

# GENERAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

# 2019 NEWSLETTER

Our mission is to ensure the proper management and investment of the Retirement System assets in order to protect the benefits of the members and beneficiaries of the Retirement System, and to provide them with the highest level of administrative services.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

George Mitchell, Chairman

We are all about to embark on a new year and a new decade. How exciting! I remember as a child in elementary school I counted the days until summer vacation. It took forever! Now that I am much older and seasoned, time flies by. I wish I could slow down the clock. How do we deal with this phenomenon? Well the only answer that I have is it takes planning. Planning will not slow the clock down any but it will help you deal with the problem of life passing you by. Planning is the key to success!

Save, save, save and then save some more. It is never too late to save but I have to tell you it is less stressful if you start early in your career. Take full advantage of after tax Roth IRA's and then load up in the ICMA. Contact the Human Resources department for more information. Plan for your retirement. It will be here before you know it. Believe me, I know! Do you remember your last 5-star vacation? How much time did you spend planning that excursion? Exactly! Put that much time into planning your retirement each year by educating yourself about subjects such as budgets, savings vehicles, taxes, inflation, retirement lifestyle, insurance, debt, asset allocation, and emergency accounts just to name a few. Then write out you plan and back it up. Make multiple copies and make sure your spouse or partner and children know where to find you plan. If you have any questions you can contact us at the pension board.

In closing there is one more thing that I ask of our members. If I had a megaphone I would use it. CHECK your beneficiary designations. When should you check them? Check them if you can not remember who you designated. Check them if you recently were married, divorced, have new children, or deaths. Remember the Pension Board has to honor who you have designated no matter what might have changed in your life. There is one exception: under a relatively new state law, if you get divorced and you still want your previous spouse as your beneficiary, you MUST come down to the pension board and rename your previous spouse as beneficiary.

WE HAVE MOVED OUR NEW ADDRESS: 2255 SW 2nd STREET								
POST	OFFICE							
WALMART	WELLS FARGO  ATLANTIC BLVD  MEW PENSION OFFICE 2255 SW 2nd STREET			CITY HALL				
POWERLINE ROAD  ISLE CASINO	SW 23 AVE THE THE WAS AVE ANDREWS AVE	I-9	5	DIXIE HIGHWAY				

#### AT A GLANCE

As of September 30, 2019

#### PLAN PARTICIPANTS

<b>♦</b>	Active Employees	523
•	Terminated & Vested	27
<b>*</b>	DROP Participants	44
•	Disability	14
•	Retirees	340
<b>*</b>	Beneficiaries	44

PLAN ASSETS \$ 191,862,824

BENEFIT PAYMENTS MADE IN FY2019 \$ 16,084,009

#### **CONTRIBUTIONS TO PLAN IN FY2019**

♦ Employees \$ 2,880,798
 ♦ City \$ 9,079,297
 ♦ BSO & County \$ 251,119

NET INVESTMENT INCOME FY2019 \$ 5,291,693

**VISIT US ONLINE AT** 

WWW.POMPGERS.ORG

Forms, Reports, Agendas & more

The Board of Trustees meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at the Pension Office, unless otherwise posted. All meetings are public and anyone may attend. Ten days prior to each meeting, notices are sent to all departments throughout the City. Meeting agendas are posted 48 hours prior to each meeting on our website.

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

George Mitchell, chair Employee elected
Leeta Hardin, vice-chair Employee elected
Frankie Chevere Employee elected
Mark Darmanin Commission appointed
Mark Eddington Board appointed
Greg Eickhorn Commission appointed
Michael Miller Commission appointed

#### **STAFF**

Madelene Klein Executive Director Bob Oelke Assistant Administrator

> 2255 S.W. 2nd Street Pompano Beach, FL 33060 (954) 782-2660

#### **BOARD ATTORNEY**

Rice, Pugatch, Robinson, Storfer & Cohen PLLC

#### **PLAN ACTUARY**

Cavanaugh Macdonald Consulting, LLC

#### **PLAN AUDITOR**

Kabat, Schertzer, De La Torre, Taraboulos & Co LLC

#### **PLAN CUSTODIAN**

Regions Bank

#### **ASSET CONSULTANT**

Southeastern Advisory Services

### TRANSITIONS 2019

#### **RETIREMENTS**

CHRISTOPHER FOX MARGARET HEDELUND LINDA FRY MARK KORMAN MICHAEL GILLIS ROBERT KUSSNER

FELIX SANCHEZ

#### **VESTED TERMINATION**

MIGUEL NUNEZ DERECK FRAZIER OTIS THOMAS PAOLA WEST

#### **DROP ENTRY**

RAWN BERRIAN MICHAEL BRAY JOAN BRYAN ROBIN BURNS RANDALL LEWIS GARRON McGEE MARK NESLUND OCTAVIAN ONUC DENA POLL MICHAEL RADA FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ SHAWN SMITH, SR.

#### **DROP EXIT**

RANDOLPH BLAKENEY GARY BREWER MICHAEL B. CARTER JOSPEH CERRITO GENNARO CRISCITO JEAN DESINOR JEFFREY ERVIN DERRICK FARROW RICHARD HICKS FLOYD KELLY RONNIE KOWAL GEORGE MITCHELL FRED MOSLEY SUSANA SERRANO

#### PRE-RETIREMENT DEATHS

RICHARD J. CALKINS

RICHARD LOOP

#### **POST-RETIREMENT DEATHS**

DOUGLAS CARR DIANAN CATHER DEAN GARAFOLA JAMES GREEN, SR. EUGENE GUYDOSIK

JOHN J. HACKETT BARBARA HERRMANN BARBARA JOHNSON JAMES KLIMKO JOHNNIE MCELHANEY STEPHEN SANTORO GEORGE SMITH, JR. BENJAMIN THOMAS EUGENE WAGNER

**DIVORCE?** Municipal pension plans are not governed by the same laws as private-sector plans. If you are contemplating a divorce and a split of pension benefits as part of your settlement, please have your attorney contact the pension office. We may be able to provide helpful insights to make the process smoother to enable us to legally comply with the court's directives.

More details are on our website:

POMPGERS.ORG

#### HELP US KEEP YOU INFORMED

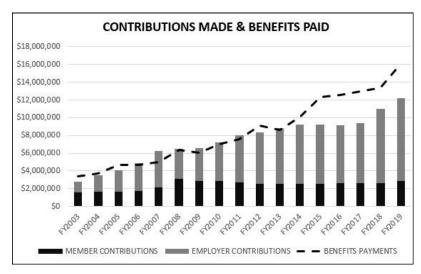
Have there been any changes in your life lately? Did you move, change your phone number or email? Did you change your name recently? Keeping your contact information up-to-date at the pension office is one way for you to get the most from your retirement system.

For your protection, all requests for address changes must be in writing. For name changes we need a copy of a marriage license, divorce settlement or other official documentation.

A Change of Address Form can be found at our website:

#### POMPGERS.ORG

### FINANCIAL STRENGTH





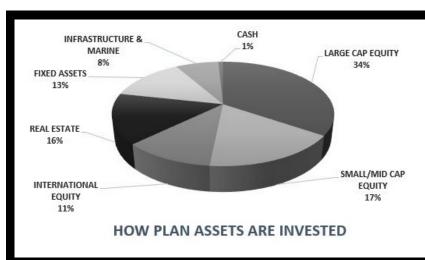
#### **BOARD NEWS**

On March 20th, our longest-serving Trustee, Jack Hackett, passed away. Jack was serving as the Board-appointed Trustee at the time of his passing. To fill this vacancy, the Board appointed Mark Eddington as the Board-appointed Trustee. A special election was held in June to fill the remainder of Mark's previous position as an elected trustee (term ending December 2020). Five candidates were nominated and Frankie Chevere was elected as Trustee. Congratulations Frankie—and our thanks to the four other members who stepped up and ran in the election:

An election was scheduled for November 21st to elect one member of the Retirement System (active or retired) to serve on the Board of Trustees for the term expiring December 2022.. Chairman George Mitchell was the only person nominated as a candidate. As a result, no election was held and Trustee Mitchell will serve another three-year term on the Board.

On December 10, 2019 the City Commission re-appointed Trustee Greg Eickhorn to the Board to serve his second full term, which will expire December 2022.

We are very fortunate to have dedicated, experienced and knowledgeable Trustees serving your pension plan.



#### **PORTFOLIO MANAGERS**

**Large Cap Value** DePrince Race & Zollo Small/Mid Cap Value Atlanta Capital **Index Fund** Rhumbline Advisers **Fixed Income** Richmond Capital Management **Core Real Estate Principal Global Investors Strategic Value** American Realty Advisors **Real Estate** Infrastructure **JPMorgan** & Global Marine American Funds **International Funds** Oppenhieimer Oakmark

# **RETIREE NEWS**

**Tax Time is Coming:** Our plan custodian — Regions Bank — will be mailing Forms 1099-R to all retirees and beneficiaries who received benefit payments during calendar year 2019. Please note that if you have your monthly benefit deposit split into two bank accounts, you may receive a separate 1099-R for each account. Anyone who received a distribution of their DROP account, will receive a separate 1099-R for that distribution. Forms should be mailed no later than January 31, 2020. Please call or email the pension office if you do not receive your 1099-R by mid-February.

**Note:** You might see some of your income in Box 5 of your 1099-R listed as "Employee Contributions". This portion of your benefit represents employee contributions that you made to the Plan with after-tax dollars, it is not included in the Taxable Amount shown in Box 2.

If you wish to adjust the amount of federal taxes being withheld from your monthly retirement benefits in the future, you must complete a new Form W4-P. You can print a copy of the form from our website — POMPGERS.ORG — or by contacting the Pension Office.

You may want to check with your tax preparer for any recent changes to the tax law that might affect your pension benefits. In December 2019, Congress revised tax rules governing IRAs and other retirement plans.

**Benefit Verifications:** To ensure that benefit payments go to only recipients who are rightfully entitled to receive them, we ask each retiree and beneficiary to complete a verification form each year. This form must be signed in the presence of a Notary Public. Please return your completed, notarized form to the Pension Office as soon as possible.

For your convenience, Notaries Public at the Pension Office are available to help you complete your form. On most days we are available to notarize your forms between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm., Monday through Friday. Please call the Pension Office at 954-782-2660 to check our availability.

**REMEMBER:** Our office has moved. Our new location is **2255 SW 2nd Street, Pompano Beach**. There is a map on the front page of this newsletter. In you are looking for a landmark, we are next door to Happy Nails.

Direct Deposits: Monthly benefits are deposited directly into your bank account on the first day of each month. If you change banks or accounts, please let the Pension Office know as soon as possible, so that we can have your benefits deposited into your new account. It typically takes about 10 days for our custodian to update bank information. In order to process the change we need written authorization and a copy of a voided check from the new account. There is a Direct Deposit Authorization form on our website: POMPGERS.ORG. Simply print it out, fill in the requested information, attach a voided check and send it to the Pension Office. We prefer that you send changes of bank accounts to the Pension Office, rather than directly to our custodian. This allows us to verify that your requested changes have been properly processed. If you do send instructions directly to the custodian, please send a copy to us, too, so that we can monitor the changes.

**Beware of Tax Scams:** Tax season brings out thieves looking to steal your refund — and possibly your identity. Please take steps to protect yourself from identity theft. Only give out your social security number when absolutely necessary. Don't carry your social security card in your wallet or write your number on your checks. Don't respond to unsolicited requests for personal information (your name, birthdate, social security number, or bank account number) by phone, mail, or online. **The IRS will never contact you by phone or email.** 

# PLANNING FOR RETIREMENT

Retirement planning is sometimes referred to as a three-legged stool: your pension, Social Security and personal savings/investments. The Pension Office is here to help you understand the first leg. The Social Security Administration has online tools to help you explore your options at www.SSA.gov. Personal savings are up to you — and there are many different investment options and retirement accounts that can help you create a secure financial foundation after retirement.

Trying to understand how all of these investment options work with your pension and Social Security can be confusing. Many employees have a number of financial questions about how to make the most of their retirement, including budgeting, taxes, managing their investments and health care coverage. In addition, Congress passed major changes to the tax code in December that may have an impact on your retirement plans.

Beginning in 2020, your Pension Office is will be hosting a series of Retirement Planning Workshops to address some of these questions. We want to help you be prepared to make the most of your retirement. Whether you are just starting your career with the City, are a seasoned employee or are approaching retirement age, we hope to provide you information that is relevant to your circumstances and answer the questions that you might have.

We will be announcing the schedule of Workshops in early 2020. We hope you will attend.

# RETIREMENT NEWS

**Planning to Retire Soon?:** Be sure to contact the Pension Office to schedule an exploratory meeting to discuss all of your options. Everyone's situation is different. What may make sense for a co-worker may not work well for you. Retirment marks a major turning point in your life. Make sure you have all the facts you need to make informed decisions for your unique circumstances. Schedule an appointment with us a couple of months before you plan to retire.

Beneficiary Designations: When was the last time you reviewed your beneficiary designation? Now is a good time to take a look and see if it still reflects your intentions today. Life has a way of getting ahead of us — you may have gotten married or divorced, celebrated the birth of a new child, perhaps your beneficiary has died. Time and circumstances change. Please be sure your beneficiary designation is up-to-date. Forms are available in our office or on our website — POMPGERS.ORG. Don't forget to also review your life insurance policies, 457 plan, IRAs and other retirement accounts. NOTE: If you initially named your spouse as beneficiary and have since divorced, under Florida law we must treat your ex-spouse as though he or she is deceased. If you still intend for your ex-spouse to be your beneficiary after the divorce, you must fill out a new beneficiary designation form reflecting your new relationship.

**Refund of Contributions:** If you terminate employment and are not vested or eligible to receive a retirement benefit, you must complete an "Application for Refund of Contributions" before we can process your refund. If you do not receive a form from the Pension Office within a few days of giving your notice to your employer, please contact the Executive Director.

Refunds of contributions can be rolled over into a qualified retirement account, such as an IRA or 457 plan, without tax consequence. If you elect to receive your refund directly, the taxable portion of contributions will be subject to a 20% withholding tax. You may also be subject to a 10% penalty for early withdrawal if you are under age 59½. The taxable portion of your refund includes all employee contributions made after January 1, 1991.

Once you submit your completed application to us, you should receive your refund check in approximately three to four weeks after your termination date (last day on the payroll) — as long as the Pension Office receives all of the required documentation from the Human Resources and Payroll Departments.