The most common question I hear these days, from teachers and pensioners, is "Is my pension safe?"

Our retirees enjoy a defined-benefit plan pension based on contributions made during employment – not market conditions. Today’s grim economic situation underscores the value of this benefit. While our fund closed with a loss at June 30, 2009 (down 22% from last year), this return does not directly impact retiree benefits. So to answer the question, yes, your pension is safe and guaranteed by Illinois law.

The recent financial turmoil has decimated the retirement funds of many individuals who participate in defined-contribution plans. Many must now delay retirement because they no longer have adequate funds. In contrast, our members contribute to retirement through a defined-benefit plan where benefits are based on the years worked, a pension percentage, and an average final salary. At retirement, regardless of market conditions, our members receive a stable monthly income. Last year we

Continued on page 2

**Important 2010 Retiree Health Insurance Changes**

The Open Enrollment Period for the CTPF health insurance program will run from October 1 – November 12, 2009. During Open Enrollment retirees may enroll in a CTPF-sponsored health plan, change their health insurance plan or carrier, or add a dependent to a health plan. Changes made during open enrollment will go into effect January 1, 2010.

Some of the highlights for the 2010 plan year include the introduction of a new carrier, UnitedHealthcare, the loss of several Humana plans, and benefit changes to some existing plans.

The Humana Group Medicare HMO is the only Humana Plan offered in 2010. Coverage under the following plans will end on December 31, 2009: non-Medicare Premier HMO, High Deductible Health Plan (under 65); Group Medicare Regional PPO, and Group Medicare Fee for Service plan.

Retirees currently enrolled in a Humana plan that terminates December 31, must take action and enroll in a new plan during the Open Enrollment Period. Members who do not take action will be enrolled in a “default” plan for 2010, which may have different coverage and costs.

Retirees who want to continue coverage under their current health plan do not need to take any action, as long as the plan is being offered in 2010. Current coverage will continue.

Detailed information about plan offerings as well as benefit changes to existing plans will be communicated in the 2010 Health Insurance Open Enrollment Handbook. The handbook will be mailed to retirees at the end of September. Retirees should carefully review the handbook to make sure they fully understand their 2010 health plan options and the benefit changes to existing health plans.

**Medicare Plans**

Retirees enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B will have several new plan options from UnitedHealthcare.

“One of the exciting new health plan options is the CTPF-sponsored AARP Medicare Supplement Plan F with prescription coverage,” explained Mary Cavallaro, health benefits manager. “This is a popular plan and we are pleased to offer it to our members.”

Other offerings for Medicare-eligible members include the UnitedHealthcare Secure Horizons Medicare Complete, Blue Cross Blue Shield Medicare Supplement plan, BC/BS HMO Illinois, and Humana Medicare HMO.

**Non-Medicare Plans**

Retirees under age 65 will have three new plan options from UnitedHealthcare, including the Choice Plus PPO, Choice HMO, and the Choice Plus High Deductible plan.

Blue Cross Blue Shield will offer a PPO plan and HMO Illinois.

**More Information**

See page 3 for resources available to retirees who need assistance with the Open Enrollment process.
welcomed 510 new retirees to our rolls who will enjoy benefits for life.

Pension benefits provide a stable retirement for members and have a sustainable, ripple effect on our economy. According to a study released July 30, 2009, by the National Institute on Retirement Security, rates of poverty among older households lacking pension income were about six times greater than those with pension income. The analysis also found that pensions reduce, and in some cases eliminate, the greater risk of poverty and public assistance dependence that women and minorities face.

While the central benefit we provide is a guaranteed pension, CTPF also provides affordable health insurance and rebates a portion of the cost of health insurance for our retirees. The rebate is not guaranteed by Illinois statute but is determined by the amount of funds available to CTPF from the State of Illinois. The rebate amount was capped at $65 million in 2003-2004.

The State of Illinois has contributed $65 million to CTPF since 1988 and CTPF has used these funds to pay its health insurance rebate. Unfortunately, the state cut its contribution to $32.5 million for 2009-2010. Despite this cut in funding, our trustees have set the rebate for 2009-2010 at 70% and will maintain this level as long as it is economically feasible. CTPF continues to lobby for an increase in funding that is equitable to the funding provided to Teachers’ Retirement System (TRS) and to support legislation that would increase the health insurance spending cap for our retirees. Both legislative initiatives are necessary to maintain a reasonable rebate.

The downturn in the economy offers an opportunity for an upturn in personal activism. While CTPF lobbies legislators on behalf of members, true action comes in response to the demands of constituents. CTPF represents the voices of 55,000 members. When you speak in unison, legislators listen.

During the upcoming year our trustees will continue to make the case for adequate and increased funding from Springfield, an increase in the health insurance spending cap, and for contributions from CPS that meet legally required mandates. The legislative update (see page 5) outlines issues of importance for members and we hope you will take action to support CTPF. Your voices can help us accomplish these goals.

The Illinois legislature is not the only place our trustees advocate on behalf of members. Sometimes, legal action is necessary. During their July meeting, CTPF trustees passed a motion to file a lawsuit against CPS for failing to provide accurate payroll data to CTPF in a timely manner.

The lack of accurate data impacts both retired and active members. Since 2007, many of our retirees have received preliminary pensions that underestimate salary and fund between 90 and 95% of the actual final benefit. Member statements for 2008 have not been issued, and our final auditor’s report and the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2008 have also been delayed.

During this time, CPS has continued to remit contributions on behalf of CTPF members. However, in order to finalize benefits or issue refunds, CTPF needs individual salary and contribution records from CPS.

We have worked cooperatively with CPS for more than two years but our trustees believe that members deserve accountability from their former employer (see page 3).

While we always face challenges, each September brings a new academic year and marks an important milestone in the lives of our members. For those who will not return to classrooms for the first time in many years, we wish you a smooth transition to your new role as a retiree. We wish our continuing teachers a productive year and hope that new teachers enjoy the start of a long and meaningful career. We look forward to partnering with you in the days to come and hope you continue to contact us with questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Kevin B. Huber, executive director
The Chicago Public School system implemented a new payroll management system in March 2007. The implementation proved more difficult than expected and CTPF has not received complete and accurate payroll data from CPS since that time. CPS has continued to remit contribution payments, but without individual salary and contribution records for teachers, CTPF cannot finalize pensions or other benefits.

During their July meeting, CTPF trustees passed a motion to file a lawsuit against CPS for failing to provide accurate payroll data to CTPF in a timely manner.

Recent Retirees
Since June 2007, new retirees have been issued preliminary pensions that fund between 90 and 95% of the final pension amount. Preliminary pensions are based on the information available to CTPF at the time of retirement. Once CTPF receives final payroll data from CPS, preliminary pensions are converted to final pensions and retirees receive a retroactive adjustment.

Nearly all 2007 retiree pensions have been finalized. CPS is working to finalize the remaining 2007 records as well as the records for 2008 and 2009 retirees.

Active Teachers
At the end of each fiscal year, CTPF issues a member statement that includes data summarizing a member’s pension contributions, sick days, and service credit. Because of the lack of individual payroll data, the 2008 statements have not been issued.

Active teachers who request pension estimates may receive a low estimate. Pension estimates require accurate data; estimates being processed have to be understated due to the lack of current data. In addition, some requests for optional service bills cannot be processed without current salary information.

Annual Report
Without necessary data, CTPF auditors have been unable to finalize the 2007-2008 fiscal year audit. The 2007-2008 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report will be released online at www.ctpf.org once the audit is complete.

Updates
CTPF understands that these are important issues for our membership. We continue to work with CPS and will update members as developments occur.
In addition to providing monthly pension benefits, CTPF provides a comprehensive program of quality health-care coverage for retired teachers and their eligible dependents. CTPF benefits include sponsored health insurance plans and a health insurance rebate to help reduce the cost of post-retirement health insurance for qualified members.

Who Qualifies For A Rebate?
Each recipient of a retirement, disability, or survivor’s pension qualifies for a partial reimbursement for the cost of health insurance coverage. The rebate applies only to the member’s portion of the health insurance premium. Premium costs for spouse, domestic partner, or a dependent are not eligible for the rebate.

How Much Is The Rebate?
The current Illinois Pension Code limits the reimbursement amount to $65 million per year, plus any previous-year amounts authorized but not spent. This rebate is not guaranteed, and may change yearly depending on available funds. In recent years the rebate amount has ranged from a low of 60.5% to a high of 70%. CTPF provided health insurance rebates at the 70% level in 2008, rebating more than $68.9 million in health insurance costs, up from $61 million in 2007. The CTPF Board of Trustees has approved a 70% rebate for the 2009-2010 fiscal year, but this amount may change based on funding available from the State of Illinois. In 2008-2009 the state provided $65 million for health insurance rebates; this amount was cut to $32.5 million for 2009-2010.

How Do I Receive My Rebate?
CTPF automatically adds the rebate to pension checks for retirees who receive insurance through CPS/Charter School COBRA or a CTPF-sponsored health insurance program.

Members who pay for Medicare Parts A, B, or D also qualify for the rebate. If you make Medicare premium payments directly to the Center for Medicare Services (CMS) or have your Medicare premiums deducted from a Social Security check, you may contact CTPF to enroll in a program where CTPF provides Medicare premium payment directly to CMS on your behalf. If you elect this option, your Medicare premium rebate is added to your monthly pension check.

Members enrolled in non-CTPF individual or group health insurance plans are eligible for a rebate of their health insurance premium cost, subject to maximum reimbursement amounts that CTPF publishes each fiscal year. The 2009 rebate application was mailed to members enrolled in a non-CTPF health insurance plan in July. The rebate is paid retroactively in an annual payment. Premium payment documentation is required and is explained in the rebate application.

### Annual Health Insurance Premium Rebates to Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Rebate Amount (millions of dollars)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>$53,106,379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>$54,410,887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>$58,279,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$61,028,841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$68,691,191</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Post-Retirement Health Insurance Rebates

CTPF Calendar

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

**September**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>9:30 a.m., trustee meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Pension Representatives’ Seminar 9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Crowne Plaza Hotel, 733 West Madison, Chicago</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**October**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5:00 p.m., trustee nomination petitions due to CTPF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Absentee ballot requests for Teacher Trustee Elections due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Columbus Day, office closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Ballots for Pensioner Trustee Elections mailed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Open Enrollment Seminars 9:30 a.m. Medicare 1:00 p.m. Non-Medicare Crowne Plaza Hotel 733 West Madison, Chicago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>9:30 a.m., trustee meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Open Enrollment Seminars 9:30 a.m. Medicare 1:00 p.m. Non-Medicare Hilton Oak Lawn 9333 South Cicero Avenue Oak Lawn, Illinois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Teacher Trustee Election in all CPS and Charter Schools</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**November**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>In-house Open Enrollment Seminars, see page 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2009 Pensioner Trustee Election</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-10</td>
<td>In-house Open Enrollment Seminars, see page 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Veterans Day, office closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>9:30 a.m., trustee meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-27</td>
<td>Thanksgiving holiday, office closed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**December**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>9:30 a.m., trustee meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Christmas, office closed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Office/Mailing Address

Chicago Teachers’ Pension Fund
203 North LaSalle Street, suite 2600
Chicago, Illinois 60601-1231
312.641.4464 p. 312.641.7185 f.
www.ctpf.org memberservices@ctpf.org
Office hours: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. M-F
This summer, CTPF hosted three interns, Sally Chan (Walter Payton College Prep), Ariana Goode (Hyde Park Career Academy), and Erica Melchor (Chicago Vocational Career High school), who participated in the Chicago Summer Business Institute (CSBI). All three students began their junior year this fall.

The CSBI is a summer internship program that introduces Chicago high school students to the world of business and encourages them to seek educational opportunities beyond high school.

Students gain acceptance to CSBI through a competitive process. The five-week program provides on-the-job experience and weekly educational seminars. This is the third year CTPF has hosted interns through the program.

“We enjoy participating in this important program,” says Kristen Jurich, human resource administrator. “These students gain valuable experience and develop their professional skills. We really enjoy hosting the interns and appreciate their hard work.”

During the past year, CTPF also hosted CPS senior Jasmine Roach (Crane Academy) who participated in the CPS Education-to-Careers program. Roach, who assisted CTPF’s Office Services department, graduated in May and currently attends St. Louis University in Missouri.

**State of Illinois Budget Report**

The State of Illinois has cut CTPF’s allocation for 2009-2010 by 50% to $32.5 million. These funds are used to offset the cost of health insurance rebates for retirees.

CTPF has received approximately $65 million annually from the State of Illinois from 1988 to 2008. In 1988, that funding equaled approximately $1,600 per member but by 2008, the amount had dropped to $1,200 per member. The most recent cut has reduced CTPF funding to less than $600 per member.

CTPF continues to lobby legislators to restore funding to minimum levels for 2009 and to increase funding to provide an equitable distribution of state funds.

**Take Action: Know Your Legislators**

The Illinois legislature is in recess until October. Legislators have returned to their local offices where they welcome input from constituents and work toward understanding local issues and concerns.

CTPF encourages all members to take time to meet and communicate with local legislators. CTPF faces financial challenges due to state funding cuts and all members can share the urgency of these issues to lawmakers.

**What Can I Do?**

Make it a point to get to know your local legislators. Use the link at [www.ctpf.org](http://www.ctpf.org) to find out who represents you in Springfield. Call, write, e-mail, or visit a local office to introduce yourself and share your concerns as a CTPF member.

**CTPF Talking Points**

Legislators should understand three issues of great concern to CTPF members.

1. CTPF funding needs to be restored and increased. In 2009, the State of Illinois cut CTPF funding by 50% to $32.5 million. At a minimum, this amount needs to be restored so that CTPF can continue to provide affordable health insurance for retirees. The amount that CTPF receives from the state is a fraction of what other state systems receive.

2. State senators and representatives should support legislation that allows CTPF to increase the amount of money it can spend on retiree health insurance.

3. The Chicago Public School system needs to fulfill its obligation to CTPF. Even in difficult financial times, pension obligations need to be paid. CPS is required to make a payment of approximately $307 million this year and needs to fulfill this commitment to ensure the future strength of the pension fund.

Please take the time to share your thoughts and opinions with your local legislators. Your voice will make a difference when these issues become legislation.

CTPF will continue to update [www.ctpf.org](http://www.ctpf.org) with timely information important to members.
Established in 2006, the Field Service Unit continues to receive positive feedback from CTPF members and their affiliated organizations. In fiscal year 2008-2009 Field Service Representatives (FSRs) conducted 352 comprehensive workshops and educational training seminars for Chicago Public and Charter School teachers.

FSRs have also appeared at the Chicago Teachers Union New Hire Fairs, the Annual Quest Center Conference, CPS New Hire Fairs, the Chicago Principals & Administrators Association Dinners and its Annual Conference. In July and August, the Field Service Unit introduced a Pension Rebate Workshop, attended by 100+ members.

**In-Service**

FSRs schedule in-service meetings throughout the school year. These meetings provide an overview of CTPF benefits and answer member questions. To schedule an in-service presentation, please contact your FSR, listed by area, below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Schools North of 1600 N.</td>
<td>Marc Kravets or Sheron Banks-Fallis</td>
<td>312.604.1400 x. 134 312.604.1400 x. 206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Schools 1600 N. to 5500 S.</td>
<td>Bill McGowan</td>
<td>312.604.1214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Schools South of 5500 S.</td>
<td>Jackie Umbles</td>
<td>312.604.1224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Charter Schools</td>
<td>Sharlean Brooks</td>
<td>312.604.1167</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Pension Rep Update**

In order to extend information and services to members, CTPF developed the pension representative program. Each school selects a volunteer to serve as pension representative who acts as a liaison between the institution and CTPF. Pension representatives may be elected by the faculty, or in some cases, an individual may volunteer or be appointed by a principal. Pension representatives serve two-year terms without limit and elections are typically held in the spring. Because a primary duty of the pension representative is to conduct the Teacher Trustee Elections, the pension representative must not be employed in an administrative capacity such as a principal or assistant principal.

**Duties**

The pension representative has several duties, including:

- conducting CTPF Teacher Trustee Elections, and s/he may also serve on the Canvassing Board
- arranging visits by CTPF Field Service staff
- distributing pension-related materials and providing members with forms and brochures
- maintaining a library of CTPF meeting proceedings, newsletters, and annual reports

Each fall, CTPF sponsors an educational Pension Representative Workshop where representatives learn about CTPF and member benefits. This year’s workshop will be held Saturday, September 26, 2009 (see information, at left).

If you have a question about pension representatives, call 312.604.1400, ext. 234.
Don’t Hesitate, Designate

Benefits provided by CTPF ensure a sound retirement for members and offer security for survivors upon the death of a member. CTPF offers the following survivor benefits:

- survivor pensions payable to an eligible spouse and/or eligible minor children
- a lump-sum death benefit payable to a member’s beneficiaries or estate
- a refund of contributions payable to a member’s beneficiaries or estate, if applicable

The benefit amount depends on a member’s years of service and whether death occurs before or after retirement.

Plan Ahead
Planning ahead and designating beneficiaries ensures that death benefits are paid according to a member’s wishes. Any person, trust, church, charity, or organization can be named as a beneficiary. If more than one individual or organization is named, all share equally in the benefit unless specific percentages are designated.

Members should periodically review the Designation of Beneficiary form and update it if necessary, to account for any life changes, including marriage, death, births, or divorce.

Confidentiality
The information contained on the Designation of Beneficiary form is confidential and will not be disclosed to anyone. If a copy cannot be located, call CTPF at 312.641.4464 to request a new form.

Please Note: The only person who may sign and/or change a Designation of Beneficiary form is the CTPF member. A representative, including a power of attorney, guardian, conservator, trustee, or representative payee, cannot change or sign this form.

Second Notice of 2009 Trustee Elections

October 30, 2009, teachers and other active contributors will elect two trustees to serve three-year terms from November 2009 to November 2012. Teacher Trustee Election results will be posted online, Saturday, October 31, 2009.

Pensioners will elect three trustees to serve two-year terms from November 2009 to November 2011. Pensioner Trustee Election ballots will be mailed on October 14, 2009, and results will be posted online, Friday, November 6, 2009.

Role and Responsibilities
The Board of Trustees represents CTPF in all matters concerning retirement benefits, provides general oversight for all operations, and approves all benefits. In addition, the board hires professional consultants who provide investment advice.

The board meets monthly. Trustees serve without compensation but employers may grant paid leave for CTPF-related activities.

Eligibility
Teacher Trustees
Individuals interested in running for a teacher trustee position must hold an Illinois State Teaching Certificate and must have been employed in the Chicago Public or Charter Schools a minimum of 10 years. Teachers must be current contributors to CTPF.

To be placed on the ballot, teacher trustee candidates must secure 200 or more legible nomination signatures with complete identifying information, collected between May 1 and October 1, 2009. Signatures must be from current contributors to CTPF.

Pensioner Trustees
Individuals interested in running for a pensioner trustee position must be service, reciprocal, or disability pensioners receiving monthly CTPF payments.

Nomination
Individuals interested in running for office should request a nomination packet from CTPF’s election coordinator at 312.604.1400, ext. 234. Petitions must be returned to CTPF no later than 5:00 p.m., October 1, 2009.

Additional Information
Detailed procedures and policies for conducting elections are contained in the Election Policies and Procedures Handbook available at www.ctpf.org. Additional information will be distributed to each school in October. Questions? Call the election coordinator at 312.604.1400, ext. 234 or e-mail elections@ctpf.org.
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.

Inside this issue

The Open Enrollment Period for the CTPF health insurance program will run from October 1-November 12. See pages 1 and 3 for information on Open Enrollment.

Board of Trustees

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Lois Nelson, financial secretary
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Peggy A. Davis
Linda S. Goff
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Kevin B. Huber, executive director