

**THIS ISSUE: Legislative Wrap-up, Financial Publications,
Annual Training Seminar in Arlington**

Legislative Wrap-up

HB 360, “relating to the crediting and charging of investment gains and losses on the assets held in trust by the Texas Municipal Retirement System and providing a guaranteed minimum credit to employee accounts,” passed the Texas House and Texas Senate unanimously. The bill was signed by Governor Rick Perry and became law on May 26, 2009.

HB360 amends the TMRS Act by providing for the following:

1. Guarantee members an annual interest credit of at least 5.00% and a 5.00% discount rate used in setting the annuity purchase rate for retirees
2. Include unrealized gains and losses in the crediting/charging of interest to city accounts
3. Credit variable annual interest rates to cities, including negative rates

These changes enable TMRS to continue the diversification of the System’s investments, which will enhance risk management and support higher returns, thereby helping to mitigate the need for future city contribution rate increases.

TMRS thanks everyone involved in helping move HB 360 forward. We are particularly grateful to the primary sponsor, House Chairman Edmund Kuempel and Senate Chairman Tommy Williams and their staffs. Thanks also to the TMRS Board of Trustees for their leadership and the TMRS Legislative Stakeholder Group (now the TMRS Advisory Committee) for their role in preparing for this session.

Other Legislation

Two bills were introduced that would have affected TMRS:

- SB 1358 – provided an additional COLA option for retirees that could have been adopted by cities
- HB 1344 – would have created a statutory basis for the TMRS Advisory Committee

Neither of these bills passed. The TMRS Board took no position on either bill, although TMRS staff acted as resources at the Legislature’s request.

If you have any questions, contact TMRS’ Director of Government Relations, Eddie Solis, at esolis@tmrs.com.

Next Board Meeting

The TMRS Board of Trustees will meet on Friday, June 19 in Austin. The next e-bulletin will update you on the topics covered in that meeting.

2008 Financial Publications Coming Soon

CAFR Provided on Disk

Mindful of keeping costs down, we are distributing the *TMRS 2008 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report* (CAFR) electronically this year. The CAFR has long been printed and mailed to each TMRS city. However, this year, we will be sending it to cities as a PDF on a disk, to be printed or viewed onscreen as you might need. Each city's finance officer or, absent a finance officer, the city correspondent, will receive a disk.

For several years now, we have made the CAFR available on the TMRS website in PDF format. This year's CAFR PDF will be available on the website, as well as on the disk sent to cities at the end of June.

PAFR Inserted into INSIGHT and Retirementwise

The summary financial report that goes directly to members and annuitants at their home addresses (the *2008 Summary Annual Financial Report*, also called the *Popular Annual Financial Report*, or PAFR) will be issued in print format but will be bundled with the member newsletter *INSIGHT* and the retirement magazine *Retirementwise* this year rather than being sent as a separate mail piece. Members and retirees can expect to receive this report in June, at about the same time as cities receive the CAFR. It will also be available on the web.

Funding Workshops Planned

The Travel Team is working with several cities to offer funding workshops in 2009. These workshops are designed to help city decision-makers with their questions about city rates, city plan options, and other funding-related questions. Our staff actuary will attend as many of the workshops as possible

Here are the workshops scheduled so far:

City	Date	Time	Location
Austin	Wednesday, June 24	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	TMRS Headquarters
Sugar Land	Wednesday, July 15	9:30 a.m. - noon	City Hall
Corpus Christi	Monday, July 27	TBA	TBA
McAllen	Wednesday, August 5	TBA	TBA
Killeen	Tuesday, August 11	9:30 a.m. – noon	City Hall – Council Chambers
Amarillo	Wednesday, August 12	TBA	The Globe Center
Tyler	Tuesday, August 18	9:30 a.m. – noon	Tyler Public Library
Addison	Wednesday, August 26	TBA	Addison Conference Center

In addition to these cities, other locations will be announced soon. If you or any other city officials are interested in attending one of these workshops, please send an e-mail to communications@tmrs.com or call Angela Deats at 800.924.8677 to sign up.

TMRS Annual Training Seminar Planned for Early October

Arlington is the locale for the next Annual Training Seminar, to be held October 4 – 6. The host hotel is the Hilton Arlington, where a Sunday reception will kick off the seminar, and two days of training will follow on Monday and Tuesday. This seminar will focus on TMRS correspondent training but will also include other topics of interest such as TMRS investments and actuarial issues. While it is primarily designed for TMRS benefit administrators, any city employee or elected official with an interest in the System is welcome to register and attend.

Certification Course Filled Quickly

The June 30 and July 1 Correspondent Certification Training Course, offered in Austin at the TMRS Headquarters, has filled up. Correspondent Training focuses on day-to-day situations the correspondent experiences: things you need to know to help members as they make their way through TMRS throughout their careers, from enrollment through retirement.

Due to increased interest in the course, we are asking anyone who would like to attend the next offering, planned for late 2009 or early 2010, to send an e-mail to communications@tmrs.com indicating their interest.

An additional training option valuable to correspondents is the Annual Training Seminar, which reviews how TMRS works as a system – topics include membership but also extend to plan design, city services, legal and tax issues, actuarial considerations, legislation, and investments (see Annual Training Seminar item above).

Correspondents: We Need Your Assistance with Addresses!

It is extremely important that all members keep their addresses current with TMRS. Not having a valid address can cause members to miss valuable information. Some members don't realize that simply changing their address through their HR department or other city office isn't enough. Please remind them that to change their address in our records, they will need to complete a TMRS-CHNG (Address or Name Change) form, sign it, and fax it to 512.476.5576 or mail it to P.O. Box 149153, Austin, TX 78714-1953.

If we do not have a valid address for members, they will not receive their annual statements, estimates, or TMRS newsletters.

NOTE - Previously issued e-bulletins and correspondence are posted in the "E-Bulletin Archive" section under the Publications page on the TMRS Website.