

Chattanooga Fire & Police Pension Fund News

Serving Those That
Protect Our Community

January
2016



Letter from the Board President

Happy New Year Everyone,

I wanted to take a moment to thank all of the members of the Fund, both active and retired, for the incredible amount of patience you've displayed as we've made this transition from the old to the new pension plan and the occasionally agonizing growing pains that have accompanied it.

As difficult as the changes of 2014 have been to digest, the situation has been made even more confusing by having to factor in yet *further* changes to our funding formulas this last year that were imposed by the State of Tennessee after passing the "Public Employee Defined Benefit Financial Security Act of 2014," and now most recently our having to alter the Fund's legislative language in City Code in order to come into compliance with IRS rules in order to fit their definition as a "qualified pension plan." (*For the record, none of the changes affect your monthly benefit and I have also been personally present at both the City Council's afternoon committee meetings and the 6:00pm public meetings to ensure this was not the case.*) Your concerns about this have been both understandable and heard loud and clear, I assure you.

Despite these things and the hours spent dealing with pending litigation, your Pension Board members have also acted on requests to explore the possibility of adding a retiree to the Board's makeup. An advisory committee was formed with current retirees from both the Fire and Police sides, pending retirees, and active members from both sides. Its recommendations were presented at the regular Pension Board meeting on January 21st, and we are extending an invitation for members to look this over for themselves and provide responses to this proposal at our February 18th meeting *long* before the Board votes on any aspect of it (see page 2 of the newsletter). I cannot thank the members of the Retiree Advisory Committee enough for volunteering their time and extremely in-depth proposals.

Last but not least for our retired members, please know that the Cost-of-Living Adjustment will be paid out as a quarterly dividend again for this year, and it will at last start compounding again as of *next* year.

In the event I've raised more questions than answers please call the Fund Office at the number listed, and please don't hesitate to contact any of us any time you have questions. You've elected us to make the tough decisions and I assure you, we're *all* in this together.

-Craig W. Joel
Board President, CFPPF



**Police Retiree Firearms
Qualifications Schedule**

⊕ **May 23, 2016, 9 A.M.**

⊕ **September 26, 2016, 9 A.M.**

At the Range on Moccasin Bend Road





OPEN FORUM ON ADDING RETIREE REPRESENTATIVES TO BOARD

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2016 AT 9:00 AM

FIRE AND POLICE PENSION FUND OFFICE

You are invited to attend an open forum for members to comment and ask questions regarding the Advisory Committee's recommendations to add retired members to the Board. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee are listed below for your review. The Committee consists of retired members John Bishop, Ron Boyd, Corliss Cooper and Charles Nichols, Jr; active members Jeff Eldridge and Joe Shaw; and Board members Kelly Simmons and Tommy Meeks (Board President Craig Joel serves ex-officio). The recommendations will be reviewed during the meeting and then floor will be opened for comments and questions from members in attendance.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD

- ◆ **Retirees to elect 2:**
 - One Retiree Board Representative ("Rep"), and
 - One Retiree Alternate Representative ("Alternate")
- ◆ **Rep and Alternate must both have retired from CFD/CPD with a full Service Retirement (25+ years)**
- ◆ **Alternate to sit on Board in absence of Retiree Board Rep**
- ◆ **Retiree Rep and Retiree Alternate to be retired from separate departments (CFD/CPD)**
- ◆ **First election cycle (2016) will be to elect both a Rep and an Alternate:**
 - Retirees, regardless of Department affiliation, will vote for one Fire and one Police retiree candidate
 - Retiree receiving the highest number of all votes will serve a one-year term as the primary Retiree Representative
 - Retiree from the other Department receiving the highest number of votes among candidates of same Department will serve a two-year term
 - * First year as the Retiree Alternate
 - * Second year as the Retiree Rep
- ◆ **Second and Subsequent Elections (2017,2018, ...):**
 - Retirees, regardless of Department affiliation, will vote for a retiree candidate, eligible by Department, to serve a two-year term
 - * First year as Retiree Alternate
 - * Second year as Retiree Representative
- ◆ **A person with conflict of interest is in-eligible to run for retiree representative**
- ◆ **Retiree elections to be held each year at same time/locations as current elections**
- ◆ **Retirees will vote for Retiree representatives only going forward**
- ◆ **Active Members will not vote on Retiree representatives**
- ◆ **Permit alternates to be named for Mayoral and Council Appointees**
- ◆ **Current educational and attendance requirements will apply to Reps and Alternates**

Congratulations New Retirees

Firefighter **Freddie L. Brooks** retired on October 31, 2015 with 28 years of service.

Police Sergeant **Julia A. Dean** retired on October 31, 2015 with 27 years of service.

Fire Captain **Andre' D. Hicks** retired on October 31, 2015 with 28 years of service.

Firefighter **Richard Lee Meier** retired on November 25, 2015 with 28 years of service.

Fire Battalion Chief **Fredrick A. Blake** retired on November 26, 2015 with 28 years of service.

Fire Battalion Chief **Charles E. Patton** retired on November 26, 2015 with 28 years of service.

Fire Battalion Chief **Fred R. Sewell** retired on November 26, 2015 with 28 years of service.

Police Officer **George Perry Walden** retired on November 30, 2015 with 20 years of service.

Police Captain **Corliss A. Cooper** retired on December 24, 2015 with 28 years of service.

Fire Captain **Terry Martin** retired on December 24, 2015 with 28 years of service.

Fire Lieutenant **Christopher P. Rader** retired on December 24, 2015 with 28 years of service.

Fire Lieutenant **Jeffrey J. Rorex** retired on December 24, 2015 with 28 years of service.

Police Master Patrol Officer **Charles H. Darling** retired on December 31, 2015 with 28 years of service.

Police Master Patrol Officer **Rhonda Darling** retired on December 31, 2015 with 27 years of service.

Our Condolences to those who have lost Family & Friends

Retired Fire Lieutenant **James C. Weathers** and his wife, **Theresa**, passed away on October 2, 2015. They are survived by their children **Kelli Booth** and **Danny (Lisa) Weathers**.

Retired Fire Captain **Worth LeBron Kendrick** passed away on October 3, 2015. He is survived by his children **Roger Kendrick**, **Sammy Kendrick**, **Debbie Jenkins**, **Donna Hanson** and **Lisa Culpepper**.

Retired Police Captain **Paul R. Calloway** passed away on October 23, 2015. He is survived by his wife **Betty Calloway** and daughters **Linda (Liddell) Kirk**, **Karen Calloway** and **Kathy (Timmy Sykes) Calloway-Sykes**.

Retired Firefighter **Edward Kelley** passed away on October 23, 2015. He is survived by his children **John Edward (Karen) Kelley**, **Stacey (Doug) Sanders** and step daughter **Connie Himes**.

Retired Deputy Police Chief **Larry Joe Lyda** passed away on November 13, 2015. He is survived by his wife **Tammy Lyda** and son **Daniel Joseph Lyda**.

Billie Jean Fisher, surviving spouse of retired Fire Commander Thomas H. Fisher, passed away on December 22, 2015. She is survived by her daughters **Pam (Mac) Bryson**, **Rhonda (Hubert) Messer** and **Debbie (Doug) Smith**.

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Board Members:

Craig Joel President

Kelly Simmons Vice President

Mark Coffman Secretary

Phillip McClain

Tommy Meeks

Charlie Thomason

Less Lee

Vickie Haley

Fund Administrator:

Frank Hamilton

Deputy Administrator:

Katrina Abbott

Administrative Assistant:

Doug Kelley

Board Attorney:

William E. Robinson

**Chattanooga Fire & Police
Pension Fund
6009 John Douglass Drive
Chattanooga, TN 37421**



423-893-0500

1-800-881-9022

Fax: 423-893-7769

www.cfppf.org

Our Condolences to those who have lost Family & Friends (cont.)

Retired Master Police Officer **Johnny V. Wright** passed away on December 23, 2015. He is survived by his wife **Mildred Charlene "Connie" Wright** and children **Johnny DeWayne Wright** and **Vickey E. (Jim) Cooke**.

Doshie Tina Cook Hixson, spouse of retired Police Officer **James Anderson Hixson**, passed away on January 23, 2016.

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Please join us in welcoming our newest Board member, Vickie Haley. Vickie is the Mayor's appointee to the Board. Vickie is currently the Deputy Administrator with Chattanooga's Finance Department. She is a Certified Public Accountant and received certification as a Certified Government Financial Manager.