



A call to action for individuals, families, and communities

2010: The Year of the Engaged Older Adult

On December 10, 2009, Gov. Pat Quinn detailed plans for a year-long campaign to encourage older adults to engage in community activities. The campaign, *2010: The Year of the Engaged Older Adult*, is a call to action for individuals, families, and communities to boost learning, strengthen the workforce, and enrich community life by encouraging adults ages 50 and older to lend their expertise to these areas.

The announcement was made during the opening session of the annual Governor's Conference on Aging.

"This program will expand our efforts to strengthen communities across Illinois," said Gov. Quinn.

"The initiative will help increase the number of seniors who participate in volunteer activities in Illinois, allowing them to contribute their talents and expertise to benefit their communities," he added.

Illinois Department on Aging Director Charles D. Johnson is leading the statewide initiative with the support of an advisory team.

"Our goal is to work with individuals, organizations and networks to promote civic engagement," Johnson said.

"We appreciate Governor Quinn's challenge to our citizens ages 50 years and older to engage in activities that boost education, strengthen the workforce, and enrich community life."

This statewide initiative started when Illinois was selected to participate in the



National Governors Association *Policy Academy on Civic Engagement of Older Adults*. It is designed to improve the health and lives of older Americans and increase their involvement in service, learning, and work.

"Our goal is to engage citizens, especially those ages 50 and older, and tap their talents to benefit others," Johnson said.

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From the Executive Director

IMRF receives Lincoln Foundation Bronze Award



Louis W. Kosiba
IMRF Executive Director

Since becoming Executive Director in July 2001, the IMRF Board of Trustees and I have developed a clear vision for staff: to provide the highest quality retirement service to our members, their beneficiaries and employers.

Values have been adopted to govern our actions. Those include: accuracy; accountability; respect; empathy; honesty; and, courage. IMRF goals are set which are meaningful and which require the organization to stretch. We work to be an excellent customer service organization.

In 2008, IMRF staff became aware of the Lincoln Foundation for Performance Excellence that works to assist private and public sector organizations in achieving excellence in their operations. In 2009, IMRF applied for a Lincoln Foundation Award for Excellence. Organizations applying need to demonstrate competency in a variety of areas including leadership; strategic planning; customer focus; measurement, analysis & knowledge management; workforce focus (staff development); process management; and, results (trends and how we compare with similar organizations).

IMRF is proud to announce that in recognition of its commitment to improving our management systems and processes, we earned a 2009 Lincoln Foundation Bronze Award for Commitment to Excellence. IMRF was one of only four organizations to be recognized by the Lincoln Foundation last year.

In a letter dated January 14, 2010, Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn said in part: "I offer my

appreciation to each of you (the four award recipients) for your hard work and terrific leadership. With a commitment to continuous improvement, you have shown that you can compete and thrive... and you serve as positive models for companies around the country..." In March 2010, we anticipate the General Assembly will recognize our achievement by passing a congratulatory resolution.

IMRF has long prided itself on the service it provides its membership and its commitment to innovation and change. By receiving the Bronze Award, IMRF has received an independent third party confirmation that our efforts are leading to excellence. IMRF does not view the current award as an end to our search for excellence, but rather a first step. We hope to grow and evolve into a role model for others.

I hope you can take pride in knowing your IMRF is an award winning organization! ❖

"IMRF has long prided itself on the service it provides its membership and its commitment to innovation and change."

Q Why are pensions under attack?

Q & A You may have read recent news stories criticizing public pension benefits. Often these stories perpetuate a misperception that public workers earn extravagant retirement benefits at an unfair cost to taxpayers.

In reality, the average pension paid to an IMRF member retiring in 2008 was a modest \$1,248 a month—hardly extravagant.

In addition, over the long-term, investment returns are the largest contributor to IMRF. If we look at 1978 through 2009, employers (i.e., municipal tax dollars) account for approximately 27% of IMRF income.

IMRF believes the core elements of public pension plan design provide a sustainable path toward retirement security for current and future generations of workers.

The basic elements of public sector defined benefit plans not only continue to be relevant, but serve as a model—**by providing a sound, sustainable and modest income replacement for life.** ❖

IMRF believes in the preservation of traditional pensions, and that every American should have a secure retirement.

13th Payment coming in July

The supplemental benefit payment, also known as the “13th Payment,” is paid to eligible retired members (or to their surviving spouses) every July.

You should receive your 2010 supplemental benefit payment by July 15, after you have received your usual July payment.

We *estimate* the amount of your 2010 13th Payment will be approximately 52% of your June benefit payment amount.

Financial Corner

Many of you have expressed interest in keeping up to date with IMRF’s financial and investment information. Starting with this newsletter, every *Fundamentals* will include current financial information as of the time the newsletter has gone to press.

Current Financial Snapshot*

- 2009 Investment Return: 24.5%
- 2009 Benchmark Return: 19.82%
- 2009 Investment Income: \$4.4 billion
- December 31, 2009 Funded Status: 81.4% (on a market basis)

* *Amounts are preliminary and unaudited; final numbers will be published in your next Fundamentals along with information from the 2009 Annual Financial Report.*

85% of retired municipal workers remain in Illinois and plow their retirement dollars back into the state's economy.

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Activities will be planned across the state to engage older adults in service, learning, and work. The purpose is to:

- Highlight the tradition of service by reporting the stories of older generations.
- Increase participation in service across generations.
- Publicize and communicate to local communities the ways generations support one another.
- Emphasize the importance of each citizen's contribution.
- Demonstrate how Illinoisans 50+ strengthen the economy.

Become actively involved

Being active and involved with others is important to aging in a healthy way. One way to get involved is to share your time and knowledge with others by volunteering.

If you'd like to find some volunteer opportunities, visit the website www.serve.illinois.gov to locate opportunities near you and in your areas of interest.

Read below for additional ideas about how you can support *2010: The Year of the Engaged Older Adult*. ❖



Generations Serving Generations

Jane Angelis is the Director of the Intergenerational Initiative at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, and serves as the Project Director for *2010: The Year of the Engaged Older Adult*. The website *Generations Serving Generations* (www.law.siu.edu/GenServeGen) includes the following ideas on how individuals can become involved in *2010: The Year of the Engaged Older Adult*:

Celebrating the Year of the Engaged Older Adult: Five Things Individuals Can Do

- Gather local stories about older adults, their achievements, history, and traditions of service. Highlight these stories and the lessons learned through discussion groups, meeting agendas, and learning programs.
- Inform others about the "Year of the Engaged Older Adult" through word-of-mouth and on the Internet.
- Connect with a service opportunity that interests you.
- When addressing community problems, involve younger and older generations.
- Ask a friend or someone of another generation to join you in service.

Trustee Election Information

2009 Election Results

This past fall, IMRF members voted for one Employee Trustee for a partial term of office and for one Employee Trustee for a five-year term of office. These results were certified by IMRF's Board of Trustees at its December 18, 2009, Board meeting.

- **Partial term of office**

Max F. Bochmann was elected to a partial term of office as an Employee Trustee. Mr. Bochmann has served on the IMRF Board since 2000. This partial term of office will run from January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2010.

- **Five-year term of office**

Natalie Copper was elected to a five-year term of office. Ms. Copper will begin her first term of office as an Employee Trustee. This term will run from January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2014.

2010 Election

In the fall of 2010, IMRF will hold an election for one Executive Trustee position, two Employee Trustee positions, and the Annuitant Trustee position.

Each of these positions is for a five-year term of office.

Details of these upcoming elections will be published on our website and in future *Fundamentals* newsletters.

Celebrate lifelong learning at a Retiree Workshop!

We are pleased to continue our partnership with the University of Illinois Extension, and we are offering the following workshops in 2010:

FIT WITS

FIT WITS (Fostering Improved Thinking While Incorporating Training Strategies) is a new program developed by the U of I Extension, and in some ways can be considered a sequel to *Building a Better Memory*; however, **it is not necessary to have attended *Building a Better Memory* in order to enjoy *FIT WITS*.**


FIT WITS includes more specific information on brain health, and more hands-on exercises to give your brain a workout during the workshop.

So whether you already attended *Building a Better Memory* and are interested in learning more about brain health and memory exercises, or if you missed out on *Building a Better Memory* and would like to learn about this topic, this workshop is for you!

Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate?

Almost all individuals have valued personal belongings. In this workshop, you will have the chance to explore ways to talk with family members about the difficult subject of distributing family items with emotional and sentimental value, while still keeping relationships intact.

If you are interested in learning how to communicate with family members about sensitive issues such as this, consider attending this valuable workshop.


Turn the page for the 2010 workshop schedule and registration information.

FIT WITS: Fostering Improved Thinking While Incorporating Training Strategies

Morning workshop—all workshops start at 10:00 a.m.

Workshop is approximately 90 minutes long, depending upon amount of audience participation

June	July	August
Wednesday, June 2nd Joliet	Thursday, July 1st Dundee	Tuesday, August 3rd Rockford
Wednesday, June 9th Moline	Thursday, July 8th Kankakee	Tuesday, August 10th Carbondale
Wednesday, June 16th Mount Vernon	Tuesday, July 13th Naperville	Thursday, August 12th Champaign
Monday, June 21st Quincy	Wednesday, July 21st Belleville	Tuesday, August 17th Peoria
Tuesday, June 22nd Springfield	Thursday, July 22nd Effingham	Thursday, August 19th Northbrook
Tuesday, June 29th Skokie	Tuesday, July 27th Libertyville	Tuesday, August 24th Oak Brook

Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate?

Afternoon workshop—all workshops start at 2:00 p.m.

Workshop is approximately 60-90 minutes long, depending upon amount of audience participation

June	July	August
Wednesday, June 2nd Joliet	Thursday, July 1st Dundee	Tuesday, August 3rd Rockford
Wednesday, June 9th Moline	Thursday, July 8th Kankakee	Tuesday, August 10th Carbondale
Wednesday, June 16th Mount Vernon	Tuesday, July 13th Naperville	Thursday, August 12th Champaign
Monday, June 21st Quincy	Wednesday, July 21st Belleville	Tuesday, August 17th Peoria
Tuesday, June 22nd Springfield	Thursday, July 22nd Effingham	Thursday, August 19th Northbrook
Tuesday, June 29th Skokie	Tuesday, July 27th Libertyville	Tuesday, August 24th Oak Brook

See page five for a description of each workshop topic

We are trying out a different workshop format this year—we are offering both workshop topics **on the same day**. *FIT WITS* will be offered in the morning, and *Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate* will be offered in the afternoon.

You can mix and match registration how you like: sign up for only one workshop, for both workshops on the same day, or both workshops on different days, whatever works best for your schedule. (Please note that if you attend both workshops on the same day, **lunch is on your own**.)

Registration is required, and you should register as soon as possible—workshops fill up quickly. Workshops are **free** for IMRF retirees or beneficiaries, and a guest of your choice!

Four easy ways to register!

Use whichever method you prefer to register for one workshop **OR** for both!

- **Online** — Sign up through your Secure Member Access account (visit www.imrf.org to sign up for an account if you don't already have one).
- **By phone** — Call **1-630-706-4536** (or 1-800-275-4673) to reach Donna Cesario, Field Services Meeting Planner.
- **By mail** — Fill out the form below and mail it to: Donna Cesario, Field Services Meeting Planner, IMRF, 2211 York Road, Suite 500, Oak Brook, IL 60523-2337. (You can use one form to register for one or both workshops.)
- **By Fax** — You can also fax your registration to 630-368-5397.

Specific workshop locations and addresses will be mailed to you with your registration confirmation.

Check box if registering for: <input type="checkbox"/> FIT WITS	Workshop Date:	Workshop Location (city):	Number attending:
Check box if registering for: <input type="checkbox"/> Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate	Workshop Date:	Workshop Location (city):	Number attending:

IMRF Retiree or Beneficiary Name:

IMRF Retiree or Beneficiary Social Security Number:
(last 4 digits only)

X X X _ X X _ _ _ _

Daytime Phone Number:

Mailing Address:

City:

Zip:

What can Member Access do for you?

Sign up for a secure, online, IMRF Member Access account! With a secure Member Access account, you can:

- View your pension payment history
- View beneficiary information, including death benefits
- View annual 1099R tax forms
- Change your contact information (including your address)
- Register for retiree workshops

Your secure Member Access account is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To sign up, visit our website at www.imrf.org and click on the "Member Access" link at the top left of the page.



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Retiree Workshop schedule

Considering a return to work?

Don't risk losing your pension! Call 1-800-ASK-IMRF *before* you return to work for any IMRF employer.

Fundamentals

is published four times a year for retired IMRF members.
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1-800-ASK-IMRF (1-800-275-4673) *IMRF does not endorse any outside agencies mentioned in this newsletter unless specifically stated.*
www.imrf.org

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