

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

Suite 300

20 S. Clark Street
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Fax: (312) 726-2316



Chicago, IL 60603-1896
(800) 782-7425
<http://www.fabf.org>

November 3, 2023

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

UPDATE ON ACTIVE FIREFIGHTER TRUSTEE ELECTION

The Fall Active Member Trustee election was completed October 24th. Michael Flisk received the highest vote count and will serve the term beginning December 1, 2023 through December 1, 2026. Please see the certified results available on the fabf.org website. The Board would like to congratulate Mike, as well as recognize and thank those that participated as candidates, and those members that cast a vote!

ANNUITANT - CONTACT INFORMATION VERIFICATION UPDATE

The Fund distributed over 5,500 (Jurat) letters in August to all members receiving benefits from the Fund. The letter required the annuitant to verify address and phone number detail by executing the form with a public notary.

As of this letter, close to 90% of the required verification letters have been returned to the Fund. For annuitants that did not return the verification letter, a second letter was sent mid-October. The amended return date is November 17th. Verification of all members receiving benefits from the Fund is a legal requirement, and is done to detect and stop fraudulent activity, as well as to provide resources and guidance to those members that need a guardian.

The Union and Fund Offices are available to notarize these forms; all authorized notaries are approved by the Fund for the certification of this form. The executed form letter - unique to each annuitant - needs to be physically returned to the Fund Office at 20 S. Clark, **Suite 300 either in person or by mail**; faxed or emailed forms will not be accepted.

The Board understands there are circumstances that may prevent a timely return of the verification letter, however, continued failure to respond to this legal requirement may result in a suspension of benefits.

PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINAR

We are pleased to confirm that the 2024 spring pre-retirement seminar will be held at Guaranteed Rate Field (Sox Park) in the Auditorium - Conference Center. Sox Park is centrally located, has ample parking, seating for 120 participants, and enhanced presentation technology. The date for the seminar is April 6, 2024, from 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM. Please register early with the Fund via email at seminar@fabf.org to confirm participation - seating will be limited to 120. We would like to thank the Chicago White Sox and Levy Restaurants for their continued support for this and past pre-retirement seminar events.

LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS ON TIER II PENSION REFORM

The Fund was asked to provide testimony to the **House Personnel & Pensions Committee** held in September. The request was in relation to the Committee's consideration of SB1629, SB1630, SB1956, and HB 4065. The following is a brief summary of the testimony provided.

. . . As of December 2022, the Fund supports the retirement security of over 10,000 members: 4,767 active members, 331 disabled members, and 4,969 retirees and dependents of such employees. The demographic of our current active membership is broken down into 2,578 Tier 1 members and 2,189 Tier 2 members. We currently have 6 children, 3 spouses, and 19 disability annuitants receiving benefits under Tier 2.

The Retirement Board of the Fund, by statute, administers the Fund in accordance with the Code. Consistent with its statutory duties, the Retirement Board does not take a formal position on pending legislation, except legislation relating to funding matters or related directly to the administration of the Fund. Accordingly, the Retirement Board does not expect to take a formal position on the relevant bills to be discussed by the Committee. . .

RETIREE HEALTHCARE ANNOUNCEMENT

There are two group health insurance plans that are being offered by third parties to Fund retirees in 2023. Both retiree healthcare plan options currently available have been approved by the Fund as options for retiree healthcare for which the Fund is required by the Illinois Pension Code to collect and forward authorized payment of premiums from your benefit check to the healthcare plan you select. This required process ensures that eligible participants will receive the statutory subsidy provided under the Illinois Pension Code.

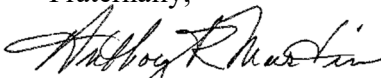
If you are interested in enrolling in one of these two group plans, please contact the specific healthcare plans at the following numbers: (1) for the City's BCBS plan call 1-877-566-8520 if you are over 65 years of age; if you are under 65 years of age, please call 1-800-292-6398; or (2) for Local's 2 Aetna Plan, please call RetireeFirst for Medicare 1-312-248-6808, non-Medicare 1-312-467-7440.

New enrollments, in either of these two group plans, must submit a valid "Participation Authorization for the Payment and Pre-Tax Treatment of Healthcare Premiums" to the Fund before any health premium payment deduction can be made from your benefit check. The required form can be obtained upon request from the Fund or is available on the Fund's website.

The Fund does not solicit or endorse any group health insurance plan, nor does it host or participate in the City's open enrollment process. Accordingly, the Fund does not receive notice regarding any changes in coverage or provider, we rely on our members to provide and update their information with the Fund directly. Please remember to keep the Fund updated timely if changes are made during this enrollment period.

I wish all a bountiful Thanksgiving Holiday; please take time to enjoy family and friends!

Fraternally,



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 or not 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 10/18/2023***

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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 11/15/2023 meeting.

Rank, Name, Assignment:

EMT/LT MICHAEL D WILHELMS, 5TH DISTRICT RELIEF

Date of Injury:

10/27/2022, Engine 120

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

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MINIMUM FORMULA ANNUITIES:

014300	JOSEPH D BALDACCI, PARAMEDIC IN CHARGE, AMBULANCE 18, Duty Disability since 03/10/2006.			
	Ent CFD:	03/01/1991	\$7,385.81	beginning 10/02/2023
	Retired:	10/02/2023		based on 75% of Final Average Salary
			\$221.57	annuity increment, 3%, begins 11/01/2024
012825	VICTOR J BENEGAS, BATTALION CHIEF PARAMEDIC, BATTALION 4			
	Ent CFD:	02/16/1985	\$10,755.22	beginning 09/03/2023
	Retired:	09/03/2023		based on 75% of Final Average Salary
			\$322.66	annuity increment, 3%, begins 10/01/2024
016547	THOMAS L BIERWIRTH, EMT FIRE ENGINEER, ENGINE 32			
	Ent CFD:	10/01/2004	\$4,696.39	beginning 09/09/2023
	Retired:	09/09/2023		based on 48% of Final Average Salary
			\$140.89	annuity increment, 3%, begins 10/01/2024
012455	JOHN G JAKUBEC, BATTALION CHIEF PARAMEDIC, BATTALION 6			
	Ent CFD:	08/17/1981	\$10,851.88	beginning 09/10/2023
	Retired:	09/10/2023		based on 75% of Maximum Salary
			\$325.56	annuity increment, 3%, begins 10/01/2024
015492	JEFFREY A LYLE, EMT BATTALION CHIEF, CITY WIDE RELIEF			
	Ent CFD:	02/02/1998	\$8,274.83	beginning 09/11/2023
	Retired:	09/11/2023		based on 65% of Final Average Salary
			\$248.24	annuity increment, 3%, begins 09/01/2025
015604	EDWARD J NEWCOMER, EMT LIEUTENANT, TRUCK 53			
	Ent CFD:	02/16/1999	\$6,953.95	beginning 09/18/2023
	Retired:	09/18/2023		based on 62.5% of Final Average Salary
			\$208.62	annuity increment, 3%, begins 10/01/2024
015025	DONALD E SINCLAIR, EMT FIREFIGHTER, TOWER LADDER 39			
	Ent CFD:	05/16/1996	\$6,460.88	beginning 09/15/2023
	Retired:	09/15/2023		based on 67.5% of Final Average Salary
			\$193.83	annuity increment, 3%, begins 09/01/2028
014765	THOMAS M ULANSKI, FIREFIGHTER, TRUCK 49			
	Ent CFD:	12/01/1994	\$6,687.45	beginning 09/14/2023
	Retired:	09/14/2023		based on 72.5% of Final Average Salary
			\$200.62	annuity increment, 3%, begins 10/01/2024

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WIDOW'S ANNUITIES:

910920 DIANE MALEC, widow of ROBERT G MALEC, Retired since 11/13/2007.
Ent CFD: 09/04/1979 **\$3,465.65** beginning 07/05/2023
Deceased: 07/04/2023

909731 MARILYN A MARX, widow of WILLIAM R MARX, Retired since 09/13/2003.
Ent CFD: 09/02/1969 **\$4,034.24** beginning 09/13/2023
Deceased: 09/12/2023

907830 NANCI PINCSAK, widow of ARTHUR E PINCSAK, Retired since 11/30/1994.
Ent CFD: 01/16/1959 **\$2,759.23** beginning 08/16/2023
Deceased: 08/15/2023

CHILDREN'S ANNUITIES:

715440 CAIN VERDERBER, child of DARREN J VERDERBER, EMT FIREFIGHTER (PER ARBITRATORS AWARD),
SQUAD 5, BY HELEN PAVLIK
Ent CFD: 01/20/1998 **\$931.98** beginning 08/07/2023
Deceased: 08/06/2023

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REFUNDS:

014600 SHAWN W SPURLIN, FIREFIGHTER, ENGINE 97, Retired since 09/11/2023.
Ent CFD: 09/01/1993 **\$31,504.75** Refund of Spouse Contributions
RETIRED: 09/30/2023

015548 DAVID AVALOS, FIREFIGHTER, TRUCK 26
Ent CFD: 02/16/1999 **\$80,446.66** Refund of Contributions
RESIGNED 07/12/2012

019834 MICHAEL K CANTY, FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC, TOWER LADDER 10
Ent CFD: 07/22/2020 **\$20,122.79** Refund of Contributions
RESIGNED 02/24/2023

018602 JAMES R FRANCOEUR, FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC, ENGINE 102
Ent CFD: 12/16/2014 **\$79,336.91** Refund of Contributions
RESIGNED 08/21/2023

020162 JOHN A KLUS, FIREFIGHTER, ENGINE 38
Ent CFD: 12/06/2021 **\$7,764.35** Refund of Contributions
RESIGNED 06/08/2023

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DEATH BENEFITS:

012063 BRIAN M ANDERSON, FIREFIGHTER, TRUCK 45, Retired since 12/23/2014.
 Ent CFD: 02/01/1982 **\$6,000.00** to BRIAN MICHAEL ANDERSON, SON
 Deceased: 08/22/2023

013057 NADA A AUGLE, EMT LIEUTENANT, 4TH DISTRICT RELIEF, Duty Disability since 04/28/2009.
 Ent CFD: 11/01/1986 **\$6,800.00** to MICHAEL AUGLE, SON
 Deceased: 07/28/2022

009043 JOHN J BRENNAN SR, FIRE ENGINEER, ENGINE 68, Retired since 12/01/1992.
 Ent CFD: 08/16/1966 **\$6,000.00** to LINDA KOCH, SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE
 Deceased: 07/25/2023

010920 ROBERT G MALEC, FIREFIGHTER, TRUCK 52, Retired since 11/13/2007.
 Ent CFD: 09/04/1979 **\$6,000.00** to DIANE MARIE MALEC, WIFE
 Deceased: 07/03/2023

009731 WILLIAM R MARX, LIEUTENANT, ENGINE 100, Retired since 09/13/2003.
 Ent CFD: 09/02/1969 **\$6,000.00** to MARILYN A MARX, WIFE
 Deceased: 09/11/2023

007830 ARTHUR E PINCSAK, FIREFIGHTER, TRUCK 23, Retired since 11/30/1994.
 Ent CFD: 01/16/1959 **\$6,000.00** \$2,000.00 to ANDREW PINCSAK, SON
 \$2,000.00 to JAMES PINCSAK, SON
 \$2,000.00 to TAMARA PINCSAK, DAUGHTER
 Deceased: 08/14/2023

***Firemen's Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago
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HEARINGS:

THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION FOR DUTY DISABILITY WAS GRANTED:

015823 MARGARET L AHLHEIM, EMT BATTALION CHIEF, CITY WIDE RELIEF
Ent CFD: 07/17/2000 **\$10,305.13** beginning 09/06/2023

The vote was:

Yeas: CONYEARS-ERVIN FLISK FORTUNA MARTIN PENTEK SHERIDAN VALENCIA

Nays: (None)

Not Present: REHWINKEL

THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION FOR DUTY DISABILITY WAS GRANTED:

016988 EDWARD J FERN, EMT FIREFIGHTER, TRUCK 48
Ent CFD: 02/01/2006 **\$6,858.50** beginning 12/02/2022

Note: Conversion from Occupational to Duty Disability Pursuant to P.A. 103-0002

The vote was:

Nays: (None)

Yeas: CONYEARS-ERVIN FLISK FORTUNA MARTIN PENTEK SHERIDAN REHWINKEL VALENCIA

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

KATHLEEN C CASE	Widow's Annuity	Died 08/09/2023
CHARLENE M KLIMAS	Widow's Annuity	Died 09/11/2023
LAVERNE HENDRICKSON	Widow's Annuity	Died 09/12/2023
CHARLES BUSH	Annuity	Died 09/22/2023
WILLIAM J GLEASON	Annuity	Died 09/26/2023
DORIS KING	Widow's Annuity	Died 09/25/2023
DAN M BOLOGNANI	Annuity	Died 10/03/2023
WILLIAM S DUKE	Annuity	Died 10/06/2023
RAYMOND L SONNTAG	Annuity	Died 10/11/2023

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ANNUITIES GRANTED

<u>Resigned From:</u>	<u>Month:</u>	<u>Year to Date:</u>
Active Duty	7	66
Duty Disability	1	10
Occupational Disease Disability	0	2
Ordinary Disability	0	0
Total Minimum Formula Annuities Granted	8	78
Total Earned Annuities Granted	0	0
Total Annuities Granted	8	78

DISABILITIES GRANTED

<u>Type:</u>	<u>Month:</u>	<u>Year to Date:</u>
Duty Disability	2	22
Occupational Disease Disability	0	11
Ordinary Disability	0	2
Total Disabilities Granted	2	35
Total Disabilities Denied	0	0

WIDOW'S ANNUITIES GRANTED

<u>Type:</u>	<u>Month:</u>	<u>Year to Date:</u>
Regular Widow's Annuity	3	63
Compensation Widow's Annuity	0	1
Total Widow's Annuities Granted	3	64

CHILD'S ANNUITIES GRANTED

<u>Type:</u>	<u>Month:</u>	<u>Year to Date:</u>
Full Child's Annuity	0	2
Child of Duty Death Annuity	0	1
Child of Ordinary Death Annuity	1	5
Total Children Annuities Granted	1	8