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Update from the TMRS Executive Director



Dear TMRS Retirees,

We hope you and your family are staying safe. Many have found that separation from family and friends is the most difficult thing about “lockdown.”

TMRS offices are still closed to visitors, and our staff is not traveling. Our services have not otherwise been disrupted by the pandemic, and we continue to process annuities each month. You can view updates to our status, e-newsletters, and announcements on the [TMRS & COVID-19](#) page of our website.

Our investment staff continues to manage the TMRS assets during a challenging time for the markets and the economy. Since TMRS is a long-term institutional investor, your retirement annuity is pre-funded and will not be reduced due to the market downturn. It’s also good to remember that your monthly benefits are helping your community when you make purchases with your retirement dollars!

As many of you know, I had previously announced my retirement for this May. The Board, working with its executive recruiter, has identified several highly qualified finalist candidates for my replacement. The Board will meet at the end of May to discuss the best path for completing the search, but in the meantime, they’ve asked me to stay on at TMRS until their search is completed. It is an honor to serve the city employees and retirees of Texas and, as much as I am looking forward to retirement, I am also glad to be here to help as we work together through this difficult time.

We want you to know that we are here for you, and you can count on your annuity coming the last business day of every month. If you have questions about your benefits, you can call us at 800-924-8677 during business hours (M - F, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.). You can also use the [contact form](#) on our website to ask a question at any time.

Sincerely,

David Gavia
Executive Director, TMRS

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The TMRS Town Square is Open for Business

TMRS has created a new initiative and a web page, the [TMRS Town Square](#), with resources our members and retirees can access in lieu of in-person contact with a TMRS Regional Manager.

The Town Square features our training video library as well as new videos prepared by the TMRS Travel Team.

Over time, the TMRS Town Square will expand to provide city staff training, additional live presentations, and more. Even after travel is restored, the Town Square will continue to be a resource for anyone who may have difficulty attending a live event. If you want to get in touch with a member of the Travel Team for online chats or phone conversations, there are links on the page to contact them.

We’re excited about this new service and hope it will be helpful to you!

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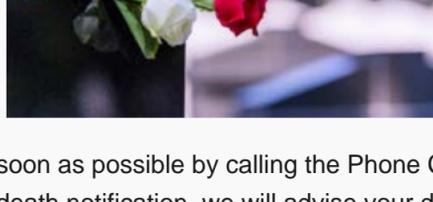


Check (and Inform) Your Beneficiary

Your beneficiary is the person or persons who will receive your account balance or, if you chose a survivor option, a retirement benefit in the event of your death. You can see your beneficiary choices on MyTMRS® or on your Retiree Account Statement. The current crisis makes it more important than ever to be aware of your beneficiary selection and for your beneficiary to know you have named them.

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Know Your Death Benefits under TMRS



The [TMRS Member Benefits Guide](#) contains detailed information about the options that are available to beneficiaries (see pages 27-30). In the event of your death, TMRS strongly encourages your surviving beneficiary to contact us as

soon as possible by calling the Phone Center at 800.924.8677. Upon receiving a death notification, we will advise your designated beneficiary in writing of the proper forms to submit in order to collect any benefit due.

For retirees, benefit payments will be issued in accordance with the benefit option you selected at retirement. Your retirement option is listed on your Retirement Account Statement (sent in February) and viewable on MyTMRS.

If Your City Offers a Retiree Supplemental Death Benefit (SDB)...

As long as the last city from which you retired provides the Supplemental Death Benefit (SDB) for retirees, your SDB beneficiary will receive a one-time payment of \$7,500. To find out if your city offers the SDB, contact your City Correspondent or check [My City Plan](#) on the TMRS website to see your last employing city’s plan options. **Please note that the city may choose to add or remove this benefit at any time.**

NOTE: You may choose a different beneficiary for the SDB than the beneficiary you chose for your retirement benefit by completing and filing with TMRS a separate [SDB Beneficiary Designation](#) form. This beneficiary designation can also be made in MyTMRS. If you do not file a separate form, the SDB payment will go to the designated beneficiary on your TMRS retirement account.

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Beware of Cybercrime and COVID-19 Fraud

Now more than ever it pays to be cautious. The pandemic seems to have given a green light to opportunists, hackers, and others who are out to defraud people distracted by the changing public health situation.



Cybercrime is up, and phishing schemes are everywhere. In April, Google reported over 18 million COVID-related attempts to deliver malware or obtain personal information in a single day!

Retirees may be targeted by scam calls, emails, and text messages offering all kinds of “help” during the crisis, ranging from assisting you with your federal COVID-19 payment to offering fake cures for COVID-19. Please be careful, not only with your health, but also with any unsolicited phone calls or emails, and with your online activities. If you do not know the sender of a message, don’t respond to the email or click any links in the email. See the story on page 10 of the [latest issue of RetirementWise](#) for information on how to protect yourself from email “phishing” attacks.

Important Resources for Retirees

1. The [TMRS Member Benefits Guide](#) contains detailed information on all your benefits in the program.
2. [MyTMRS](#) gives you real-time access to your TMRS account, including beneficiary information and communications preferences. If you have not registered for MyTMRS, this is a great time to do it!
3. The Retirement Account Statement that was mailed to you in February contains information about your retirement annuity, withholding, COLA (if any), and beneficiary. If you did not keep your statement, you can view or print it from [MyTMRS](#).
4. [My City Plan](#) allows you to see the TMRS benefits offered by the city from which you retired. Refer to this easy look-up feature on the TMRS website to find out.
5. For most questions, you can call our Phone Center during business hours at 800-924-8677.

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