

Chicopee Contributory Retirement System

Newsletter for Active Members, Retirees & Their Families

274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA
413-594-1542

WINTER 2019

Volume 1 - Edition 8

*"You don't stop laughing when you grow old,
you grow old when you stop laughing."* George
Bernard Shaw

"Personnel Update"

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that we hired Kari Santos as the new Administrative Assistant and Customer Service Representative for the Chicopee Contributory Retirement System effective September 9, 2019. Kari comes to us from the private sector. She attended Holyoke Community College. Kari has been trained to take over the job duties of Lidia Rodriguez, where she will be handling all the new members of our system and assisting with changes that members and retirees need to make. Lidia has been trained to be the new Administrative Aide which is getting her more involved with the retirement portion of our office. Please contact our office if you have any problems or concerns at any time as both of these employees will be able to assist you.

"Medicare Cards"

The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services recently sent out new Medicare cards which replaced your social security number with a new

unique identifying number on your card. These new cards are meant to protect you from identity theft. Unfortunately, this has resulted in scam artists trying to fraudulently obtain information from you, they are looking for your new Medicare number. As we have warned in the past, DO NOT provide any personal information over the telephone with this change or anything else. Medicare (just like the IRS) will never call you and ask you to give them personal information. If you receive a phone call asking for personal information or money or if they threaten to cancel your Medicare benefits, hang up and call 1-800-MEDICARE – (1-800-633-4227.)

"Scam Alerts"

Unfortunately there have been a large number of scams lately, not just among the elderly, but people of all ages. Scammers will call you and say something like: "Congratulations! You just won the lottery, but to claim your winnings, you must send

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Retirement System
274 Front Street
Chicopee, MA 01013
413-594-1542

Email:
ahamblin@chicopeema.gov

Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

2020 Pension Payment Schedule

January – Fri., January 31st

February – Fri., February 28th

March – Tues., March 31st

April – Thurs., April 30th

May – Fri., May 29th

June – Tues., June 30th

Members of the Board

Timothy O. O'Shea, Chairman
Elected Member

Sharyn Riley, City Auditor &
Member Ex-Officio

Debra Boronski, Appointed

by the Mayor

Paul Mailhott,
Elected Member

David Ference,

Appointed by the Board

Anna Maria Hamblin
Executive Director

a payment to pay the taxes and fees on the money you have won." NEVER send anyone cash, a check or wire money to pay for taxes or fees to collect a prize. This is a scam!

Please delete all voicemails, throw away any mail that you receive stating you won and hang up on the caller. Remember, **NEVER** give out your social security number, your credit card numbers or your bank account numbers to anyone!

"Do Not Call List"

Telemarketers, Robocalls, and Scam Artists seem to be calling each of us more and more all the time. We need to contact the "National Do Not Call" List and ask to be put on their Registry of Do Not Call Numbers. Please call **1-888-382-1222**. Both your home phone and cell phones can be placed on this registry. This is a free service that is offered to anyone. Once your number is placed on this list then it will be there permanently.

"Working After Retirement"

The beginning of the new year is just around the corner and it is important to remember that there are limits on the number of hours a retiree can work and the amount of money that can be earned if you return to work in the Public Sector after retirement. Please contact our office so we can give you the exact amount that you can earn for calendar year 2020.

"Federal Taxes"

It is that time of year again when we are getting ready to file our taxes.

If you would like to change the amount of federal tax that you have deducted from your monthly pension check please contact our office at any time and we will gladly mail you a form.

"Notice of Direct Deposit"

At the end of December our office will be mailing all of the retirees a Notice of Direct Deposit. On this notice it gives you the total amount that you paid for health insurance for 2019. Keep this paper handy as you will need that amount when you file your taxes.

1099R's will be mailed prior to January 31, 2020.

"Affidavits of Retired Members & Beneficiaries"

In 2019 you may recall that we sent out the Affidavits of Retired Members & Beneficiaries in March due to the elevator at City Hall not being in use. This was a huge success for us. So we decided that for the year 2020 we will once again send out these forms in March. So be on the lookout for them in your mailboxes in March as they will be due back in our office by the end of May.

"Monthly Meetings"

The Chicopee Contributory Retirement Board meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 8:30 a.m. in the Auditor's Conference Room at City Hall on the third floor. The following is a list of meeting date for 2020:

January 23rd
February 27th
March 26th
April 23rd
May 28th
June 25th
July 23rd
August 27th
September 24th
October 22nd
November 19th
December 17th

(scheduled meetings are subject to change)

"Heading South for the Winter"

Whether you are heading south for the winter or just moving to the next city over, it is very important to keep the Retirement Board up to date with your current mailing address, even if it is just temporary. Please let us know of any address change as soon as possible so we can always stay in contact with you.

The Chicopee Contributory Retirement System Board Members and Staff would like to wish all of you a Happy and Healthy New Year. We hope that 2020 will bring all of you much joy and happiness!