

*Public School Teachers' Pension and Retirement Fund
of Chicago*

PENSION NEWS

July 2000 Issue



Legislation Passed and Signed by Governor Ryan

The Trustees of the Public School Teachers' Pension and Retirement Fund of Chicago are pleased to announce that on June 6, 2000 Governor George H. Ryan signed **House Bill 3756** into law as Public Act 91-0852. House Bill 3756 increases the health insurance subsidy for eligible pensioners by \$15 million each year so that the total subsidy for each year will be \$40 million. Health insurance rebates are currently established at 85% of health insurance gross premiums, subject to the Fund's laws and by-laws. P.A. 91-0852 will allow the Trustees to continue to subsidize health insurance premiums into the foreseeable future.

Our members may recall that this vital piece of legislation became part of the Fund's legislative agenda beginning in 1995 and has had numerous sponsors since its inception. Special thanks are due to *Representative Angelo "Skip" Saviano (77th District)*, the bill's original sponsor, as well as *Representative Harold Murphy (30th District)*, Co-chairperson of the Pension Laws Commission, both who have worked diligently to keep this issue before the Illinois legislature to see it through to its final adoption. It is because of their leadership that the Trustees can report to you this good news.

Additionally, special thanks are also due to *Henry Anselmo* and *Eugene Barnes*, legislative liaisons of the Fund, and *David Peterson* of the Chicago Teachers Union, for their strong leadership and assistance in all of the Fund's legislative matters.

In addition, **House Bill 1583** was also signed as Public Act 91-0887 by the Governor on July 6, 2000, thus providing for the following:

- removal of the prohibition on participating in the Fund while simultaneously contributing to one of the other state pension systems and provides that all such past service in the other state systems will have no affect on Fund benefits;
- removal of suspension of pensions of retired teachers that work in a school district *outside* of the Chicago Public Schools;
- provision that disability pensions will be computed using the 2.2% pension formula provided that the teacher completes all necessary upgrade payments.

Please be reminded, however, that upon your retirement there still remain restrictions on your re-employment as a teacher *within* the Chicago Public Schools, working no more than 100 days or earning the equivalent of a 100 day substitute teacher.

As always, great appreciation is extended to all members of the General Assembly for their diligent efforts and support of the Chicago teachers and pensioners.

Health Insurance Open Enrollment Meetings Notice

Mark your calendars for September 12th through 14th for Health Insurance Open Enrollment meetings. Meetings are tentatively scheduled for Tuesday (12th) in Chicago, Wednesday (13th) in Burbank, and Thursday (14th) in Elk Grove Village. Meeting times will be 9 - 11:30 a.m. (last names beginning with letters A - L) and 1 - 3:30 p.m. (last names beginning with letters M - Z). More information will be mailed to you the first week of September. Please keep watch for our mailing.

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