

# TMRS® E-bulletin FOR CITIES

## August Board Meeting, Online Beneficiary Designation, Legislative Update, Annual Training Seminar

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### August Board Meeting: Investment Reports and Strategic Planning

The TMRS Board of Trustees met on August 17 and 18, 2017, in Austin. The Board:

- Appointed one new doctor to the TMRS Medical Board, the body that advises the Board and makes recommendations on applications for disability retirement
- Extended the contract of KPMG LLP, the System's external auditor, for an additional year
- Approved a [\\$75 million allocation](#) to GTCR Fund XII, L.P. in the Private Equity asset class, contingent on successful contract negotiations
- Heard comprehensive annual reviews of the [Real Estate](#) and [Real Return](#) asset classes
- Discussed the TMRS draft [Strategic Plan](#)
- Received an [overview](#) on investment policy benchmarks and performance reporting
- Heard the [Q2 2017 Investment Staff Report](#)
- Heard a [report](#) on operations of the Member Services department and the current status of TMRSDirect®

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be September 21 and 22 at the TMRS building in Austin.

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### Legislature Goes Home

The First Special Session of the 85th Texas Legislature wrapped up its work on August 15. The Legislature addressed 10 of the 20 items placed on the call by the Governor. No pension issues were on the official call, but two bills potentially affecting TMRS that had previously been filed in the Regular Session received hearings during the Special Session. There is no indication that the Governor will call a second Special Session.

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### Members Can Now Name Beneficiaries in MyTMRS®

Most TMRS members can now choose a primary beneficiary, alternate beneficiaries, and a beneficiary for their Supplemental Death Benefit online through their MyTMRS account. What this means to city administrators is that, after you enroll a new member, instead of providing a

beneficiary form, you need to encourage the employee to [sign up for a MyTMRS account](#) and designate their own beneficiary or beneficiaries.

As of August 11, over 1,000 beneficiary selections have been made through MyTMRS! Thank you for helping us get the word out to your employees. A [new video on beneficiary selection](#) is available on the TMRS website.

(Note that TMRS members who require spousal consent for their beneficiary choice – for example, a vested married employee who wants to name someone other than their spouse as primary beneficiary – will still require a paper form and notarization of the spouse’s signature.)

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## Annual Training Seminar Is Right Around the Corner!

Summer is still sizzling, but Fall can’t be far away, and cooler weather will also bring the season of the [TMRS Annual Training Seminar](#), October 25-27, at the Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center in Grapevine, Texas. This year’s theme, “Strong by Design,” reflects TMRS’ proven approach to plan design, benefit funding, and customer service.

We have a great lineup of speakers, including Dr. Janet Lapp, internationally renowned speaker on leadership development, and Chad Hymas, a widely recognized speaker on team building and overcoming challenges. The program begins the afternoon of October 25, with a “back to basics” session for correspondents and new cities, and continues through noon on October 27. See the [agenda](#) for full details. [Registration](#), including all sessions and meals, is only \$125 and may be made online. We now accept credit card payments for registration.

You may also book your room at the Gaylord at the TMRS group rate of \$189 per night through the [TMRS registration page](#). Book before September 26 to guarantee the conference rate.

Please join us in Grapevine this October to learn more about the strength of your retirement program!

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## TMRS Introduces a New Communication Tool on our Website

TMRS encourages all members and city staff to use [the new communications form](#) on the TMRS website instead of sending direct emails to [help@tmrs.com](mailto:help@tmrs.com). The form provides a more secure means of communicating with TMRS, reduces time-wasting spam, and cuts down on the emailing of confidential information from members. Requests for assistance sent through the form are answered promptly during business hours, usually within a day of receipt.

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## Executive Workshops Successful in 2017

The last TMRS Executive Workshop of 2017 was held on August 22. This year’s workshops, in Austin, Arlington, San Antonio, Corpus Christi, and Sugar Land, attracted 211 registrants from 109 TMRS cities. These workshops provide half a day of in-depth information about TMRS funding, investments, and technological innovation. Watch for the 2018 schedule later this year.

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## One More City Correspondent Certification Course in 2017

If you haven’t been to a TMRS City Correspondent Certification Course, there’s one more chance this year — December 5-6, at the TMRS Building in Austin. TMRS offers training in a variety of different ways, but the Certification Course provides the most comprehensive approach to learning about the administration of retirement benefits. Small class sizes and direct interaction with TMRS staff give attendees a thorough overview of everything a City Correspondent needs to know to administer the program — from enrollment to retirement. The course fee is \$50, which includes materials, breakfast both days, and lunch on December 5. [Register online through Eventbrite](#).

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## Address Change Reminder

Whenever employees change their address with your city, it is important that they also change their address with TMRS so that we have the most up-to-date information. Please let your employees know they can change their address online now. If they are not yet on MyTMRS, please encourage them to sign up so they can take advantage of its new features and keep their information current.

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