A summer road trip might be one of America’s most time-honored traditions. Many of you may have recently returned from a road trip, to points far or near, to visit family or friends or just to relax. While all trips have their challenges, with a hearty dose of optimism, along with coffee, snacks, and a good map, we usually return with a renewed appreciation for daily routines.

Earlier this summer I took a special road trip to our state capital in Springfield, Ill., to accept an invitation from Illinois Speaker of the House Michael J. Madigan (D-Chicago) to testify at a legislative hearing. I felt honored to have the opportunity to face our legislators directly and to share with them, on behalf of CTPF members and trustees, our current situation and concerns. During my testimony, in which I described the differences between our fund and other pension funds and gave information about our past returns and sources of revenue, I was struck by our legislators’ commitment and attention to this topic. They listened carefully and posed insightful questions. I had the opportunity to explain why CTPF feels our funding from Springfield has been inequitable when compared to the downstate system. I also had the chance to help them understand the investment philosophy of balance, which guides our fund on a day-to-day basis. I stressed that this balance, ensuring that our investments did not place our members’ assets at unreasonable risk, and ultimately produced solid returns for our members. I cited our fortunate position, with strong financial returns for the past decade, but also cautioned that our changing demographics, with increasing numbers of members retiring and decreasing levels of funding from external sources, could lead to a future crisis if we fail to act aggressively, now. This was an important opportunity and I hope that this trip gave our legislators a broader view of CTPF and the challenges we face.

The philosophy of balance that we apply to the financial management of the fund also applies to our everyday lives. This fall CTPF welcomes more than 1600 new retirees and hundreds of new teachers who will continue their predecessors’ mission of providing a quality education for today’s students. The teachers who left their schools in June may find that they approach the new school year with mixed emotions. The same is true for new teachers, anxious to put their skills into action. Over the next year, both our new members...
As of June 30, 2007, the approximate current value of CTPF’s investments was $12.7 billion. The largest single CTPF holding was Exxon Mobil Corp. worth approximately $119.7 million.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rate of Return</th>
<th>Total Fund Benchmarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 year</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 year</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 year</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
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Our fiscal year closed on June 30 and we are pleased to report an annual return on investment of 17.3% with a five-year Return of 11.5%.

In late September retirees will receive open enrollment healthcare packets (see page 5). We encourage retirees to consider your healthcare choices carefully. One of our highest priorities is to provide quality health insurance plans for our retirees at an affordable price – a mission that has become more challenging in the wake of skyrocketing healthcare costs. We are pleased that once again we can offer quality plans with a modest increase (approximately 4.4% overall) in health insurance premiums.

For retirees, CTPF provides a health insurance rebate to help offset the rising cost of premiums. In order to continue rebating our retirees at the current level (70%), we asked our Illinois legislators to sponsor HB1231, which would allow us to spend more of our income on retiree healthcare. We found many supporters for this legislation, but ultimately the politics in Springfield prevented any substantial movement and HB 1231 failed (see page 4). We have many friends in Springfield who support CTPF, and we encourage you to contact your legislator to ask for his or her support.

As we all start down the road to a new year, I want to once again thank our new retirees for their dedicated service and to welcome our new members to the CTPF family. With your help and the guidance of our trustees we will continue to navigate the paths of a secure retirement, reasonable investments, sound legislative changes, and affordable healthcare with the goal of helping to provide balance in your life plans.

Kevin B. Huber
Focus on: member Services

The Chicago Teachers’ Pension Fund serves more than 22,100 retirees and 34,600 contributing members. To serve members and to execute daily processes, including investing and providing benefits, CTPF operations are divided into several distinct departments: Benefits, Office Services, Accounting, Information Systems, and Member Services. Each department plays a vital role in ensuring the smooth operation of the fund. This article highlights the role of the Member Services Department.

Member Services

For many members, the first introduction to CTPF begins with a phone call to a Member Services counselor who can answer a variety of questions. “We strive to be a first-line resource for our members,” remarked Member Services Manager Sheron Banks-Fallis. “Our goal is to ensure that our members get the information they need in a timely way. If we can’t answer a particular question, we make sure that a member knows where to find the answer.”

The Member Services group consists of 13 employees divided between in-house Member Services counselors and Field Service representatives, who work primarily out-of-office. While both groups can handle a wide variety of questions, the in-house counselors are trained to take phone calls and to meet with individual members.

Member Services staffs CTPF phones and meets with members from 7:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. daily. “Last year we handled more than 78,732 phone calls, and served 4,958 members during scheduled and walk-in appointments,” noted Banks-Fallis. “We come in contact with individuals who have questions ranging from simple items like changing an address to complicated issues arising from the purchase of optional service.”

The Field Service staff makes presentations in schools and conducts large-format seminars. Last year Field Service representatives conducted more than 200 in-school presentations and served thousands of members during a variety of large-format workshops and seminars on topics ranging from health insurance to retirement.

“This summer all Member Services staff completed extensive training, dubbed ‘Boot Camp,’ where we further trained our staff in areas of customer service,” explained Banks-Fallis. “We strive to improve our services every day and our continuing focus on education and training will help us achieve this goal.”

“Sheron was promoted to manager in the spring and has brought a focus on customer service and training to the department,” remarked Pat Hambrick, chief financial officer/chief operating officer.

Outreach

In 2006, in response to the demand from members, CTPF officially introduced the Field Service program. “In the past we did not have a formal program that enabled our staff to make presentations and to work with pension representatives in the schools. We handled requests on an as-needed basis,” noted Banks-Fallis. “Today, with our Field Service program fully operational, we have three dedicated individuals who travel to the schools, work with our pension representatives, and make presentations and educate members on a variety of topics. The response to the program has been incredibly positive.”

The FSR team hopes to reach every school during this year. If your school is interested in scheduling a seminar or workshop, call 312.604.1242.

Pre-Retirement Counseling

“One of our most important services is to provide pre-retirement counseling to members considering retirement,” said Banks-Fallis. “When a member schedules a pre-retirement meeting we provide a benefits summary and a pension estimate. We can make sure the member understands the steps in the retirement process so it all runs smoothly.”

Communicate

“One of the most rewarding aspects of this job is the feedback from our members. We receive thank-you notes, cards, and letters which we really appreciate. We’re proud to know that we are making a difference,” explained Banks-Fallis. “We also want to know how we can continue to improve. We encourage our members to fill out an evaluation form at seminars or to let us know directly, either through e-mail or a phone call, how we can continue to better serve their needs.”

Contact Us

You can e-mail Member Services at memberservices@ctpf.org or call between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at 312.641.4464.
A high-priority bill for CTPF members is HB1231 more equitable level. Funding and to increase the allocation to a individual legislators to members to contact their constituents; so CTPF encourages its members to contact their individual legislators to ask them to continue to support CTPF bill funding and to increase the allocation to a more equitable level.

**HB 1231**

A high-priority bill for CTPF members is House Bill 1231. This bill increases the amount CTPF is allowed to spend on annual retiree health insurance from $65 million to $75 million. This bill would allow CTPF to keep up with health insurance increases and to continue rebating current retirees 70% of their health insurance premiums. This bill does not ask for new money from the legislature; instead it authorizes CTPF to spend more of its own funds.

During the spring session, through the diligent efforts of CTPF trustees and lobbyists, HB 1231 passed the Illinois House of Representatives. Special thanks go to Speaker of the House Michael J. Madigan (D-Chicago) and Minority Leader Tom Cross (R-Oswego) who worked with their membership to allow passage. Key representatives promoting and fighting for the bill include Personnel and Pension Committee Chairman Richard T. Bradley (D-Chicago), Robert S. Molaro (D-Chicago), Marlow H. Colvin (D-Chicago), and Angelo “Skip” Saviano (R-River Grove). Without the efforts of these legislators, the bill would not have been brought to the floor for the successful vote.

After passage in the House, the bill was sent to the Illinois Senate for consideration. Senator Iris Y. Martinez (D-Chicago) took responsibility and sponsored the bill. Unfortunately, Senator Martinez failed to take any action to move the bill through the Senate. During subsequent discussions, Senator Martinez indicated her willingness to support the bill during the fall veto session. It is imperative that CTPF members call or e-mail Senator Martinez to indicate their support for HB 1231 and to ask her to honor her commitment to this legislation. As health insurance is a critical issue for all CTPF members, the fund encourages all its members to contact their individual legislators along with Senator Martinez to ensure passage of this legislation.

**Other Legislation**

No other bills proposed by the trustees made it out of the legislative chambers. It is highly unlikely that any pension or benefit enhancements will be forthcoming in the near future due to the financial condition of the primary employer, the Board of Education, as well as the State of Illinois. CTPF continues to pursue legislation on behalf of members with a special focus on health insurance legislation and equitable funding that would benefit all members. For a complete list of all proposed CTPF legislation, and for links to Illinois legislators, see www.ctpf.org.
Retiree Health Insurance/Open Enrollment Seminar

Retirees will receive their health insurance open enrollment packets in late September. The open enrollment packets detail changes or highlights in various health insurance plans as well as the necessary forms for enrollment. The health insurance carriers for the CTPF sponsored plans remain the same. They are Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, HMO Illinois, and Humana. The deadline for submitting the enrollment forms is November 30. Changes made during open enrollment are effective January 1, 2008.

If you currently participate in a CTPF-sponsored health insurance plan and do not plan to make any changes during open enrollment, you do not need to submit a new enrollment form. Your current coverage will automatically continue.

Individuals who want more information about their insurance options should plan to attend CTPF’s Health Insurance/Open Enrollment Seminar, Wednesday, October 10 at the Midway Marriott in Chicago, or Thursday, October 11 at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza in Chicago. More information about the seminar will be mailed to retirees in September.

The seminar will discuss health insurance plan changes, offer a chance to meet with individual health insurance vendors who can answer plan-specific questions, and provide a chance to turn in enrollment applications. Reservations are required. Call 312.641.4464 to reserve a space at one of the sessions.

Change of Address?
Notify CTPF

To protect retirees, CTPF automatically stops payment on a monthly pension check if the check or direct deposit advice is returned to CTPF as undeliverable.

In order to avoid such a disruption, retirees should notify CTPF immediately of any change of address, even if the move is temporary.

Retirees may contact Member Services to request a change of address form at 312.641.4464 or download one at www.ctpf.org. A letter, including your old and new address, the last four digits of your social security number, and your signature can also serve as a change of address notification.

Morel Joins CTPF Staff

Eric Morel joined CTPF as Information Technology Manager on July 1, 2007. Morel graduated with a BA in math and economics from Northwestern University and, prior to his employment with CTPF, worked for Bradley Consulting Group as an information technology consultant. His tenure at Bradley included four years as a consultant for CTPF, where he worked on web-based applications and served as the primary resource in the revision of the CTPF website, ctpf.org. Morel actively participated in the implementation of CTPF’s major information system upgrade to Pension Gold.

“We are pleased to have Eric move from a consulting role to a staff member at CTPF,” remarked Kevin Huber, executive director. “Having his level of expertise along with his previous experience as a consultant for CTPF will enable us to continue to upgrade and improve the information technology department and enhance services for our membership.”

And the winner is...

Judy Sadler, CTPF member and avid NPR listener, who identified 13 of 14 references to NPR programs in the profile of Carole Nolan that ran in the summer issue of Pension News. Judy received a one-year gift membership to NPR.

Are you or is someone you know redefining retirement? E-mail us at editor@ctpf.org and share your stories so we can use them in upcoming issues.
Field Service Update

Field Service representatives (FSRs) have kicked off the 2007-2008 academic year. The FSRs, who serve as liaisons between CTPF and the active and retired membership, are currently scheduling and making presentations in CPS and in charter schools.

The program, which saw its first full year of operations end in June 2007, has had an immediate impact and received excellent feedback. During the last fiscal year, the group made more than 200 presentations in Chicago Public Schools, charter schools, cluster offices, and outside organizations including Phi Beta Kappa. The group also conducted retirement seminars, health insurance open enrollment seminars, and a pension representative seminar.

The FSRs will conduct “Benefits University,” a benefits training seminar for pension representatives on September 29 (see below). In October they will conduct health insurance open enrollment sessions for all retired members (see page 5).

McGowan Joins Field Service Staff

Member Services team member Bill McGowan moved to a Field Service position, effective this fall. McGowan, a former mathematics teacher at Bowen High School, principal at Mt. Greenwood elementary, and CPS central office administrator, has worked for CTPF since his retirement as CPS chief of schools and regions in 2004.

“Bill’s experience as an educator and administrator proved invaluable in his work as a Member Service counselor,” remarked Member Services Manager Sheron Banks-Falls. “Having Bill in the field, working directly with our members, will be a great asset for CTPF. We are fortunate to have someone with his level of expertise in a position where he can utilize his talents to educate our membership.”

Nomination

Individuals interested in running for a trustee position may obtain further information and a nomination packet from the CTPF election coordinator at 312.604.1400, ext. 234. Eligibility to run for a trustee position must be verified before the packet is issued.

Completed nomination petitions must be received by CTPF’s election coordinator no later than 5:00 p.m., October 1, 2007. Only petition forms received by the deadline will be accepted. Detailed procedures and policies for conducting elections are contained in the Election Policies and Procedures Handbook, available on request from CTPF’s election coordinator. Additional information regarding the election will be posted on the CTPF website and distributed to each school.

Absentee Ballots

Teachers who will not be in the classroom on October 26 may request an absentee ballot be sent to their home address. The request form is available from your pension representative, online at www.ctpf.org, or call 312.604.1400, ext. 132. Absentee ballot requests must be made no later than October 12th. Completed ballots must be postmarked no later than October 26.

Teachers may also cast votes at any Chicago public school or an alternative site including the CTPF office, the Medill Professional Center, and CTU offices. Further details regarding the times for voting at these locations will be made available in the schools. If a member votes at an alternative site, his or her ballot will be placed in a provisional ballot envelope for verification prior to its inclusion in the final tally.

Pension Rep Workshop

Benefits University is offered free of charge and includes a continental breakfast. All pension representatives who attend the meeting and conduct trustee elections in their school will receive a $100 stipend, paid in December.

Register Now

Call 312.604.1242 to reserve your place at this important workshop. Reservations are required as seating is limited.
Prevent Cancer.
Detect Cancer.

By Sabrina Tyus, MPH, project associate of C-Change

Know Your Risk
Chances are that you or someone you know will be touched by cancer. Knowing your family history and discussing your health risk factors with your medical provider is an important step in understanding your risk for cancer. In fact, 1 in 2 men and 1 in 3 women over the age of 50 will develop cancer. Despite these staggering statistics, cancer survival has improved - 64% of people diagnosed with cancer will survive at least 5 years. Your chances of survival increase dramatically if the cancer is detected early. Even more hopeful is the fact that 70% of all cancer deaths are preventable.

Reduce Your Risk
Reducing your risk for cancer can start today. Research has proven that tobacco use, obesity, and excessive sun exposure increase the risk for developing lung, colon, skin, and other cancers. By making healthful lifestyle choices, you can reduce your risk. For example, a variety of smoking cessation techniques and medications can help you successfully quit smoking. Most smokers want to quit, but the average former smoker made eight attempts to quit before succeeding. Smokers are most successful at quitting when they have a plan and the support of others. Likewise, increasing physical activity and making healthful food choices can help to manage weight and prevent obesity. Limiting sun exposure and applying sunscreen are key to reducing the risk for skin cancer.

Detect Cancer Early
Routine screening is an important step to detecting cancer at the earliest and most treatable stage. Recommendations for the timing and frequency of cancer screening tests vary based on your age and other risk factors specific to your lifestyle and family history. For example, most men and women should begin colonoscopy to screen for colon cancer at age 50. Women should begin mammography to screen for breast cancer at age 40 and men should begin PSA testing to screen for prostate cancer at age 50. The box below provides links to reputable sources with current recommendations for cancer prevention and early detection.

Know Your Benefits
Most health insurance plans, including Medicare, cover routine cancer screening tests with no or limited out-of-pocket costs. Consult your health plan representative for more details about the tests, age for eligibility, and frequency of testing covered by your specific plan.

To Your Health
Knowing more about your risk for cancer is the first step toward beating the odds. You can reduce your risk of developing cancer by making even small steps toward healthier living. Detecting cancer earlier increases your chances of survival dramatically, so don’t delay. Ask your medical care provider more about reducing your risk and the best plan for cancer screening.

Sources for Additional Information
American Cancer Society: www.cancer.org
The National Cancer Institute: www.cancer.gov
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov

About the Author and C-Change: This cancer column was contributed by Sabrina Tyus, MPH, project associate of C-Change. C-Change is a not-for-profit cancer organization comprised of the top leaders from public, private, and non-profit organizations working collaboratively to solve problems that they cannot solve alone. C-Change envisions a future where cancer is prevented, detected early, and cured or managed successfully as a chronic illness. For more information about C-Change, visit www.c-changetogether.org.

CTPF Calendar

Trustee meetings, held in CTPF offices, are open to the public.

September
29 9:30 a.m., Pension Rep. workshop, Benefits University, see page 6

October
1 Nominating petitions due by 5:00 p.m. for all trustee candidates
5 Candidates notified of eligibility to run for election
8 Columbus Day, CTPF office closed
10-11 Health insurance open enrollment seminars, see page 5
12 Deadline for requesting an absentee ballot, see page 6
15 Ballots mailed for principal/administrator and pensioner trustee elections
18 9:30 a.m., trustee meeting
26 CTPF teacher-trustee elections conducted in schools
Absentee ballots for teacher trustee election must be postmarked by this date

November
9 Ballots for principal/administrator trustees and pensioner trustee elections must be postmarked by this date
20 9:30 a.m., trustee meeting
22-23 Thanksgiving holiday, CTPF office closed

December
20 9:30 a.m., trustee meeting
25 Christmas holiday, CTPF office closed

Office/Mailing Address
Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund
203 North LaSalle Street, suite 2600
Chicago, Illinois 60601-1210
312.641.4464 phone
312.641.7185 fax
www.ctpf.org
memberservices@ctpf.org
Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday
CTPF Board of Trustees’ Mission Statement

To provide, protect, and enhance the present and future economic well being of members, pensioners and beneficiaries through efficient and effective management of benefit programs, investment practices and customer service, and to commit to earning and keeping the respect and trust of the participants through quality service, and by protecting retirement benefits, in compliance with applicable laws and standards.

Meet our Member Services staff, CTPF’s front line educators. Learn more about the work and the services they provide CTPF members.

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