

Election materials will be mailed the first week of January. Members may vote by mail, telephone, or over the Internet.

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## Nine members on Association board ballot

Nine PERA members have announced their candidacy for positions on the Association's Board of Trustees. As an active member or benefit recipient of the MERF Division of PERA, you will receive an Association ballot in January and may participate in the board election.

Duluth Fire Captain Thomas L. Marshall, the current Police & Fire trustee on the board, is being challenged by Minneapolis Fire Captain Roger Champagne and Edina Fire Chief Martin Scheer.

Minnetonka Schools Finance and Operations Director Paul Bourgeois and Bill J. Hoffman, program coordinator of the Washington County Sheriff's Office, are facing board incumbents Blue Earth County Attorney Ross E. Arneson and Dawn M. Hulmer, a finance specialist for the Duluth Treasurer's Office, for the three at-large seats on the board.

Meanwhile, Bruce A Fleury, a retired Clay County Sheriff's division commander, is facing



current board member Louise A. Olson, a retired food service employee of the St. Cloud School District, for the benefit recipient trustee position on the Board.

Election materials will be mailed the first week of January and ballots must be cast that month. You may vote by mail, telephone, or over the Internet.

Election results should be known the second week of February and certified at the February 15 Board meeting.

State voters returned Rebecca Otto to PERA's Board in November. By law, the State Auditor always has a seat on the Association Board of Trustees.

## MERF pensions will increase 1% in January

All MERF benefit recipients whose retirement date was prior to June 2, 2009, will receive a 1 percent increase in their gross benefit January 1.

As part of the provisions that allowed MERF to become a division of PERA's General Fund this year, MERF retirees and other benefit recipients will receive the same increases awarded other PERA General Fund members. This year's Omnibus Pension Bill provides for 1 percent annual increases until the funds achieve 90 percent funding, and 2.5 percent increases thereafter.

Members who retired during fiscal year 2010 (July 1, 2009, through June 1, 2010) will receive a pro-rated increase in January. The increase is based on the number of full months the member was retired during the fiscal year.

For those with retirement dates of June 2, 2010, through the end of this fiscal year, the first available increase will be January 2012.

## MMRA dues change in 2011

Minneapolis Municipal Retirement Association members voted at their annual Meeting October 2 to change the annual dues from \$50 to \$120 for the next two years.

Benefit recipients will no longer have an annual deduction in January; but a monthly deduction. In 2011, monthly dues deductions of \$12 will begin with the March benefit payments. In 2012, dues will be reduced to \$10 monthly; and to \$5 monthly in 2013. Employers of active members will make the annual deduction of \$120 in 2011 and 2012 and \$60 in 2013.

Contact Michael Paul Weber at MMRA (612-379-4755) with any questions.

### Inside this Edition:

	Page
Direct deposit	2
Estimates & Appointments	2
Retirements	3
Deaths	3
Financial report	3
1099Rs	4
Payments	4

**Board Directory**

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 Duluth, MN 55803  
 (218) 728-1564

**Don Rambow**  
*Board Vice President*  
 Cities Representative  
 City of White Bear Lake  
 4701 Highway 61  
 White Bear Lake, MN 55110  
 (651) 429-8517

**Rebecca Otto**  
*State Auditor*  
 525 Park Street, Suite 400  
 St. Paul, MN 55103  
 (651) 296-2551

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*General Membership Representative*  
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 (507) 304-4600

**Steven L. Devich**  
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 City of Richfield  
 6700 Portland Ave. S.  
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 (612) 861-9702

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 1466 North Grotto  
 St. Paul, MN 55117  
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**Kathryn A. Green**  
*School Board Representative*  
 401 - 3rd Ave NW  
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 (507) 437-8667

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*General Membership Representative*  
 City of Duluth Treasurer's Office  
 Duluth City Hall, Room 105  
 Duluth, MN 55802-1191  
 (218) 730-5057

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*Public Representative*  
 12705 Parkwood Drive  
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**Leigh Lenzmeier**  
*Counties Representative*  
 919 West St. Germain St.  
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 (320) 251-0653

**Louise A. Olson**  
*Retiree/Disabiltant*  
*Membership Representative*  
 6963 109th. Ave.  
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 (320) 743-2138

**Mary Most Vanek**  
 PERA Executive Director  
 (651) 296-8358

**Linda Presler**  
 MERF Representative  
 (651) 355-0042

Toll Free 1 800 652-9026  
 Fax Number—(651) 297-2547  
 Internet—www.mnpera.org

# Direct Deposit: Safe and convenient



PERA strongly recommends that all benefit recipients, including our new MERF members, take full advantage of direct deposit. It's safe, free, and convenient. Members are assured that the first working day of each month their pension benefit payments are automatically deposited in their checking or savings accounts where it can be immediately accessed, rather than somewhere in the mail.

MERF benefit recipients will soon be able to access their payment accounts any time in MY PERA, the Association's on-line member service at [www.mnpera.org](http://www.mnpera.org). Registered MERF members will be able to view their payment history, change their direct deposit information and federal and state tax withholding, as well as viewing their 1099s starting with 2011. Sometime after the January payment, members will receive a letter providing them access information and a password.

Currently, MERF members may request direct deposit changes by calling Linda Presler at (651) 355-0042. If a request is submitted by the 10th of the month, direct deposit will begin the first of the following month. If the request is submitted after the 10th a check will be produced for the first of the following month, and direct deposit will begin one month later.

Direct deposits are posted to accounts on the first business day of the month. The 2011 Direct Deposit Schedule is as follows:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Deposit Date</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Deposit Date</u>
January	01/03/2011	July	07/01/2011
February	02/01/2011	August	08/01/2011
March	03/01/2011	September	09/01/2011
April	04/01/2011	October	10/03/2011
May	05/02/2011	November	11/01/2011
June	06/01/2011	December	12/01/2011

## Active and deferred members:

If you are interested in obtaining annuity estimates, or wish to apply for retirement benefits, please call Linda Presler at (651) 355-0042.

If you are married, we are required by law to send an estimate to both you and your spouse before you can apply for retirement.

Please call Linda two or three weeks prior to retirement to set up an appointment to file your application for retirement benefits.



## Thank you, MERF members

Thank you once again to all the members who called, e-mailed or wrote letters to the legislators and the governor. Without you, the consolidation would not have happened.

A special thank you is in order to Charles (Charlie) K. Running for his persistence with MERF and the MERF board in facilitating the questionnaire that went out to members about their participation in the military. The results helped influence the votes we needed from legislators. Thank you, Charlie.

- Linda Presler -  
 MERF Representative

News Briefs is published as a service to members of the Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund Division of PERA

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This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling 1 800 652-9026 or through the Minnesota Relay Service at 1 800 627-3529.

## Retirements (June -October, 2010)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>
Sharon R. Bauck	Hennepin County Library	Bonnie Mae Mattson	Board of Education
James C. Boone	City Attorneys	RomaKay V. May	City Clerks
Eddie A. Calderon	Civil Rights	Terry C. Mooney	Public Works
Gail L. Cronquist	Metropolitan Airports Commission	Douglas W. Nelson	Park & Recreation Board
Carolyn L. Davidson	License and Consumers	Richard D. Phillips	Solid Waste
Paul O. Domholt	Park & Recreation Board	David C. Pikala	Water Department
Charlene K. Gabler	Hennepin County Library	Steven J. Ristuben	City Clerks
Phyllis M. Genest-Stein	Board of Education	Rosalind M. Robbins	Board of Education
Patricia L. Gleason	Board of Education	Nancy L. Simpson	Board of Education
Eugene S. Hooper	Board of Education	David C. Smith	Board of Education
Marilyn S. Howard	Park & Recreation Board	Jerome J. Sturgeski	City Coordinators
Ronald G. Manguson	Hennepin County Library	Dean C. Suneson	Public Works Equipment
Michael C. Mason	Board of Education	Paul O. Urseth	Public Works
Jane F. Mathisrud	Minneapolis Library	James A. Waelhof	Park & Recreation Board

## Deaths (June -October, 2010)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>
Kenneth S. Amundsen	Public Works	Wallace J. Masica	Board of Education
John C. Asmus	City Coordinators	Edward C. Metcalf	Building Inspections
Kermit S. Bendickson	Water Department	Donald V. Nelson	Voters Registration
Miyo R. Berger	Minneapolis Library	Earline L. Nelson	Board of Education
Selma O. Bervig	Board of Education	Kenneth H. Nelson	Public Works
Katherine M. Betts	Board of Education	Dagne B. Olson	Board of Education
Elizabeth G. Boyer	Hennepin Co. Medical Center	Stanley D. Peterson	Building Inspections
Edward G. Bruckelmyer	Park & Recreation Board	Fern H. Phyle	Board of Education
Edward B. Burckhardt	Park & Recreation Board	Harriet M. Rabe	Board of Education
Lois B. Cichoski	Board of Education	Myron M. Rademacher	Board of Education
John J. Cronemiller	Water Department	Florence M. Rask	Board of Education
Ardella A. Dehne	Board of Education	William M. Robeck	Board of Education
Raymond R. Dorn	Public Works	Gary L. Rottach	Public Works
Willard E. Dunham	Water Department	Dwaine L. Rudquist	Public Works
Olga P. Eckberg	Board of Education	Charles J. Schaeffer	Public Works
Alonzo J. Everett	Board of Education	Louise C. Sharpe	General Hospital
Vernon R. Farrand	Public Works	Anita C. Shelstad	Board of Education
Robert L. Farrier	Public Works	Helen M. Stevenson	Minneapolis Library
Donna L. Fitzhenry	Board of Education	Isabel R. Tangen	Minneapolis Library
Judith R. Fleck	Board of Education	Mamie T. Tennessen	Board of Education
Raymond E. Hall	Public Works	Denise M. Thompson	Board of Education
Mable A. Hedberg	Hennepin Co Medical Center	Helen M. Thoreen	Board of Education
Luella F. Heyman	Board of Education	Dianne M. Wachs	Minneapolis Library
Lloyd C. House	Board of Education	Lillian G. Wallis	Minneapolis Library
Anne Hughes Campbell	Health Department	Eino E. Werronen	Board of Education
Stuart A. Johnson	Metropolitan Airports Commission	Joseph E. Williams	Water Department
Phyllis V. Joyce	Building Inspections		
Richard W. Kelley	Civil Rights		
Florence M. Kilner	Board of Education		
Ralph E. Kleman	Board of Education		
Michael D. Krolick	Public Works		
James W. Langendorf	Board of Education		
DeRoy C. Linnebur	Board of Education		
Lyle D. Lund	City Clerks		
Julia Mackey	Board of Education		

### MERF financial report now part of PERA annual statement

PERA assumed administration of the Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund on June 30, 2010. At that time, the fund had assets of approximately \$844 million.

As a division of the Association, MERF's financial statement is now incorporated into PERA's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The report is issued annually, in late December, and will be available at [www.mnpera.org](http://www.mnpera.org).



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December 2010

## NEWS BRIEFS

**1099 Reminder:** MERF members who received benefits all year will receive two 1099Rs in January. These represent benefits received from MERF when it was an independent retirement fund, and from PERA once the Association assumed administration of the Minneapolis fund.

Members who began receiving benefits after June 30 will only receive one 1099R from PERA.

If you do not receive your 1099Rs by February 5, 2011, please call Linda Presler at (651) 355-0042, to request a duplicate.

## MERF payments convert to PERA's system January 1

Effective with their January 1 payment, MERF benefit recipients will be paid through PERA's payment system. Payments will be generated through the State of Minnesota.

For members on direct deposit, the line item on monthly bank statements will read STATE OF MINNESOTA – PAYROLL. For members still receiving payment by mail, the check will be a self-mailer. With this type of payment, the sides of the envelope need to be torn off to expose the check. The return address will be the State of Minnesota; it will not have Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund or the MERF logo on it.

Federal and State of MN income tax withholding will also change for some

benefit recipients. Members who wish to withhold more than stipulated in the tax tables may now do so by simply establishing a dollar amount to be withheld each month.

After January, any changes of address, direct deposit, or withholding, can be done over the phone by calling Linda Presler, at (651) 355-0042. When a request is processed a letter will be generated and mailed to the member confirming the change. If the change affects the net payment amount, the new net pay will be reflected in the letter. The letter will be the only form of notification members will receive regarding any change in net payment.