



**JEFFERSON PARISH RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES'
ASSOCIATION
2008 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Thinking back on the past year, I thought about years as a child in school, or even as a Young adult in the work place. Waiting for extended holidays or summer vacation seemed interminable. Time literally dragged!

However, retirement brings a whole different outlook on time. We can vacation whenever we want – not necessarily waiting for summer. Holidays seem to always be right around the corner. This year has whizzed by.

Your association board members have worked tirelessly for you this past year. The Benefits Committee met with Mr. Junior Mendoza, Human Resources Director, and Mr. Aubrey DeVillier, Jefferson Parish Benefits Administrator, to address insurance questions proposed by you, the membership. At this meeting, it was also suggested that the Retiree Board be invited to upcoming Insurance Advisory Committee meetings. Your Social and Travel Committee successfully planned the summer seafood boil and coordinated with the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office for the October event. As this newsletter goes to press, they are finalizing plans for your Christmas luncheon. And last, but certainly not least, your Service Committee conducted a food drive for Second Harvester's Food Bank this past summer. Your generosity provided 148 lbs. of food and \$120.00 in donations.

The majority of us weathered hurricanes Gustav and Ike unscathed with only minor inconveniences. Let us keep in prayer those retirees in Lafitte, Grand Isle and the North Shore who may be recovering from these devastating events.

My prayer for each of you in 2009 is a happy, healthy and safe year. May you enjoy your retirement as you always dreamed – relaxing, traveling, enjoying life to the fullest.

COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT APPROVED BY BOARD

At the July 15, 2008 meeting of the Board of Trustees, a cost of living adjustment (COLA) was approved for retirees of both Plans A and B who are age 62 and older who have been retired for one full year. In order to be eligible for this COLA, a retiree must be age 62 on or before 12/31/08 and they must be retired for one full year on or before 12/31/08 (i.e. last worked was 12/30/07 and earlier). For those retirees in Plan A and Plan B who meet these requirements, an increase of 2.5% will be granted on the January 1, 2009 benefit payment provided our actuarial report is approved by the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee (PRSAC)

It is important to note that increases such as these are not guaranteed each year. There are statutory tests that must be met before the Board of Trustees can approve a COLA. One important requirement that must be met is the investment return of the plans' portfolios must meet or exceed 7.5%. The investment return for both plans did meet this requirement for the plan year ending 12/31/07. Secondly, the plans must meet or exceed their target ratios as prescribed by state law. Both plans have been able to meet the target ratio test, however the investment return requirement could deter future COLA's. It is possible that weak investment returns in the current year could prevent a benefit adjustment in 2010. This information will not be available until after the actuarial valuation for the year ending 12/31/08 is prepared next spring.

PAROCHIAL RETIREMENT BENEFITS NOT SUBJECT TO LA STATE TAX

State law provides that benefits from Parochial Retirement System are not subject to state income tax. If your tax preparer or the State's Revenue Office need more information on this, direct them to Louisiana Revised Statute 11:1905.

These 2 articles were taken from the August 2008 Retiree News from Parochial Employees' Retirement System

RETIREE MEDICAL BENEFITS FOR 2009

Open enrollment period for retirees eligible for medical benefits is coming in November. The biggest change this year for some retirees is Coventry has been replaced by United Health Care. The plan benefits will be the same, and there was a small decrease in the monthly premium for the coverage. Any retiree currently in Coventry will automatically be switched to United Health Care plan unless you elect to join one of the Medicare HMO plans for 2009.

The Parish will continue to offer the two Medicare Advantage plans that many Medicare covered retirees are participating in for their medical care. The Humana plan will be the same for 2009 with a slight decrease in premium. For 2009, People's Health has changed its Tier 3 drug benefit so there will be no doughnut hole in that tier. People's Health (formally Tenet) also has a monthly premium increase. Both Humana and People's Health offer memberships in health clubs at no cost to the member. Call the plan for information about which clubs are available to you in your area.

The Medicare Part B premium paid by the retiree will be \$96.40 for individuals with annual income up to \$85,000 and couples with annual income up to \$170,000. This is the same as 2008. There is an increase in the Part B deductible. The Part B annual deductible for 2009 will be \$135. The Part A deductible per benefit period is \$1,068. You still have to pay the applicable co-insurances for both Part A and Part B. These deductibles and co-insurances are covered by the Parish plans.

Remember that if you are currently enrolled in the Jefferson Parish Retiree Medical benefits group plans, you have the right to leave the Parish group and rejoin the group at a later date during the open enrollment period. This is for all plans offered to Parish retirees.

The other benefit provided by the Parish is a term life policy for the retiree only. The amount for retirees under age 70 is \$10,000 and over age 70 is \$5,000. Claims are handled through Human Resources.

The Parish will be holding several meetings for retirees to obtain information on plans and enrollment forms. The open enrollment retiree meetings will be held on the following dates: **WESTBANK** – Nicholson Playground **11/3** – 9 am & 1 pm; **11/5** – 9 am; **EASTBANK** – Eastbank Regional Library – **11/6** – 9 am and 1 pm and **11/7** – 9 am.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
WESTBANK**

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE
DECEMBER 11, 2008 AT *La Maison Creole*, 1605 EIGHTH STREET,
HARVEY, LOUISIANA.
DOORS WILL OPEN AT 11:00 AM.. TO INSURE YOUR
RESERVATION, PLEASE REGISTER IN ADVANCE.

Please circle your entrée choice. If you and your guest have selected the same
Entrée, circle your selection and write number "2" by it. Mail form and payment to:

JEFFERSON PARISH RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
P O BOX 238
MARRERO, LOUISIANA 70073

Include check or money order payable to J.P. Retired Public Employees' Assoc.
For \$15.00 (\$35.00 if you bring a guest)

Date Due: No later than **MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2008.**

Note: Members are entitled to bring only one (1) guest.

La Maison Creole is located behind Best Buy on Manhattan Blvd & Westbank
Expressway

PLEASE SELECT ENTRÉE AND MAIL

MENU

Tossed salad, Brabant Potatoes, Asparagus

ENTRÉE

(Choice of one)

1. Chicken Marsala – Sautéed boneless chicken breast with Marsala wine sauce, Mushrooms & demi-glaze
2. Grilled Pork Chop – Center cut chop, marinated in a brown sugar & rosemary Brine
3. Seafood Stuffed Catfish – Catfish filet stuffed with shrimp & crabmeat Dressing, then baked

DESSERT

Bourbon Pecan Pie

Iced tea & coffee

MEMBER'S

NAME _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Mark your calendar – **DECEMBER 11, 2008**

Second Harvester Food Bank. Bring your canned goods and non-perishable items to the Christmas party and share your bounty with those less fortunate.

FREE, FREE, FREE

Retirees love the word free. The Jefferson Parish Employees' Retirement Association tries to accommodate its members as much as possible. Every year the association sponsors a free seafood boil in June – Beautiful boiled shrimp, potatoes, corn, dessert, beer and soft drinks. We alternate the location between the East Bank and the West Bank. Good food, good fun and good company. It's nice to see old friends you worked with or to make new friends. This year was no exception. The event was held at Lakeshore Playground and a good time was had by all. Sgt. Boudreaux from the Sheriff's office gave a timely talk on hurricane safety. Attending this function allowed us to have two free trips from the Sheriff's office.

On October 10, we got on the bus at Clearview Shopping Center and toured the D-Day Museum. We then were treated to a buffet lunch at Panda King. Laughter was the feeling of the day. The next outing will be on October 28. We will be going to the zoo and have a surprise lunch – a continuation of free, free, free.

Association dues are a minimal \$10.00 a year and is payable in December. A new retiree receives the first year free. Payment of dues in December keeps you on the mailing list. You will receive an invitation to the free seafood boil and a discount fee for the Christmas party, two newsletters a year and invites to the Sheriff's trips.

We are happy to announce that the Parish President's office has allowed us to post our newsletter on the Parish website. This will allow more people to join us and keep abreast of news that are of interest to Jefferson Parish retirees.

If you have not paid your dues for 2008, send your \$10.00 check to P.O. Box 238, Marrero, La and become eligible for the Christmas Party and the Summer Seafood Boil. We'd love to see you!

**REPEAL OF
SOCIAL SECURITY GOVERNMENT PENSION OFFSET (GPO) & WINDFALL
ELIMINATION PROVISION**

In reply to your Board's request of Senator Mary Landrieu's position in this repeal, she states:

“Like you, I am concerned about the impact of GPO & WEP on the retirement options of employees. I believe that these provisions are both inaccurate and often unfair to government workers. That is why I am proud to be a cosponsor of Senate Bill 206, the “Social Security Fairness Act of 2006.” This bill is currently being considered in the Senate Finance Committee and would amend the Social Security Act to repeal requirements related to the GPO & WEP.

In addition to Senate Bill 206, there are several other bills introduced in Congress to modify or repeal both the WEP & GPO. To date, however, no bill has gained enough support to reach the Senate floor. Rest assured, I will continue to work with my colleagues in the Senate to address this issue.”

Senator Mary Landrieu
United States Congress
September 8, 2008

SPECIAL NOTE FROM YOUR BOARD:

Louisiana is one of only thirteen states in the country where Social Security benefits are reduced because of the GPO & WEP.

Take a few minutes to let your Congressmen know how unfair it is to deny what is due to you. To sign a petition, go to:

<http://www.petitiononline.com/soffset/>



SEASON'S GREETINGS

The Officers and Members of the Board of Directors of the Retired Public Employees Association wish you and your loved ones great joy and happiness during this blessed holiday season and throughout the coming year.

OFFICERS

Diane Barrilleaux – President
D.David Duplantis – Vice-President
Doris Betza – Secretary
Josie Palermo – Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS

Carolyn Capdeville , Emile Cloutet
John Comfort, Peggy Guccione, Cynthia Hebert
David Macaluso, Jackie Marsh, Ned Pitre

DECEASED RETIREES

Our condolences go out to the families of the retirees who have passed away in 2008.

Amelia Badeaux
Jules Bartels
Nathaniel Belloni
Hilda Bonvillain
Mary Lynn Burglass
Hilda Buras
Parker Caston
John Constant
Joseph Ditcharo
James Gaines, Sr.
N D Gottschalk
Selina Hargis
John Hein, Jr
Shirley Holeton
Robert Jones
Marilyn Kilgore
Evela Lodriguss
Smiley Martin
Carol McCrossen
Doretha Mitchell
Robert Nall
Frederick Roser
James Sanderson
Margaret Scheurmann
Iris Swords
Joseph Taylor
Phoung Tran
Isadore Willis
Lucille Yenni
Anthony Zito

Donald Baio
Joseph Bates
Joseph Blunt
Joseph Borel
Shirley Branch
W P Camardelle
Joseph Conino
Samuel Constant
J O Edmonds
Octave Garsaud
Irene Grabert
L J Harper
Samuel Hill
Josie Horn
Roy Jones
Congetta Klibert
Rita Maggiore
Lurry Mayeux
Anna Mire
Joseph Morella
J F Palmisano, Jr
Dewey Roussell
Alma Santangelo
Edwin Shally
Gertrude Taurassi
L G Trafficano
Elinor Vaccaro
Joseph Wilson
John Yrle