



"It is our mission to provide retirement benefits and superior service to advance the financial security of our members."



JUNE '20



A quarterly newsletter of the Employees' Retirement Fund of the City of Dallas for retired City members.

RETIREMENT

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Please Protect Yourself; ERF will Protect Your Pension

From the desk of ERF's Executive Director, Cheryl Alston



First, we want to assure you that your pension is safe, and monthly payments will continue as scheduled.

Dallas ERF has a long-term investment horizon. We understand the market changes constantly and our investment policy was developed with that in mind by diversifying our portfolio.

The Dallas ERF office began working remotely on Monday, March 23, 2020 and continues to provide all services for members. We realize that people over the age of 65 are in the vulnerable group susceptible to the virus and we do not want you to place yourself at risk. We can provide all services to you from the comfort of your own home. If you need any information, please contact us at 214.580.7700 or email us at retirement_fund@dallaserf.org.

To find more information to assist you, please visit ERF's resource page, www.dallaserf.org/resource-page, where you can find fitness & wellness information, updates from CIGNA, special hours from select stores for seniors, how to experience the box office from home and much more.

During these uncertain times, we will continue to do everything we can to ensure your pension is the last thing you need to worry about.

For information and updates, follow us on Facebook @DallasERF.

2020 DCREA ANNUAL MEETING CANCELED

The July 11, 2020, Annual General Meeting scheduled to be held at the Southern Cross Ranch in Dallas has been canceled by the DCREA Board. The Board will continue to meet in the coming months hoping for a chance to reschedule the meeting when the immediate public health crisis has ended.

"For updates on the Annual Meeting, you can like us on Facebook at DCREA or sign up for the email list on our website, www.dcrea.org.

We hope you are all doing well and staying safe."

- DCREA Board



DCREA

Dallas City Retired Employees Association



Congratulations to Some of our Newest Retirees

Employees who retired January, February, April & May 2020 (March retirees will be listed in the next newsletter) and agreed to let us share the news, listed by department and years of service

DEPARTMENT	SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	SERVICE
City Controller's Office		Management Services, cont.		Police, cont.	
Kiki T. Lyons	30	Carmen G. Cortez	21	Sarah M. Dunlap	18
City Secretary's Office		Sally L. Campbell	15	Public Works & Transportation	
Sandra E. Dubose	24	Rachel F. Salu	9	Dwayne H. Copeland	36
Code Compliance Services		Office of Cultural Affairs		Jose J. Perez	29
Neely L. Blackman	30	David A. Hunter	24	Norman D. Meche	21
Kenyon V. Bohannon	28	Phyllis A. Jeff	20	Johnny R. Hubacek	13
Silvestre C. Garcia	24	Marilyn L. Clark	6	Sanitation Services	
Bruce A. Benedict	24	Rhonda J. Hamlet		Jose Verduzco	24
Doyle W. Donehoo Jr.	21	Park & Recreation		Water Utilities	
David K. Mallett	7	Tonya M. Ortega	28	Thomas R. Foster	35
Equipment & Fleet Management		Ivan V. Doss	25	Bartolo Longoria	35
Kelly T. Sparkman	30	Harlon X. Hall	22	Vrishali V. Ozarkar	30
Eduardo E. Lopez	22	Jimmie L. Slater	15	Lyndel R. Jones	30
Management Services		Leonardo Rodriguez	11	Daniel Gonzalez	25
Yolanda P. Cepak	30	Police		Rickey L. Aubrey	24
Sandra K. Scott	27	Deborah L. Joseph	40	Raul Alamillo	23
		Leatrice L. Conwright	36	Steven Starnes	15
		Mary L. Jones	33		

SECURE YOUR PENSION PAYMENT

BY MELISSA HARRIS, CHIEF OF COMMUNICATIONS, EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT FUND

Have you taken the steps to make sure you receive your pension check, even in a natural disaster or global pandemic, such as the Coronavirus that we are facing now?

With direct deposit, your pension payment is deposited in your bank account on the last business day of every month. You will have access to your money on the day of deposit; a mailed check could take up to seven days to reach you.

Direct deposit is a convenient, safe, and reliable way to receive your ERF benefit.

After Hurricane Katrina, The New Orleans Employees' Retirement System worked diligently to ensure over 3,500 retirees had their August payments directly deposited into their accounts by September 9th 2005, despite the hurricane. According to an article posted on www.plansponsor.com in October 2005, New Orleans ERS mailed out 100 checks to retirees who insisted on paper checks versus direct deposit.



Regarding concerns about the delivery of paper checks after the hurricane, Jerry Davis, the chair of the New Orleans ERS said, "Although we produced the checks, I doubt that many have been received, as mail service is still unavailable in much of the city. We used the addresses of record but, with the mandatory evacuation of the city, I'm afraid the Postal Service will not locate these people for some time."

HOW TO START DIRECT DEPOSIT

To start direct deposit, you must complete the Direct Deposit Authorization form. You can download the form on the ERF website at www.dallaserf.org/online-forms. Fill out the form, attach a canceled check and mail it to the Employees' Retirement Fund address that appears on the form:

1920 McKinney Ave, 10th Floor
Dallas, TX 75201

What Retirement Means to You, cont.

"My husband prodded me into retiring rather suddenly and at the relatively young age of 56—so I didn't really have time to prepare for such a drastic change!

From my first day of retirement, I decided I needed structure. I woke up at 7 each day, ate breakfast and exercised—took a 4 to 6-mile walk or a 15 to 20 -mile bike ride. I decided to volunteer one afternoon a week at a children's shelter near my home that I passed on my bike rides.

My most rewarding volunteer gig is with the Code Enforcement Division for my city. It is very rewarding to see positive neighborhood changes in my city and, as a former City employee, I know the city can use all the help it can get!

Retirement recently afforded me the opportunity to care for my first grandchild daily for several months, which I truly enjoyed; now I know why younger women have little ones—it is really hard work! We have always traveled but retirement has enabled us to do so more frequently.

Everyone is different but my advice is to find something you really enjoy and do it! But include exercise so you can stay healthy enough to truly enjoy your retirement—what you worked so hard for!"

- Becky Balsamo



"It is tempting to sit in that recliner all day, but DON'T! Keep moving! You now have total control over how you spend your time, plan a physical activity everyday. Go fishing! Join a walking group. Do things you never had time to do. In my case it was hobbies that always took a back burner; so in retirement you will have time to do what you love. My hobby has turned into a business and it keeps me out of trouble! As the saying goes, "Idle hands are the devil's workshop"well, that's dramatic, but the moral is stay busy.

You earned your retirement. Revel in it, make it rich, relaxing and have fun!!"

- Karen Morse



OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY

TO THE FAMILIES OF OUR DECEASED MEMBERS FROM JANUARY 2020 TO APRIL 2020

DEPARTMENT	AGE	DEPARTMENT	AGE	DEPARTMENT	AGE
Aviation		Equipment & Fleet Management		Sanitation Services	
Thomas H. Oswald	66	Lawrence B. Marks	59	Mary J. Diaz	73
Jose A. De La Fuente	65	Fire		Joes Raul M Hernandez	67
Budget & Research		Glenn R. Crockett	78	Johnny B. Stewart	59
Myron E. Meador	88	Library		Street Services	
City Controller's Office		Maria A. Fabela	95	Aubrey N. Wheat	98
Johnnie R. Potter	91	James H. Calhoun	91	Thomas E. Hughes	83
City Manager's Office		Michael E. Ellis	67	Mario H. Ramirez	73
Patricia J. Henley	90	Management Services		James M. Wood III	71
Code Compliance Services		Steven K. Smith	60	Charles A. Ziebolz	65
Robert O. Cullen	81	Office of Minority Business		Ray A. Cartridge	61
Jose S. Cabler	73	Samuel Knooihuizen	76	Street, Sanitation & Code Enforcement	
Scamardo L. Haggins	69	Park & Recreation		Ottis E. Decker	89
Communication & Information Services		Lela P. Penelton	96	Street & Sanitation Services	
Joe W. Burnett	83	Gilberto Rios	91	Anastacio R. Reyes	88
Court & Detention Services		Olie M. Ware	88	Water Utilities	
Mary A. Noble	97	Charles B. Foster	75	Gladys B. Hansen	103
Economic Development		Israel Casiano	72	Patrica J. Cook	96
Ted H. Dusek, Jr.	86	Oddis D. Dickson	68	Joseph A. Shewski	91
Jewell G. Hall	68	Police		Thomas A. Shaw	81
Equipment & Building Services		Vernett Hearn	70	Charles Mimms	72
Wilmer G. Pikes	76	Lovie L. Majors	63	Tate Hannible, Jr.	69
Richard H. Haggard	70	Sheila R. Stubblefield	61	Santos Guzman	69
		Public Works & Transportation		Santos C. Guzman	68
		Robert D. Troy	83	Randy P. Ned	55
		Jose S. Rodriguez	69		

WHAT RETIREMENT MEANS TO YOU

QUOTES FROM CITY OF DALLAS RETIREES

“One word of advice... Stay active! Walk, exercise, be social! Although I’d done a bit of volunteer work before retirement, I am now able to select the institutions I loved and volunteer there. I retired in 2006 and I volunteer and the Greater Dallas Organic Garden Club, the Dallas Zoo and the Perot Museum. Great fun!!”
- Paula Barber



“Realize that you will have time. Time is important to plan for and enjoy it. Enjoy it in things that you like to do. Create a list, relax, and enjoy.”

- Reu Davilla



“Waking up in the morning after retirement and not having any place I had to be was a little strange. In retrospect it was the best thing that could’ve happened to me. I experienced a wonderful freedom and realized I could do anything I wanted to do. It was the first time I really realized how great the City’s retirement program was. Although it had been emphasized when I was hired in my 20’s, I didn’t really comprehend it.”

- Patricia Rosga



“Transition was not as simple as expected. I had worked almost every day of my life from age 14, and was used to a certain routine. I endured for about one year before I got bored with gardening, reading books, etc. I took a consulting job which required some travel, and that sustained me for about three years. At that point, though, I decided enough was enough.

My wife and I have been lucky enough to travel to Europe and Africa, and take some road trips through New England, and the far Northwest. I enjoy reading about the many successes of the Zoo, and there are days I wish I were still working for the City, but most days...not!!”

- Rich Buickerood

“Retirement isn’t free but it is really great if you plan for it. We have done a lot of traveling to various resorts in the US. We have also traveled to Mexico, Canada, United Kingdom and France.

- Ed Jantz



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