



PENSION PRESS

The Newsletter of the Houston Municipal Employees Pension System



Update From the Chairman

Sherry Mose
Chairman

Dear Participants,

As of this writing, we are in the midst of recovering from one of the worst natural disasters the Houston area, and the nation, has experienced – Hurricane Harvey. More than 80 Texans lost their lives as a result of the storm, and tens of thousands of Houstonians’ homes and property were damaged or destroyed.

Even if you were not directly affected by Harvey, you likely know a family member, friend, neighbor or colleague who was. Our hearts go out to all the people who lost loved ones as a result of this tragic storm. We also want to recognize the countless heroes, many of whom are HMEPS members, who put themselves in harm’s way to rescue flood victims, and those who volunteered their time and expertise to provide affected Houstonians with food, shelter and assistance in the recovery process. We know that the road to recovery will be long and difficult, but I am confident Houston will come back stronger in the long run.

Despite the devastation of Harvey, HMEPS was able to process all payments for participants during August, and our staff is working hard to ensure that all transactions are timely and unaffected by the storm. This is a good opportunity for those of you who are not yet receiving pension payments by direct deposit to sign up for the program so that the effect of bad weather on the postal system doesn’t delay your receipt of a benefit. See page 2 for more information.

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Inside This Issue

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Pension Benefit Changes

Governor Abbott signed the pension reform bill (SB 2190) into law on May 31, 2017, with an effective date of July 1, 2017. For an overview and FAQs on the benefit and contribution changes go to www.hmeeps.org/news---updates.html.



Register Now for the 2017 Fall F.R.E.E. Summit

Want to learn more about your pension, deferred compensation and social security benefits? Attend the 2017 Fall F.R.E.E. Summit. The event will be held on Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 from 9:00 am to 2:15 pm and Friday, Oct. 27, 2017 from 10:00 am to 2:15 pm. Choose which date works best for you and then register at www.hmeeps.org. Turn to page 6 for more details.

HMEPS NEEDS YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS TO KEEP YOU UPDATED ON PENSION MATTERS

VISIT WWW.HMEEPS.ORG
TO SIGN UP

Update From the **Chairman** *(Con't from Page 1)*

In addition, the HMEPS Board of Trustees understands that many participants who have been hard hit by the storm may need to access their DROP funds to pay for recovery efforts. Through November 30, 2017, retired DROP participants may request additional partial DROP withdrawals without the usual 90-day waiting period. Please contact your benefit counselor for more details.

I would like to announce our 13th annual Financial Retirement Employees Educational (F.R.E.E.) Summit in October and invite you to register to attend at www.2017fallsummit.eventbrite.com. The theme of this year's F.R.E.E. Summit is "Embrace Change," and it will focus on recent pension changes enacted by the Texas Legislature and how they affect

HMEPS participants. More information can be found on page 6.

I want to thank members of our Board of Trustees and HMEPS staff for their continued hard work and dedication in service of the system. I also want to thank you, our participants, for your service to Houston and its residents.

I have faith in you, our participants, and in our fellow citizens that we will continue working together to rebuild Houston stronger than before the storm. It won't be easy, but I firmly believe our best days are yet to come.

Your Chairman,

Sherry Mose

HMEPS Recommends Direct Deposit of Your Pension Benefit

HMEPS strongly recommends that you sign up for Direct Deposit when you retire, so your checks will be electronically deposited to your account in your financial institution. Direct Deposit enrollment forms are available from the HMEPS office or you can download them directly from the Retirees section of the

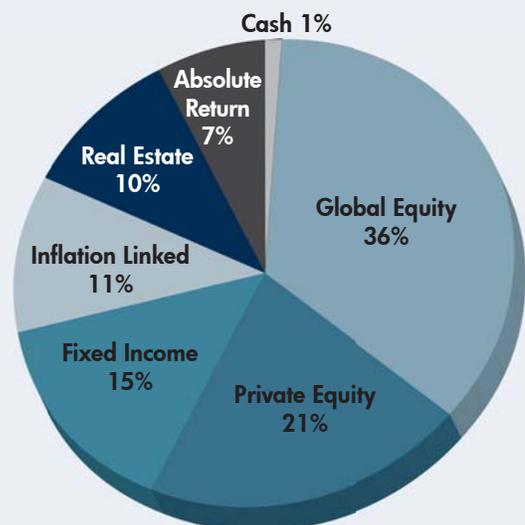
website (www.hmeps.org/retirees). HMEPS must be kept informed in writing of any changes in your home address after you retire, even if you use Direct Deposit, so periodic statements, news updates, and your form 1099-R can be mailed to you.

HMEPS Investment Update

Market Value by Asset Class

	June 30, 2017	March 31, 2017
Global Equity	\$ 929,406,306	\$ 873,531,583
Fixed Income	379,004,724	390,979,098
Real Estate	270,400,558	283,189,935
Inflation Linked	276,146,783	273,762,909
Private Equity	535,443,601	517,749,272
Absolute Return	183,944,725	182,433,174
Cash	26,641,812	32,952,763
Total	\$ 2,600,988,509	\$ 2,554,598,734

Asset Allocation as of June 30, 2017





Steve Waas, CFP®, EA
Manager of Policy and
Financial Planning

Harvey and Its Aftermath

The first major hurricane (Category 3 or above) to make landfall in the US since 2005 did everything it could to make up for the previous 12 years. In six days, Harvey dropped 27 trillion gallons of water in Texas and Louisiana, with Houston getting more than its fair share.

If you were lucky enough to escape major damage, now might be a good time to think about your disaster preparation strategy. Of course, it is inevitable that many things will be out of your control regarding situations like this. But there are things you do control, and some of them can make an important difference in critical moments.

Here are just a few items that you might want to consider or make note of.

- Many Houston area post offices were knocked out of action by the storm. Do you want to depend on the post office for the delivery of your pension check? If you haven't already done so, sign up for direct deposit of your pension payments.
- Do you know the elevation of your house, and how it compares to nearby landmarks? The website www.elevationmap.net is useful to make these determinations.
- You can monitor the status of nearby watersheds in Harris County through the website www.harriscountyfws.org. For other metro area counties, information is available in the online version of this newsletter at www.hmeps.org.
- Detailed information on road closures is available at: www.drivetexas.org.
- Centerpoint Energy has an “outage tracker” showing exactly where there are current power outages within their service area: http://gis.centerpointenergy.com/outagetracker/?WT.ac=OC_Image_Callout.
- What’s going on in your neighborhood? You might want to look into the private social network “Nextdoor.” (www.nextdoor.com). It won’t be much help if you don’t have cellphone service, of course. But in my neighborhood this app was very valuable in monitoring which parts of the neighborhood were getting flooded, and which were still dry. I used it in conjunction with the elevation maps mentioned above. There was also other helpful information such as which grocery stores were well stocked, or which restaurants were open.
- Of course, situations like Harvey spawn numerous rumors – many of which get repeated on social media. FEMA has a set up website called “Rumor Central” which can be helpful regarding rumors and common scams that they are aware of: <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4332/updates/rumor-control>.
- Finally, while you have been busy recovering from the storm, you may have missed the news that personal information about over 140 million Americans may have been stolen from the credit rating agency Equifax. Was your information compromised? Social security expert Laurence Kotlikoff is concerned that this breach could create problems for current and future social security recipients (<https://www.forbes.com/sites/kotlikoff/2017/09/10/has-equifax-just-jeopardized-your-and-143-million-other-americans-social-security-benefits/#460416f56f58>). For example, could someone with information stolen from Equifax use

(Con’t on Page 6)



The following article is from the Harris County Recovery Network website and can be found at <http://harrisrecovery.org/replacing-lost-or-damaged-documents>. HMEPS does not endorse any specific products or services.

Replacing Lost or Damaged Documents

After the Disaster: Replacing Lost or Damaged Documents

Disasters such as floods and tornadoes commonly result in the loss of important documents, but Texans who lost official and important papers have ways to replace them:

Financial

1. Bank Checks, ATM/Debit Cards, or Safe Deposit Boxes:

Phone: 877-275-3342

Website: www.fdic.gov

2. Credit Cards: Contact the issuing institution:

- American Express: 800-992-3404
https://online.americanexpress.com/myca/mobl/us/static.do?page=un_lorstorstolen
- Discover: 800-347-2683 discover.com/credit-cards/help-center/
- Master Card: 800-622-7747 mastercard.com/cgi-bin/emergserv.cgi
- Visa: 800-847-2911 usa.visa.com

3. Credit Reports: Equifax, Experian or TransUnion

Phone: 877-322-8228

Website: www.annualcreditreport.com

4. Fraud alerts or a credit freeze:

Phone: 877-438-4338

Website: <http://www.texasfightsidtheft.gov/>

5. Tax Returns:

Phone: 800-829-1040

Website: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f4506.pdf>

6. U.S. Savings Bonds:

Phone: 800-722-2678 or 800-553-2663

Website: <http://www.treasurydirect.gov/>

Insurance

1. Insurance Documents: Phone: Check with your own insurance agent

Website: <http://insurance.lawyers.com/natural-disasters/replacing-personal-documents-lost-in-a-disaster.html>

2. Medicare Cards:

Phone: 800-772-1213

Website: www.socialsecurity.gov/medicarecard/

Property

1. Real Estate and Property Records (Mortgage Documents, Deeds, etc.):

Phone: Contact your own agent

Website: <http://propertydeeds.org/lost-property-deed-replacement-procedure/>

2. Vehicle Titles:

Phone: 888-368-4689

Website: <http://txdmv.gov/motorists/buying-or-selling-a-vehicle/get-a-copy-of-your-title>

Identification (ID)

1. Birth and death certificates:

Phone: 888-963-7111

Website: <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/vs/reqproc/default.shtm>

2. Green Cards:

Phone: 800-375-5283

Website: <http://www.uscis.gov/green-card/after-green-card-granted/replace-green-card>

3. Medical and Prescription Records: Call your own doctor; medical and prescription records are tracked electronically.

4. Military Records:

Phone: 866-272-6272

Website: www.archives.gov/contact/

5. Passport:

Phone: 202-955-0430 or 1-877-487-2778

Website: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/passports/lost-stolen.html>

6. Replace a Texas Marriage Record or Certificate:

Website: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/vs/reqproc/Ordering-Marriage-and-Divorce-Verifications-Online.shtm>

Website: Issuing Clerk of Court <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/vs/field/localremotedistrict.shtm>

7. Social Security Card:

Phone: 800-772-1213

Website: www.ssa.gov

8. Texas Driver License:

Phone: 512-424-2600

Website: <https://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/replace.htm>

Government

1. Proof of Address/Residency:

Website: <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/internetforms/Forms/DL-57.pdf>

2. SNAP Card (Food Stamps):

Phone: 800-777-7328

Website: <https://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/providers/LoneStar/EBT/EBTHowto.html>

Other Important Information

1. National Archives Records:

Website: General <http://www.archives.gov/preservation/records-emergency/public.html>

Website: Saving family records <http://www.archives.gov/preservation/disaster-response/guidelines.html>



NOTE: FEMA and Harris County do not endorse any specific products or services.

EMBRACE CHANGE

YOUR LIFE DOES NOT GET
BETTER BY CHANCE -
IT GETS BETTER BY **CHANGE**

MONDAY, OCT. 16, 2017

**4501 LEELAND
THE LEARNING AND
DEVELOPMENT CENTER
9:00 AM TO 2:15 PM**

FRIDAY, OCT. 27, 2017

**6300 IRVINGTON
HARRIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION CONFERENCE CENTER
10:00 AM TO 2:15 PM**

**Presentations on pension,
deferred compensation and
social security benefits**

Register at:

www.2017fallsummit.eventbrite.com



Harvey and Its Aftermath *(Con't from Page 3)*

it to file for your social security benefits before you do? You might want to go to <https://www.equifaxsecurity2017.com> for more information.

Hopefully none of us will ever have to go through an experience like Harvey again. But now is a good time to think about how you might be able to make things easier for yourself in the future, just in case.

Steve Waas is a Certified Financial Planner and is available for individual meetings with participants. Steve also discusses financial topics in our newsletters to help participants better understand these important issues.

The information contained herein is general in nature and is not intended as legal, tax, or investment advice, and should not be used in any actual transaction without the advice and guidance of a professional tax advisor who is familiar with all the relevant facts. HMEPS assumes no obligation to inform any person of any changes in the tax law or other factors that could affect the information contained herein.

RETIREMENTS FIRST AND SECOND QUARTER 2017



Administration & Regulatory Affairs

Kusick, Maria
Vaughn, Kathy

Aviation

Brown, Rosalind
Garcia, Manuel
Guilbeaux, Tyrone
Hong, Seam
Ingersoll, Pamela
Mair, Christine
Pham, Rosemary
Reeves, Gussie
Rodriguez, Alba
Roethemeyer, Sandra
Samaniego, Jessie
Warren, Justice
Wright, Debra

Controller

Haiflich, Scott
Walter, Dinah

Convention & Entertainment

Coleman, Sheila
Elliott, Betty
Smyer, Thomas

Fleet

Brooks, Burgial
Clark, Darrell
Decker, Donald
Reingold, Nancy

General Services

Bautista, Humberto
Bush, Michael
Chapa, Jesse
Hughes, Mary
Riebeling, Robert
Taylor, Brian

Health & Human Services

Atkinson-Travis, Donna
Cole, Bernadine
Dufour, Gregory
Hickenbotham, Algia
Mitchell, Carolyn
Newman, Yvonne
Reed-Chenier, Betty

Houston Emergency Center

Allen, Seuwana
Dotson, Rosemary
Johnson, Patricia
Nalls, Sharon
Rawls, Shirley
Washington, Ylonda
Williams, Retta

Human Resources

Gomez, Maria
Potier, Donnetta
Roaches, Dorothy

Library

Beechler, Carol

Davis, Debra
Hiott, Judith
Hoffman, Mary
Robinson, Genevieve

Municipal Courts

Jackson, Constance
Sharpe, Sheri
Sills, Zandra

Neighborhoods

Benson, Adrienne
Hudson, James

Parks & Recreation

Barroso, Miguel
Brown, Faye
Ferguson, Tyler
Guerra-Sandoval, Vivian
Rankin, John
Thomas, Romelle
Tramble, Renae
Turner, William

Planning & Development

Nguyen, Thong

Police

Alexander, Emma
Ali, Juanita
Allee, Jerry
Arnic, Jacqueline
Arnic, Winfred
Banks, Edith

Bigger, Latonya
Christopher, Aaron
Ewell, David
Garmezy, Lisa
Hurts, Cheryl
Johnson, Patricia
Johnson, Myra
Julian, Mary
Luong, Lan Mac
Miller, James
Newchurch, Tarus
Parker, Angela
Robertson, Regina
Rodriguez, Rudy
Taylor, Cheryl
Washington, Willie

Public Works & Engineering

Ahmad, Zaki
Ayarzagoitia, Monica
Berry, Dwight
Biggs, Freddie
Cavazos, Enrique
Chukwu, Jeff
Coleman, Roosevelt
De Los Santos, Jaime
Debose, Julia
Duncan, Henry
Gray, Mishelle
Gray, Lottie
Hackett, Cornelius
Hale, Joe
Heiserman, Wilbur
Hodges, Ronald
Ibarra, Santiago
Jerez, Gerardo
Kelly, Connie

Lincoln, James
Lockett, Walter
Luedicke, Brian
McDonald, Kevin
McGee, Michael
Monroe, Jeffery
Moore, Lonnie
Petties, Reginald
Saied, Maher
Salazar, Esther
Schuster, Philip
Segui, Judy
Serna, Sergio
Sheppard, Ronald
Singleton, Londa
Smith, Mary
Smith, Freddie
Sonberg, Viveca
Sumpter, Erma
Teagle, Pamela
Tilotta, Anthony
Turner, Mildred
Ware, June
Welborn, Robert
Wesley, Dwight
Williams, Kenneth
Yin, Yi Dao

Solid Waste

Chapa, Juvenal
Delacruz, Isabel
Fuentes, Connie
Johnson, Charles
Lewis, Bradley
Manning, Michael
Powell, Sheray
Shipp, William
Terry, Robert

The Retirements section lists names and departments of those retiring participants who have indicated on their retirement applications that they wished to have an announcement of their retirement included.

PENSION PAYMENT SCHEDULE, OCTOBER 2017 - JANUARY 2018

This schedule indicates the dates set for payment of benefits. Direct Deposits (ACH) will be deposited on the last business day of each month. If you receive a pension check by mail, it is typically mailed 3-4 days before the last business day of the month. However, postal delays may lengthen the period of time before check delivery. Call HMEPS for information on signing up for direct deposit of your benefit.

- Tuesday, October 31, 2017
- Thursday, November, 30, 2017
- Friday, December 29, 2017
- Wednesday, January 31, 2018

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Houston Municipal Employees Pension System



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Peter Koops,
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Thanks to the HMEPS staff for their contributions to the ongoing success of the *Pension Press*.



HMEPS

HOUSTON MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES PENSION SYSTEM

NEWSLETTER CONTENT

The material contained in this newsletter is intended to provide you with important information about your pension participation. The content cannot be taken as the basis of any contractual rights between HMEPS and its participants. If there is a question of interpretation, retirement laws are the final authority.

HMEPS CONTACT INFORMATION

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Toll Free: 800-858-1450
Fax: 713-650-1961

HMEPS Website:
www.hmeps.org