

President's Message

John Schnittgrund

Finished travelling, landscaping easing up, grand kids starting another school year, it all means summer's over. The retiree's BBQ is upon us and we look forward to seeing all of you at Clement Park on Saturday the 18th.

Since the last message there have been developments with the Old Hire Pension Board as regards the Pension administrator and the actuary study that impacts our benefits.

Every five years the State (FPPA) commissions an actuary study to make sure that the pension funds it oversees are adequately funded. The Denver Old Hire Pension Fund is one of those funds. Since we had some inquiries about changing the widows benefit we asked that the study include whether or not an expanded benefit was feasible.

The actuary report indicates that the City will be asked to increase its annual contribution from \$7.9 million to \$8.8 million in order to fund existing benefits. A change in benefit to 100% for widows would significantly add to the unfunded liability of the Pension Plan. It would require the City to add \$11 million more dollars to its contribution for 2018. The actuary recommends that no changes be made to the benefit plan and the FPPA also asks that no changes be made until the next actuary study can confirm contribution levels in 2020. In short, a benefit change for widows at this time is too expensive for the plan.

My last message had a concern that the City might hire Myra Simmons as the Pension Administrator. I contacted the City about my concerns and Retired Lt Jim Ponzi also sent a letter of concern. I don't know if there were any other letters sent but if there were, thank you. The City has announced that the Pension Administrator has been hired. The Administrator is Laura Hall. Her resume is good and she has experience with pension funds both public and private. We are now in the process of meeting with her and hope to put a direct link to her on our web site so if we have questions we can get answers.

It's time to start thinking about elections that will be held in November. The board is currently 1 short and we will soon begin a nominating process for the board. If you think that you might want to get involved or know someone, who

might, let us know. This is not hard and does not take a lot of time but it is a worthwhile thing to do.

If you haven't signed up for the BBQ picnic please do, and we will see you at Clement Park on the 18th.