



# Employees' Retirement System Communicator

*SPECIAL EDITION*

*January 2009*



Dr. Dean A. Roepke  
Pension Board Chairman

## Contact Information

### Employees' Retirement System

Please contact the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) Division at **414-278-4207** in Milwaukee or **toll-free at 877-652-6377** outside of Milwaukee for all Pension questions, including retirement calculations.

## A Message from the Pension Board Chairman

Dear Milwaukee County Employees' Retirement System Members,

Current events in the financial markets are certainly a cause for concern and have generated uncertainty with the American public and throughout the world. But, as members of a "defined benefit" plan, the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) has a legal obligation to pay your benefits as they come due. The Pension Board wants to reassure you that it will continue to manage the pension fund on your behalf in order to maintain the security of your pension benefits.

It is important that employee ideas and concerns are heard, and that is why our Pension Board includes employee members. Employee participation on the Board helps ensure that the thoughts and concerns of the employees are taken into consideration when administering the Pension system. ERS will hold an election this February to fill two vacant employee seats on the Pension Board. Five employees have filed the necessary papers and will appear as candidates on the ballot. The next section of this Newsletter provides a brief statement from each of the candidates along with some background information.

We're excited to introduce on-line voting for this election. You'll be receiving directions along with your user ID and password in a couple of weeks. On Election Day, you can log on to the secure voting system, read about the candidates and make your selection — all from the convenience of a computer. Members without an email address will receive election information through the US mail. Kiosks will be available at several Milwaukee County locations to make sure everyone has a chance to vote!

Wishing you all a healthy and prosperous 2009,

Dr. Dean A. Roepke,  
Chairman

## About Your Pension Board

The Employees' Retirement System (ERS) of the County of Milwaukee is a single-employer plan that was created to encourage qualified personnel to enter and remain in the service of the County of Milwaukee (the "County") by providing a system of retirement, disability and death benefits to or on behalf of its employees. In 1937, the County was mandated to create the ERS as a separate legal entity with the passage of Chapter 201 of the Laws of Wisconsin.

The authority to manage and administer the ERS is vested in the Pension Board. The Pension Board consists of nine members — three members appointed by the County Executive (subject to confirmation by the County Board of Supervisors), two members appointed by the County Board Chairman (subject to confirmation of the County Board and County Executive) and four elected ERS members, consisting of three employee members and one retired member.



## Pension Board Election

The Employees' Retirement System of the County of Milwaukee is holding an election to fill two vacant employee seats on the Pension Board.

- (1) An employee member seat of the Pension Board for a three-year term beginning on March 1, 2009.
- (2) An employee member seat of the Pension Board for a two-year term beginning on March 1, 2009.

The **Primary Election** will be held on **Thursday, February 5, 2009** and a **Final Election** among the candidates receiving the most votes will be held on **Thursday, February 19, 2009**. The finalist receiving the most votes in the final election will receive the

three-year term seat, and the finalist receiving the second most votes will receive the two-year term seat.

All active employees of the County who are members of the Retirement System on Election Day will be eligible to vote. Each eligible employee is permitted **ONE VOTE ONLY** for each of the two seats.

The following candidates will appear on the ballot:

- Kurt Zunker
- Rex Queen
- Keith Garland
- Guy Stuller
- Jeanette Balistrieri

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## Meet the Candidates

### Kurt Zunker

Department: Department of Transportation & Public Works - Highway Maintenance  
 Title: Highway Maintenance Worker III  
 Service Credits: 25.5 Years

*Recent studies have shown that defined benefit contribution plans like the County's ERS system are the safest and least costly for large employers compared to 401K plans and other retirement options. If elected to the pension board I will diligently serve to safeguard and protect this most valuable asset to the benefit of all Milwaukee County Employees*




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### Rex Queen

Department: County Treasurers  
 Title: Accounting Manager  
 Service Credits: 23 Years

*My goal is to improve the financial practices and long-term viability of the Pension fund. I bring to this position, skills as an Accounting Manager and experience in county finances, banking and investments. In my current role as Deputy Treasurer, my contributions have been recognized in awards from the National Association of Counties, the Public Policy forum and the County Board. As your representative, I will be a watchdog and advocate for sound financial planning.*



## Meet the Candidates . . . Cont'd

### Keith Garland

Department: Department of Transportation & Public Works  
 Title: Accountant IV  
 Service Credits: 2 Years

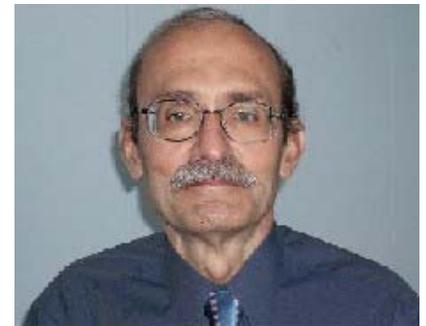


*My job responsibilities with DTPW-Transportation have me involved in the development and implementation of effective accounting policies and procedures for transportation engineering and operations. The valuable experience & knowledge gained, that includes 20 years accounting practice, in the private sector, had also engaged me in the selection and oversight of short-term investments. I pledge to be accountable and honorable in my role as your representative on the Pension Board for "our best" interest.*

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### Guy Stuller

Department: Behavioral Health Division  
 Title: Accountant III  
 Service Credits: 33 Years



*Put my 12 years of trustee experience and credentials back to work for you. I am an Accountant III at BHD, DC 48 member, Chartered Pension Professional, Master Trustee and Certified Financial Planner. Now more than ever you need a strong employee advocate on the Pension Board. You can be assured that I will aggressively represent your interests as your Pension Board representative. If you have questions call me at 257-7371.*

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### Jeanette Balistrieri

Department: Department of Transportation & Public Works  
 Title: Highway Maintenance Worker III  
 Service Credits: 22 Years



*I am running for the pension Board because I feel we need someone to keep us informed. Many times I get information about my pension through word of mouth or even the newspaper. I would like to run a piece about our Pension through Ceridian to keep people informed, and open for any questions about your pension.*

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