

# TMRS E-bulletin

FOR CITIES

**December Board Meeting • GASB 68 Update • Pre-Retirement Conferences and other Training Options • MyTMRS® Flyer for Members • Help with HELPS**

## TMRS Board Meeting Summary

The TMRS Board of Trustees met on December 3 – 4, 2015. The Board:

- Approved retaining RVK, Inc. as the general investment consultant for the System.
- Approved four investments in the Non-core Fixed Income portfolio and three investments in the Real Return portfolio.
- Approved amendments to the Investment Policy Statement.
- Approved the 2016 investment pacing plan.
- Heard the Public Equity Annual Asset Class Review from TMRS staff.
- Received the 2015 Actuarial Experience Study performed by consulting actuary, GRS, and approved the recommended actuarial assumption set. The actuarial assumptions resulting from the study will be used in the Actuarial Valuation as of December 31, 2015, and will be reflected in the city contribution rates for the year beginning January 1, 2017. (The [Experience Study presentation](#) is posted on the TMRS website.)
- Approved the TMRS 2016 Operating Budget and related transfer of monies.
- Approved amendments to the TMRS Strategic Plan.
- Appointed Board officers for 2016. They are:
  - Chair: Jim Parrish, Deputy City Manager – Administrative Services, City of Plano
  - Vice Chair: Bill Philibert, Human Resources Director, City of Deer Park

TMRS staff extends our thanks to the 2015 Chair, Julie Oakley, Director of Finance, City of Lakeway; and to 2015 Vice Chair, Jim Parrish.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for February 18 – 19 in Austin.

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## GASB 68 Update

### **GASB 68 relates to your city's retirement cost, not the cost of supplemental death benefits.**

TMRS has received numerous calls from cities who are concerned that the city's contributions in the GASB 68 package (and Schedule of Fiduciary Net Position) do not tie to the city's records. Generally, the city states that the city's records reflect MORE contributions on their books than shown in the GASB package. In most situations, the higher contribution amount on the city's books is due to the fact that the city has included total city contributions from the TMRS-3 reports remitted to TMRS. **As a reminder, GASB 68 relates only to the PENSION plan — not the supplemental death benefit; the portion of the rate for supplemental death benefits cannot be included in contributions.** When using the TMRS-3 report to determine the city's contributions, the city should separate their city contribution rate into two components, referring to their annual rate letter: (1) portion for pension benefit and (2) portion for supplemental death benefits. For GASB 68 purposes, the city should only use the portion of the rate/contributions that cover the cost of the pension benefit.

The [Eye on GASB](#) section of the TMRS website has been modified to include everything you need for GASB 68 compliance. TMRS staff prepared a [GASB Employer Reporting Guide](#) to assist your

city with making your pension disclosures. If you have additional questions, you may send an email to [pensionaccounting@tmrs.com](mailto:pensionaccounting@tmrs.com).

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## Face-to-Face Training Options for 2016

### Regional Pre-Retirement Conferences

These half-day events are a perfect opportunity for your employees who are close to retirement to get full information from TMRS and Social Security representatives. We call these events Regionals because although they are hosted by a TMRS city, other area cities are invited to send their employees to the host city's venue. TMRS serves a continental breakfast and provides attendees with retirement estimate packages. Here are the Regionals that are planned so far – stay tuned to the web events calendar and future e-bulletins for the complete list of regionals.

- January 12 – Richardson
- February 25 – Round Rock
- March 9 – San Angelo
- March 29 – Mercedes
- April 7 – Irving
- April 21 – Denton
- May 17 – Hurst
- June 22 – Schertz
- July 12 – Nacogdoches
- November 2 - Lubbock

### City Correspondent Training Courses

The purpose of correspondent training is to give our city correspondents, our partners in providing TMRS benefits, all the tools they need to administer the plan to their employees. No firm dates have been set for correspondent training, but we are planning for three courses total: two in Austin and one in the Dallas – Ft. Worth area.

### Annual Training Seminar

The 2015 Annual Training Seminar in San Antonio met with great success. We had 180 city employees in attendance from 99 different TMRS cities. Mark your calendars for the 2016 seminar, which returns to Austin on September 7 – 9 at the Sheraton Austin at the Capitol.

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## ADMINISTRATIVE REMINDERS

### Send City Ordinances before December 31

Before the end of the year, don't forget to file with TMRS any city ordinance adopting changes to your TMRS plan. If your city is adopting or has adopted an ordinance changing TMRS provisions (such as Annuity Increases or Updated Service Credits) to be effective January 1, 2016, send TMRS a copy of the ordinance right away! By law, these changes must be transmitted to TMRS before the ordinance's effective date. **The last date of acceptance is December 31, 2015.** If you have already sent in your ordinance and have not received an acknowledgment from TMRS, please call or email LaShelle Ruiz at 800-924-8677 or [lruiz@tmrs.com](mailto:lruiz@tmrs.com) as soon as possible. Please note that any change to assumptions made as a result of the actuarial experience study will affect the contribution calculations for your city's plan effective January 1, 2017.

### Help with HELPS Administration

Some of our cities are confused about HELPS deductions for retirees, including if a TMRS-HLPS form is required, whether it requires certification, and when it is due to TMRS.

To enroll, amend, or cancel insurance deductions, retirees must submit the [TMRS-HLPS form](#). The city's role in handling a retiree's HELPS application is to certify the retiree is eligible to participate in the HELPS program on the bottom of the form for initial enrollment only. Future amendments and cancellations by the retiree do not require recertification by the city. All forms must be received by TMRS the month before the change is to be effective.

We have posted a [Q&A flyer](#) on the retiree FAQ page for easy reference. We suggest you familiarize yourself with the rules regarding HELPS by reading the new Q&A flyer and keeping copies of it on hand for explaining details to retirees and members preparing for retirement.

### Please Distribute MyTMRS Flyer to your Employees

Since MyTMRS continues to offer more features (the latest is online address changes), we prepared a flyer that cities can print and distribute to their employee members, available under the Member Benefits section of the TMRS website. We appreciate all you can do to help us spread the word that MyTMRS gives members 24-hour online access to their account information.

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