



ILLINOIS PUBLIC PENSION FUND ASSOCIATION

Preparing Pension Funds for Tomorrow

www.ippfa.org

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March 2013 Newsletter



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IPPPFA Benefits has brought you Dental & Vision coverage

IPPPFA Benefits has arranged for a Dental & Vision insurance plan for IPPFA members, retirees, and their eligible dependents. This benefit provides coverage for you and your eligible dependents for Preventative, Basic Type II, and Major Type III dental services, such as exams, cleanings, x-rays, fillings, crowns, root canals, etc. (Orthodontia is not included). In addition, this plan includes a vision benefit program that covers eye exams, frames, lenses, and contacts.

This program has been arranged through IPPFA as part of its continuing effort to provide benefits to our fellow public sector workers. This plan is administered by IPPFA Benefits and insured with Ameritas. - [click here for more...](#)

Discover Where Corporations are Getting Taxpayer Handouts Across the United States

By Good Jobs First under Subsidy Tracker Section

A growing number of state governments are disclosing which companies they are giving tax breaks and other subsidies in the name of job creation and economic development. Yet much of that information is being disseminated through hard-to-find reports and web pages. SUBSIDY TRACKER brings together the information from those far-flung sources--along with unpublished data obtained through open records requests--to create the first national search engine for state economic development subsidies. We have also begun to add data from city and county subsidy programs. - [click here for more...](#)

Pension execs encouraged to develop divestment policies

By Pensions & Investments

Pension funds facing demands to divest holdings in response to specific issues could take a more strategic approach by developing a divestment policy statement in the same way their standard of practice calls for adopting an investment policy statement, according to experts. To view this content, please login or register now. - [click here for more...](#)

FACTS: State and Local Bankruptcy

By National Governors Association—State and Municipal Bankruptcy- Municipal Bonds-State and Local Pensions
Unintended Consequences. The mere suggestion that Congress should enact preemptive authority for states to file for bankruptcy is pernicious because of its predictable consequences. Any federal law allowing states to declare bankruptcy would only serve to increase interest rates, rattle investors and markets, raise the costs for state government, create more volatility and uncertainty in financial markets, and erode state sovereignty under the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

States Versus Municipalities. The bankruptcy conversation further demonstrates a basic misunderstanding about the function and operation of state and local governments. -

- [click here for more...](#)

Pension controversy stirs debate in La Grange

By Jane Michaels—November 13, 2012

LA GRANGE — Trustee Jim Palermo has filed a complaint against the actuary used by the village's police and firefighter pension boards.

The complaint was critical of actuary Tim Sharpe's mortality assumptions and said he made statements to the board, which were "frequently erroneous and incomplete regarding standard actuarial practices" and would mislead the board, according to Village Manager Bob Pilipiszyn's summary.

The Village Board discussed the matter during a pre-budget workshop Nov. 12 looking at expenditures, including pension contributions, and the property tax levy to fund services and obligations in 2013-14. - [click here for more...](#)

Deal with sergeants union might offer solution to pension crisis

BY FRAN SPIELMAN City Hall Reporter—February 12, 2013

Mayor Rahm Emanuel on Tuesday touted a pension reform deal forged with Chicago Police sergeants as a “road map” for other unions to follow, but the divide-and-conquer strategy didn’t work with the Fraternal Order of Police. In fact, it started a civil war within the ranks of Chicago Police officers. FOP President Mike Shields, who has demanded a 12 percent pay raise over two years, accused the sergeants association of being “in bed with the city more than any other union in the history” of labor.

- [click here for more...](#)

Court says DB participants lack standing to challenge sponsor-affiliated funds

By Richard Siegel—Employee Benefit News (ebn)—February 1, 2013

The plaintiffs and putative class representatives brought suit against the Bank of America Corporation, BOA’s Corporate Benefits Committee, and members of the Committee, alleging that the defendants engaged in prohibited transactions and breached their fiduciary duties by investing the assets of BOA’s defined benefit pension plan and its defined contribution 401(k) plan in BOA-affiliated mutual funds which, the plaintiffs alleged, offered poor performance and charged high fees.

-[click here for more...](#)

BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE ENDORSES MANDATORY SOCIAL SECURITY FOR NEW PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

By Federal E-News—January 2013

On January 16, 2013, the Business Roundtable (BRT) announced that it was recommending mandatory Social Security coverage for all new State and local government employees as part of any “comprehensive economic growth and deficit-reduction strategy” that Congress and the Administration develops. (The BRT is an association of chief executive officers of leading U.S. companies with more than \$7.3 trillion in annual revenues and nearly 16 million employees.) -

[click here for more...](#)

Montana Has Highest Rate of Health Insurance Denials

By Dylan Scott—January 25

Nearly half, 45 percent, of health insurance applications filed in Montana are denied, according to a new analysis out from an insurance industry group, more than double the national average. Meanwhile, five states have a denial rate of 0 percent.

That’s a big difference. But starting in 2014, all of those variations are supposed to melt away. Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Americans seeking health insurance can no longer be denied because of a preexisting condition or other reasons. It’s called “guaranteed issue.” But the data released Thursday by Health Pocket, an independent health insurance analyst, demonstrates how big of a difference that provision will make in various states. For reference, the national denial average was 22 percent. - [click here for more...](#)

EITC Home Page--It's easier than ever to find out if you qualify for EITC

By IRS

EITC, the Earned Income Tax Credit, sometimes called EIC is a tax credit to help you keep more of what you earned. It is a refundable federal income tax credit for low to moderate income working individuals and families. Congress originally approved the tax credit legislation in 1975 in part to offset the burden of social security taxes and to provide an incentive to work. When EITC exceeds the amount of taxes owed, it results in a tax refund to those who claim and qualify for the credit.

- [click here for more...](#)

Training and Education

How Do I Satisfy the Annual Trustee Training Requirements?

By IPPFA

In 2009 the Illinois legislature passed two laws requiring a total of 16 hours of annual training for Downstate Police and Fire pension trustees, 8 hours more than trustees that sit on other public pension funds. Eight hours of this training is mandated to include the topics of ethics, fiduciary responsibilities and investments, not 8 hours on each topic as some believe. The type of training for the second eight hours is decided on by each board as to what is relevant and available to each board.

- [click here for more...](#)

2013 IPPFA Spring Pension Conference

The IPPFA Spring Conference is scheduled for May 7-10, 2013 at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield, IL. **ATTENTION!!!** 2013 IPPFA Spring Pension Conference update: The President Abraham Lincoln Hotel & Conference Center is now full. IPPFA has secured a block of rooms at the Hilton Hotel. Call in to reserve your room right away!!

- [click here for more...](#)

IPPFA On-Line Certified Trustee Program/and Classroom Program

The IPPFA is pleased to announce that it is now offering the 32-hour Certified Trustee Program (CTP) as an on-line course for the first time. Over 1,000 public pension trustees have gone through the IPPFA CTP, hundreds before the legislature made such training mandatory in 2009. Now through the on-line training those trustees that would have difficulty attending in-person training can obtain the required training using their own computer in the comfort of their home or office. This is especially helpful to the appointed or retired trustees that have other employment and should make it easier for municipalities to find citizens that are willing to be appointed as trustees. - [click here for more...](#)

Online Training/eLearning

This course introduces students to various aspects of financial management related to Police and Fire pension funds along with the administration of those pension funds. Each topic will be taught by a professional in their field. - [click here for more...](#)

Regional Seminars

How Do I Satisfy The Annual Trustee Training Requirements?

Experts will speak on the state of the economy, the updates of pension legislation in Illinois and the Illinois Department of Insurance will be speak on a variety of topics.

“IPPPFA Regional Seminar schedule for March 19, 2013 at the Jumer's Casino & Hotel, Rock Island.”

- [click here for more...](#)