

Retirement News Update

A Publication of the City of Austin Employees' Retirement System

Available online at www.coaers.org

2nd Quarter 2018



2018 ANNUAL Members' Meeting

Please join us at our Annual Members' Meeting to hear the latest information about the City of Austin Employees' Retirement System.

Tuesday, July 17th

5:00 - 7:00 pm

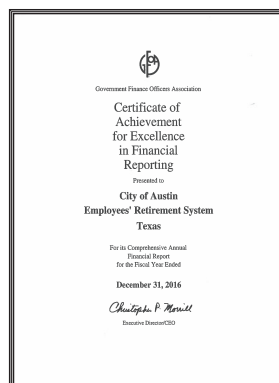
418 E. Highland Mall Blvd.,

Austin, TX 78752

(Refreshments Provided)

COAERS Receives GFOA Award for 19th Year!

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to COAERS for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government entity must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. This report must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements. This is the 19th consecutive year that COAERS has received this prestigious award. Our Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Donna Boykin, was given the Award of Financial Reporting Achievement alongside this honor.



Retiree Volunteers Needed for Election Committee

We are currently searching for retirees to volunteer to serve on the COAERS Nominating and Election Committee, which will oversee this fall's election for Retired Member Place #11 on the COAERS Board of Trustees. The Committee will develop the ballot and certify the results of the election. The Committee will meet once in June and then three or four times in the fall of 2018.

This year's election will be held from mid-October to early December. Currently, Place #11 is held by Mr. Anthony B. Ross, Sr. His term expires December 31, 2018. The new term will begin January 2019 and continue through December 2022.

The Nominating and Election Committee serves an important function. Committee members ensure our election is fair and runs smoothly. Those wanting to volunteer should contact Ms. Michelle Mahaini by telephone at 512-458-2551 ext. 111 or by email at michelle.mahaini@coaers.org.

Member News and Notes

Proportionate Retirement Program

If you have participated in certain other public retirement systems in Texas, you may be able to combine your service credit from those retirement systems to help you meet retirement eligibility under the Proportionate Retirement Program. COAERS currently recognizes service credit in the following systems:

Austin Police Retirement System	Judicial Retirement System of Texas I and II
El Paso Firemen and Policemen's Pension Fund	Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS)
The El Paso City Employees' Pension Fund	Employees Retirement System of Texas (ERS)
Texas County and District Retirement System (TCDRS)	Texas Municipal Retirement System (TMRS)

Combining service credit using the Proportionate Retirement Program may advance your retirement eligibility date but it does not increase the amount of your COAERS monthly benefit. Before relying on service credit from another system, contact that system and COAERS to verify that your service credit is eligible to be combined with COAERS service credit under the Proportionate Retirement Program and discuss any benefit to which you may be entitled.

Notify COAERS of your proportionate service frequently. We do not receive proportionate service information from other Texas retirement systems automatically. We rely on members to keep their proportionate service up to date with COAERS through regular communication with COAERS. If you believe your proportionate service combined with your other COAERS creditable service makes you eligible for benefits, timely apply for benefits. COAERS does not pay retroactive benefits. Failure to timely apply for benefits could result in the loss of benefits. Know when you are eligible for benefits and contact COAERS before that time to properly apply for benefits. As always, contact COAERS if you have any questions.

Know the Important Dates in the Retirement Process

Retirement is not that far off for many COAERS members. If you are in this category, you can take steps now to be prepared.

At least ninety days before you plan to retire, call COAERS to make an appointment to meet with a Member Services Specialist. Your Specialist can prepare a retirement benefit estimate for you and send you a checklist of the documentation you'll need to properly claim benefits. You will then need to complete and submit your retirement paperwork no later than the 15th day of the month in which you are retiring (if the 15th falls on a business day). You will also need to notify your department of your last day of employment. It's important to know that all of our retirement dates are the last day of the month. Finally, you will need to plan for your first benefit payment. Your first monthly benefit payment is deposited the last business day of the month after your retirement date.

Let's consider an example. A Group "A" member is turning age 62 on December 7, 2018 and wishes to retire as soon as possible. Since the member is becoming eligible in December of 2018, the member would need to complete and submit retirement paperwork no later than December 14, 2018 (since the 15th is not a business day). The member would also plan to continue employment through December 31, 2018. The member's first day of being in retirement status would be January 1, 2019 and the member's first monthly benefit check would be issued on the last day of the month – January 31, 2019.

Specific dates in the retirement process are provided below. For more dates, go to www.coaers.org.

Retirement Paperwork Deadline <i>Deadline to give notice; 5 p.m. central</i>	Actual Retirement Date <i>Last day of employment or vested status</i>	Benefit Effective Date <i>The first day of the month of retired status</i>	First Monthly Annuity Payment <i>Last business day of the month</i>
June 15, 2018	June 30, 2018	July 1, 2018	July 31, 2018
July 13, 2018	July 31, 2018	August 1, 2018	August 31, 2018
August 15, 2018	August 31, 2018	September 1, 2018	September 28, 2018
September 14, 2018	September 30, 2018	October 1, 2018	October 31, 2018
October 15, 2018	October 31, 2018	November 1, 2018	November 30, 2018
November 15, 2018	November 30, 2018	December 1, 2018	December 31, 2018
December 14, 2018	December 31, 2018	January 1, 2019	January 31, 2019
January 15, 2019	January 31, 2019	February 1, 2019	February 28, 2019

Member News and Notes



With Deepest Sympathy



We extend our condolences to the family and friends of those retirees of COAERS who have passed away since our last publication. *

December 31, 2017 Preliminary Actuarial Valuation Results

On March 27, 2018, the COAERS actuary presented the preliminary actuarial valuation results as of December 31, 2017 to the Board of Trustees. The valuation report describes the costs of the plan's liabilities, assesses the adequacy of the contributions paid to the plan, and provides a snapshot of the plan's funded status as of December 31st of the previous year.

The results this year are positive as COAERS benefited from strong market returns and active membership growth. The overall funded position of COAERS has increased slightly from 67.5% to 68.3% and the Plan's amortization period for its unfunded actuarial accrued liability has decreased from 31 to 30 years. This is the second valuation showing a decrease in the amortization period.

However, we are still cautious about the long-term trajectory of the plan's funded status. While the valuation results do not indicate any threats to the benefits of current retirees, cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) will not be possible in the short-term. This is obviously an issue for retirees. Beyond the challenge of providing COLAs for retirees, other long-term challenges to the plan also remain. The most significant challenge is the potential for lower than expected investment returns in the future. COAERS Trustees continue to monitor the investment program and actuarial assumptions to ensure that the plan is responsive to current and future market environments. This year, the Trustees will conduct an Asset/Liability study to examine how different investment strategies could address the fund's projected future liabilities.

We encourage our members to attend the Annual Members meeting on Tuesday, July 17, 2018 at 5 p.m. at the COAERS offices (418 East Highland Mall Boulevard, Austin, Texas). We will be covering many of these issues at this meeting. We look forward to seeing you!

Aviation

Carla Valadez

Austin Energy

Jacqueline Adams

Rex Bateman, Jr.

Joe Bowen

Delbert Graves, Jr.

Bertha Salinas

Larry Sebek

Austin Resource Recovery

Perry Cordell

Austin Water Utility

Manuel Gonzalez

Cecilia Harvey

Brackenridge Hospital

Lucille Becker

Geanie Edmonson

Billie Lanpher

Joe Pearce

Sybil Stratman

Convention Center

Lloyd Robertson

Jacqueline Zachritz

Fleet Department

Ira Taylor

Financial Services

Aubrey Page

Marion Raley

Carlos Verdin

Health & Human Services

Catherine Roche

Law Department

Nancy Matches

Library

Trafford Hutesson

Jacqueline Wilson

Parks & Recreation

Melvin Hinson, Jr.

Planning & Development

Bob Bulkley

Mike Cervantes

Public Works

John Roscher

Thong Vo

Police

Ella Hunter

** Please note, this list only includes those deaths of which COAERS has been notified.*

COAERS Board of Trustees

Chris Noak - Chair
Mike Benson - Vice-Chair
Stephanie Beach
Eyna Canales-Zarate
Amy Hunter
Yuejiao Liu
Frank Merriman
Leslie Pool
Anthony B. Ross, Sr.
Randy Spencer
Ed Van Eenoo

Upcoming Events

JUNE

21 Pre-Retirement Seminar
26 Board Meeting
29 Retiree Pay Day

JULY

4 Independence Day (Office closed)
17 Annual Members' Meeting
19 Pre-Retirement Seminar
31 Retiree Pay Day

AUGUST

16 Pre-Retirement Seminar
31 Retiree Pay Day



City of Austin Employees' Retirement System

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www.coaers.org

FSC LOGO HERE
PMS 654 @ 70%

Printed on FSC[®]-certified recycled stock,
10% post-consumer waste, with soy-based inks.

2018 Retiree Pay Dates

May 31st
June 29th
July 31st
August 31st
September 28th
October 31st
November 30th
December 31st

*Note: Expect monthly benefit payments to be available
on the last business day of each month*

Retirement News Update is a publication of the City of Austin Employees' Retirement System and is distributed for the information of COAERS Active, Vested, and Retired Members and their beneficiaries.

While COAERS has made every attempt to provide correct information, it does not guarantee the accuracy of the information contained or referenced herein.