



**BOARD OF
TRUSTEES**

- **Peter Morin,
Chairman**
- **Fred Fletcher,
Vice Chair**
- **Kendall
Thomas**
- **Catherine
Haggerty**
- **Mike Jung**
- **Tim Atkinson**
- **Chris Perkins**
- **Chesley Wood**
- **Art Alfaro**
- **Kathie Tovo**
- **Jeff Knodel**

**APRS MISSION
STATEMENT:**

To serve the APRS
membership and
protect the
retirement benefits
for the past,
present and future
members of the
System.

Pension Review

WINTER / SPRING 2012 ISSUE

Letter from the Chairman

Greetings,

I would like to begin by asking all of you - active, retired and beneficiaries – to join me in thanking John Ross for his 22 years of dedicated service to the retirement board. John was a very devoted and loyal trustee to the System and always based his decisions on what was best for it. His leadership and fellowship on the board will be missed.

As we begin a new year, I believe it is appropriate for me to give you an update on the retirement system (APRS) and our plan moving forward.

As we all know the global economy, simply put, is dismal which is evident by the lack of returns in our personal portfolios and the system's. In 2001 and 2002, APRS suffered back-to-back losses. From 2003-2007 we bounced back with great returns. Then came 2008. Even though our losses in 08 (-24.83%) were not as bad as other systems, it was devastating to our plan. In 2009, we earned 11.09% and in 2010 we earned 14.01% but in 2011 we are negative -0.83%. Our five year average return from 2006-2011 is 2.32%, which is a far cry from 8%.

Historically, from 1980-2000 the average rate of return for the system was 19.23%, which is more than twice our actuarial assumption rate of 8%. The actuarial assumption rate of 8% is what the system's actuaries assume the fund's assets will earn on average per year over a very long term period of 50-70 years.

Over these years, high returns - along with added contributions by the city and its members - have allowed the system to grow and prosper and become one of the best retirement plans in the state.

At our January 18th board meeting, I addressed my concerns to the trustees and told them that 2012 will be a year of "Review and Change." We can no longer ignore the poor investment returns and expect this System to provide benefits for its members and beneficiaries without some changes. I have already met with the APA Union President Wayne Vincent and shared my thoughts and ideas with him.

No one, and I mean no one, wants to make changes to our System. New ideas and proposals need to be studied to determine what's in the long-term best interest of the plan. Retired members and their beneficiaries will not be affected by any changes. Although some proposed changes that may occur could have a minimal effect on current active members, the goal is to preserve the System for years to come.

The Goals and Objectives Committee will convene meetings this year to determine what changes to the System need to be made to provide for its long-lasting financial soundness. The Board will then draft those changes, educate the members, and approve the changes all of which will culminate in presenting the changes for legislative approval.

It is the reasonable, prudent, and responsible thing to do at this time! God Bless each and every one of you!

-Peter Morin, Chairman

APRS 2011 Election Results

APRS would like to thank all members who participated in the 2011 Trustee Election. This was the System's first time using the electronic/phone voting method and we were pleased with the results.

APRS had some changes to the Board including the departure of long-time Trustee John Ross, who did not run for re-election for the 2012-2016 term. His retiree representative position on the Board will be held by Peter Morin, who moved from an active member position to the retiree position in an unopposed election. The active member representative election resulted in the election of Christopher Perkins, Cathy Haggerty and Fred Fletcher for terms from 2012-2016.

City of Austin Police Retirement System

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Staff:

Sampson Jordan, CEO

Stephanie Willie, Deputy Director

Michelle Ruland, Benefits Manager

Vernon Webb, Financial Manager

**Rosanna Ramirez, Administrative
Assistant**

2012 Regular Board Meeting Schedule:

**Regular Board Meetings will be held
at the APRS offices located at 2520
S. IH-35, Suite 100 at 11:30 a.m. on
the third Wednesday of each month
unless otherwise noted on the APRS
website.**

Financial Planning Seminar

APRS will be holding its semi-annual Financial Planning Seminar geared toward members with 10 or more years of service on Thursday, March 22, 2012. The next seminar will be in October 2012.

Seating is limited and is granted on a first come, first served basis. If you are interested in attending, please contact Rosanna Ramirez at rramirez@ausprs.org or (512) 416-7672.

A \$10 reservation fee along with the Registration form must be on file with the Pension Office to hold your reservation at the seminar. The \$10 fee will be refunded upon your attendance at the seminar.

Keep Us Updated

The system's Attorney requests that all members update their addresses, record release forms, health insurance forms, beneficiary statements and wills as often as necessary to reflect lifestyle changes such as a death or change in marital status and to help us stay current with your records.

It is very important that the Pension Office have updated forms on file every time there is any type of change in order to serve you better.

Retired members can go to www.ausprs.org to obtain these forms. All forms can be mailed to the Pension Office at P.O. Box 41089, Austin, TX, 78704 . Active members should update their information with APD HR.

When updating your information, please include your name, phone number, date, e-mail address, social security number and signature for verification purposes.

Annual Statements Mailed

The Austin Police Retirement System (APRS) year-end 2011 membership Annual Statements have been mailed. The statements were prepared to show active police members the number of years of creditable service on file and the dollar amount of contributions and interest on deposit.

2011 Auditor and Actuary

The Board of Trustees has once again engaged Arturo Montemayor & Associates to conduct the 2011 year-end audit of the APRS Financial Statements and commissioned Rudd & Wisdom, Inc. to perform the 2011 year-end actuarial valuation. These audits will begin in April and end on June 30, 2012.