



ACTIVE MEMBER NEWSLETTER

Produced for active members of The General Retirement System for Employees of Jefferson County

Fall 2017

Vesting – Your 1st Membership Milestone

Vesting is the first major milestone of your GRS membership. Being vested in the GRS Pension Plan means you become eligible for a lifetime monthly retirement benefit. You become 50% vested once you earn 120 months or 10 years of paid membership service and you are 100% vested after 180 months or 15 years of paid membership service. Paid membership service is earned when you contribute to GRS in a paid status for over half of the month. Upon vesting you earn additional benefits:

- If you are married, your spouse is covered by an automatic 100% Pre-Retirement Joint Survivor Benefit if you die while actively employed by Jefferson County.
- If you separate employment from Jefferson County before you are eligible to retire, you may elect a deferred retirement benefit which becomes payable at age 60 and is payable for the remainder of your life.
- You will receive interest on your member contributions if you separate employment from Jefferson County and elect to receive a refund.

GRS will notify you by letter when you become vested. Your member handbook has more information on vesting and your membership in GRS. If you have any questions regarding your vested status please contact a GRS member advisor at 325-5354.

Have You Visited Our Website Recently?

GRS's website located at www.grsal.net offers simple site navigation, organized content, and pertinent information regarding your pension.

Here's what you can find with a few clicks:

- ◆ Member Handbook
- ◆ Beneficiary Form
- ◆ Retirement Checklist
- ◆ Current and Past Newsletters
- ◆ Frequently Asked Questions
- ◆ GRS Audit and Actuarial Reports

Keep Your Beneficiary Designation Up To Date

Have you experienced a marriage, divorce, death of a loved one or addition of a new family member? If so, you may wish to update your beneficiary designation.

QUESTIONS ABOUT RETIREMENT?

When am I eligible to retire? How do I apply for retirement benefits? What are my retirement options? These and any other questions you may have regarding retirement can be answered by the GRS staff. We are the best source for information regarding your pension. Please contact a GRS Member Advisor at 325-5354 to answer any of your retirement questions.



GENERAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

IN MEMORIAM

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF OUR DECEASED RETIREES

- Elvirah Finley – April 28
- Betty S. Amason – May 2
- Phyllis D. Ellard - May 3
- Carolyn McGregor – May 5
- Barbara Z. Fowler – May 7
- Robert R. Having – May 12
- William A. Robinson, Jr. – May 16
- Ethel DeJarnett – May 22
- Janet M. Bynum – June 13
- Clara J. Plylar – June 15
- Arthur L. Smith – June 18
- Rubie L. McInnis – June 20
- Carolyn J. Norwood – June 21
- Henrietta E. Gray – June 29
- Rannie J. Hammond – July 1
- Elizabeth North – July 9
- Alvis E. Roper – July 16
- Gwendolyn S. Higgins – July 17
- Marilyn Taylor – July 19
- Hubert G. Shoemaker – August 4
- Margaret Bozeman – August 17
- Michael J. Bobyarchak – August 30

Almost Time to Retire?

If you are getting ready to retire, please contact our office to schedule a retirement appointment about 30 days before you plan to retire from Jefferson County. You can find a list of documents you will need at your retirement appointment in your Member Handbook or on our website, www.grsal.net.

You will also need to contact Human Resources at 325-5249 to make an appointment to discuss your health, dental, and vision insurance options.

Contacting GRS

We are available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Our number is (205) 325-5354. You can also email us at questions@grsal.net or visit us on the web at www.grsal.net.

CONGRATULATIONS NEW RETIREES!

May

- Francis Hubbard
- Roy W. Debardeleben
- James D. Rogers, Jr.
- Johnny R. Mathis
- James R. Jennings, Jr.
- Natalie Huey
- John Lewis Hollins
- Debra Cureton

June

- Donna J. McCurry
- Regina Albright
- Linda Peavy
- Lemon A. Edwards
- David L. Willoughby
- Ned Baldwin, Jr.
- Donald E. Lowe
- Arnold E. Ethridge

July

- Frank G. Jones
- Malcolm Glass
- Wendell K. Ray
- Thomas E. Martin, Jr.
- Adrienne M. Merritt
- Johnny Wayne McGowan
- Nancy C. Long
- Terrence M. Lane

August

- Charles Ray Kelley
- James Lawson Little, Jr.
- James Randall Jones
- Marshall L. Harris
- Angela B. Frazier
- Frederick Deamues
- Theresa Ejem
- Linda Paulette Kelly
- Christopher K. Wilson
- Cecilia A. Loggins
- Gary D. Glover
- Brenda M. Abbott

Pension Board

- Billy Morace, Chairman Pro Tem**
- Betty Lavier, Member 2**
- Connie Harris, Member 3**
- Travis Hulsey, Member 5**