



# DCRB Report

FALL 2007

## New Executive Director

I have been privileged to serve as Chairman of the DC Retirement Board for nearly a year now. It has been a year filled with both challenges and changes.

It's a pleasure to announce the hiring of Mr. Eric Stanchfield to serve as the new Executive Director of DCRB. While his official start date was September 1, he decided to get an early handle on things and actually started working with the Board in early July. Mr. Stanchfield brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Board, along with the leadership skills needed to assist the Board in continuing to achieve its important investment, administrative, and member services goals.

Mr. Stanchfield was previously with the Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF). ETF is the state agency that administers employee benefit plans for Wisconsin's state and municipal employers, teachers, protective employees (police officers and firefighters), and all elected officials. During his tenure, he served as Chief Executive Officer from 1992 to 2007. He also served as Trustee and Secretary to the State of Wisconsin Investment Board during that period. Additionally, he served as the Chief Operating Officer of ETF from 1987 to 1992.

Mr. Stanchfield is a native of Washington, DC and is a graduate of Wilson High School. He received a B.A. in Political Science and Administration and an M.A. in Public Policy and Administration from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He is a member of numerous state and national public retirement and benefits associations, in which he has served in various leadership capacities.

This year, two trustees who were mayoral appointees, Joan Parrot-Fonseca and William Simon, have left the Board following the expiration of their terms of office. We would like to thank them for their service and wish them well in their current endeavors.

Over the fiscal year ended September 30, 2007, fund assets have grown from \$3.62 billion to \$4.41 billion, earning an annualized return of 16.8%. The Board continues to diversify fund assets and to take advantage of opportunities to increase investment returns and reduce risk in this volatile and uncertain market.

On September 30, 2007, DCRB completed its second year of Benefits Administration responsibilities. During this second year, our retirement analysts calculated and initiated payments for over 400 new retirees and survivors and our Member Services Center handled over 15,000 calls from our members.

DCRB will further enhance our services to members by automating our records system, which will enable our customer service staff to respond to customer questions faster. In addition, the Board has engaged the services of MTG Management Consultants to assist the Board in mapping out a strategic course for the Agency, and to identify ways in which DCRB might use technology to reach both its long- and short-term strategic goals. We will provide you with periodic updates as those important changes occur.

### Chairman's Corner



The mission of the District of Columbia Retirement Board is to invest, control, and manage the assets of the Teachers' Retirement Fund and the Police Officers' and Firefighters' Retirement Fund.



# Information Especially For Retirees

## Calendar Year 2007 Tax Information

At the end of January 2008, the U.S. Treasury Department's Bureau of the Public Debt will issue 1099-R forms for payments that retirees and survivors received from the District of Columbia Police Officers' and Firefighters' Retirement Plan and the District of Columbia Teachers' Retirement Plan during tax year 2007. Most annuitants will receive only one 1099-R form. However, those of you, for example, who are both a retiree and the survivor of a retiree, or who moved during 2007, will receive more than one 1099-R form and will need to file both forms with your 2007 tax return.

## New 1099-R Forms

In past years, some annuitants reported having trouble reading portions of our 1099-R forms. To resolve that problem, we will be using a new technology for the 1099-R tax reporting for this year. The 1099-R that will be issued in January 2008 will have a new format which will make the forms look slightly different than forms

issued in previous years, but they will include all of the required information. For instance, instead of printing four copies of the form, one in each of the four quadrants of the paper, there will be three copies printed horizontally. If you require extra copies of the form for local filings, we have been advised that taxing authorities will accept photocopies. Our preliminary tests of the new software have all resulted in forms that are easy to read and have all the data printing well within the boxes.

## Check Your Tax Withholding Amounts

This time of year is an excellent time to check your earnings statement to assure that the amount of taxes being withheld will cover your tax obligations for the coming year. You have the right to change your withholding amount or to have no federal taxes withheld. Changing your withholding, of course, does not affect the amount of taxes you are required to pay. If you want to update your withholding amount, you should complete a Form W-4P and send it to DCRB's Member Services

Center (MSC) at the address listed on the back of this newsletter. Blank forms can be requested from the MSC, or you can print one off the IRS web site at [www.IRS.gov](http://www.IRS.gov).

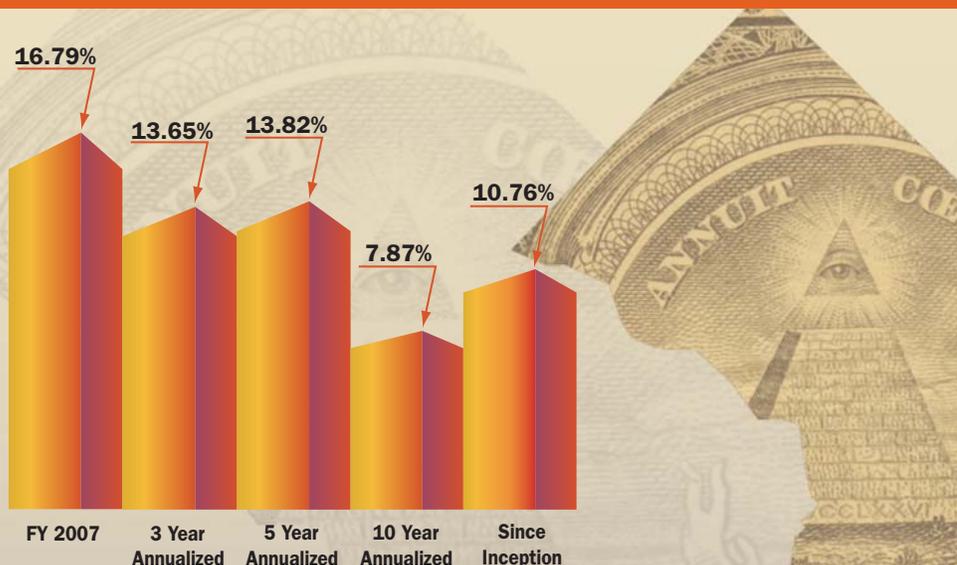
## Change of Address or Change of Direct Deposit Account

To assure that you receive your benefit payments and tax information promptly, if you plan to move or you have already done so, you should contact the DCRB Member Services Center (MSC) with your new address (and bank change information, if applicable) as soon as possible. You can reach the MSC by calling (202) 343-3272 or toll free at 1-866-456-3272, if you live out of the Washington Metropolitan area. You can also receive forms for making address or direct deposit changes by accessing DCRB's web site at [www.dcrb.dc.gov](http://www.dcrb.dc.gov) and printing out the form(s) you need. The completed forms should be mailed (or faxed) to the MSC at the address listed on the back of this newsletter.

## Enhanced Earnings Statement

We are also pleased to advise you that beginning in January 2008, you will begin receiving a new, enhanced earnings statement. As many of you pointed out, the print on the current earnings statement is small and can be difficult to read. The print on the new statement will be slightly larger, and we have removed redundant information, as well. In addition, the message section of the statement has been expanded significantly to allow us to provide you with more information than is currently possible. Next year, we will be able to send you messages of up to 1,500 characters rather than the very limited 100 character messages that are possible now.

## Total Fund Returns (gross of fees)



## Direct Deposit Is The Way To Go

Most members, both active and retired, receive their salary or annuity payments electronically via Direct Deposit or Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). There are many good reasons for doing so:

- Payments are deposited directly into your designated account.
- It is the safest way to receive your funds.
- In these days of \$3.00 a gallon gasoline prices, it saves you a trip to your bank or credit union.
- It is an easier and more convenient way for you to access your money.
- It eliminates the uncertainty of most weather-related delays and security issues that can happen with receiving checks through the mail.

If you are not already taking advantage of Direct Deposit, this might be a good time to consider doing so. Over 90% of active and retired members have signed up for Direct Deposit...why not you? Active members who wish to sign up should contact their payroll office. Retired members and survivors should contact DCRB's Member Services Center at (202) 343-3272 or toll-free at (866) 456-3272.



## 2007 Health Care Open Season

The District of Columbia Human Resources office (DCHR) and the federal government's Office of Personnel Management (OPM) have announced that this year's health care open enrollment will take place between November 5 and December 12 for the District, and November 12 and December 10 for federal employees. During those periods, members of the District of Columbia Police Officers' and Firefighters' Retirement Plan and the District of Columbia Teachers' Retirement Plan who are eligible to participate in the health plans available to District and federal employees and retirees will be able to change their health plans. Packets containing information about the plans and a schedule of health fairs that will take place during the enrollment peri-



ods will be mailed to eligible members in early November. As in the past, change forms completed by active members should be submitted to your human resources office. Change forms completed by retired members should be forwarded to the DCRB Member Services Center. The cut-off date to submit forms is December 10 for federal plans and December 12 for District plans.

## When Should You Contact DCRB?

During the fiscal year ended September 30, 2007, DCRB's Member Services Center (MSC) received over 15,000 calls from you and over 700 of you stopped by to talk with us in person. It was our pleasure to be of help to you and we are happy to say that your survey feedback indicated that you felt the same. Your overall rating of our service to you was 1.42 (on a scale where 1 is excellent and 5 is poor).

Although most of your calls and questions were related to activities and information that are within DCRB's area of responsibility, we had a few inquiries that we had to forward to other offices. To save time and to avoid the need to forward calls, here is a list of Benefits Administration tasks that are handled by DCRB:

- New Retiree Calculations
- Contribution Refunds
- Purchases of Service
- 1099-R Reprints
- Court Orders Affecting Pension Payments
- Changes of:
  - address
  - name
  - tax withholding
  - bank account
- Health Coverage changes of status
- Inquiries About Plan Provisions

Except for purchases of service and pension calculations at retirement, active members should contact their human resources or payroll offices for assistance with other requests.

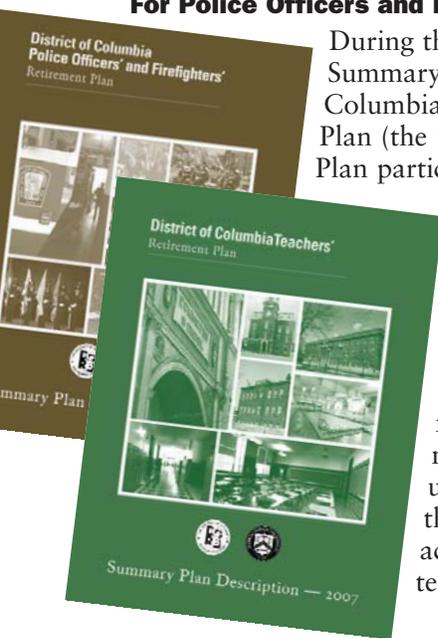
# Updated Plan Booklets

## For Police Officers and Firefighters

During the week of September 17, 2007, the updated Summary Plan Description (SPD) for the District of Columbia Police Officers' and Firefighters' Retirement Plan (the "Plan") was mailed to all active and retired Plan participants. Active members who did not receive a copy can request one from their human resources office. Retirees who did not receive a copy should contact DCRB's Member Services Center.

## For Teachers

An updated Summary Plan Description (SPD) for the District of Columbia Teachers' Retirement Plan has been drafted and is currently undergoing legal review. DCRB expects to have the new SPD completed and in the mail to all active and retired teachers during the first quarter of next year.



## Useful Numbers



D.C. Public Schools Human Resources Office  
**(202) 442-4080**

Metropolitan Police Department Human Resources Office  
**(202) 727-4286**

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Human Resources Office  
**(202) 673-6443**

Police and Fire Retirement and Relief Board  
**(202) 442-9622**

DCRB Member Services Center  
**(202) 343-DCRB**  
**(toll free) (866) 456-3272**  
**TTY (800) 877-8339**  
**Fax: (202) 566-5001**  
**Email: [dcrb.benefits@dc.gov](mailto:dcrb.benefits@dc.gov)**

## TRUSTEES

Lyle M. Blanchard  
*Council Appointee*

Barbara Davis Blum  
*Mayoral Appointee*

Mary A. Collins  
*Treasurer*  
*Elected Active Teacher*

Shireen L. Dodson  
*Council Appointee*

Brian K. Lee  
*Chairman*  
*Elected Active Firefighter*

Judith C. Marcus  
*Secretary*  
*Elected Retired Teacher*

Darrick O. Ross  
*Parliamentarian*  
*Elected Active Police Officer*

George R. Suter  
*Sergeant-at-Arms*  
*Elected Retired Police Officer*

Thomas N. Tippet  
*Elected Retired Firefighter*

Michael J. Warren  
*Council Appointee*

Vacant  
*Mayoral Appointee*

Vacant  
*Mayoral Appointee*

Lasana K. Mack  
*Ex Officio, Non Voting*

## D.C. Retirement Board

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Eric O. Stanchfield  
*Executive Director*

**Open Enrollment**  
**Year End Information**

**Inside DCRB Report this month:**



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