

RETIREE Connection

Published Bi-Annually for Retired Members
of the State Employees' Retirement System

FALL/WINTER 2011 ♦ VOLUME IV ISSUE II

Office of
State Treasurer
Steven Grossman



Robert Minue

This past summer, the State Retirement Board lost our dear friend and colleague, Robert Minue, after a tragic accident.

“Bob worked at the Treasury since 1982 and served with great distinction as Deputy Director of the State Retirement Board since 1999. He was at all times professional, knowledgeable, and committed to serving the thousands of colleagues and retirees he helped throughout his career. He was a role model and mentor to a generation of public servants and embodied the finest qualities of service, dedication, and leadership,” recalled Treasurer Steven Grossman.



He is missed by all of us here at the State Retirement Board and the Treasurer's office. ♦

The Board Turns 100!

Legislation creating the State Retirement Board was enacted in July 1911 and the first Board meeting was held in February 1912. We plan on commemorating this milestone next year and we would like you, our benefit recipients, to be a part of the celebration!

Please send us a letter or an email letting us know how your retirement has affected your life or a story about your retirement. We will randomly choose some of your responses to help mark the

Board's centennial celebration next spring. You can email us at ndunker@tre.state.ma.us or mail your letter to:

State Retirement Board
Communications Dept.
1 Ashburton Place
Suite 1219
Boston, MA 02108

Select responses will be chosen for print in upcoming newsletters. Please make sure to include your contact information. We look forward to reading your letters! ♦

I would first like to express the deep sense of loss we all feel as a result of Bob Minue's passing. He was a dedicated public servant and his contributions and connections with our members will have a lasting impact.

Building on Bob's legacy, this issue is also about connections. Massachusetts constituents will see us move towards our goal of a more transparent and connected government with the Massachusetts OpenCheckbook. We would like you to connect with us with our new Facebook page. Finally, we would like to connect you with your property, so make sure to read page 3 for more information on the activities of the Treasury's Unclaimed Property Division.

I look forward to celebrating the Board's 100th year of providing benefits to the public servants of this Commonwealth and look forward to hearing your thoughts about this milestone.

Feel free to send us your comments on the topics featured in this newsletter or any other issues of concern. We welcome your feedback.

Steven Grossman
Treasurer & Receiver General

In This Issue...

- 1 Board Centennial / Robert Minue
Message From Treasurer Grossman
- 2 Massachusetts Open Checkbook
MSRB Facebook Page
- 3 Your Money / PRIM Update
Unclaimed Property Update
- 4 2012 Direct Deposit Schedule
Reminders

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Website

www.mass.gov/retirement

Related Agencies

SMART Plan Service Center

1-877-457-1900

Group Insurance Commission

617-727-2310, Ext. 6

Understanding Your Benefits

Open Checkbook Going Live this Year

What Does This Mean for State Retirees?

In an effort to make state spending information more accessible to the public, the Executive Office of Administration & Finance, the Office of the Treasurer, and the Office of the Comptroller have been working together on launching the Open Checkbook Project. This is a proactive approach to civic engagement and was statutorily mandated by the legislature in the fiscal 2011 budget. The Open Checkbook website, as implemented at the end of this year, will show payments to vendors that are processed through the state's accounting system as well as payroll and pension data.

The pension information that will be displayed has been made available upon request in the past, but this will be the

first time that comprehensive, up-to-date information will be accessible at the touch of a button.

Fields to be displayed will include: recipient name, last job title, last department worked, retirement date, monthly pension, and annual pension. The public will be able to search pension detail by calendar year, department, job title and recipient name. Please note, no protected data will be displayed (no social security number, employee ID number, addresses, or bank information).

The MSRB is working closely with the Open Checkbook staff to ensure **only the information subject to public records disclosure is available**. Feel free to contact srb@tre.state.ma.us with any questions or comments. ♦



The State Retirement Board now has a Facebook page! If you use the social networking site, make sure to "like" our page to get the most up-to-date retirement information. Be the first to know about happenings with the Board, changes in law, or the latest in retirement news from across the country.

Our page is also a forum for us to hear from you and comments are allowed on all our posts. Go to Facebook.com today and search for "Massachusetts State Retirement Board". ♦



Your Money - PRIM Update, Unclaimed Property

Treasury Identifies Members with Unclaimed Property

According to the Treasury's Unclaimed Property Division (UCP), 1 out of 10 Massachusetts residents has unclaimed property. But did you know that for retirees and benefit recipients of the State Employees' Retirement System that figure is closer to 1 out of 5? Currently the UCP is holding over \$3 million of your assets on account. Out of the 53,000 retirees and benefit recipients, over 10,000 of you have unclaimed property.



“Our first objective is to reunite people with their rightfully owned property.”

- State Treasurer Steven Grossman

In order to reach even more people this year, the UCP has cross-referenced its database with the MSERS for the first time ever to help identify these individuals. Some of you may have received a letter and claim form in the

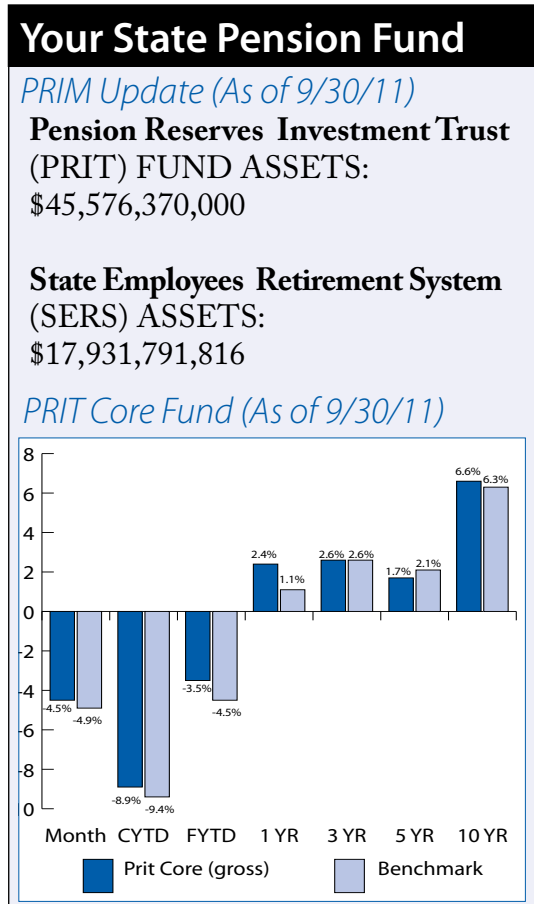
mail already. If you have not returned it yet, please do so, and include any information the form is requesting in order to speed up the process. If you received the letter but not the claim form, please call the UCP Monday-Friday 8:45am to 5:00pm EST at 617-367-0400 or 1-888-344-MASS (toll free Massachusetts only).

While the Treasury makes every effort to find an owner of an asset, some items may never be claimed. In that case, the UCP will auction select items that have been held for an extended period of time to the highest bidder. An auction was recently held on the online auction site, eBay.com, where you can find items that were put up for bid by entering the eBay seller ID "state.treasurer.grossman" under advanced search. If an owner or heir of a sold item were to ever come forward after the auction, they will be fully compensated for the sale price of the item.

The UCP returned over \$428,000 to retirees and benefit recipients in

September. They hope to return even more as the months go by. If you have not received a letter but would like to check your status please go to their website, www.findmassmoney.com or give them a call toll-free at 888-344-MASS with any questions. ♦

Shown at left is a 14K gold pavé diamond and emerald encrusted tiger pin - one of the items auctioned off on eBay.



Please send your newsletter comments to the editor: ndunker@tre.state.ma.us or mail to our Boston office. Selected letters may be printed in future issues. Please include your name and address. Letters may be edited for clarity & space.



This Newsletter was printed using soy inks on 100% post-consumer recycled fiber.

100% Green-e certified wind power was used for the printing and binding of this newsletter

You can help too!

If you would like to be added to our email list to receive this newsletter electronically, please contact our office.

You Served the Commonwealth...We Serve You.

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The Last Word - 2012 Direct Deposit Dates

Mark your calendars today or clip and save these dates for future reference.

Tuesday January 31	Wednesday February 29	Friday March 30	Monday April 30
Thursday May 31	Friday June 29	Tuesday July 31	Friday August 31
Friday September 28	Wednesday October 31	Friday November 30	Monday December 31

Since going paperless the Board has mailed **300,000 fewer pieces of mail** and **saved \$145,000** in postage costs compared to the previous year.

Reminders

Change of Address

If you are moving to a new location don't forget to contact the Board in writing to change your address.

Direct Deposit

Now mandatory for all new retirees, direct deposit is safe, secure, and convenient.

View your statement online anytime with *Retiree PayInfo*, www.mass.gov/payinfo