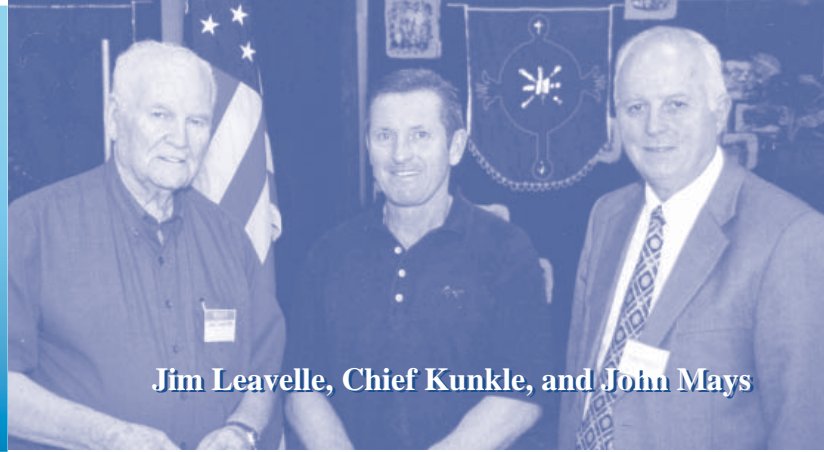




# PENSION NOTES



Jim Leavelle, Chief Kunkle, and John Mays

Volume 2004.09, September 2004  
Dallas Police & Fire Pension System



## Health Insurance Costs—Is There a Solution? A Message From Trustee Richard H. Wachsman

**B**udget considerations for 2005 are under way, and it looks bad for us Pensioners. Once again, we hear that the City of Dallas is going to pick up less of the cost for Pensioners' insurance. Retired friends of mine in other cities all have the same complaint. Retirees all over the nation are facing this problem.



*Richard H. Wachsman,  
Pensioner Fire-Rescue Trustee*

In the 1980s, your Pension System realized that health insurance was going to be rising. With your help, we created the Benefit Supplement for retirees older than age 55. The intent of the Benefit Supplement was to help with the cost of retiree's health insurance. The benefit today is \$75 or 3% of your benefit per month, whichever is greater.

In 2001, the National Conference of Public Employees Retirement Systems (NCPERS), made up of public employees from across the United States, created a task force to study health care costs and

to try to find a solution to the costs. The task force has proposed legislation to provide relief by allowing public employees and retirees to use funds from their 401 or 457 accounts to pay premiums or use funds from pension benefits on a pre-tax basis.

Clearly, the cost of health insurance is a problem that will not be easy to resolve. Contact your local, state, and federal representatives, and urge them to recognize the problem and work together to solve it. Your future and the future of your children depend on it.

The Board will continue researching various aspects of the health insurance question. If you have suggestions, ideas, or want to discuss other issues concerning health insurance and a relationship to your pension benefit, please call me or any of your other Trustee representatives.

—Richard H. Wachsman,  
Pensioner Fire-Rescue Trustee



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# Pension System Refreshes Web Site

## Message From the Chairman

**O**ur Web site has a new look. As part of our ongoing efforts to improve communications to Members, we refreshed the look of our Web site. Go to [www.dpfp.org](http://www.dpfp.org), and look at all the information that is available to Pension System Members. The site contains information about Board Meetings and also has forms for changing your address and changing your direct deposit information.



*Gerald Brown,  
Chairman of  
the Board &  
Fire-Rescue Trustee*

We hope you will enjoy the new look and find the information easy to locate. If you have any comments or questions, please contact the Pension System via e-mail at [info@dpfp.org](mailto:info@dpfp.org).

—Gerald Brown,  
Chairman of the Board & Fire-Rescue Trustee



## Congratulations Retirees!

### Police Department



*Lee A. Bush  
Thomas A. Hall  
Kim E. Hammond  
Douglas A. Kowalski  
Margaret J. McGee  
James R. Vineyard  
Larry A. Wesson*

*(No Firefighters retired this month.)*

## Pension System Calendar

- **October 2**—Retired Police Officers’ Annual Picnic, Quitman, Texas
- **October 3**—Retired Police and Firefighters Association meeting
- **October 14**—Board meeting; First public reading of Pension System’s 2005 budget
- **October 18–21**—Board meeting
- **October 27**—Annual Burglary and Theft Luncheon
- **October 28**—Pensioner Financial Seminar, Allen, Texas
- **November 3–4**—City health benefit enrollment workshops for Pensioners older than age 65, Dallas City Hall, L1 F-N auditorium, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. each day
- **November 7**—Retired Police and Firefighters Association meeting, Salesmanship Club, 106 East 10th Street in Oak Cliff
- **November 9**—Retired Firefighters Luncheon, Fire Museum, Parry Avenue
- **November 11**—Board meeting; Second public reading of Pension System’s 2005 budget
- **November 25–26**—Thanksgiving Holiday, Pension System office closed
- **December 9**—Board meeting

## Annual Burglary & Theft Luncheon

Wednesday, October 27, 2004  
11 a.m.

Furr’s Cafeteria, Garland,  
1440 NW Hwy. @ Saturn

Spouses are welcome



# From the Retired Police & Firefighters Association


**T**his report from the Retired Police and Firefighters Association includes information from the meetings on August 1 and September 5, at the Salesmanship Club, 106 East 10th Street in Oak Cliff.

In August, 110 people attended our meeting, including members, new members, and guests. I may have missed some new members, but I did greet new member C.E. Duncan, a retired Firefighter, and his wife, Marie. We still need more of you Firefighters to come out and join us!

Our guest speaker in August, Chief Kunkle, brought out many of the visitors. He gave a great speech regarding the direction he wants to take the Police Department, and it was well received by everyone. Of course, we wish him nothing but the best in his efforts. Thanks for your time, Chief! Pensioner Advocate Gale Paul reported on the changes in the City insurance and provided handouts for Pensioners who still have City insurance.

In September, 52 members and three visitors came to the association meeting. We had another great meeting with a wonderful lunch and many door prizes. There were no new members, except C.E. and Marie Duncan. We were happy to see them!

I am still calling on all you Firefighters to come on out and join us! I know you will enjoy yourself, so give us a try! We meet the first Sunday of every month at the Salesmanship Club in Oak Cliff. The next meeting will be Sunday, October 3.



—Jim Leavelle, President



*Chief Kunkle with Gaynell Hopson and Claude Cook at the August association meeting.*

## In Memoriam

**Michael C. Barnett**  
*Retired Firefighter*

**Mary Cauley**  
*Widow of Retired Firefighter  
Raymond O. Cauley*

**Melvin G. Cook**  
*Retired Police Officer*

**Phillip Fitzhugh**  
*Retired Police Officer*

**Maury B. Pepin**  
*Spouse of Retired Firefighter  
Mary D. Pepin*

**John T. Slaughter**  
*Retired Police Officer*

**William M. Starks**  
*Retired Police Officer*

**Floy Ann Taylor**  
*Widow of Retired Police Officer  
Ernest E. Taylor*

**Louise Wilson**  
*Widow of Retired Police Officer  
Williard D. Wilson*

# Board of Trustees

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Vice-Chairman

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1.800.638.3861

Visit our Web site at:

[www.dfpf.org](http://www.dfpf.org)

E-mail us at:

[info@dpfp.org](mailto:info@dpfp.org)

## Pensioner Financial Seminars

**Look Who Attended in Canton...**



**Look Who Attended in De Soto...**



**...Will We See You in Allen on October 28?**



### Pensioner Financial Seminar

Thursday, October 28

Allen Heritage Center, Allen, Texas

To register or for more information, contact:

Pensioner Advocate Gale Paul,

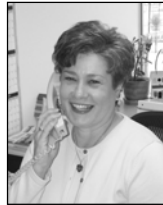
214.382.4422 or 1.800.638.3861

# Community Calendar of Events

Provided by Your

Pensioner Advocate Gale Paul

Call 214.382.4422 or 1.800.638.3861



DALLAS  
POLICE & FIRE  
PENSION SYSTEM



October 2004

## Enjoy The Fall Weather

- Sat. 10/9 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Fall Plant Sale & Gardening Festival.** Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse Ave., Austin. Choose from more than 23,000 native plants. Guided walks will be offered throughout the day. Admission: \$5 adults, \$4 seniors 60 & older or students 13 & older, and \$2 children 5–12. For more information, 512.292.4100.
- Sun. 10/10
- Thu. 10/14 **Jazz & Blues Festival—Galveston.** Events will be held at the Harbor House Park near Pier 20 in the Historic Strand District; Moody Gardens Convention Center; 1894 Grand Opera House, Whiskey Blues, and the historic Balinese Room. For more information, [www.galvestonjazz.com](http://www.galvestonjazz.com).
- to 10/17
- Fri. 10/15 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. **Fredericksburg Trade Days.** 355 Sunday Farms Lane on Hwy. 290 E across from Wildseed Farm. More than 300 vendors offering antiques, collectibles, tools, ranch furniture, jewelry, crafts, hunting accessories, and much more. Food vendors and a Biergarten with live music. Open the 3rd weekend of each month. NOTE: Closes at 4 p.m. on Sunday.
- to 10/17
- Fri. 10/15 **Texas Chopper Fest.** San Marcos. All primary bike events will be held at the Hays County Civic Center. Music venues will be located on The Square in downtown. Cash prizes will be awarded for several bike events. To enter your bike in any of the cash prize events, contact [alangilley@texaschopperfest.com](mailto:alangilley@texaschopperfest.com).
- & Sat. 10/16

## Do Something Different

- Sat. Every **Wild Cave Tour.** Longhorn Cavern State Park, Burnet. Explore the caverns the way the early spelunkers did. An experienced guide will take you to primitive parts of the cave not seen on the regular tours. You will crawl, climb, and scoot through tight spaces. Special equipment: hardhat, flashlight, elbow and kneepads are required for this tour. You may bring your own or rent the whole package for \$15. No children younger than 12. Fee is \$35 per person, and reservations are required, 512.756.4680.
- Sat. 10/9 6 – 8:30 p.m. **Simple Sounds Concert in the Cave.** Longhorn Cavern State Park, Burnet. Local acoustic artists bring the “live music capitol of the world” to the beautiful Hill Country. Concert followed by a coffee and hot chocolate social where you get to meet the artists. Fees: \$12 adults, \$11 senior citizens, \$8 children 12 and younger. For more information, 512.756.4680.
- & 10/23

## For 50+

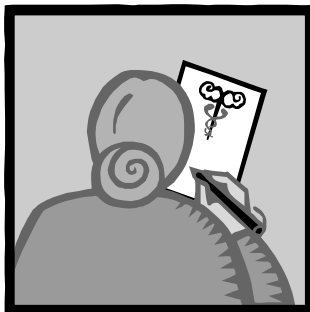
- Fri. 10/29 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. **Senior Boom.** The Wyndham Anatole, Dallas. The largest senior event in the country, with everything under one roof. More than 200 exhibitors. Admission \$3 per person. RSVP by calling 214.616.0614, or e-mail [info@seniorboom.com](mailto:info@seniorboom.com) or [www.seniorboom.com](http://www.seniorboom.com).
- & Sat. 10/30

**Wed. 10/6 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Free Flu Shots.** Arlington Convention Center, 1200 Ballpark Way, Arlington. Free flu shots for those age 60 and older! Sponsored by the North Texas Adult Immunization Coalition. NOTE: Also free to those younger than age 18.

**Health Updates**

- Federal officials announced the largest premium increase in Medicare’s program history. Medicare Part B increases from \$66.60 a month to \$78.20 in 2005.
- Part B deductible for 2005 will increase from \$100 to \$110.
- The City of Dallas will again offer AARP Medicare Supplemental Plans to pensioners 65 and older and their spouses in 2005.
- The City of Dallas subsidizes the Pensioner’s premium by 50%. It does not subsidize the spouse’s nor children.
- Effective 9-1-04, SecureHorizons, a Medicare HMO, is an option for 65 and older residents of Collin County. It also is available to Dallas, Tarrant, Denton, Comal, Guadalupe, and Bexar County residents. No monthly premium. For more information, 1.888.635.2701.

***Health Benefit Enrollment Workshops***



The City of Dallas will hold health benefit enrollment workshops for Pensioners and Survivors age 65 and older who currently are enrolled in the City’s health insurance. At the workshops, AARP representatives will present health benefit options and other health-related information. Workshops are November 3rd and 4th at Dallas City Hall, L1 F-N auditorium. Times are 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. each day. Pensioners need only to attend one of the sessions. For questions, contact Rick Sundstrom, 214.670.1217 or [rsundst@mail.ci.dallas.tx.us](mailto:rsundst@mail.ci.dallas.tx.us).