



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS  
GENERAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
233 E. FULTON, SUITE 216  
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503  
PHONE: 616-456-4300

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# *The Retirement Register*

## Summary Report of Plan Operations/Expenses

How much does it cost to manage the General Retirement System? For the period 07/01/13 — 06/30/14, it cost the Retirement System a little more than \$1.6 million. Most of this amount (\$1,077,764) was for money manager fees. The balance of the expenses, \$544,826, paid for asset custody, auditors, actuaries, attorneys, independent medical evaluations, office rent, staff salaries and training. The costs to run the plan are 0.38% (38 basis points) of the market value of assets, compared to the national average of 57 basis points. All fees and expenses are paid in cash, as the Plan does not employ soft dollar arrangements.

### Funded Status

<u>Actuarial Accrued Liabilities</u>	<u>Applied Assets</u>	<u>% Funded</u>
\$460,585,801	\$385,153,710	84%

The Retirement System continues to be in solid financial condition in accordance with its objective of level dollar, closed funding. While it is not possible to provide a full range of Plan activity in a newsletter, a summary annual report is available for review. Audits, annual accountings, and actuarial valuations may be reviewed at the Retirement Systems Office.

## Beneficiary Designations and Benefits

As an active employee and member of the City of Grand Rapids General Retirement System, you need to designate a primary beneficiary to receive any pension benefit that may become payable on your behalf. It is important to note that **only one person** can be designated as a primary beneficiary. The reason for this is when a pension benefit is calculated, it can only be actuarially calculated based upon the lifetime of two people; the member and one person.

You are also permitted to list a contingent beneficiary. A contingent beneficiary would only be able to receive a refund of your contributions and interest if you and your primary beneficiary die and there is no pension benefit payable on your behalf. You may designate one or more contingent beneficiaries as the refund would be split equally among those named.

Per City Code, Sections 1.210 and 1.211(1), if a member dies while in employer service, and before becoming eligible to receive retirement benefits, a Termination Bonus shall be paid on behalf of the member, to his/her designated beneficiary in addition to the refund of his/her contributions and interest.

If a member dies while in employer service, before retiring, but has become eligible to retire with a pension benefit, and the person he/she designated as his/her primary beneficiary is one person within the second-degree relationship (parent, child, brother/sister, aunt/uncle, niece/nephew, or grandparent), it will be presumed that the member retired effective the date of his/her death and elected a B-100 benefit. In addition, if the designated primary beneficiary is the surviving spouse, and the member was either : 1) not represented by any collective bargaining unit, 2) a member of the APAGR, 3) a member of the GREIU, or 4) a member of the 61st District Court Employee's Association, then the B-100 benefit amount will not be subject to an early retirement reduction.

Updating beneficiary information protects your wishes by keeping our records current. Please stop by or call 456-4300 for more information. **Note: Updating your designated beneficiary for your Death Benefit with the City does not update your designated beneficiary for your pension benefit. Retirees are not permitted to change beneficiaries.**

## New Retirees

The Trustees and staff of the General Retirement System are pleased to congratulate the following new retirees:

Owen Kaminsky	(Motor Equipment)	10/29/14
Raymond Grabinski	(EP-WWTP)	11/01/14
Scott Hayden	(Water-Coldbrook)	11/01/14
Margaret Scheneman	(Clerk's)	11/18/14
Barbra Hoogterp*	(Library)	12/01/14
Benjamin Logan II*	(61st District Court)	12/01/14
Donald Schiele	(Parks & Recreation)	12/02/14
Cheryl Maier	(Treasurer)	12/16/14

\*Deferred Member

## 2015 Evening Presentations for Active Employees

The Retirement Systems Office will offer evening presentations for small groups of 5-6 active employees, and their beneficiaries, to discuss retirement issues. The presentations are geared for those employees who are contemplating retiring within the next couple of years. Information on the 457 deferred compensation plan will be distributed to participants, and there will also be a representative from Meritain Health to speak about retiree healthcare provisions.

**The remaining available presentations for 2015 are July 8, and November 4. The meetings will be held from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in the Retirement Systems Office, 233 E. Fulton, Suite 216.** If you are interested in attending any of these sessions, please contact Lisa Balkema at 456-4300.

## In Memory of Departed Friends

Gertrude VanderWerf*	09/28/14	Genevieve Pickett*	10/25/14
Michele Higby	09/29/14	Bonnie Albright*	10/27/14
John Roede, Jr.	09/29/14	Dorothy Heaton*	10/27/14
Duane Denhof, Jr.	09/30/14	Weldon Frankforter	11/05/14
David Romanowski	10/11/14	JoAnn Barley*	11/18/14
Homer VanPortfliet	10/14/14	Stella Shields	12/12/14
Chester Chesney*	10/25/14		

\*Denotes beneficiary

## Will You Be Retiring Soon?

Per City Ordinance, the signing of retirement papers cannot occur earlier than ninety (90) days prior to the effective date of retirement, but must occur at least thirty (30) days before that date. It is suggested that you verify your retirement date with your payroll clerk to ensure that vacation and other accrued days will not exceed contractual payoff limits. Please contact Insurance Services at 456-3300 if you have any questions concerning health insurance coverage.

If you are considering retiring within this time frame, please contact the Retirement Systems Office at (616) 456-4300 to schedule an appointment with the Executive Director to sign your retirement papers. Please be advised that copies of birth certificates and social security cards are required prior to retirement for both the retiree and beneficiary.

Direct deposit is available for your monthly pension check. Your net monthly pension check can now be split between up to three different checking and/or savings accounts. For more information, please contact the Retirement Systems Office at (616) 456-4300.