



ILLINOIS PUBLIC PENSION FUND ASSOCIATION

Preparing Pension Funds for Tomorrow

www.ippfa.org

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August 2014 Newsletter



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Illinois Articles...

7th Annual Blackhawks Alumni & Friends Charity Softball Classic

Here Come the Hawks

Sunday, September 14, 2014 from 11:30am – 3:30pm on Ferrell Field at St. Xavier's University, 3700 W. 103rd Street, Chicago. The Chicago Blackhawks Alumni Association is busy planning the 7th Annual Blackhawk Alumni & Friends Charity Softball Classic presented by BMO Harris Bank.

Chicago Blackhawks current players and alumni "face-off" in a 16" softball game with members of the Chicago Police and Fire Departments. The event also features the annual CFD vs. CPD City-Wide 16" Softball Championship. The event benefits the Chicago Firefighters' EMWQ Retirees', Widows' and Children's Assistance Fund and the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation and related police and fire charities. - [click here for more...](#)

Monthly Briefing For The Month Ended: June 2014

REVENUE: FY 2014 Receipts End With Good June—Revenue Expectations Met

Jim Muschinske, Revenue Manager

FY 2014 concluded on a positive note as overall receipts grew \$259 million. The larger economic sources were mixed with the personal income tax and sales tax showing strength, while corporate taxes weakened. Other transfers had a poor month, but a comparatively strong month for federal sources significantly contributed to the monthly advance, as did one extra receipting day. - [click here for more...](#)

Rising police, fire pension costs squeezing city budgets

The State Journal-Register

Police officers and firefighters keep cities and villages across Illinois safe, but the rising cost of their retirement benefits is putting communities in financial peril. Police officers and firefighters go to work each day to keep cities and villages across Illinois safe, but local leaders say the rising cost of their retirement benefits is putting those same communities in financial peril. While some municipalities have been shortchanging the pension funds, police officers have been dutifully making their contributions, Smoot said. - [click here for more...](#)

TRS Benefits: An Important Stimulus for the Illinois Economy

The Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois annually distributes approximately \$3.1 billion in pensions and benefits to men, women, and children in every corner of the state, creating a sustained economic stimulus that helps drive the economy in all 102 counties. Net, rather than gross, benefits are used in this analysis because the net benefits are what stimulate the state economy. The positive ripple effect of TRS benefits jumps by 44 percent to more than \$4.4 billion in total economic activity throughout Illinois—new full-time jobs, salaries earned, and new goods and services produced across the state.

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

National Articles...

FACT SHEET: Building a 21st Century Infrastructure: Increasing Public and Private Collaboration with the Build America Investment Initiative

The White House—President Obama—July 17, 2014

Today, the President will deliver remarks at the Port of Wilmington in front of the I-495 Bridge in Delaware. With 90,000 cars moving over it per day before repairs began, this bridge is a key example of the importance of infrastructure, which keeps the economy moving, spurs innovation, and bolsters our national competitiveness. At the port – and in this Year of Action – the President will announce a new executive action to create the Build America Investment Initiative, a government-wide initiative to increase infrastructure investment and economic growth. As part of the Initiative, the Administration is launching the Build America Transportation Investment Center – housed at the Department of Transportation – to serve as a one-stop shop for cities and states seeking to use innovative financing and partnerships with the private sector to support transportation infrastructure.

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

Domino Effect: Pension Cutters Gamble on a California Ballot Measure

By Gary Cohn—Capital and Main—July 23, 2014

Jon Coupal is nothing if not blunt when he describes one motive behind a Ventura County ballot measure that would replace the “defined benefit” pensions currently enjoyed by county employees and replace them with 401(k)-type plans for all future hires.

“This is meant to be a template for other counties,” Coupal tells [Capital & Main](#). By that, the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association’s president means the measure’s conservative and libertarian backers see the “[Sustainable Retirement System Initiative](#)” as the newest and most promising weapon in their assault on California’s public employee retirement plans.

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

Social Security Board of Trustees: No Change in Projected Year of Trust Fund Reserve Depletion

By LaVenia J. LaVelle, Press Office—Social Security Website—July 28, 2014

For Immediate Release

The Social Security Board of Trustees today released its annual report on the long-term financial status of the Social Security Trust Funds. The combined asset reserves of the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) Trust Funds are projected to become depleted in 2033, unchanged from last year, with 77 percent of benefits still payable at that time. The DI Trust Fund will become depleted in 2016, also unchanged from last year’s estimate, with 81 percent of benefits still payable. -[click here for more...](#)

10 Things You May Not Know about the ADA

A New Perspective on Disability Facts and Figures. In preparation for the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in July, the U.S. Census Bureau released its collection of the most recent data pertaining to Americans with disabilities. The numbers are striking. Approximately 57 million Americans have a disability. Since this figure may be difficult to comprehend, let’s take a look at some facts for comparison: There are more people with disabilities living in America than the entire population of Canada or the Caribbean. The number of Americans with vision impairments is comparable to the entire population of Switzerland, and there are more Americans with hearing impairments than in all of Denmark, Paraguay or Hong Kong.

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

NCTR Article Link

Update on NCTR Request to Meet with Laura, John Arnold

Meredith Williams, NCTR’s Executive Director, reports that he has yet to receive a formal reply to his written request for a meeting with Laura and John Arnold, the Texas billionaire couple who founded and co-chair the Laura and John Arnold Foundation. In a letter to the Arnolds dated April 23, 2014, Williams asked for a personal meeting for himself and Tom Lee, NCTR President and Executive Director and Chief Investment Officer of the New York State Teachers’ Retirement System, “to discuss the retirement challenges confronting the nation as a whole and the role of NCTR’s members in meeting those critically important needs for public employees.” - [click here for more...](#)

Why the U.S. Corporate World Became ‘A Bull Market for Corruption’

By Wharton—University of Pennsylvania

It was not always the case that Gretchen Morgenson’s job covering financial news at *The New York Times*, “meant essentially that I was becoming a crime reporter.” Morgenson, a Pulitzer Prize-winning business and financial editor and columnist, recalled at the recent Wharton Leadership Conference that a great deal of news coverage from the 1980s and 1990s involved companies that were prospering by “doing the right thing.” While she believes many such ethical companies still exist, Morgenson said that nowadays, it seems that nearly every month some new scandal comes to light. - [click here for more...](#)

2014 NIRS/NRTA Pension Education Toolkit

The **2014 NIRS/NRTA Pension Education Toolkit** was developed in conjunction with the NRTA, AARP’s Educator Community. We encourage the public and NIRS members to use this information to educate retirees and stakeholders.

Eight Retiree Educational Fact Sheets:

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

Court Case...

Supreme Court Finds AG Cannot Challenge Pension Board Decision on Jon Burge

People ex rel. Madigan v. Burge, 2014 IL 115635

Summation by Rick Reimer of REIMER & KARLSON LLC/15 Spinning Wheel Road, Suite 310 Hinsdale, Illinois

In a follow up to a case featured in our January 2013 newsletter, the Illinois Supreme Court has overturned an Appellate Court decision and thrown out a lawsuit filed by the Attorney General seeking to stop pension payment to former Chicago Police Commander Jon Burge.

SEE BELOW FOR WHOLE ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT OPINION

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

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS Madigan vs Burge

THE PEOPLE ex rel. LISA MADIGAN, Attorney General of Illinois, Appellee, v. JON BURGE, et al., Appellants.

Opinion filed July 3, 2014.

JUSTICE BURKE delivered the judgment of the court, with opinion. Justices Thomas, Karmeier, and Theis concurred in the judgment and opinion. Chief Justice Garman dissented, with opinion, joined by Justice Kilbride. Justice Freeman dissented, with opinion. -

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

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS Kanerva vs Weems

ROGER KANERVA *et al.*, Appellants, v. MALCOLM WEEMS *et al.*, Appellees

Opinion filed July 3, 2014.

JUSTICE FREEMAN delivered the judgment of the court, with opinion.

Chief Justice Garman and Justices Thomas, Kilbride, Karmeier, and Theis concurred in the judgment and opinion. Justice Burke dissented, with opinion. -

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

Training and Education...

2014 IPPFA Midwest Pension Conference

The **Grand Geneva main lodge** is now filled. The Holiday Inn Vacation Club Vacation Resort is still accepting reservations. IPPFA Midwest Pension Conference will be held in Lake Geneva, WI. The dates for the 2014 conference are September 30 - October 3, 2014. The venue will be the Grand Geneva Resort & Spa. - [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...](#)
