



ILLINOIS PUBLIC PENSION FUND ASSOCIATION

Preparing Pension Funds for Tomorrow

www.ippfa.org

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May 2012 Newsletter



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President McNamee invited to World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Chicago

Press Release: April 10, 2012

President James McNamee has been invited as the guest of Governor Pat Quinn to participate in the World Summit held at the University of Illinois Circle Campus in Chicago on April 23-25.

The World Summit is internationally recognized as among the most important annual events, attracting hundreds of high profile leaders and organizations from around the globe. This event is co-chaired by former Soviet President Mikhail

Gorbachev and Hon. Walter Veltroni, former Mayor of Rome. Mayor Emanuel will serve as the Summit's honorary co-chair.[click here for more...](#)

Important!! Article Commented by President of IPPFA



President James McNamee of IPPFA comments on an article quoting Mr. Cary Collins' position on pension fund contributions. *"I strongly disagree with the statements by Mr. Collins that police and firefighters need to pay more towards their pension. Police and firefighters pay about 10% of their pay and do not need to pay more towards their pension. Their benefits are earned and not overly generous. The recent studies by both COGFA and DOI show that our system is increasing in funding and sustainable."*

To see the article, please read more from the Daily Herald entitled; **"GOP slates Collins to take on Noland for Senate"**

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

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS' FISCAL OUTLOOK

GOA—April 2012 Update

The state and local government sector continues to face near-term and long-term fiscal challenges that grow over time. The fiscal challenges confronting the state and local sector add to the nation's overall fiscal challenges. The fiscal situation of the state and local government sector has improved in the past year as the sector's tax receipts have slowly increased in conjunction with the economic recovery. Nonetheless, total tax receipts have only recently returned to the prerecession levels of 2007 and the sector still faces a gap between revenue and spending. - [click here for more...](#)

IRS to issue guidance on Normal Retirement Age rules

IRS.Gov

Part III - Administrative, Procedural, and Miscellaneous Application of the Normal Retirement Age Requirements to Governmental Plans Notice 2012-29

PURPOSE:

The IRS and the Treasury Department anticipate issuing guidance relating to the applicability of the normal retirement age rules to governmental plans (as defined in § 414(d)). This notice describes and invites public comment on the guidance under

consideration, which (a) would clarify that governmental plans that do not provide for inservice distributions before age 62 do not need to have a definition of normal retirement age and (b) would modify the age-50 safe harbor rule for qualified public safety employees. The notice also provides that the IRS and Treasury Department intend to extend the effective date of the regulations relating to distributions from a pension plan upon attainment of normal retirement age for governmental plans.- [click here for more...](#)

US public pensions take to social media

By Sam Riley at the Fiduciary Investors Symposium (FIS)—Top1000funds.com

US public pension funds, under fire for the sustainability of their defined-benefit plans, are increasingly opening a new social-media front line in the battle to influence public opinion.

The Maryland State Retirement and Pension System is the latest to step up its social media presence, posting its first You Tube video, which outlines the positive effects of its \$37.7-billion defined-benefit (DB) scheme on the local economy.

The video, which sees senior staff, including chief investment officer Dr Melissa Moye, discussing the system's investment strategy, is part of a social-media strategy at the fund that included launching a Facebook page 18 months ago. - [click here for more...](#)

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

March, 2012

This report examines the financial status of the five State-funded retirement systems. The following is a summary of the findings:

• Public Act 88-0593 requires the State to make contributions to the State retirement systems such that the total assets of the systems will equal 90% of their total actuarial liabilities by Fiscal Year 2045. The contributions are required to be made at a level percent of payroll in Fiscal Years 2011 through 2045, following a phase-in period that began in Fiscal Year 1996. - [click here for more...](#)

Teachers and pension cuts

The Chicago Tribune Editorials—April 4, 2012

The politicians who run Illinois, along with many pension fund officials and union leaders, have spent years denying that their failure to demand big pension reforms threatens the retirements of public employees. That denial — often an effort to dodge blame — now stands disgraced: With insolvency looming in as little as 17 years, the head of the state's largest pension fund is warning that pension benefits promised to teachers, starting with those *already retired*, may need to be cut.

"The Tribune's July 5 editorial 'Rescuing public pensions' is centered on the false premise that Illinois' current pension plans for public employees are 'doomed' and unsustainable. The truth is that the state's pension plans are sustainable."
— Dick Ingram, executive director of the Illinois Teachers' Retirement System, in a letter to the editor published July 14, 2011. - [click here for more...](#)

8 Qualities of Remarkable Employees

By Jeff Haden—Inc.com

Great employees are reliable, dependable, proactive, diligent, great leaders and great followers... they possess a wide range of easily-defined—but hard to find—qualities. A few hit the next level. Some employees are remarkable, possessing qualities that may not appear on performance appraisals but nonetheless make a major impact on performance.

Here are eight qualities of remarkable employees:

1. They ignore job descriptions. The smaller the company, the more important it is that employees can think on their feet, adapt quickly to shifting priorities, and do whatever it takes, regardless of role or position, to get things done. When a key customer's project is in jeopardy, remarkable employees know without being told there's a problem and jump in without being asked—even if it's not their job. - [click here for more...](#)

Legislation

Bill Status of SB3396 97th General Assembly

Illinois General Assembly

Synopsis As Introduced:

Amends the Open Meetings Act. Authorizes an elected or appointed member of a downstate police or downstate firefighter pension fund to satisfy the Act's training requirements by participating in a course of training sponsored or conducted by the Illinois Public Pension Fund Association. Sets forth requirements for the course of training. Effective January 1, 2013.

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

Headline Illinois General Assembly 11 Here

Bill Status of HJRCA0049 97th General Assembly

Synopsis As Introduced:

Proposes to amend the General Provisions Article of the Illinois Constitution. Provides that no bill, except a bill for appropriations, that provides a benefit increase under any pension or retirement system of the State, any unit of local government or school district, or any agency or instrumentality thereof, shall become law without the concurrence of three-fifths of the members elected to each house of the General Assembly. - [click here for more...](#)

Training and Education

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...](#)

Check out the Website for the Spring Conference 2012!!

Come join the IPPFA for its 2012 IPPFA Illinois Pension Spring Conference on May 15 thru May 18th, 2012 at the Presidential Abraham Lincoln Hotel & Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois 62701.

For over 25 years the IPPFA has been offering the best in Pension Fund Trustee Training. - [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. - [click here for more...](#)