

insight

The Newsletter for TMRS® Members



From the Executive Director

Dear TMRS Members,

As a city employee, you are providing a great public service and earning a potential future retirement annuity through TMRS. The story on page 2 explains why your retirement benefit is so important and highlights the need to keep your beneficiary information up-to-date.

We send information about TMRS to you in this newsletter twice a year, but you can also find explanations about your benefits 24/7 on the [TMRS website, www.tmr.com](http://WWW.TMRS.COM). This past summer we upgraded the TMRS website to give the site a cleaner look and feel as well as provide easier access to information for ADA compliance and usability across mobile devices. We encourage you to get to know the website and let us know if you have any questions!

Our front-page story describes the security of MyTMRS. You may access MyTMRS from your desktop computer, laptop, phone, or tablet. Signing up and “taking control” of your confidential information is important. Other stories in this issue cover TMRS Pre-Retirement Regional Conferences (schedule on the back page), TMRS’ Advisory Committee, and an investment summary.

If you have questions, consult the website and use the contact form there, or call our Phone Center during business hours at 800-924-8677. **To access the web form, go to Contact TMRS → Need Help?** This sends your question directly to TMRS staff, who will respond during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday).

Here’s to a great year in 2018!

Sincerely,

David Gavia
Executive Director

MyTMRS® Offers Increased Account Protection

Fraudulent online activity continues to increase, leaving vulnerable consumer data at risk. One easy step you can take to help protect yourself from identity theft or fraud is to create an account on MyTMRS. If you are a TMRS member but have not yet registered for MyTMRS, you should sign up as soon as possible. “Unclaimed” accounts can be targets for abuse if an imposter registers for them. TMRS takes many precautions to guard against fraud, but MyTMRS users have an added layer of protection against data thieves. MyTMRS accounts require a strong password and security questions.

We strongly encourage all TMRS members and retirees to register so you can manage and control your own personal information with MyTMRS.

TMRS has added the protection of “dual factor authentication” to MyTMRS accounts. This means that after signing in and verifying your contact information, you’ll be prompted to request an email, text, or phone call from TMRS which contains a separate security code. Keeping your account contact information current is important too, so that TMRS can notify you of important events.

If you have questions about registering for MyTMRS or problems logging in, call our Phone Center during normal business hours (800-924-8677). ■

See Current MyTMRS Features, page 2

Interest Credit on Member Accounts

Under the TMRS Act, on December 31, 2017, eligible member accounts received a 5% interest credit based on the account balance as of January 1, 2017. The interest amount for each member’s account is viewable on MyTMRS and on your TMRS Member Annual Statement coming in March.

Current MyTMRS Features

Your home page on MyTMRS indicates your vesting status, retirement eligibility, and whether your city participates in Supplemental Death Benefits (SDB). It also provides a link to a printable account balance letter. Tabs and quick links allow you to view account details and also update your information online.

View: Membership summary (account balance and service credit); **Beneficiaries** for retirement and SDB, if offered; **Estimates; Documents** (annual statements); **Transactions** (monthly contributions); **Proportionate Retirement Program** participation, if applicable; and **Account Balance letters**.

Update: User information (user name, email address, password, challenge questions); **Contact information** (home address, phone numbers); **Communication preferences** (choose email only, or email and mail delivery for newsletters); **Beneficiaries** (you may update in situations that do not require spousal consent).

More features coming in 2018! ■

2018

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For the Board meeting calendar, committees, agendas, minutes, and professional advisors, go to www.tmr.com → **About** → **Board of Trustees**.

NOTES FOR NEW MEMBERS

Safeguarding Your TMRS Benefit

In the last issue of *INSIGHT* (posted on the website under [Members](#) → [Publications](#)), we described the value of the TMRS benefit for city employees. This ongoing column for new members of TMRS highlights important things you need to know about your TMRS membership.

Your TMRS benefit is valuable because it provides a source of safe, secure savings, matched by your employer at retirement. As a TMRS member, you contribute a percentage, determined by your city, of your monthly compensation. In addition to your contribution, your account earns interest credits annually (see box, page 1). If you retire from TMRS, your account balance will receive an employer match, and the total balance will be used to determine the amount of a monthly benefit you will receive for life.

To view the choices your city has made for its plan, go to the [My City Plan feature on the TMRS website](#). **Click the Members tab, then the My City Plan link under Benefits**. If you haven't already done so, register for MyTMRS to keep track of your account and make changes as needed.

Why You Should Name a Beneficiary

A beneficiary is a person or legal entity (such as a trust or your estate) who receives payments in the event of the account holder's death. For your TMRS account, you should name a beneficiary as soon as you become a member of TMRS – easily done by setting up your MyTMRS account and filling out the beneficiary designation online.

As you continue making contributions, the value of your account grows. When you become vested (in most TMRS cities when you have five years of service credit), your TMRS benefit becomes even more valuable because you become eligible for additional benefit options. Vesting means your designated beneficiary is eligible to receive a monthly payment from your account if you die. After you are vested, TMRS will notify you that you need to re-designate your beneficiary formally, even if you are keeping the same designee. Furthermore, when key events occur in your life, such as marrying, having or adopting a child, or experiencing divorce or the death of a spouse, you should review your beneficiary designation. You need to ensure that your money will be handled in the way you want in the event of your death. ■

2018

TMRS Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee on Benefit Design serves at the direction of the TMRS Board of Trustees. The Board assigns this committee to study potential plan benefit design changes or other matters during each Interim period. The committee provides a direct voice for TMRS cities, constituent organizations, members, retirees, and elected officials to share their perspectives on matters of interest to the Board.

The Board approved a revised charter for the committee that became effective January 1, 2018. The new charter changed the size and composition of the Committee, providing for three “individual class” Board appointees and up to three discretionary at-large appointees, plus seven “group class” members, nominated by seven municipal organizations with statewide representation and approved by the Board.

TMRS greatly appreciates the hard work of all current and former Advisory Committee members, who volunteer their time to provide input to the Board. We thank them for their dedication to the System and for keeping TMRS a strong, secure retirement plan.

See www.tmr.com → [About](#) → [Board of Trustees](#) → [Advisory Committee](#). ■

Pre-Retirement Regional Conferences –

Get Informed about Your Retirement Benefits!

TMRS Regional Pre-Retirement Conferences are half-day conferences that are held in different cities around Texas. A list of the Regionals scheduled for the first part of 2018 is printed on the back cover of this issue. To plan these events, TMRS works hand-in-hand with city HR offices, so you may receive an invitation from your City Correspondent. These events are also always open to interested city employees from other Texas cities. Registration is in your hands – sign up online through Eventbrite.

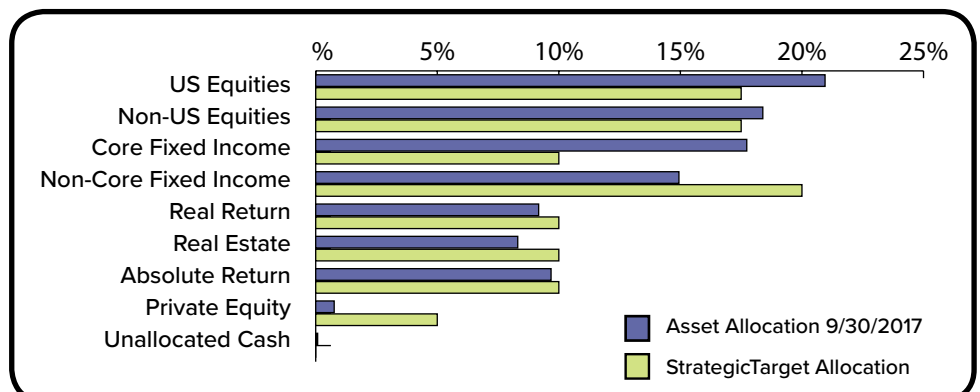
To register using Eventbrite, go to the [TMRS website \(Members page\)](#), then select [Benefits](#) → [Regional Conference Calendar](#). After you choose the date/ city of the Regional you wish to attend, click the Eventbrite link for that Regional. After you register, you’ll receive a reminder of the event the week before. Please bring a [printout of your retirement estimates from MyTMRS](#) so that TMRS Staff can answer any questions you may have.

At each Regional, the TMRS Travel Team provides an overview of your TMRS retirement, and a Social Security consultant summarizes the benefits you can expect through Social Security if your city participates. You are welcome to bring your spouse (just indicate you’re bringing a guest when you sign up)! ■

Investment Overview

The Investment department at TMRS provides the “financial engine” that helps provide member interest credits and helps cities afford their TMRS programs. Investment materials, including quarterly reports and investment manager selection presentations, are posted on the TMRS website, usually immediately after meetings of the Board of Trustees. Go to www.tmr.com → [About](#) → [Investments](#).

As an institutional, long-term investor, TMRS invests the System’s assets with a total return posture, given appropriate consideration for portfolio volatility (risk) and liquidity. Total return includes dividends, interest, and realized and unrealized capital appreciation. Under the TMRS Act, TMRS members are guaranteed a 5% interest credit on their accounts every year, regardless of market returns. Furthermore, after you have retired, your annuity continues to earn 5% annually as it is paid out, is guaranteed for life, and is not affected by investment returns. ■



Texas Municipal Retirement System
PO Box 149153 • Austin, Texas 78714-9153

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Thinking about retirement? Attend a regional conference in your area!

See the Regionals Calendar at www.tmr.com/events.php for links to sign up online

Calendar

January 30	Regional Pre-Retirement Conference – Mercedes
February 19	Holiday – Presidents' Day (TMRS office closed)
February 21	Regional Pre-Retirement Conference – New Braunfels
March 7	Regional Pre-Retirement Conference – Rosenberg
March 27	Regional Pre-Retirement Conference – Waco
March 30	Holiday – Good Friday (TMRS office closed)
April 10	Regional Pre-Retirement Conference – Lubbock
April 30	Regional Pre-Retirement Conference – Hurst
May 8	Regional Pre-Retirement Conference – Longview
May 22	Regional Pre-Retirement Conference – Round Rock
May 28	Holiday – Memorial Day (TMRS office closed)

Annual Statements — Member Annual Statements for TMRS members (contributing and noncontributing) will be mailed to your home address from mid- to late-March 2018. They will also be available on MyTMRS at the time they are mailed. [Watch the TMRS website](#) for an exact schedule by ZIP Code.

How to Contact TMRS

Location

1200 North Interstate 35, Austin, TX 78701

Mailing

P.O. Box 149153, Austin, TX 78714-9153

Toll-free

800.924.8677

Local (in Austin)

512.476.7577

Fax

512.476.5576

Website

www.tmr.com

Need Help?

www.tmr.com/contact.php