

UNDERSTANDING THE ANNUAL MEMBER CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

Annual Member Contribution Statement For: _____
Years of Service as of: 6/30/2010

A

System: CASA GRANDE FIRE DEPARTMENT		<u>Not Yet</u>	<u>Already</u>					
		<u>Taxed</u>	<u>Taxed</u>	<u>Totals</u>				
Contributor Name:	Beginning Fiscal Balance:	\$48,234.77	\$0.00	\$48,234.77				
Social Security:	Member Contributions:	\$7,533.70	\$0.00	\$7,533.70				
Employer Code: 002	* Transfers/Buy Backs:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00				
Status: Active	Inter-System Transfer (Out):	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00				
Sex: M	Inter-System Transfer (In):	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00				
Birthdate:	Contribution Refund:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00				
Prior Service: 0.000	Transfer to Benefits:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00				
Service Date: 10/01/2001	Writeoffs:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00				
Termination Date:	Ending Fiscal Balance:	\$55,768.47	\$0.00	\$55,768.47				
Years of Service: 8.748	<i>For Informational Purposes Only</i>							
Beneficiary:	Cumulative Totals (as of 07/01/1994)							
Relationship:	* Transfers/Buy Backs:			\$0.00				
Target Writeoff Date:	<i>* May not be eligible for Enhanced Refunds</i>							
Remarks:								
Contributions Received this Fiscal Year								
<u>Pay Period</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Pay Period</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Pay Period</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Amount</u>
07/04/2009	11	\$240.48	07/18/2009	11	\$363.99	08/01/2009	11	\$349.33
08/15/2009	11	\$266.76	08/29/2009	11	\$240.52	09/12/2009	11	\$398.72
09/26/2009	11	\$267.53	10/10/2009	11	\$200.65	10/24/2009	11	\$391.77
11/07/2009	11	\$198.59	11/21/2009	11	\$440.39	12/05/2009	11	\$247.98
12/19/2009	11	\$261.35	01/02/2010	11	\$288.36	01/16/2010	11	\$267.53
01/30/2010	11	\$386.37	02/13/2010	11	\$187.27	02/27/2010	11	\$343.16
03/13/2010	11	\$251.32	03/27/2010	11	\$326.18	04/10/2010	11	\$262.90
04/24/2010	11	\$265.21	05/08/2010	11	\$237.43	05/22/2010	11	\$217.62
06/05/2010	11	\$325.41	06/19/2010	11	\$306.88			

With the close of fiscal year 2010, our Active Members department will be sending out annual member contribution statements to local boards electronically. Once received, local boards should be doing two things:

- First, maintain a copy of each member's statement within the member's file maintained by your board. If you don't currently have a file, we recommend you create one and a retention schedule for it.

- Next, boards should distribute a copy of these statements to each of their participating members according to the board's policy and procedures. **The system does not mail copies directly to members.**

Please note that members do have access to their contribution history at anytime, by utilizing our **Members Only** secured site.

For more information, please visit our website www.psprs.com

Contribution statements can provide members a snap shot of their current service record here at the system, as well as provide a record of contributions submitted for the fiscal year. An example of the annual contribution statement is provided here. Members should pay special attention to the beneficiary we currently show on record.

For more information on any of the topics found in this newsletter or to download copies of our previous newsletters please visit our website at www.psprs.com

But what does the information on this document mean? First the information on the top left pertains to the member's identification and service. The member's date of membership is noted, along with any prior service either transferred or redeemed as of June 30th. The member's overall service is calculated on their statement and this information can assist members in determining when they're eligible for retirement.

The right hand side of the document shows cumulative contribution totals. All contributions submitted including service purchase contributions will be included in these totals. The first line shows the totals at the beginning of the fiscal year. All the other lines would be contribution transactions that occurred in the fiscal year. So, if a member completed a service purchase in the fiscal year then those contributions dollars would be noted on the line **Transfers/ Buy Backs**. All regular contributions made during the fiscal year are noted on the **Member Contributions** line. You will also notice that the contributions are separated as either **Not Yet Taxed** or **Already Taxed**. This comes into play when determining taxability of a members benefit at retirement.

Finally, the bottom portion is the breakdown of contributions submitted throughout the fiscal year by pay period. Members and even local boards should review this information to ensure that contributions were submitted correctly.

Should any discrepancies be discovered with the information noted on the statement, we recommend that members, employers or local boards get in contact with our Active Members department.



PSPRS CANCER INSURANCE PREMIUMS

All PSPRS participating employers should have received their annual invoice on premiums due for the cancer insurance program. This program and the premiums associated with it are mandated by statute and must be paid on or before **August 31st 2010** to avoid any penalties.

As noted in the May newsletter, premiums were reduced this year and enhancements were made to the entire program. For more information on this program and the benefits available to PSPRS members, please contact Annette Jorgensen or Stacey Alcott (602-255-5575) here at the system. Members can also learn more by visiting our website.

PSPRS LAUNCHES UPDATED MEMBERS ONLY SECURE SITE

Our **Members Only** site has recently been redeveloped, in order to make member information more easily accessible to both our active contributing members as well as our retired members. The site has been launched and is now available to our members. This site provides a wealth of information and is available at anytime of the day via our website: www.psprs.com.

Information available to our **Active** members includes:

- Contribution history
- Beneficiary Information
- If a participant in DROP, access to their Estimated DROP Schedule

Information available to our **Retired** members includes:

- Copies of monthly direct deposit notices
- Copies of 1099 tax information
- Pension profile information

We urge all our boards to get the word out to their membership that this valuable resource is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Upcoming Training:

Northern Region Local Board Seminar

When: Wednesday August 25th, 2010 9:00 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

Where: Flagstaff City Council Chambers
211 W. Aspen Ave., Flagstaff, AZ

To register, please email Robert Ortega rortega@psprs.com.

Local Board Webinar

Topic: Legislative Update

When: Wednesday August 11th, 2010 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. (New Date!)

Interested individuals can register by logging onto the PSPRS website: www.psprs.com

L'il Ronnie's Corner

"More Disability Woes"

This month I would like to talk about two common issues that local boards have to deal with that relate to disabilities. One is determining if the disabling injury a member is applying for was a result of a job-related issue or not. The other is making a determination on the timeliness of the job related injury and the disability retirement application.

Assume a board was in the review process and was close to granting the accidental disability application of a member. There was a lot of medical evidence including an industrial claim that had been approved that found the member had a permanent injury—so it seems easy so far, right? However, just prior to making a final determination, the board found out that the member's injury was the result of a traffic accident that occurred when the member was on the way to work.

Yes, industrial covers injuries that occur while a member is on the way to or from work but the pension law does not. Remember industrial laws and the outcomes of industrial claims have no bearing on pension law and a board's final determination. Therefore the application was denied. Why? Because on the way to work makes it a non-job related injury per the pension statutes.

But what if... A member is on his or her way to work and they stop to get a soda at Circle K and walk in on an armed robbery and the member is injured in a gun fight or while arresting the bad guy? Then yes, an on duty injury occurred. When the member became involved as a crime fighter, the member is considered to be on duty and injuries become job related.

There was also the case of a member who had been involved in a traumatic event over 20 years prior to submitting an application for an accidental disability for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The member had been treated by doctors for a number of years, but a good portion of the medical evidence referred to these treatments as being for family problems. Board members need to be sure to review all of the medical evidence prior to having a meeting on the record. I strongly suggest that the board secretary send all of the medical information out at last one week prior to the board meeting.

Of course, an accidental disability pension is tax-exempt and as a result, is certainly highly sought after. In this situation, my first question would be to the employer and member, "So the member has been working in a full duty capacity for 20 years with no problem, but now for some reason the doctor thinks the member can no longer perform in a full duty position? WHY?" I hate to say this, but doctors sometimes want to make the patients happy and in "some" cases I have seen them write exactly what the patient tells them with no medical foundation whatsoever. I'm sorry but we all have personal problems and they may revolve around the job but they certainly do not qualify a person for a disability retirement. These types of applications will certainly test your ability to do the right thing by law.

If you do not conduct your due diligence you may end up granting benefits that the member does not qualify for. Become familiar with the standards for all the types of disabilities and read all of the medical and related evidence.

I know this is a lot of information to digest and that's why I give you my direct phone number so you can call me anytime to ask questions and for clarification.

Remember, if you hear any rumors please call me for the facts. Be safe.

L'il Ronnie

Contact Ron at 602-361-0803 or littletonnie@mac.com if you need some help, a visit or training. We are here to serve you.