

Genesee County Employees' Retirement System

1101 Beach Street, Flint, MI 48502 (810) 257-2626

Fall 2015 NEWSLETTER



Retirement Office News: *Tracy Khan* *Retirement Services Administrator*

Retiree health, life, dental and vision benefits are **not** administered by the Retirement Office. They are administered by the Human Resource Departments of your respective employers:

Name	Telephone	Unit
Jennifer Draheim	810-237-6120	General County
Payroll	810-257-3736	GHS (CMH)
Cherry Grant	810-767-4920	Roads
Shannon Holder	810-732-7870	Water/Waste
Amy Golden	810-732-5570	District Library
Vickie Fishell	810-686-2160	Mt. Morris
Carol Candella	810-606-7098	Gen. Memorial



CONGRATULATIONS, RETIREES!

NAME	RETIRED	EMPLOYER
POE, TREA	1/3/2015	CIRCUIT CT
PATTON, SANDRA	1/31/2015	PROSECUTORS
FENNER, JERRY	2/1/2015	SHERIFF
SHAH, ANANT	2/1/2015	GHS
DESILETS, MERILYN	3/1/2015	GHS
BLEUER, SARAH	3/5/2015	LIBRARY
KORTHALS, PAUL	3/8/2015	LIBRARY
MERCIEZ, JENNIFER	3/14/2015	GHS
MACHALA, LAURA	4/1/2015	FOC
MACEACHERN, GEORGE	4/10/2015	PLANNING
SLATTERY, ROBERT	4/12/2015	ROADS
DIXON, EVANGELINE	4/18/2015	LIBRARY
RAMIREZ, ANNA	4/29/2015	FOC
GRIFFIN, MARY	5/8/2015	CLERKS
ANTCLIFF, JEFFREY	5/9/2015	SHERIFF
GRAHAM, MICHELLE	5/13/2015	GHS
DANIELS, RICHARD	5/14/2015	W&W
CHARLTON, ELIZABETH	5/21/2015	DISTRICT CT
NASON, WILLIAM	5/30/2015	GHS
DORSEY, JAUNEYSA	6/1/2015	CONTROLLERS
SMITH, JILL	6/6/2015	GHS
WORKMAN, SANDRA	6/9/2015	GHS
COBBIN, FELICIA	6/12/2015	SHERIFF
CURTIS, DEAN	6/27/2015	SHERIFF
FEE, MARY	6/27/2015	W&W
O'NEILL, KAREN	7/1/2015	FOC
WARREN, ANTHONY	7/1/2015	PARKS
BRISKI, SONYA	7/4/2015	GHS
ANDERSON, ANDREA	7/22/2015	LIBRARY
HOGLE, JAMES	7/28/2015	GHS
FRENCH-TURNER, TONYA	8/1/2015	HEALTH
TOWNS, SHIRLEY	8/7/2015	GHS
KERSPILO-HOSLER, LINDA	8/19/2015	FOC
SIMONDS, DARLENE	8/29/2015	GHS
SWEDORSKI, DENNIS	9/4/2015	GHS
BARYO, RODDY	9/17/2015	EQUALIZATION
RODDA, NANCY	9/17/2015	GHS
BURRIS, KATHLEEN	9/26/2015	FOC
NORMAN, LORI	9/26/2015	DISTRICT CT



OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THOSE RETIREES AND BENEFICIARIES WHO HAVE PASSED SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER:

GOUDY, IRENE	PROSECUTORS
WISHART, VIRGINIA	ROADS
WEATHERWAX, MURIEL	WELFARE
KNAPP, JERQUETTER	TREASURER
HARTNER, WILLIAM	ROADS
MAKELA, SUSAN	SHERIFF
BRABBS, GERALDINE	SHERIFF
ZWIERZYNSKI, JOSEPH	ROADS
PETER, DOROTHY	MT MORRIS
METZLER, DAVID	SHERIFF
CONWAY, BONNIE	PROSECUTORS
BUFORD, ULTA	MEMORIAL
CADY, WANDA	GHS
HOPKINS, WILDA	HEALTH
CASWELL, HARLAND	DIST COURT
HELLER, ARTHUR	GHS
MOREY, PATRICIA	ROADS
FLORIDA, MICHAEL	SHERIFF
STEWART, WILLIE	ROADS
POPOVICH, SUSAN	GENERAL
PENNEY, ARNOLD	CLERKS
WITMER, HAZEL	ROADS
VISKANTAS, ALBERTA	WATER & WASTE
PERKINS, WILDA	GENERAL
CONNER, BETTY	ROADS
STANDAL, ROBERT	FOC
COBB, BARBARA	GHS
SINSEL, ADA	MEMORIAL
DARBY, LAUREL	CONTROLLERS
BERGERON, LONNIE	BLDG & GRND



Just a reminder that the Retirement Office is now located in the Controller's Office of the Genesee County Administration Building. The telephone numbers remain the same; however, the fax number is now 810-257-3560.

KEEP YOUR ADDRESS CURRENT!

For those retirees moving and/or changing your address, we would like you to notify us in writing of your change of address and telephone number. This keeps your address current in our files so that you will continue to receive newsletters, checks and direct deposit stubs, tax statements and other important correspondence from the Retirement Office.



Letter from Jeff Cyphert Retiree Representative

This is our annual Fall newsletter from the Genesee County Employees' Retirement System. All of the statistical and financial information comes from the annual Actuary Report performed by Rodwan Consulting Company, fourth quarter 2014 investment performance analysis by Asset Strategies, and the 2014 GCERS Annual Report by Keith Francis and Tracy Khan, our new retirement administrator. All information is as of December 31, 2014 unless specified.

At the end of the 2014, the total number of retirees and beneficiaries grew by 30 to a total of 1,687. The following is the summary where we retired from: General County/Sheriff's Department – 979; Genesee Health – 307; Road Commission – 221; Water & Waste – 97; District Library – 49; City of Mt. Morris – 17; and from Genesee Memorial Hospital – 17. The total 2014 retirement allowance paid out was \$43,151,414. We have 45 retirees/beneficiaries over 90 years of age with 1 retiree over 100. The average age at retirement was 52.1 years and the average age for the 1,687 as of the end of 2014 was 66.8 years.

Our pension fund is a matured fund mainly due to the retirees outnumbering the active employees. Another important factor that is affecting our retiree to employee ration is that some of the employer groups are now a closed fund for new employees. The General and Sheriff's group is now closed to new employees entering our defined benefit plan, as well as the District Library. Part of Genesee Health System is also closed to new employees. At the end of **2008** the retirees numbered 1,438 to 1,205 active employees. At the end of **2014**, the retirees were at 1,687 and the active employees in the defined benefit plan shrank to 713. The importance of mentioning this shrinkage of active employees is to understand that there is less opportunity for employee contributions into our pension fund. Approximately 63.33% of our yearly fund growth comes from investment returns.

The main responsibility of the pension trustees and your retiree representative is to ensure the financial integrity of our retirement fund so that it will have the ability to continue our monthly pension payments for the rest of our lives and our beneficiaries' lives and also the anticipated pension payments for the 713 current employees that are enrolled in the defined benefit pension plan. At the end of 2014, the actuary smoothing valuation for the assets of the fund was \$426,294,429. The actual market value for the assets was \$444,707,729. To promote the best investment opportunities, the GCERS retained 15 active investment managers and a custodial bank. In order to maintain safety, reduce investment risk, and capitalize on various market appreciations, your retirement board advocates diversification of investments. A summary of the pension fund asset allocation by major investment categories was: Domestic Equities – 27.34%; Domestic Fixed – 32.63%; Real Estate – 10.60%; International Equities – 17.71%; Alternatives – 10.57%, and Cash and Equivalents – 1.15%. The actuary annual assumption's return on investments is 8%. Because of this goal, the GCERS continues to demand our money managers to outperform their respective benchmarks. The investment sub-committee has placed a number of managers on probation and replaced those that did not meet our expectation.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014: Tracy Khan has set up the Retirement office as a separate department on the Genesee County Web page. This makes it very easy to find all reports, agendas, minutes, newsletters, etc. The Pension Board's secretary, Keith Francis, stated in the 2014 report: "The total return for 2014 of 7.15%, compared to the Policy Index of 5.99%, ranks in the 30th percentile among public funds. The good investment year for Genesee County corresponded with a good year for the U.S. economy and capital markets. The unemployment rate fell to 5.6%, down from 6.6% in the previous year. The average rate of inflation was 0.8% for the year, while economy grew 2.4%. The United States (S&P 500) stock market finished the year up 13.7% while the International Developed Market equities fell

4.5%. It was a favorable year for bond investors as the U.S. bond market gained 6.0%. Also, 2014 was another strong year for commercial real estate as investors capitalized on historically low interest rates and recovering property values. Commercial real estate indexes were up about 11.8% on the year."

POST RETIREMENT CHECK: The actuary's smoothing average return for our fund was –10.5%. Per our Pension Fund By-Laws, this return exceeded our goal of 8%, therefore there ~~will be~~ a 13th check this year. The cut-off date for receiving the 13th check is January 1, 2001. Every retiree that retired prior to January 1, 2001 will receive this check. The amount of the check is weighted to provide more funding to those that have been retired longer and those that were employed longer. The check will be paid in December.

RETIREE ASSOCIATION: There is an independent Genesee County Retirees' Association (GCRA) that meets the first Wednesday of every month at 9:00 a.m. at the Palace Family Restaurant on Saginaw Street south of Maple Road in Grand Blanc Township. Coming to our breakfast meetings is an excellent way to keep up on gossip, see old friends, and be treated to great speakers on such topics as Trust and Wills, Social Security, Medicare, Red Cross, gardening, and bird feeding, just to name a few. The association has a Christmas outing and a June picnic. Come to a meeting and get more details on this year's Christmas outing. Since I attend most of the GCRA meetings, I am available for any questions or concerns. Find more information about the association on the Retirement Web site.

The speaker for our September meeting was Dave Conklin, the new District Library Director. It's amazing what is available through the library system. The current President of GCRA is Tim Sabin, retired from the Road Commission, and his phone number is 810-694-6889.

My home phone is 810-694-4778 and my cell phone is 810-347-8667. You can also reach me by e-mail at cyphertjp@yahoo.com. My address is 8035 Embury Road, Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439.

Jeff Cyphert, Retired from the General County
January 1992
Retiree Representative.

