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February Board of Trustees Meeting

The TMRS Board of Trustees met in Austin on February 13 and 14. The Board:

- Welcomed two new Trustees: Anali Alanis of Pharr and Juan Diego “Johnny” Huizar of Pleasanton (see article below)
- Made two appointments to the Advisory Committee on Benefit Design (see article below)
- Made appointments to Board committees (see article below)
- Approved allocations in the [Non-Core Fixed Income, Private Equity, and Real Estate](#) portfolios
- Approved updates to the Investment Policy Statement, including the strategic target allocation and acceptable ranges (approved by the Board in September 2019), and processes for TMRS’ selection, management, and termination of [investment managers](#)
- Approved the submission of proposed rule changes to implement provisions of SB 1337 and update existing rules regarding administrative practices and procedures regarding claims.
- Heard a presentation from Cost Effectiveness Measurement Benchmarking on TMRS [administration](#) and [investments](#) benchmarking reports
- Heard the [annual review](#) of the Risk Management program
- Received a [quarterly investment report](#) from consultant RVK
- Discussed the [Board’s governance policy manual](#) project, including proposed changes to the Bylaws and other governance documents
- Discussed the potential development of a [Board telephone conferencing or videoconferencing policy](#)
- Received an update on the [Actuarial Services](#) department

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be in Austin on March 24 – 25. The Board’s meeting [calendar for 2020](#) is posted on the website.

Executive Director Search Continues

With the pending retirement of TMRS Executive Director David Gavia, the TMRS Trustees are continuing a nationwide search for his replacement. With the assistance of Hudepohl & Associates, the Board has identified a pool of candidates, and it is anticipated that interviews will be conducted in March.

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New Board Members Receive Committee Assignments

On February 4, Governor Abbott appointed [Anali Alanis](#), Assistant City Manager of Pharr, and [Juan Diego “Johnny” Huizar](#), City Manager of Pleasanton, to the TMRS Board of Trustees. Mrs. Alanis replaces Jim Jeffers of Nacogdoches, who retired in January 2020. Mr. Huizar replaces Jim Parrish of Plano, who retired in 2019. TMRS welcomes Mrs. Alanis and Mr. Huizar and thanks Mr. Parrish and Mr. Jeffers for their dedication and service.

Both new members attended the February Board meeting, where the Board acted on assignments to the Board’s committees. In addition to committee assignments, the Board voted to combine the Budget and Compensation committees and to discuss the Technology Committee at a future meeting. The committee members appointed for 2020 are:

- Advisory Committee on Benefit Design: Chair David Landis, Vice Chair Anali Alanis
- Budget and Compensation Committee: Chair Julie Oakley, Vice Chair Bill Philibert
- Internal Audit Committee: Chair, David Landis, Vice Chair Johnny Huizar
- Legislative Committee: Chair, Bill Philibert, Vice Chair Jesús A. Garza

Two Representatives Appointed to the Advisory Committee on Benefit Design

The Board appointed Paul Parker, retired City Manager, to the individual class position reserved for a retiree. Mr. Parker replaces George Kauffman, who resigned in 2019. The Board also appointed Barry Sullivan, City Manager of Gainesville, to the individual class position reserved for an active city employee. Both appointments are for three-year terms.

The next scheduled meeting of the Advisory Committee will be a joint meeting with the Board on May 28 – 29 in Austin. For full information on the Advisory Committee, see the [TMRS website](#).

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City Portal Tip

It is extremely important for TMRS City Correspondents to keep their contact information current with TMRS. This is especially essential for authorized users of the City Portal. In the near future, TMRS will be enhancing the security of the Portal, so being able to communicate quickly with users will be more important than ever. If there is any change in a City Portal user’s contact information, please [notify TMRS](#) as soon as possible.

Learn About TMRS – Training Events for 2020

2020 Regional Pre-Retirement Conferences • Each year, in partnership with TMRS cities, we conduct regional conferences for employees who are thinking about retiring. These free half-day events help employees better understand their TMRS benefits and make plans for retirement. The programs also include a presentation by a Social Security expert. TMRS provides a continental breakfast, and spouses are welcome to attend.

Invitations are typically sent to all city contacts and employees with a MyTMRS® account in the region. When you receive the invitation for a regional planned in your area, please forward it to your employees, and encourage them to create a MyTMRS account so they can receive the invitation directly in the future (see Eventbrite article below). The invitation email explains how attendees can self-register with [Eventbrite](#).

The entire 2020 schedule of Regional Pre-Retirement Conferences is on the [Events & Training](#) page of the website.

2020 City Correspondent Certification Courses • A popular way to gain a comprehensive overview of the System, the City Correspondent Certification Course gives city employees and other TMRS plan administrators the knowledge and tools they need to work in partnership with TMRS. The course covers enrollment, service credits, retirement options, divorce, disability, death benefits, the City Portal, and everything else Correspondents need to assist active and retiring members.

Links to register for a 2020 City Correspondent Certification Course are shown on the [Correspondent Course](#) calendar page. If your city would like to host a Certification Course in the future, contact your [Regional Manager](#) or send a note to communications@tmrs.com.

Mid-Career Meetings • In 2019, the TMRS Travel Team introduced a new type of employee meeting designed for employees who are vested with TMRS but are several years away from retirement. The purpose of these meetings is to educate employees about TMRS and also encourage them to start their long-term retirement planning. These are two-hour free meetings presenting general and city-specific retirement planning topics. To get an idea of the topics covered, view the Mid-Career Meeting presentation, [Understanding the Value of Your Benefit](#). If you are interested in bringing this type of event to your city, contact the [Travel Team](#).

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Follow Us on Eventbrite

Follow TMRS on Eventbrite to receive notification emails about [Correspondent Courses](#), [Regional Pre-Retirement Conferences](#), and [Executive Workshops](#) in your area! Go to the [TMRS Eventbrite page](#) to follow us and register for future events. All registrations through Eventbrite are free. Please spread the word to your employees!

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Retirement and Member Statements

2020 Retirement Account Statements for TMRS retirement benefit recipients are now available on [MyTMRS®](#) and were also mailed on February 10. The statements show the payment and withholding amount, retirement plan option, retirement date, beneficiary designation, and amount of COLA (if applicable) in effect for 2020.

2019 Member Annual Statements will be mailed in March to all members with a TMRS account (contributing and noncontributing). These annual statements reflect each member’s account balance as of the end of the 2019 calendar year and provide beneficiary information and estimates of future retirement benefits. Stay tuned to the TMRS [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page for exact mail dates by ZIP code in mid-March. At the time they mail, they will also be available on MyTMRS.

For the 2020 statements that will be mailed in 2021, members will have the choice to opt out of receiving a paper copy. If employees would like to access future statements online instead of receiving a paper copy, encourage them to visit MyTMRS® and change their Communication Preferences through the “My Profile” tab. Under the Annual Statement dropdown, they would need to select “Email Notification Only.”

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