fraternaly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Anthony Martin'.

Anthony Martin  
Fund Secretary

**REQUIRED DISCLAIMER**

*The information set forth herein is believed to be reliable but is not guaranteed as to accuracy or completeness by and is not to be construed as a representation of the Firemen’s Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago, the Retirement Board (the “Board”) or any member of the Board except the Secretary. The information and expressions of opinion contained herein are subject to change without notice. All expressions of opinion, whether expressly so stated, are intended merely as such and not as representations of fact. Financial information contained in this newsletter is as of a certain date, is unaudited and should not be relied on.*

**Firemen's Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago  
Summary of Regular Meeting dated 02/21/2024**

**THE RETIREMENT BOARD  
of the  
FIREMEN'S ANNUITY & BENEFIT FUND  
OF CHICAGO**

Suite 300  
20 South Clark Street Chicago, IL 60603-1899  
(312) 726-5823 (voice) (312) 726-2316 (fax)  
(800) 782-7425 www.fabf.org

ELECTED OFFICIALS

DANIEL A FORTUNA, Annuitant Trustee, President  
ANTHONY R MARTIN, Active Trustee, Secretary  
ZACHARY PENTEK, Active Trustee  
MICHAEL FLISK, Active Trustee

EX-OFFICIO TRUSTEES

City Clerk, Vice-President ANNA VALENCIA  
City Treasurer, MELISSA CONYEARS-ERVIN  
City Comptroller, CHASSE REHWINKEL  
First Deputy Fire Commissioner, MARY SHERIDAN

**\* PLEASE POST \* \* PLEASE POST \* \* PLEASE POST \* \* PLEASE POST \***

To All Members:

Listed below are the names of individuals who have applied for a 75% Duty Disability benefit from the Pension Board. Their applications will be presented before this Board at the 03/20/2024 meeting.

<u>Rank, Name, Assignment:</u>	<u>Date of Injury:</u>
EMT/ENG ISSAC J GUNN, TRUCK 27	02/06/2023
EMT/CAPT JOHN M HANSON, TRUCK 50	02/22/2023
FF BRIAN M LAMMERT, ENGINE 46 EMT/	02/07/2023
FF COLETTE A LEHNER, LOGISTICS	02/11/2023

Please contact the Pension Fund's Secretary, in writing, using the attached form, if you have any information could assist the Board in its investigation of whether or not it should grant a 75% disability benefit to any of the above individuals.

The Board can subpoena witnesses (Illinois Revised Statutes, Article 6-189) and compel them to attend and before it upon any matter concerning the Fund. Your cooperation will help maintain the integrity of this Fund.

Anthony R. Martin  
Secretary

-----

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ COMPANY ASSIGNMENT \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF APPLICANT \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME(S) OF WITNESS(ES) \_\_\_\_\_

FORWARD TO: Secretary  
Firemen's Annuity & Benefit Fund  
20 South Clark Street, Suite 300  
Chicago, IL 60603

***Firemen's Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago***  
***Summary of Regular Meeting dated 02/21/2024***

MINIMUM FORMULA ANNUITIES:

015705 JAMES W FITZGERALD, EMT LIEUTENANT, TRUCK 12

Ent CFD:	12/01/1999	<b>\$6,977.94</b>	beginning 01/06/2024
Retired:	01/06/2024		based on 62.5% of Final Average Salary
		<b>\$209.34</b>	annuity increment, 3%, begins 01/01/2029

- COLLECT \$286.01 FOR 2001, 2017 & 2018
- REFUND \$52.24 FOR 2003 & 2006 EID

013612 JEFFREY A KING, LIEUTENANT PARAMEDIC, ENGINE 79

Ent CFD:	07/18/1988	<b>\$8,610.44</b>	beginning 01/27/2024
Retired:	01/27/2024		based on 75% of Final Average Salary
		<b>\$258.31</b>	annuity increment, 3%, begins 02/01/2025

- REFUND \$64,332.02 FOR SPOUSE CONTRIBUTIONS

014471 MONICA MCCALPIN, PARAMEDIC IN CHARGE, MARC DIVISION

Ent CFD:	07/16/1992	<b>\$7,403.95</b>	beginning 01/17/2024
Retired:	01/17/2024		based on 75% of Final Average Salary
		<b>\$222.12</b>	annuity increment, 3%, begins 02/01/2025

- REFUND \$4,332.35 FOR 2006, 2017, & 2020-2024 EID
- REFUND \$47,438.70 FOR SPOUSE CONTRIBUTIONS

016872 THOMAS MCLAUGHLIN, EMT FIREFIGHTER, ENGINE 1

Ent CFD:	11/01/2005	<b>\$4,339.68</b>	beginning 01/27/2024
Retired:	01/27/2024		based on 48% of Final Average Salary
		<b>\$130.19</b>	annuity increment, 3%, begins 02/01/2025

- REFUND \$72.57 FOR 2006 EID

015628 MICHAEL L TUMA, FIREFIGHTER, MIDWAY

Ent CFD:	02/16/1999	<b>\$5,579.88</b>	beginning 01/18/2024
Retired:	01/18/2024		based on 62.5% of Final Average Salary
		<b>\$167.40</b>	annuity increment, 3%, begins 09/01/2028

- REFUND \$84.89 FOR 2006 EID

***Firemen's Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago  
Summary of Regular Meeting dated 02/21/2024***

WIDOW'S ANNUITIES:

911743 DOLLY CLAY-STRONG, widow of T J STRONG, Retired since 11/16/2009.

Ent CFD: 02/19/1980 **\$4,516.74** beginning 12/11/2023  
Deceased: 12/10/2023

910316 JOAN REES, widow of JOHN D REES, Retired since 09/27/2002.

Ent CFD: 12/22/1973 **\$3,001.27** beginning 01/02/2024  
Deceased: 01/01/2024

912659 CAROL SCIPIONE, widow of ANTHONY SCIPIONE, Retired since 11/16/2012.

Ent CFD: 11/12/1974 **\$5,502.53** beginning 01/21/2024  
Deceased: 01/20/2024

912686 MARGARET STEINER, widow of WILLIAM H STEINER, Retired since 11/30/2015.

Ent CFD: 03/17/1980 **\$4,924.37** beginning 01/03/2024  
Deceased: 01/02/2024

***Firemen's Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago  
Summary of Regular Meeting dated 02/21/2024***

REFUNDS:

019004 MICHAEL C O MALLEY, PARAMEDIC IN CHARGE, AMBULANCE 53  
Ent CFD: 03/01/2017 **\$54,435.44** Refund of Contributions  
DISCHARGED 08/24/2023

***Firemen's Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago***  
***Summary of Regular Meeting dated 02/21/2024***

DEATH BENEFITS:

016867 MIGUEL HERNANDEZ, EMT FIREFIGHTER, TRUCK 57, Ordinary Disability since 05/20/2023.  
 Ent CFD: 11/01/2005 **\$8,000.00** \$2,666.67 to ANA HERNANDEZ, DAUGHTER  
 \$2,666.67 to JESSICA HERNANDEZ, DAUGHTER  
 \$2,666.66 to FAITH HERNANDEZ, DAUGHTER  
 Deceased: 12/03/2023

008120 ROBERT C PASCAL, FIREFIGHTER, AIR MASK, Retired since 06/23/1990.  
 Ent CFD: 03/07/1961 **\$6,000.00** \$3,000.00 to BRIAN PETRI, STEP-SON  
 \$3,000.00 to DOREEN PETRI, DAUGHTER-IN-LAW  
 Deceased: 12/27/2023

015543 GRADIE PRUDE JR, PARAMEDIC IN CHARGE, AMBULANCE 17, Retired since 09/17/2018.  
 Ent CFD: 09/16/1998 **\$6,000.00** \$4,170.12 to ALEXANDRIA PRUDE, DAUGHTER  
 \$1,829.88 to LECTORIA PRUDE, QILDRO  
 Deceased: 12/26/2023

010316 JOHN D REES, FIREFIGHTER, TRUCK 60, Retired since 09/27/2002.  
 Ent CFD: 12/22/1973 **\$6,000.00** to JOAN MARGARET REES, WIFE  
 Deceased: 12/31/2023

012659 ANTHONY SCIPIONE, PARAMEDIC FIELD CHIEF, 4-5-3, Retired since 11/16/2012.  
 Ent CFD: 11/12/1974 **\$6,000.00** to CAROL SCIPIONE, WIFE  
 Deceased: 01/19/2024

012686 WILLIAM H STEINER, AMBULANCE COMMANDER, AMBULANCE 2, Retired since 11/30/2015.  
 Ent CFD: 03/17/1980 **\$6,000.00** to MARGARET A STEINER, WIFE  
 Deceased: 01/01/2024

011743 T J STRONG, EMT LIEUTENANT, ENGINE 107, Retired since 11/16/2009.  
 Ent CFD: 02/19/1980 **\$6,000.00** to DOLLY CLAY STRONG, WIFE  
 Deceased: 12/09/2023

007538 ORVILLE F TAYLOR, LIEUTENANT, ENGINE 74, Retired since 04/16/1992.  
 Ent CFD: 09/17/1956 **\$6,000.00** \$1,500.00 to SUE A TAYLOR, DAUGHTER  
 \$1,500.00 to MICHAEL O TAYLOR, SON  
 \$1,500.00 to ROBERT A TAYLOR, SON  
 \$1,500.00 to JAMES E TAYLOR, SON  
 Deceased: 01/13/2024



***Firemen's Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago***  
***Summary of Regular Meeting dated 02/21/2024***

HEARINGS:**THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION FOR DUTY DISABILITY WAS GRANTED:**

016269 MARTIN C CONNOLLY, EMT FIREFIGHTER, ENGINE 102  
 Ent CFD: 11/01/2002 **\$7,124.75** beginning 01/19/2024  
**\$30.00** a month for 2 minor children, DANIEL, CASEY

The vote was:

Yeas: FLISK FORTUNA MARTIN PENTEK REHWINKEL SHERIDAN SLACK VALENCIA

Nays: (None)

**THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS FOR ORDINARY DISABILITY WERE GRANTED:**

015691 MICHAEL S COSENTINO, EMT LIEUTENANT, 3RD DISTRICT RELIEF  
 Ent CFD: 12/01/1999 **\$4,602.52** beginning 02/01/2024  
**\$30.00** a month for 2 minor children, SOFIA, VITO

The vote was:

Yeas: FLISK FORTUNA MARTIN PENTEK REHWINKEL SHERIDAN SLACK

Nays: (None)

Not Present: VALENCIA

016713 RICARDO GOMEZ, FIREFIGHTER, ENGINE 7  
 Ent CFD: 05/02/2005 **\$3,459.03** beginning 10/11/2020

The vote was:

Yeas: FLISK FORTUNA MARTIN PENTEK REHWINKEL SHERIDAN SLACK

Nays: (None)

Not Present: VALENCIA

**THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION FOR OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE DISABILITY WAS NOT GRANTED:**

014471 MONICA MCCALPIN, PARAMEDIC IN CHARGE, MARC DIVISION

Ent CFD: 07/16/1992 **\$6,451.69** beginning 01/17/2024

The vote was:

Yeas: (None)

Nays: FLISK FORTUNA MARTIN PENTEK REHWINKEL SHERIDAN SLACK

Not Present: VALENCIA

***Firemen's Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago  
Summary of Regular Meeting dated 02/21/2024***

The following annuitants have passed away since the last regular meeting of the Board:

ANTHONY M RAMIREZ	Annuity	Died 01/17/2024
ANTHONY SCIPIONE	Annuity	Died 01/20/2024
DAVID E KOCH	Annuity	Died 01/23/2024
MARGARET T COLLINS	Widow's Annuity	Died 01/28/2024
JEANETTE ROARK	Widow's Annuity	Died 01/11/2024
JOHN R MEHALEK	Annuity	Died 01/30/2024
KEITH R RENFROE SR	Annuity	Died 02/02/2024
THELMA ELDER	Widow's Annuity	Died 01/12/2024
VERA KOENIG	Widow's Annuity	Died 02/05/2024
MARIBETH OMASTIAK	Child's Annuity	Died 01/21/2024
KENNETH M DULEBA	Annuity	Died 02/11/2024

***Firemen's Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago***  
***Summary of Regular Meeting dated 02/21/2024***

**ANNUITIES GRANTED**

<u>Resigned From:</u>	<u>Month:</u>	<u>Year to Date:</u>
Active Duty	5	19
Duty Disability	0	1
Occupational Disease Disability	0	2
Ordinary Disability	0	0
<b>Total Minimum Formula Annuities Granted</b>	5	22
<b>Total Earned Annuities Granted</b>	0	0
<b>Total Annuities Granted</b>	5	22

**DISABILITIES GRANTED**

<u>Type:</u>	<u>Month:</u>	<u>Year to Date:</u>
Duty Disability	1	3
Occupational Disease Disability	0	0
Ordinary Disability	2	3
<b>Total Disabilities Granted</b>	3	6
<b>Total Disabilities Denied</b>	1	1

**WIDOW'S ANNUITIES GRANTED**

<u>Type:</u>	<u>Month:</u>	<u>Year to Date:</u>
Regular Widow's Annuity	4	14
Compensation Widow's Annuity	0	0
<b>Total Widow's Annuities Granted</b>	4	14

**CHILD'S ANNUITIES GRANTED**

<u>Type:</u>	<u>Month:</u>	<u>Year to Date:</u>
Full Child's Annuity	0	0
Child of Duty Death Annuity	0	0
Child of Ordinary Death Annuity	0	3
<b>Total Children Annuities Granted</b>	0	3



**ENDE, MENZER, WALSH & QUINN**  
**RETIREES', WIDOWS' AND CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE FUND**  
20 S. CLARK STREET SUITE 300 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60603-1896  
(312) 726-5823

*PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF CHICAGO FIREFIGHTERS AND PARAMEDICS*

**DONATIONS REPORTED IN JANUARY 2024**

<b><u>CONTRIBUTOR</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
CFD Active Member Donations 11/30/2023 Payroll	\$ 3,855.44
Kevin and Kathleen OConnor	\$ 300.00
Lawrence and Maureen McCarthy	\$ 100.00
Terry Framer - Kevin O'Connor	\$ 50.00
John and Kathleen Hoffman	\$ 100.00
CFD Active Member Donations 12/15/2023 Payroll	\$ 3,822.94
Cindy Gregorich	\$ 20.00
Thomas and Donna Reynolds	\$ 25.00
Kelly Family in memory of Richard W. and Jeanne M. Kelly	\$ 550.00
FABF Retired Member Donations January	\$ 10,114.50
Carole Cole In Memory of Orville F. Taylor	\$ 60.00
Daniel and Karen Welch	\$ 25.00
CFFU Charity Fund	\$ 260.00
Anonymous	\$ 2.00
Chicago Fellowship of Christian Firefighters	\$ 90.00
Frederick and Phylis Harnisch In Memory of Orville Taylor, CFD	\$ 100.00
SQUARE/PayPal (net) Donations Website	\$ 2,446.00

Anthony Martin, EMWQ President, Daniel Fortuna, EMWQ Secretary, and the entire EMWQ Board of Directors would like to thank all Active, Retired, Disabled and Widowed members that support the neediest CFD Widows & Children on a monthly basis through automatic payroll deductions.

Thank you to the community for your generous support.



**ENDE, MENZER, WALSH & QUINN**  
**RETIREES', WIDOWS' AND CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE FUND**  
 20 S. CLARK STREET SUITE 300 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60603-1896  
 (312) 726-5823

*PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF CHICAGO FIREFIGHTERS AND PARAMEDICS*

**ONLINE DONATIONS REPORTED IN JANUARY 2024**

<b><u>CONTRIBUTOR</u></b>		<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
Brian Kehoe	Monthly PayPal	\$ 10.00
Mary Rose McNamee	Monthly PayPal	\$ 20.00
Raymond Cullen	Monthly PayPal	\$ 25.00
Cheryl Wojcik	In memory of: Orville F Taylor	\$ 20.00
Jim Perry	In memory of: Orville F Taylor	\$ 50.00
Gregg Ruvoli	In memory of: Orville F Taylor	\$ 100.00
Mary Rush	In memory of: Orville F Taylor	\$ 100.00
Gregory Wojcik	In memory of: Orville F Taylor	\$ 100.00
Jill Mack	In memory of: Orville F Taylor	\$ 100.00
Friar Order	In memory of: Orville F Taylor	\$ 150.00
Karen Winget	In memory of: Orville F Taylor	\$ 100.00
William Rush	In memory of: Orville F Taylor	\$ 100.00
Pickleball Spector	In memory of: Orville F Taylor	\$ 100.00
Michael Villa	In memory of: Drew Price	\$ 100.00
Linda Ruff	In memory of: Orville F Taylor	\$ 100.00
Al Burrs	In memory of: Orville F Taylor	\$ 500.00
Chicago Union	In memory of: Emily Kurcab	\$ 250.00
Lorna Scott	Donation	\$ 500.00
Kathleen Mcshane	In memory of: Begin Within Therapy Services	\$ 100.00

Anthony Martin, EMWQ President, Daniel Fortuna, EMWQ Secretary, and the entire EMWQ Board of Directors would like to thank all Active, Retired, Disabled and Widowed members that support the neediest CFD Widows & Children on a monthly basis.

Thank you to the community for your generous support.