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Appointed by the Governor

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From the Desk of the Executive Director

Special Alert!!

To the Members, Departments and Affiliates of the Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund:

This *Special Edition of the GFPF NEWS* has been prepared and is sent to you to inform and assist you with the upcoming increase in the monthly dues for membership in the Fund. Effective July 1, 2013, dues for the Pension Fund will increase to \$25 from \$15. This means for pension credit for the months beginning with July 2013 the dues amount due is and will be \$25. Page 2 describes an array of payment procedures and scenarios and attempt to provide

guidance with respect to each. Also included is a brief Q&A, which we hope will answer most, if not all of your questions regarding the implementation of the increase. Please remember, in the final analysis, it is your responsibility, as a member, to be sure that your dues are paid correctly and on time. If you have any questions regarding your situation, your payment of dues and this increase, please contact the pension office for additional guidance.

 *Jim Meynard*

Effective July 1, 2013, membership dues will increase from \$15 to \$25 per month.

For members who like to pay ahead or for a full year at a time, please remember to pay the *extra \$10 per month* to catch up for 2013.

CONTINUED**COST****SAVINGS!!!**

The
 GPPF NEWS
 And
 Annual Report
 Are
 Created,
 Edited,
 Published
 And
 Printed
 In-house

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If you have any questions regarding your situation, your payment of dues and this increase, please contact the pension office for additional guidance.

Direct Debit of Dues: For many of our members, the pension office is allowed to directly debit their bank (checking or savings) account for the monthly dues. This process is fully automated and normally takes place on the 15th of the month. We will electronically update the member's debit authorization to \$25 ***unless the member directs us not to do so and cancels the debit authorization in writing.*** (If the debit authorization is cancelled, the member will be responsible for paying the dues by other

means, presumably, by sending payment in by check.)

Department Paid Dues: Departments remit dues to the pension office either from department funds or payroll deducted funds. Where the dues amounts are from payroll deductions, department administrators are advised that it may be necessary to secure updated payroll deduction authorizations for each affected member in order to meet the requirements of the dues increase for the month of July. The return receipt for June will be so noted to reflect the increase amount such that the July remittance for the department will be correct.

Individual Pay: Dues paid by individual members should be in the pension office by the 10th of the month each month. For the July dues payment, this amount must be \$25 and will be due no later than July 10th.

Dues Paid in Advance: Dues paid in advance, extending past June 2013, will be short by the amount of the increase for each month, that is, \$10 per month of advance dues. For example, dues paid for 12 months beginning January 2013 in the amount of \$180 will be short by \$60 for the months of July through December. This deficiency must be cleared up and corrected within six months, or by December 31, 2013. For calendar year 2014, for those members who pay their dues on an annual basis in advance, the yearly dues amount will be \$300 (\$25 X 12.)

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Question: Is there a Grace Period for Dues payments? The Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund does not have a "Grace Period" provision in the enabling Code, O.C.G.A. § 47-7, or in our Rules and Regulations. Dues are due in full on the tenth of the month for individual and department payment and on the 15th for direct debits.

Question: When are my Dues delinquent? Dues are due in full on the tenth of the month for individual and department payments and on the 15th of the month for direct debits. If your dues become six months in

arrears, your dues are delinquent and your membership in the fund will be suspended. In order to be reinstated as an active member, you will be required to apply for membership and pay a reinstatement fee of \$100.

Question: How can I find out where I stand with the Fund? You may go to our web site, www.gfpf.org, and put in your user ID and password to check your dues history and status with the Fund. At the same time, you may also verify your personal record to be sure your beneficiary is current and correct and input your preferred e-mail address.

E-MAIL ADDRESS

We would like to have the capability to send out e-mail blasts (notices) to our members.

You may also completely opt out of receiving paper copies of the GFPF NEWS.

Please e-mail sharon@gfpf.org and update your e-mail address.

This is another path to continued cost savings.

GFPF NEWS

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***Visit us on our
website at
www.gfpf.org***

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May 15, 2013

Special Issue

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