



Why you should care about voting in the IMRF Board of Trustees election

by Jennifer Chess, *Fundamentals* Newsletter Editor

For some of you, this newsletter looks a little different. This is IMRF's "Board of Trustees election" issue. I'd like to take a few minutes explain why you should take the time to read about your Board election and cast your ballots.

IMRF is governed by an eight-member Board of Trustees. Three are elected by actively participating IMRF members like you, four by IMRF employers, and one by IMRF annuitants (retirees). The IMRF Board remains the only public pension fund board in Illinois that is fully elected by its membership; IMRF has no government-appointed trustees.

Trustees are elected in five-year staggered terms. Partial terms can occur when a Trustee is no longer eligible or able to complete the duties of their term of office (for example, no longer working in an IMRF-participating position).

What does the IMRF Board do—and why should you care?

Ultimately, the Board is responsible for prudent management of IMRF's approximately \$21 billion in assets, and for making sure the money is there to pay the benefits earned by every IMRF member—that includes you—now and for years to come.

Their responsibilities range from approving IMRF's Strategic Plan to setting budgets and approving employer contribution rates (an important issue for employers struggling to balance their budgets). The IMRF Board also

maintains independent investment authority, and must adhere to a rigorous ethics policy that reflects its obligations as fiduciaries, the highest standard of care under the law.

In short, the Board carries all responsibility to ensure that IMRF continues to be a well-run, successful pension fund.

Voter participation poor

The last time IMRF conducted an Employee Trustee election was in 2005; we also conducted an Annuitant Trustee and Executive (Employer) Trustee election that same year. Only 9.5% (about 16,000 out of 177,000) of eligible members voted. In contrast, 30% of retirees and more than 45% of

employers cast ballots.

In fact, in the last ten Employee Trustee elections, the number of returned ballots has gradually declined almost every election.

Why bother voting?

Why should you vote for your Employee Trustees? The simplest reason is this: **the IMRF Board is your Board**. To be effective it needs an important element—the support of the members it represents.

I ask that you take a few minutes to read pages three through five of this newsletter and cast your ballots in the 2009 IMRF Board of Trustees election

Thanks. ❖

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Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats!



Louis W. Kosiba
IMRF Executive Director

Have you ever participated in an exercise known as SWOT? If not, would you like to do so now?

SWOT analysis is typically undertaken as part of a company's or unit of government's strategic planning process.

Strategic planning is a formal process of setting goals and priorities. It's not enough to be doing things right. It requires asking and answering, "Are we doing the right things?" For example, you may be driving your car perfectly (doing things right), but you need to have a destination in mind to be effective and successful (doing the right things) or you're just driving in circles. Where do you want to go? How do you plan to get there?

What is a SWOT analysis used for?

SWOT analysis is one tool in developing a strategic plan. The aim is to identify key internal and external factors important for an organization to achieve its mission and vision.

IMRF's mission statement is found in our governing statute: "To efficiently and impartially develop, implement, and administer programs that provide income protection to members and their beneficiaries on behalf of participating employers in a prudent manner."

IMRF's vision was developed by the Board of Trustees: "To provide the highest quality retirement

services to our members, their beneficiaries and employers."

Tell us what you think

With those in mind, we would like to hear from you. When you consider IMRF as an organization which will some day provide you with retirement benefits, what do **you** think are IMRF's unique strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats?

Strengths: This is something you believe is an asset; or something you believe we do well. Examples can be an independent (elected) Board of Trustees or the constitutional guarantee your benefits will be paid.

Weaknesses: This includes IMRF defects or faults. Examples may be the difficulty IMRF has in passing/opposing legislation or the complexity of our benefits.

Opportunities: These include good chances for advancement or progress. Examples would be continuing education through member programs or changes to the member website.

Threats: Things which can damage IMRF. Examples include stock market crashes, or poor public policies regarding retirement savings.

So as you consider the services we provide you, please take the time to share your perspective with me by writing. I look forward to hearing from you. ❖

Please mail your thoughts to:

IMRF, Attention: Louis Kosiba, 2211 York Road, Suite 500, Oak Brook, IL 60523-2337,
or email your comments to louiskosiba-executivedirector@imrf.org

2009 Employee Trustee Election: Vote for your IMRF Board Representatives

If you participated in IMRF during the month of September 2009, you are entitled to vote in two elections for IMRF Employee Trustees: one five-year term of office, from January 1, 2010, through December 31, 2014; and one one-year term of office, from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010.

If you are eligible to vote in this election, included in this election packet you will find:

- This newsletter, which includes ballot instructions and candidate biographies
- A ballot for the five-year term of office
- A ballot for the one-year term of office
- A postage-paid return envelope

How to complete the ballots

Step 1

Complete your ballots using a black or blue ink pen or black lead pencil.

You will vote for one candidate for the five-year term of office and one candidate for the one-year term of office. Completely fill in the circle in front of the names of the candidates you wish to vote for. See the sample below.

Want to know more about your candidates? **Candidate biographies are included on pages four and five of this newsletter.**

Write-in candidates: You may vote for an employee who is participating in IMRF, has at least eight years of IMRF service credit, and who is not shown on the ballot by printing his or her name in the space provided and filling in the oval in front of that line.

Step 2

After you complete both ballots, place them in the enclosed return addressed envelope and sign the envelope Certificate before sealing.

For your vote to count, you must sign the Certificate on the return envelope. The Illinois Pension Code requires this certification for each ballot to certify that you are a participating member in IMRF and are eligible to vote. The folded-over flap on the return envelope will prevent your signature from being visible once it is sealed.

Envelopes with a blank Certificate will not have the ballot removed and the vote will not be counted. An outside tabulating agency opens the envelopes and immediately separates the ballots. At no time is your voted ballot identified with your signed Certificate.

Fill in the circle completely

You can use pen or pencil

Do **not** use a red pen or pencil

DO NOT check or "x" the circles



YES



NO

NO

Five-year term of office *(one candidate)*

This term will run from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2014.

Vote for one candidate for this position.

Natalie Copper

440 Dodge Avenue
Evanston, Illinois 60202

Present Position — School-age Child Care Site-coordinator for Dawes School in Evanston School District 65.

Length of Service — With this employer since 1982; in this position since 1993 to present.

Duties — I am the Site-coordinator of a school-age childcare program within School District 65. The program is host to children from kindergarten through fifth grade. I supervise a staff of three; it is my responsibility to ensure that all agency (DCFS and USDA) regulations are followed. My supervisor is Pete Noznick, School-age Childcare Assistant Coordinator. I am also the Dawes School lunchroom supervisor. I supervise a staff of six employees. It is my responsibility to ensure that all playgrounds are adequately supervised, sanitation requirements are being followed, and all children have received a lunch. My supervisor is Karen Bradley, Dawes School Principal. Most importantly within both programs are that the children are in a safe and happy environment.

Other Pertinent Information — I have been invested in IMRF for over 20 years. Someday I will join the ranks of the retired and IMRF will be my primary source of income. I am committed to seeing that IMRF remains a viable pension system for over 80,000+ public school employees. I also want to ensure that IMRF benefits are protected, enhanced; and remain the same level of benefits for all; present and future, who rely on them. I am devoted to preserving the funding mechanism of the system and its political independence. I believe IMRF provides first class service and always attempts to stay relevant and sensitive to the needs of active participants and annuitants.

Vote for one candidate for the one-year term and one candidate for the five-year term *(instructions on back)* no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, December 4, 2009. Envelopes received after that time will not be counted.

One-year term of office *(two candidates)*

This partial term will run from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010.

Vote for one candidate for this position.

Max F. Bochmann

203 W. Hillside
Naperville, Illinois 60540

Present Position — School bus operator with Naperville Community Unit School District #203, DuPage and Will Counties.

Length of Service — I have 36 years of service credit all with what is now Naperville's Unit District 203.

Duties — From 1968 to 1972 I served as an hourly route driver. From 1975 to 2006 I was a full time mechanic with the fleet maintenance facility, involving both inventory control and driver training. In May of 2006 I returned to route driver status.

Other Pertinent Information — I am the incumbent, having served the Fund as Trustee since January 2000, and am seeking re-election. I am the recommended candidate of IEA and AFSCME, and have significant experience representing employee interests at local, state, and national levels. My highest priorities continue to be maintaining our Board's independence, protecting and growing the assets of the Fund, and preserving our funding structure.

Dennis Carroll

37W755 Route 38
St. Charles, Illinois 60175

Present Position — Deputy Sheriff for Kane County Sheriff's Office.

Length of Service — In this position and with this employer since 1994 to present.

Duties — I am a sworn Deputy Sheriff with the Kane County Sheriff's Office in Saint Charles, Illinois and am currently assigned to the Patrol Division and have previously served as Detective. I have been an IMRF member and covered under the Sheriff's Law Enforcement Personnel (SLEP) plan under IMRF since 1994.

Other Pertinent Information — I have a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice Management and I am pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Safety Administration. I have been elected to the Union President position four times serving a total of eight years as Union President of the union representing the sworn and civilian members of the Sheriff's Office.

I am a veteran having served in the Army Reserves for 14 years as an Intelligence and Imagery Analyst and have served overseas.

I am seeking this position on the IMRF Board to ensure that IMRF maintains its sound fiscal and funding status for all of its members. I would like to bring more awareness of the IMRF system and benefits to all IMRF members. IMRF members, particularly SLEP members under IMRF, need more input and awareness of this very important pension system. I would strive to have every IMRF member better understand their benefits and be more involved in their pension system.

n page 3). Mail both completed ballots in the same envelope. Voted ballots must be received by IMRF
at that date and time will not be opened and the enclosed ballots will not be counted.

IMRF legislation signed into law

Nine bills relating to IMRF (including the pension ethics bill signed earlier this year) have been signed into law by the governor. Most of the legislation will not affect a majority of our membership directly. You can read updates of these legislative changes at www.imrf.org. However, two of the new Public Acts will impact IMRF members who work for school districts:

P.A. 96-0357: Paid leave for school district employees serving as an IMRF Trustee

Effective August 16, 2009

New Law: Each school board that employs an employee who is an elected Trustee of IMRF must provide that employee at least 20 days of paid leave of absence per year to attend Board meetings, Board committee meetings, and seminars regarding Board issues. *Please note: IMRF already reimburses employers for a trustee's salary, Social Security, and IMRF contributions for time spent attending Board meetings and performing duties on behalf of IMRF.*

P.A. 96-0299: Cumulative sick leave service credit for school district employees

Effective August 11, 2009

New Law: Members retiring from a school district may qualify for a maximum of one year of additional service credit for unused, unpaid sick leave accumulated with any prior school district employer. The effective date of the member's pension must still be within 60 days of the member's termination date.

Members currently participating with a school district and who have unused, unpaid sick leave with prior school district employers will be required to provide contemporaneous evidence of the unused, unpaid sick leave from any previous employers.

Get updates on IMRF legislation

To see updates anytime on legislation that could affect your IMRF benefits, visit the Legislative area of www.imrf.org and click on "Pending Legislation." If you have questions on this or any other legislation, call an IMRF Member Services Representative at 1-800-ASK-IMRF.

Smooth the road to retirement by attending a Retirement Planning workshop

IMRF's Field Service Representatives conduct "Planning for Your Future" workshops throughout Illinois. There is no charge for IMRF members and spouses to attend the workshops, although registration is required.

Start times are listed with each workshop below. *Regular* IMRF workshops are scheduled for 2-1/2 hours. *Expanded* IMRF workshops are scheduled for 3-1/2 hours.

—Indicates Expanded IMRF workshop, which includes a Social Security speaker in addition to IMRF information

Register for workshops or benefit reviews online at www.imrf.org, or call Donna Cesario, Field Services Meeting Planner at 630-706-4536

Thurs., Nov. 5, 6:00 p.m.
Homewood

Sat., Nov. 7, 9:00 a.m.
Carlyle

Sat., Nov. 21, 9:00 a.m.
Bolingbrook

Fri., Nov. 6, 9:00 a.m.
Decatur 

Sat., Nov. 14, 9:00 a.m.
Springfield

Sat., Dec 12, 9:00 a.m.
Tinley Park

Have questions after your workshop? Learn more at a Personal Benefit Review

Personal benefit reviews are:

- Brief, 15-minute one-on-one meetings with an IMRF Field Representative.
- Perfect for members who have already attended a "Planning for Your Future" workshop and who still have account-specific questions or issues.

Think a Personal Benefit Review is for you?

Once you schedule a session, make sure you request a pension estimate online or by calling 1-800-ASK-IMRF and bring it to your Personal Benefit Review.

Please note: The time ranges listed below indicate the time the Field Representative will be available to schedule appointments in 15-minute increments. Please be on time for your scheduled session.

Thurs., Nov. 5, 1-4 p.m.
Waterloo

Wed., Nov. 18, 9 a.m.–Noon
East Peoria

Wed., Nov. 18, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
Carlyle

Wed., Dec 2, 5 -9 p.m.
Decatur

These are the remainder of the workshops and other sessions scheduled for 2009. Keep an eye out at www.imrf.org or in the first 2010 newsletter for more dates and locations.

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"Planning for Your Future" retirement workshop schedule



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www.imrf.org

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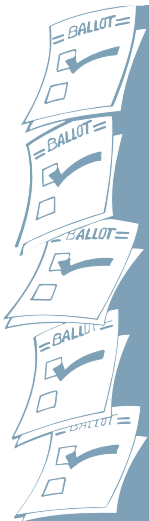
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2009 Trustee Election Candidate Biographies inside!

Turn to pages four and five of this newsletter to read the biography for each Employee Trustee candidate and for instructions to complete the ballots included in this mailing if you are eligible to vote. Then, make your vote count by returning the enclosed ballots to IMRF in the envelope provided.

Don't forget to vote today!