



# ACTIVE MEMBER NEWSLETTER

Produced for active members of The General Retirement System for Employees of Jefferson County Spring 2022

## Your Personal Statement of Estimated Retirement Benefits

Your Annual Personal Statement of Estimated Retirement Benefits will be distributed to you via MemberDirect this Spring. If you do not have a MemberDirect account please contact us at (205) 784-4530 for information on obtaining a MemberDirect account. The statement provides a summary of your retirement account and projections of future benefits

*Q: Why is my date of pension membership later than my employment date?*

A: Most employees' date of pension membership is their date of hire. A later date may appear if you are an unclassified, appointed, elected, or part-time employee that elected membership after your first paycheck had been processed.

*Q: Why isn't a deferred retirement benefit listed?*

A: Employees that have not yet vested (120 months of creditable service) are not eligible to receive a deferred retirement benefit. Once the member is vested the estimated deferred retirement benefit will be provided.

*Q: Why are the amounts under Estimated Retirement Benefits different?*

A: 1. Is the date you first qualify for a superannuation retirement (normal retirement) and your estimated benefit at that time. 2. Is the date you qualify for your maximum benefit (30 years of paid service) and your estimated benefits at that time.

*Q: Is the projected monthly benefit the actual amount I will receive at retirement?*

A: No, your actual retirement benefit will be calculated once you separate employment and will be based on your highest 36 months of earnings, number of months of vested service, and applicable laws in effect at that time.

*Q: What if I have other questions about the Personal Statement of Estimated Retirement Benefits?*

A: The GRS staff will be happy to answer any questions regarding the statement. Please contact GRS at (205) 784-4530 or email [questions@grsal.net](mailto:questions@grsal.net).

*Q: Will I receive these benefits if I'm not vested and terminate employment from Jefferson County?*

A: No, the estimated retirement benefits presented assumes you will be continually employed in a paid status with Jefferson County. If you leave Jefferson County or have non-paid days (Absent without leave, unpaid FMLA, etc.) the date you qualify for retirement and amount you may be entitled to receive may be affected.

*Q: What if something on the statement doesn't seem correct?*

A: If something on the statement doesn't seem correct, please note the discrepancy and indicate how you arrived at your conclusion. Address your correspondence to: General Retirement System, 716 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd. N, Suite 430 Courthouse, Birmingham, Alabama 35203 or you may send it through interoffice mail.

### MemberDirect

MemberDirect is a self-service website that is available to all members where individual retirement account information can be accessed securely online. Active members are able to view service, contribution, and beneficiary information as well as benefit statements. Active members are also able to perform benefit estimates and obtain selected forms. If you have not enrolled in MemberDirect please contact our office at (205)784-4530 and we will get you started.

### Contacting GRS

We are available by appointment only. You can make an appointment by calling us at (205) 784-4530 or emailing [grs@grsal.net](mailto:grs@grsal.net) Please visit us on the web at [www.grsal.net](http://www.grsal.net).



# GENERAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

## Have You Visited Our Website Recently?

GRS's website located at [www.grsal.net](http://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:

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

## 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 (205) 784-4530 to answer any of your retirement questions.

## Pension Board

- Robert Field, Chairman**
- Robert Nolen, Member 2**
- Connie Harris, Member 3**
- Billy Morace, Member 4**
- Travis Hulsey, Member 5**

**We are trying to locate the following members. If you know one of the individuals below, please ask them to contact our office.**

Larry Earl Guthrie	Stephen Fox McGhee
Veronica L. Merritt	Scotty Ray Sanford
Myranda Richardson	Jemica Lashun Rowe
Ashley Denecia Thomas	Marlee Elena Bell
Kevin Blaylock	Milton Levon Burton
Adam Thomas Ennis	Andrina Denea Lando
Markell Jones	Christopher Finley
Joshua Caleb Adams	Gabriel Posey
William David McKoy	Xavier Purdue
Fredrick Carson	Jernesia Melton
Ivory Price	Miranda Pilato
Lenora Davis	Mary Ward
Cynthia Chandler	Hareh Modi
Rodney Franklin, Jr.	Salena Bradford
Alan Gandy	Tammie Green

## Updating Your Beneficiary Designation

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.

## 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](http://www.grsal.net).

You will also need to contact Human Resources at (205) 325-5249 to make an appointment to discuss your health, dental, and vision insurance options.