

**Ordinance and Payroll Reminders, New Retiree Account Statement,
Pre-Retirement Conferences Planned for 2012, City Publications Revised**

Welcome to the first full TMRS E-Bulletin of 2012. This issue contains several important announcements of deadlines, new publications, and other information for TMRS cities. We look forward to working with you to continue to provide a valuable retirement program for your employees.

Ordinance Change Deadline

Any city that has adopted an ordinance to adopt or change TMRS provisions, including Annuity Increases or Updated Service Credits, to be effective January 1, 2012, must provide a copy of the ordinance to TMRS immediately. TMRS sends an acknowledgment upon receipt of ordinances. If you have not yet transmitted your ordinance to TMRS, or if you have transmitted an ordinance and have not yet received an acknowledgment of receipt, please contact us as soon as possible. Please call or e-mail La Shelle Ruiz at 800-924-8677 or lruiz@tmrs.com. (*Note: this is a second notice identical to the one sent to cities last week. If you responded to that notice, please disregard this one.*)

Year-End Payroll Reminder

For those in the city who submit payroll, this is a reminder that your **December 2011** monthly payroll report must be submitted to TMRS **no later than January 15, 2012**. It is very important that you make this deadline in order to avoid being assessed a late penalty, and also to prevent the delay of December retirement processing. Also, please remember that your 2012 city contribution rate takes effect with the **January 2012 monthly report**, which is due to TMRS no later than February 15, 2012.

New Statement for Retirees Coming Soon

On February 2, we will be sending the first TMRS Retiree Account Statement. This new statement is similar to the Annual Member Statement that is mailed to active members. The statement will contain an account overview that replaces the “COLA letter” some retirees have been receiving in the past and will provide additional information in one convenient document.

The 2012 Retiree Account Statement contains the following account information effective January 31, 2012:

- Gross and net monthly payment
- Amount of COLA, if any

- Amount of Federal Income Tax Withholding
- Other adjustments, if any — may include court-ordered payments and HELPS insurance payments

After the new statements are issued, they will also be available to retirees through MyTMRS®. If you receive any questions from city retirees about their COLAs or their monthly benefit in 2012, please let them know these statements are coming soon!

USC-COLA Booklet and City Officials Publication Revised

Two familiar city publications, “[City Guide to USC and COLAs](#)” and “[TMRS FACTS for City Officials](#),” were recently updated to include changes to TMRS’ account structure that occurred as a result of the passage of SB 350 (Restructuring bill) during the last legislative session. Both publications may be downloaded from the website, or, if you would like to receive hard copies, please e-mail your name, mailing address, and the number of copies you need to communications@tmrs.com.

Regional Pre-Retirement Conferences Planned for 2012

We’ve been calling them “Regionals” for years: Free half-day events in cities in different geographic regions of Texas to communicate pre-retirement information to TMRS members. The conferences provide a full range of information about how to retire from TMRS, including retirement options, beneficiaries, how divorce affects retirement, and many other topics. Each conference has a “host city,” and is also open to the employees of nearby cities. We would like to offer our thanks to those cities that have agreed to act as hosts!

Regional conferences usually are planned in the first seven months of the year. The programs combine TMRS speakers with experts in Social Security benefits and financial planning. TMRS provides a continental breakfast. Here’s a list of Regional Pre-Retirement Conferences for this year:

- Schertz - Tuesday, February 7
- Conroe - Thursday, March 8
- Georgetown - Wednesday, March 21
- Beaumont - Monday, March 26
- McAllen - Tuesday, April 24
- Longview - Thursday, May 3
- Amarillo - Wednesday, May 30
- Addison - Monday & Tuesday, June 25 & 26
- Hurst - Wednesday, June 27
- Midland - Thursday, July 12

Member Interest Credited to Accounts

Member accounts have been credited with 5% interest as of December 31, 2011, based on the member's account balance as of January 1, 2011, in accordance with the TMRS Act. The city interest allocation will be determined by the Board of Trustees in February 2012.

COLA (Annuity Increase) Information

TMRS cities choose whether or not to provide COLAs to their retirees. A city that chooses a COLA can elect to provide an increase to the retiree's monthly benefit based on a percentage of the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from the December before retirement through the December that is 13 months prior to the effective date of the COLA. Cities may choose to grant a COLA at 70%, 50%, or 30% of the change in the CPI, less all previously granted annuity increases. COLAs are granted effective January 1 of a given year.

The change in the CPI from December 2009 to December 2010 was approximately 1.5%. A retiree from a city that granted a 70% COLA on January 1, 2011 and January 1, 2012 can expect to see an annuity increase of about 1% beginning with the January 2012 monthly benefit payment. Retirees who are receiving a COLA will be notified of the amount in the Retiree Account Statement to be mailed later this month (see description above).

1099-Rs for 2011 Coming Soon – Also Coming to MyTMRS

If you receive questions from retirees, please advise them that 1099-Rs for 2011 are scheduled to be mailed at the end of January. Retirees need their 1099-R forms to report their retirement income to the IRS. Recipients should allow 7–10 business days for delivery.

At the time they are mailed, we will post a notice on the website. The actual 2011 1099-R for each annuitant will also be posted for confidential access through MyTMRS for the first time. This will give retirees another way to get copies of these important forms.

City Rate Reminder Letters to be Sent Next Week

As usual, TMRS will send contribution rate reminder letters to all cities in January containing your city's 2012 full contribution rate and, if applicable, your phase-in rate. This letter is simply a reminder of the contribution rate your city should use beginning with the January 2012 payroll report, which is due in our office by February 15, 2012.

NOTE - Previously issued e-bulletins are posted in the E-Bulletin section under the Publications page on the TMRS Website.