



ILLINOIS PUBLIC PENSION FUND ASSOCIATION

Preparing Pension Funds for Tomorrow

www.ippfa.org

December 1, 2013

December 2013 Newsletter



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Illinois Articles...

Red Alert! Pension Emergency Days Set

Politicians are expected to return to Springfield on Tuesday, December 3, to vote on a new pension bill that will likely be as damaging to public employees and retirees as any yet proposed.

This is it – the biggest legislative threat to our retirement security that we’ve faced.

And our response has to be just as big. This is a real emergency situation. So We Are One Illinois is calling for a series of Pension Emergency Action Days beginning next week.

*Pension Emergency Call-In Days - November 25-26, Dec. 2-3 - We will swamp the switchboards of every legislator on these four days. No matter how many times you’ve called your legislators, call again. Call both your representative and your senator. Be sure to leave a strong, clear message “VOTE NO ON ANY PENSION BILL THAT DOESN’T HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE WE ARE ONE UNION COALITION.” - [click here for more...](#)

We Want to Welcome GWC as a New Sponsor to IPPFA

By James McNamee—President of IPPFA

We would like to introduce our newest corporate sponsor Goldberg Weisman Cairo to the members of our organization. It has been some time since our organization has had a relationship with a workers compensation and injury law firm that we felt comfortable recommending to our members. We believe that we have now found that law firm. GWC, Illinois largest Workers Compensation and Personal Injury law firm, has already made a positive impact on our organization. With a staff that includes 38 attorneys, GWC has the resources, manpower, reputation and ability to help department members of IPPFA member pension funds receive fair treatment and get them the compensation they deserve.

As a corporate sponsor of the IPPFA, GWC’s Michael Goldberg has offered to attend our members’ association meetings and educate the members of your departments about their rights if they are ever injured in an accident. They will also provide seminars and workshops at our conferences and will be writing an article for our newsletter about interesting topics in the law.

We hope that you will take advantage of our new relationship and contact GWC if the need arises. Call Michael Goldberg or any of the 38 attorneys at GWC and tell them that you are affiliated with IPPFA.

Goldberg Weisman Cairo
One East Wacker Drive
38th and 39th floors
Chicago, Illinois 60601
(312) 464-1200

Poll: Older Americans nix Social Security changes

By Matt Sedensky of Associated Press—11/3/13—MSN News

According to a poll, older Americans reject raising the age at which people can collect full Social Security benefits and support cost-of-living increases.

Chicago— Raise the age at which you can begin collecting full Social Security benefits? Older Americans say no. They also veto reductions in the cost-of-living increase. But a poll finds support among those 50 and older for raising the cap on earnings that are taxed to fund the Social Security program so higher-income workers pay more. The survey by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds passionate opposition to any change in the way Social Security benefits are calculated that could result in smaller annual raises. - [click here for more...](#)

GAUGING THE BURDEN OF PUBLIC PENSIONS ON CITIES

By Alicia H. Munnell, Jean-Pierre Aubry, Josh Hurwitz, and Mark Cafarelli—Center For Retirement Research—Boston College—November 2013

Stories in the popular press suggest – particularly in the wake of the bankruptcy of Detroit – that pensions are the major expense of American cities and will lead to their widespread collapse.

Thus, it is important to know the burden of pensions on cities. This burden can be measured in two ways. The first is the direct cost of pensions to city governments. These costs include contributions to locally-administered plans, contributions to state non-teacher plans, and contributions to state teacher plans on behalf of dependent school districts. The direct cost measures the pressure on the city's finances. -

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

Slash your monthly expenses by \$1,000 (or more) per year

By MSN Money Partner—11/18/2013—msn money

You can pay for TV, Internet access and anti-virus protection or you can get them free. Here's how to eliminate or slash your monthly subscription fees. This post comes from Maryalene LaPonsie at partner site Money Talks News. Honey Boo Boo may be entertaining, but is she worth the \$100 or more you may be shelling out for cable each month?

According to the NPD Group, the average pay-tv subscription service cost \$86 a month in 2011, and that number is expected to climb to \$123 by the year 2015. If the research company is right, you may be on track to spend more than \$200 a month for the privilege of watching television in 2020. But here's the good news. There are ways to cut your cable bill, as well as many other burdensome monthly expenses. - [click here for more...](#)

National Articles...

State Budget & Tax Actions: Preliminary Report

National Conference of State Legislatures—August 2013

State fiscal conditions continued to improve in fiscal year (FY) 2013. General fund revenue growth was notably strong and outpaced projections in most states. At the same time, expenditures were generally on target. The combination of these factors enabled many states to shore up reserves and support supplemental expenditures. Overall, the fiscal situation was solid in almost every state in FY 2013. To read the full report, click the PDF file just to the right of the article (NCSL Resources).

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

S.A.C. accepts guilt for insider trading in \$1.8 billion SEC settlement

By Christine Williamson—November 4, 2013—Pensions & Investments

S.A.C. Capital Advisors and three affiliated companies will plead “guilty to every count” of an insider-trading indictment and will pay an additional \$1.2 billion to settle charges, according to Preetinder Singh “Preet” Bharara, U.S. Attorney for the southern district of New York.

The total \$1.8 billion S.A.C. settlement is believed to be the largest ever for insider-trading offenses, said Mr. Bharara in a letter sent Monday to U.S. District Court Judges Laura T. Swain and Richard J. Sullivan distributed by the Justice Department.

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

J.P. Morgan record \$13 billion mortgage pact will benefit U.S. pension funds

By Randy Diamond, Kevin Olsen and Rob Kozlowski—November 19, 2013—P & I

J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. reached a \$13 billion deal with the Justice Department that ends probes into the bank's sale of mortgage bonds, the largest amount paid by a financial firm in a settlement with the government. “Without a doubt, the conduct uncovered in this investigation helped sow the seeds of the mortgage meltdown,” Attorney General Eric Holder said in a statement. “J.P. Morgan was not the only financial institution during this period to knowingly bundle toxic loans and sell them to unsuspecting investors, but that is no excuse for the firm's behavior.” - [click here for more...](#)

Detroit's pension fund liabilities not to blame for bankruptcy — report

By Christine Williamson November 20, 2013

Pension fund liabilities are not to blame for Detroit's descent into Chapter 9 bankruptcy protection, according to a report released Wednesday by Demos, a public policy advocacy group. Detroit's bankruptcy was caused by a decrease in tax revenue due to a population decline and long-term unemployment, “not an increase in the obligations to fund pensions,” said Wallace C. Turbeville, a Demos senior fellow, and the author of “The Detroit Bankruptcy” report. - [click here for more...](#)

INTERESTS OF AMICUS CURIAE CALPERS

CITY OF SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA, Plaintiff Appellee, vs. STATE OF CALIFORNIA; JOHN CHIANG, in his official capacity as State Controller of the State of California; OFFICE OF THE STATE CONTROLLER OF CALIFORNIA; MICHAEL COHEN, in his official capacity as the Director of the State of California Department of Finance;

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, Defendants-Appellants.

The California Public Employees' Retirement System ("Ca1PERS"), like its sister State agencies involved in this appeal, performs essential governmental functions for California. The issues of sovereignty arising in this appeal are important to Ca1PERS and its 1.7 million members because this is the first time that a court has determined that a state agency is subject to suit against its will in federal court in a chapter 9 proceeding. Therefore, Ca1PERS' Board has authorized the filing of this brief amicus curiae.

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

Training and Education

Sign up for the 2014 IPPFA Illinois Spring Pension Conference

IPPFA Spring Pension Conference will be held in East Peoria, IL. The dates for the 2014 conference are May 6 - 9, 2014. The venue will be the Embassy Suites. The IPPFA rate is \$145.00 per night which includes complimentary breakfast and manager's reception every day. Call the Embassy Suites direct at 1-309-427-2424 or register online.

- [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 speaking on a variety of topics. -

- [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. Plus you can do this in the comfort of your own home or office! - [click here for more...](#)

IPPFA Toolkit!!!

[Illinois Public Pension Fund Members:](#)

In our desire to actively engage our membership, and produce relevant materials that will be useful to our members in the field we have commissioned the services of VISION MAI, LLC to produce a tangible, easy-to-read handbook that can be

referenced and revered at any time. - [click here for more...](#)
