

Treasurer's Message *By Harold Brown*

The dues for 2013 have been coming in; with the help of several of our trustees we have been able to send the cards out within several days of receipt of your dues. We thank the retirees and widows who included an extra donation. Your donation is greatly appreciated as it helps defray some of our rising costs.

If you received a **WHITE NEWSLETTER**, your 2013 are paid. If you received a **YELLOW NEWSLETTER**, your dues are NOT PAID and are now due. Please use the **YELLOW APPLICATION**. This is the only way to tell our members if dues are paid or not. Last year we had over 500 officers retire. Please note below we have the addresses of the **NORTH AND SOUTH SIDE BREAKFAST**. If any groups would like to put an article in our newsletter regarding their meetings please contact us.

Due to the size of this newsletter, we have removed several advertisements, they will be returned in the next issue of the newsletter.

KENNETH HAUSER
President

HAROLD BROWN
Treasurer

NORTH
1st Wednesday of each month at 7:00 a.m.
Lone Tree Manor
7710 N. Milwaukee Avenue
For Info Call: John Zilinski at 773-259-1087

SOUTH
2nd Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m.
Jedi Garden Restaurant
9266 S. Cicero Avenue
For Info Call: Don Januszyk at 708-364-9903

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R.C.P.A Newsletter

RETIREED CHICAGO POLICE ASSOCIATION

February 2013

YOUR 2013 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED.

APPLICATION FORM IS INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER.

Upon receipt of your 2013 dues, we will send you a membership card and auto decal.

President's Message *Kenneth Hauser*

The next General Meeting of the Retired Chicago Police Association will be on Sunday February 24, 2013 at 1:00PM in the 001st District Community Room at 1718 S. State Street. We've beat the winter weather for January and February again this year and hopefully the weather will stay mild with no snow or rain. I look forward to seeing you there.

As provided by statute, a cost of living adjustment (COLA) of 3% will be reflected in your annuity check on January 31, 2013. This increase only applies to retirees who have attained 55 years of age and have been retired at least 13 months and born before January 1, 1955.

Retired Public Safety Officers, do not forget the \$3000 benefit that you are provided under the Helps Provision of the Pension Protection Act of 2007. This benefit allows for tax deferred deductions of insurance premiums such as: dental, optical, healthcare and long term care. Check with your tax consultant.

The year 2012 was a good year for the Pension Fund. The Fund's total return on our investments were 12.2%. The market value of the Fund is approximately \$3.2 billion as of December 31, 2012. The Dow was up +12.07% and the S&P 500 was up +16% for the year of 2012. The average interest rate for 30-year fixed-rate mortgages as of December 31, 2012 was 3.50%.

The Pension Trustees contracted with the firm, DHR International to conduct a search for a new Executive Director of the Fund. The search will be conducted by James Schroeder and Craig Randall of 10 S Riverside Plaza. DHR has a strong track record of serving the recruitment needs of state/public retirement plans. The firm is also viewed as a leader in serving investment organizations across the U.S. There are nine applicants for the position that will make a presentation at the Investment Meeting on February 26, 2013. I welcome Trustee Juan C. Avila to the Pension Fund. The Mayor appointed him to the Fund on January 10, 2013 to replace Michael Conway whose

REGULAR MEETING
Sunday, February 24, 2013 at 1:00 PM
1st District Community Room
1718 South State Street

term expired on November 30, 2013 and the Mayor chose not to reappoint him to another term. Trustee Conway was a 12 year CIO at AON Insurance prior to being appointed to the Fund by Mayor Daley. He was an expert in the field of investments. He will be missed, the Mayor's loss, shame on him.

The total amount of assistance provided to Chicago Police Officers' Families since the Memorial Foundation began in August of 2007 is \$2,449,973.50. This assistance is made possible by the generosity of donors and by the payroll and pension contributions of active/retired Chicago Police personnel and their friends.

There is a benefit, "Banding Together For Big Bill", retired CPD Officer Bill Jerozal who is fighting Stage 4 Esophageal and liver cancer. Benefit will be at Bourbon Street 3359 W. 115th Street Merrionette Park on February 9, 2013 from 2:00-7:00PM. Greg Zito, a retired Chicago Police Detective, has written a book that will bring back a lot of memories about Cabrini Green era. The title is "History of Street Cops: Gangs, Drugs and Guns in the City of Chicago and Cabrini Green Snipers. The South Division of the Illinois Police Association still meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at the Beverly Woods Restaurant

Continued on page 2

RETIREED CHICAGO POLICE ASSOCIATION
5310 N. Harlem Avenue • Chicago, IL 60656
Phone: 773-763-5310
www.retiredchicagopoliceassoc.com

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Organized in 1888 as an Association to protect the Police Pension Fund and promote the welfare of Police Pensioners, their widows and children.

National Conference on Public Employee Retirement System

Presidents Message

(Continued from Page 1)

at 115th and Western Avenue. The meeting starts at 1900 hours with an informational update, dinner and a raffle. ALL active and retired law enforcement personnel are invited to attend.

On January 11, 2013, the Retiree Healthcare Benefits Commission (RHBC) has completed a 33 page report/recommendation to the Mayor on the state of retiree healthcare benefits, their related cost trends, and issues affecting the offering of retiree benefits after July 1, 2013. At the expiration of the Korshak Agreement (6-30-13), the City has three options: (1) Maintain current coverage with no material changes; (2) Provide support at some level by changing coverage to ultimately decrease costs; (3) Eliminate all funding for retiree healthcare. The Retiree Healthcare Benefits Commission (RHBC) states in the beginning of the report that they do not endorse any particular option as it is the prerogative of the Mayor. However, on the last page of the report the Commission states "We recommend that the Mayor strongly consider this report when evaluating options (2) and (3).

As deciphered from this report, the RHBC recommendations are: retirees/dependents not eligible for or entitled to Medicare can enroll for healthcare under the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) after January, 2014. This is the class of retirees who retired after August 23, 1989. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) legislated the creation of insurances exchanges in every State which regulate electronic marketplaces for the purchase of health insurance. The ACA provides substantial federal subsidies to certain households purchasing insurance. The Korshak Window class of retirees who retired prior to August 23, 1989 appear not to be affected. Reprinted from the RHBC report "Because Medicare-eligible persons do not qualify for exchange subsidies, we did not explore cancellation of supplemental medical insurance for Medicare-eligible persons". "If an annuitant has a Medicare-eligible spouse or dependent, those dependents are excluded from our analysis (i.e. we attribute no gains or losses to these individuals)".

The 2012 City enrollment and costs for Retiree Health Benefits are: annuitants, spouses and children, 11842 with a cost of \$64,139,441 for those who are non-Medicare eligible; annuitants and spouses, 22,038 with a cost of \$44,635,688 for those who are Medicare eligible; a total of 33,880 members at a cost of \$108,775,128. This doesn't seem like a lot of money out of a City Budget that is close to \$7 billion, to provide for health benefits for annuitants that spent their whole lives making the City a better place to live.

This report is a recommendation to the Mayor, the Korshak Healthcare Court Case didn't extend coverage to retirees that retired after August 23, 1989. Mayor Daley chose to extend the coverage to all retirees and their dependents through June 30, 2013. Hopefully, Mayor Emanuel will do the same.

Japan's debt is a financial time bomb and has expanded to monumental proportions that might be impossible to sustain. Economists have started to warn that Japan could become the next Greece. Japanese debt amounts to 230% of gross domestic product, compared with 165% for Greece. (Der Spiegel ,Germany). China's young adults embrace Western love of credit

cards. During the next decade, China is expected to overtake the U.S. and become the biggest credit market in the world, measured by the number of cards issued. (Knowledge@Wharton). Approximately 21 million Americans have diabetes, up over 50% since 1995. Americans receiving Social Security: 54 million; Medicare: 47 million; Medicaid: 52 million. The first commercial cell phone, the DynaTAC 8000X, became available to consumers in 1984. It weighed 1.75 pounds and was 13 inches tall. 100 years ago food prices in 1913 Chicago: Milk: 32 cents for a gallon; Eggs: 30 cents a dozen; Bacon: 33 cents a pound; Potatoes: 9 cents for 5 pounds and Sirloin Steak: 24 cents per pound.

To all golfers, do not forget that the Annual Golf Outing is on Monday, June 24, 2013 at Bloomingdale Golf Club. The \$100 donation includes golf, cart, lunch, refreshments on the course and dinner with a two-hour open bar. There will be numerous prizes raffled during dinner (GPS, 32" High Definition Color TV, golf clubs, etc., etc.). Call my cell at 312-485-8388 to reserve your foursomes. Hope to see you there.

There will be a General Meeting of the Retired Chicago Police Association on Sunday, May 26, 2013 at 1:00PM in the 001st District Community Room at 1718 S. State Street. I look forward to seeing you at this meeting.

Don Januszyk *1st Vice President*

I apologize for the last issue's article. The elections are over. Our State of Illinois officials did not solve the pension problems they created. They are left for the new legislature. Recently, the Chicago Sun-Times published a piece quoting Alderman Pat O'Connor. He was not siding with retirees regarding pensions or health care. He is Mayor Rahm Emanuel's floor leader, and likely does the bidding of the Mayor. His office number is 773-769-1140 and the address is 5850 N. Lincoln, Chicago, Ill. 60659. Please contact him to express your views.

There is another outspoken person, president of the Civic Federation in Chicago, attorney Laurence Msall. His academic and business credentials are extensive, and he has the ear of Mayor Emanuel. His positions are anti-union, pension, and medical for retirees. His own retirement and medical benefits must be well in hand.

I doubt Mr. Msall has never been shot at, injured, worked in freezing or hot weather, gone into burning buildings, emptied garbage cans, etc. He has no idea what we retirees did or what our spouses endured because of our service. I've encouraged members to contact elected officials and I still do, however, since Mr. Msall is so vocal regarding our interests and has the ear of the Mayor, you should contact him and share your views. His contact information is: Phone- 312-201-9027 or 9066 or 9044. His address is: The Civic Federation, Suite 400, 177 N. State, Chicago, Ill. 6001.

All are paying attention in the Chicago area to what is going to happen to the health care for the municipal employees, regarding Korshak. A Health Committee was initiated by Mayor R. Daley in 2009, one year later than designated by state law. All the members quit because they were not indemnified, then re-appointed by Mayor Emanuel and submitted their

recommendations to the Mayor on Friday 11 January 2013. A copy their report can be found on our website, (www.retiredchicagopoliceassoc.com). In summary, the committee recommends; 1. The agreement be extended, 2. The fees be raised, 3. The agreement be terminated. Additionally, they recommended all non-Medicare individuals participate in the ACA, commonly known as Obamacare. None of the recommendations come as a surprise. Right now the fate of retirees' healthcare lay with Mayor Rahm Emanuel. He stated he will not let us down. Can we trust him??? I doubt it. Please be pro-active and call the aldermen of the City of Chicago, and any organizations you belong too and express your dissatisfaction. We have annuitants who are in their 80's & 90's and cannot afford an increase in rates or termination of benefits. This is a really problem. It is time to fight for what is being taken from us. Leadership will do only what is beneficial for them. We must create enough resistance for them to realize it is good for them to side with us.

The court appointed attorney for the class, those retired before 1989, is Clint Krislov. We recently had a meeting with Mr. Krislov and are in the process of putting together a plan of action. While the information cannot be discussed because this publication is public, Mr. Krislov will address issues, possibly in this publication, depending on the time of printing. If that date is missed his comments will be mailed to all of our members.

In closing, I have to touch on Sandy Hook. I worked in the SIU before retiring and saw horrendous cases. What the families and those handling the tragedy went through is beyond comprehension. The question is WHY????? We have seen the action and statements of elected officials, experts, and etc. They have no answers. Though not an expert, I only see one reason; society. The media and others state we must adapt to change. They are wrong. Look at what has happened to family, marriage between a man and a woman, TV, radio, movies and more. I have heard enough street language; why do we have to listen to it on TV and radio? There were standards at one time. Check out the Hays code at: <http://www.artsreformation.com/a001/hays-code.html> or Google Hays Code. I am not a prude, but film and TV used to be clean and entertaining. Insurance reimburses us for Viagra, but cuts off benefits for mental health. Is it a sane person that perpetuates those violent tragedies which have taken place in our society??? Will there be a change??? Not in the near future that I can see. What are we leaving for our children?

Be safe, and be healthy.

CUT-OFF AND RETURN WITH YOUR CHECK OR MONEY ORDER

If you are reading a yellow-colored newsletter
2013 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE \$15.00

Please return this cut-off with your CHECK or MONEY ORDER made out to:
THE RETIRED CHICAGO POLICE ASSOCIATION

Please check the imprint of your name, address and annuity number on the reverse side of this newsletter. Make corrections if necessary, including apt. #, route #, etc. if applicable.

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Retiree's Change of Address

Sgt. Don Januszyk, Retired

If a retiree or spouse is currently receiving Medicare benefits, and changes the address of their residence they must notify the Pension Board **FIRST**. The Pension Board forwards this information to the Benefit Management Department, who in turn sends it to Blue Cross Blue Shield, and then they send it to Social Security and Medicare. This entire process may take up to three months or more. I have been advised by Benefit Management that they have made changes onto their data bases for retirees which has caused even longer delays in processing the information they receive from the Pension Board.

Benefit Management nor Blue Cross Blue Shield will not take an address change from you. You **MIGHT** be able to notify Social Security/Medicare, however they ask a trick question. They want to know what the amount of your last month's benefit check was. You might look at your bank statement and give them that figure, which will be wrong. They want the figure before any deductions and that amount is on the notification they send you at the beginning of the year. Like I said, they don't make it easy. I know as I just completed the whole process, and they still don't have it right. Just wanted to let you know what you are in for.

If you have made the appropriate notifications and the above departments are still sending their mail to the wrong address, call the Benefit Management Department and keep your fingers crossed that you are able to speak with someone who can help you.

