



SFERS
SFERS

San Francisco Employees' Retirement System

FOOTSTEPS TO THE FUTURE

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Fall/Winter 2009-10

Retirement Appointments Reserved for Members Eligible to Retire

If you are thinking about retirement and you are eligible to retire, or will become eligible to retire within 12 months, retirement counselors are available to provide valuable information that will aid in your decision to retire and/or your transition into retirement. You can schedule an appointment with a retirement counselor using our on-line Retirement Appointment Scheduler (located on the home page of SFERS' web site, www.sfers.org). You may contact us by phone at 415-487-7000, or visit our office in person to schedule an appointment.

We recommend visiting our on-line appointment scheduler at least six months in advance of the month in which you plan to retire to schedule an appointment. Appointments are required for retirement counseling and are first come-first served.

On the day of your appointment, you will need to bring a picture ID, a copy of your spouse's or domestic partner's birth certificate, and a copy of your marriage or domestic partnership certificate (additional documents may be required).

In planning for your retirement, please keep in mind that your retirement date can only be retroactive to the first day of the month in which you file an application for retirement with SFERS.

Retirement appointments are reserved for members who currently meet or will meet eligibility requirements for retirement within 12 months (see your Summary Plan Description for retirement eligibility requirements). For general inquiries, you can visit our office located at 30 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 3000, or contact us by phone at 415-487-7000.

SFERS Welcomes Gary A. Amelio!

Gary A. Amelio will serve as the new Executive Director for SFERS effective January 9, 2010.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEB SITE!

We are excited to announce the launch of our new web site. SFERS' new web site is designed to provide our members access to more detailed information about the SFERS pension plan and member benefits, as well as provide access to Retirement System forms.



We encourage you to take a moment and visit the new web site at www.sfers.org

Message from the Executive Director

Effective January 9, 2010, I will be retiring as Executive Director from the San Francisco Employees' Retirement System. It has been an honor and pleasure serving our great members over the last 24 ½ years.

In December 1968 when my career with SFERS began, the Trust was worth nearly \$400 million and we had 56 employees serving 22,000 active members.

Today, the Trust is worth more than \$13 billion and we have 86 employees serving more than 53,000 active and retired members.

During my career, I have served with hundreds of staff who worked tirelessly to serve our members and to fulfill our mission. To them I am truly grateful.

My proudest accomplishments include evolving SFERS' frontline staff into a group of professionals with the skills to serve our members' retirement needs, and also developing and maintaining pension data systems that safeguard member records and in so doing, setting best practice standards in pension administration across the industry.

Our Plan has been recognized for excellence from a variety of venues, but the highest honor comes in securing the benefits that the members have earned while working for the City and County of San Francisco.

So, as I join the ranks of the retired, I bid you farewell and wish you all good health and happiness in the New Year!

Clare M. Murphy

IS YOUR INFORMATION UP-TO-DATE?

A new year offers the opportunity to update your beneficiary and contact information. It is important to maintain a current beneficiary designation for your SFERS Plan to ensure a death benefit is paid to the beneficiary you intend should you die before you retire. Your beneficiary may be a person or persons, your trust, or your estate. If you do not designate a beneficiary, SFERS will pay any lump sum death benefit to your estate.

To update your beneficiary information, download a **Designation of Beneficiary Form** from the SFERS web site at www.sfers.org, and mail the completed and notarized beneficiary form to our office, or you can file the completed form in person in our office located at 30 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 3000(3rd Floor).

It is also important that you have a current mailing address on file to ensure you receive your annual Member Account Statement in a timely manner. Annual member account statements are mailed in August of each year. You must contact your department's Personnel Officer to update your mailing address. If you are a member who is currently on vested status (i.e. no longer working for the City), you can request an address change in writing to: San Francisco Employees' Retirement System, 30 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 3000, San Francisco, CA, 94102.

Health Service System: Health Plan Rates and Benefits Will Change in 2010-2011

There will be important changes to health plan rates and benefits in the coming year. Does the Health Service System have your correct address?

Make sure HSS has your contact information so you can receive an Open Enrollment packet with all the details this spring. Active employees should report address changes to their department personnel officer. For more information about the health plan rates and benefit negotiations taking place in early 2010, visit myhss.org.

Emergency Planning at SFERS

SFERS is continuously planning and preparing for emergencies and/or potential events that could interrupt the services we regularly provide to our members. As a result, we are assembling a Continuity of Operations/Emergency Operations Plan that includes the following measures:

- A toll-free number, **1-877-91-SFERS** (1-877-917-3377), available 24 X 7, to serve as an information portal to advise members as to the availability of SFERS services (this number is for information only and will not accept messages nor direct you to a live person).
- We have established a partnership with another California system to provide "warm site" services (technology backup services) in the event of a major disaster.
- We have staff on-site who are trained in emergency response, first aid and CPR.

We would also like to remind our members to take the appropriate steps toward your own preparedness. Visit www.72hours.org for information about measures you can take to prepare you and your family in the event of an emergency.

Retirement Seminars

2010 Schedule now available!

Learn about your retirement benefits—Register for a Retirement Seminar today!

Registration is first come, first served and space is limited, so register early. For details, visit our web site at www.sfers.org and click on "Forms & Publications."



Pre-Retirement
Pre-Retirement

March 31, 2010
June 16, 2010

MAXIMIZE YOUR RETIREMENT SAVINGS

With the start of a new year, we would like to remind you that the City offers active members an opportunity to acquire additional retirement savings to supplement pension benefits with voluntary contributions to a Deferred Compensation 457(b) Plan. The 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan, administered by Great-West Retirement Services (GWRS), allows City employees to voluntarily defer receipt and taxation of a portion of their regular earnings until after they retire or separate from service.

The Plan offers a diverse selection of 19 core investment funds including access to a self-directed brokerage option. For more information, contact the local Great-West office at 877-457-9321.

SFDCP Stable Value Rates: (annualized)

1/1/10 - 3/31/10	3.40%
10/1/09 - 12/31/09	3.30%
7/1/09 - 9/30/09	3.25%
4/1/09 - 6/30/09	3.25%

Remember to put your important papers in a safe place and to share this information with family members. SFERS provides a form that can help you keep track of this information. You can download the Important Documents Form from the SFERS web site at www.sfers.org, "Forms & Publications."

Organizations of Interest	Web site	Phone
Health Service System	www.myhss.org	(415) 554-1750
Dept. of Human Resources	www.sfgov.org/dhr	(415) 557-4800
Social Security Administration	www.ssa.gov	1 (800) 772-1213
CalPERS	www.calpers.ca.gov	1 (888) 225-7377
SFDCP (GWRS)	www.sfdcp.org	1 (888) SFDCP4U 1 (888- 733-2748)

SFERS Board Members

President

Richard H. Peterson, Jr.
Appointed Member

Vice President

Al Casciato
Elected Member

Joseph D. Driscoll, CFA
Elected Member

Sean Elsbernd
Member appointed by
the President of the
Board of Supervisors

Herb Meiberger, CFA
Elected Member

Brenda Wright
Appointed Member

Vacant
Appointed Member

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month.

Meetings begin at 8:30 A.M. at the SFERS Office 30 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 3000 (3rd Floor)

Meetings are open to the Public

Agendas/Minutes:
www.sfers.org/Board
Minutes and Agendas



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San Francisco Employees' Retirement System
30 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 3000
San Francisco, CA 94102

FOOTSTEPS to the Future
Newsletter for Active Members

Contact Us

Address: 30 Van Ness Avenue
Suite 3000, (3rd Floor)
San Francisco, CA 94102

Telephone: (415) 487-7000

Out of Area: 1 (888) 849-0777

Web site: www.sfers.org

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