Terms and conditions of office

In November, IMRF members will elect one Employee Trustee for a five-year term. The five-year term of office will run from January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2024.

Nominating procedures—petitions

Please have your members use IMRF’s form of petition. Each page of the petition should contain the information listed at the top of the petition. The petition may be photocopied, and the pages may be circulated separately.

The petition must have at least 350 signatures of IMRF members who must have participated in IMRF during July 2019. This includes members on seasonal leave, but not retired members. IMRF will verify signatures on the nominating petitions. Signatures of employees who do not participate in IMRF (such as teachers, police officers when there is a local police fund, or employees who work less than the hourly standard) will not be counted.

Once IMRF verifies that a candidate has submitted 350 valid signatures, we will advise the candidate that he or she does not need to submit any additional petitions.

The petition explains the nominating procedures for Employee Trustee. Petitions will be accepted in the IMRF Oak Brook and Springfield offices between August 1, 2019, and the close of business at 4:30 PM CST, September 16, 2019. Mail, hand deliver, scan and email (IMRFTrusteeElection@imrf.org), or fax (630-706-4656) the completed petitions to IMRF, ATTN: IMRF Trustee Petitions.

If you scan the petitions and email them to IMRF or if you fax the petitions to IMRF, please call IMRF at 1-800-ASK-IMRF (275-4673) to confirm that they were sent.

The State Officials and Employees Ethics Act includes prohibitions against political activity during work hours. It is our opinion that these prohibitions do not apply to elections for the IMRF Board of Trustees. Gathering IMRF member signatures and other activities of running for the IMRF Board are not included in prohibited political activity regulated by the Act.

On September 18, 2019, formal notice will be sent to all candidates who submitted nominating petitions informing them whether they will be on the ballot. Employee Trustee candidates will also be provided the names of the other candidates at that time.

Qualifications

Any IMRF member who participates in IMRF and is vested in IMRF as of December 31, 2019, is eligible to be nominated. (Vesting requirements: Tier 1 members must have at least eight years of IMRF service credit; Tier 2 members must have at least 10 years of IMRF service credit.) If a member has accepted a refund of contributions (and has not reinstated the refund), the service is forfeited and does not count toward the vesting requirement.

Employee Trustee ballots

The Winter Fundamentals newsletter, which will contain candidates’ biographies, will be mailed with the ballots for the Employee Trustee election. The newsletters and ballots will be mailed to members’ homes on October 30, 2019. IMRF must receive the voted ballots by the close of business at 4:30 PM CST, December 6, 2019.

New Trustee orientation

It is critical for the sound governance of IMRF that Trustees be fully informed with regard to IMRF’s nature, purposes, structure, operational systems, and processes. To that end, newly elected Trustees will participate in an in-depth New Trustee Orientation Program designed to fully inform them of IMRF’s key functions and their responsibilities as Trustee. The Program is more fully described in the IMRF Board Candidate Packet, available in the Board of Trustees area of the IMRF website.

The Candidate Packet also includes information about the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, which amended the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act. Changes include requiring individuals serving as IMRF trustees to file a written statement of economic interest.