



# Employees' Retirement System Communicator

May, 2009

No. 5

## Contact Information

### Employees' Retirement System

Please contact the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) Division at 414-278-4207 in Milwaukee or toll-free at 877-652-6377 outside of Milwaukee for all Pension questions, including Retirement calculations.

### Life Insurance & Health Benefits

Please contact the Life & Health Division with Life and Health Benefits related questions at: 414-278-4198.

## V-3 Updates

We just completed our first quarter with V-3, our new pension system that determines eligibility, calculates benefits and issues pension checks.

The system is working well, however, as with any new system, ERS has been addressing isolated processing quirks, data corrections and payment discrepancies. While these issues may cause an inconvenience for some retirees, there is a positive aspect—V-3 is providing an opportunity for data cleansing and updates. Ultimately, this will lead to a more accurate and responsive system. We appreciate your cooperation and patience.

The next 2009 system release, expected in early fall, will be the Self-Service module. Self-Service allows retirees to provide updated information to ERS which promotes fast response and expeditious communication.

- Quicker, more accurate pension estimate and retirement processing,
- Complete integration of pension and post-employment Life and Health benefits,
- Enhanced customer service,

## Retiree Reminders

In order to maintain an accurate and responsive V-3 pension system and protect your personal information, ERS requires written verification of changes you request be made. Your assistance by following the guidelines below is much appreciated:

- Notify ERS of address changes well in advance.
- Keep ERS up to date on telephone number changes.
- Bank account changes should be passed on to ERS in a timely fashion.
- Divorce, marriage, death or other dependant/marital status changes must be reported to ERS immediately.
- If you receive Survivor benefits, keep ERS updated on marital status, student status and/or minor children attaining age 18.

## Receive the *ERS Communicator* on Line!

We continue to look for faster ways to deliver the latest ERS and Benefits news to you. You now have the option of receiving the *ERS Communicator* and other retiree pension and benefit communications on-line.

All you need to provide for this service is your valid email address. From your Internet browser, go to:

1. Milwaukee.gov.
2. From there select "City of Milwaukee" (Yes, that's right — City of Milwaukee. We're borrowing the City's system).
3. At the home page, select "Get Notice by email" (left-hand navigational panel).
4. At the "welcome to Milwaukee.gov E-Services" page, sign up by clicking on "New User" and create your account.
5. Your initial password will be emailed to the address you provided.

You can now log in and select the notices you would like to receive. From the list on the list, select "E-Notify", scroll down to "News Releases – County". Check mark 'County Retiree Communication – ERS.' That's it — you'll receive ERS communication on-line!

## Important Flu Information

By now, you have probably heard all the news regarding the current influenza outbreak hitting Milwaukee and other parts of the country. Although there is currently no proven vaccine for protection against H1N1 Influenza A (Swine Flu), two anti-viral medications have been shown to provide limited benefit in treating this specific virus. If you become ill and are diagnosed with H1N1, your physician may prescribe one of these anti-viral medications.

Medications typically prescribed for this type of flu (TamiFlu and Relenza), are not covered under our health plan. **However, if your physician suspects you have H1N1 and prescribes TamiFlu or Relenza, contact the Benefits Division (414-278-4198), and we will pre-approve your prescription for these medications.** If you have already paid the retail price at the pharmacy for either of these medications, call us and, if eligible, we will walk you through the reimbursement process. We may ask you to provide documentation from your physician of a positive diagnosis.

**E**mployees'  
**R**etirement  
**S**ystem