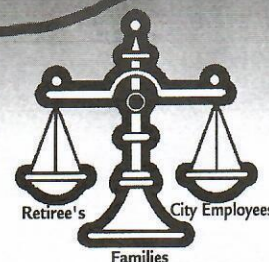


RECSL News

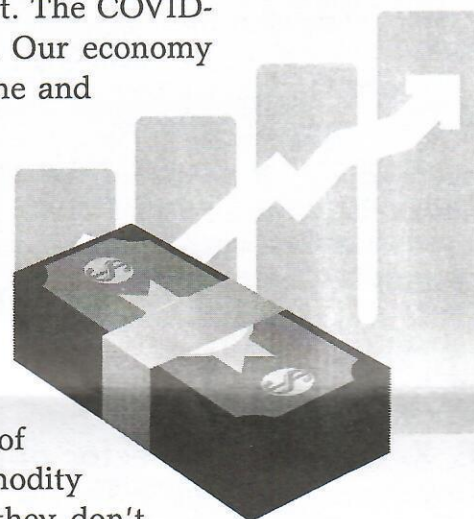
Volume XVIII, Issue 1
JUNE 2021



PENSION NEWS *by Tom Stoff*

To say this past year was tumultuous is a gross understatement. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted our world in ways we couldn't imagine. Our economy came to a screeching halt, we had to wear face masks, quarantine and intensify our hygiene habits. In record time, a vaccine was developed and distribution began, offering some hope of a return to some level of normalcy. Throughout it all, the Board of Trustees of your pension system continued to meet monthly and at special meetings to insure the stability and continued growth of the Fund.

The economy continues to show improvement as all 57 economic indicators came in at or above estimates for the last week of April. Supply and inflation concerns are prevalent as major commodity prices continue to climb though a survey of consumers reveal they don't expect it to last. More than 260 million doses of the vaccine have been administered in the United States; one out of three Americans are fully vaccinated. There are record high numbers of job openings as firms begin rehiring.



Our pension fund has fared well! While we experienced a ten percent decrease in investments in March 2020 to a low point of \$705.1 million, we earned 6.4% for FY 2020. Our investments have rebounded and grown. By the end of the fiscal year the fund had grown to \$800,291,696. That growth has continued with the market value of the pension fund, as of May 12, 2021, climbing to \$917,264,551.

The Board of Trustees continues to look for ways to increase the return on investment by monitoring the performances of our money managers, making changes where necessary and controlling management fees. Recently we engaged the services of a US Equity Mid-Cap Value manager. We will continue to search for ways to maintain the viability and sustainability of Employees Retirement System.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer.

**ANYONE NOT RECEIVING THE MONTHLY PHONE MESSAGES ANNOUNCING
THE MONTHLY MEETING PLEASE CALL MIKE SULLIVAN AT 314-631-9158.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mike Sullivan

Greetings members and friends!

I am pleased to report that our long nightmare of Covid-19 appears to be drawing to an end. The proverbial light at the end of the tunnel is in sight!

After being forced to suspend our meetings for several months due to the virus, we resumed in April. We had a respectable crowd return but unfortunately our scheduled speaker was unable to attend.

Our May meeting was excellent. Our speaker was our friend, the Hon. Gregory F. X. Daly, City Collector of Revenue. Greg gave us his usual detailed information about the operation of his office and answered numerous questions from the floor posed by our members.

For our members who have not yet returned, please consider our next meeting the 3rd Thursday of the month as usual. We are meeting in a larger room which provides us with more than adequate space for social distancing.

And don't forget our annual picnic. This year to be held in August on the 19th. Hope to see all of you there. Beverages are available for purchase from the Czech Center.

Meeting News

April 15, 2021

The meeting was opened on Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 10:07am. The pledge was recited and the Treasurer's Report was given indicating a checking account balance of \$6,994.02 and the Franklin Fund balance of \$35,000.00 (market value of \$36,224.99) for a total of \$41,994.02. The Treasurer's report was moved and seconded for approval pending audit.

The Pension Board Report fared well as reported with a 10% decrease in investments and fiscal year 2020 earning 6.4%. As of March 2021 the market value was \$895 million.

The Social Committee: The picnic for 2021 will be held inside this year as in the past.

The Earnings Tax passed, acknowledgement of the new mayor - Mayor Tishuara Jones and 4 new aldermen, acknowledging also Jim who is responsible for our newsletter who has been ill

Speaker: Our speaker was unable to attend due to covid 19 restrictions

Membership: Frank Sidowski, a regular member is currently in a nursing home.

Attendance prizes:

\$25 went to Theresa

50/50 went to Tom Behan

\$15 John

Rollover went to Jim Garavaglia (\$170)

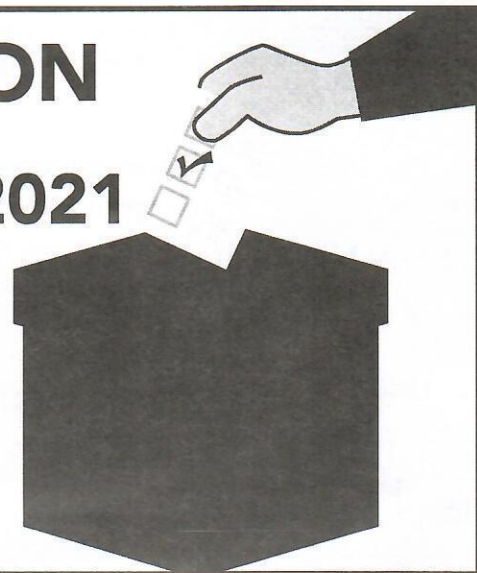
\$10 Barbara B

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27am.

Submitted by Theresa White, Secretary,

Mike Sullivan, President

ELECTION
AUGUST 3, 2021
CITY WIDE
GENERAL
ELECTION



In Memorial

During 2021, we were notified that the following members have passed away:

Eugene T. Broaders
June M. Harris
Ronald L. Horstman
Kenneth L. Jones

Raymond J. Sacks
Loretta Thomas
Betty Jo Wicks

Our deepest condolences to the families of deceased members and may they rest in peace.

New Members



We welcome them and hope to see them at our monthly meetings.

During 2021, the following retirees have become members of our organization.

Denis J. Ainley
Steven M. Brendle
Jennifer J. Collin
Chery A. Donofrio
Jacqueline Gammill
Barbara A. Holmes
Joan M. Jennings
Stephen A. Kettmann
Roman Kordal
Lyda Krewson
Dennis B Moore
Richard L. Olliges
Mario A. Pandolfo Jr
Aaron E. Phillips
Gerald W. Raske
David P. Sykora
Susan A. Torretta
Desha Vaughn
Evelyn L Vetz

Treasurer's Report by Norm Sutterer

As of May 31, 2021 our balances are:

Checking Account \$6,568.22

Edward Jones \$35,000.00 (Mkt. Value \$37,264.23)
\$41,568.22

Volunteers Needed

We need you to volunteer!

If you have the skills such as:

- Letter Writing
- Proofreading/Editing
- Data Entry
- Clerical
- Social Activities
- Organizing/Leadership

If you have any of the above mentioned skills, please let us know.

We Need You!

Contact Mike Sullivan 314-631-9158

Note: RECSL Membership Meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of the month EXCEPT no meetings in January, September (Annual Picnic) and December (Christmas Party). The meetings are at the American Czech Center, 4690 Landsdowne, St. Louis, MO. Meetings start at 10:00 am.

RECSL Officers

President	Mike Sullivan	314-631-9158
Vice President	Tom Stoff	
Treasurer	Norm Sutterer	314-752-7997
Secretary	Theresa White	
Trustees	Gary Gooden	
	Marilyn Siebenman	314-497-8803
	Joanna Stoverink	
	Jim Gadell	314-781-6220

ERS Pension Rep Tom Stoff

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The services and information available in and through this newsletter including but not limited to website links are provided "as is without warranties of any kind."

Address Changes

A separate address change notification to RECSL is required in addition to the address change notification made to the Employees Retirement System. Please notify RECSL as soon as possible when you have an address change. We do not want you to miss a Newsletter or notice of an upcoming event. It is costly and time consuming to have mail returned to us, often the Post Office will not forward mis-addressed mail.

Address changes should go to:

RECSL
Joanne Stoverink
P.O. Box 190724
St. Louis, MO 63119-6724

5 Scams to Avoid as Travel Resumes

AARP's Fraud Watch team warns you of cons that could ruin your getaway plans

Patricia Frolander, 78, walked into the Rapid City, S.D., Regional Airport in April with a ticket to St. George, Utah. She was on her way to visit a dear friend – but never got there. "After a year of isolation in my small town in north-east Wyoming, I was ready to travel," she recalls. But an airline employee broke the bad news: Her \$398 ticket was for a nonexistent flight.

"I booked my trip through a travel agency website that looked legitimate," Frolander says. The only red flag: fine print on page 5 of her ticket saying she couldn't contest the reservation once purchased. "When my granddaughter checked online, she traced the website to a travel agency with a very bad history with the Better Business Bureau," Frolander says. Her credit card company investigated and has agreed to refund her money.

As more Americans venture out of pandemic isolation after being vaccinated and head for long-awaited vacations and reunions with family and friends, they are whetting the appetite of a class of scam artists who target travelers, says Lois Greisman, director of the Federal Trade Commission's Division of Marketing Practices.

Here's how experts say you can avoid five current travel scams.

1. Free or rock-bottom deals

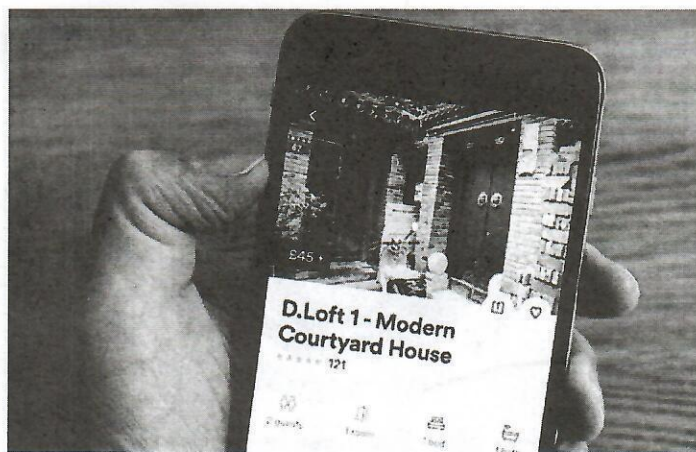
Phone calls, emails and postcards with enticing travel offers look tempting, but a deal that's way under the value of a trip – like five nights in a hotel plus airfare to Maui for \$200 – means it's probably a scam, says Amy Nofziger, AARP anti-fraud expert.

Avoid this scam: Simply walk away from any deal that seems too good to be true. And if a company asks you to pay with a prepaid gift card instead of a credit card or debit card, it's a scam, Nofziger says. Always work with a trusted travel agency or company that has a long, proven history of offering travel opportunities, she says.

2. Rental-car cons

Several travelers alerted AARP this spring to fake rental-car-company scams. Crooks set up phony customer service numbers online that look just like those of major rental-car companies. When you call, they take your money and personal information, then leave you stranded.

Avoid this scam: Before you call or click to reserve a car, verify that you're calling the real customer service depart-



ment, or that you're on a legitimate rental-car-company website.

3. Third-party websites for TSA PreCheck and Global Entry programs

Look-alike websites are popping up that claim to help you renew or enroll in the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) PreCheck or the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Global Entry program that speed you through airport security for a fee. But these sites are actually trying to con you out of money and personal information.

Avoid this scam: Travelers interested in enrolling in or renewing TSA PreCheck should start the process by going to the official government website, tsa.gov.

4. Disappearing vacation rentals

Scammers capitalize on the popularity of vacation properties rented out on legit sites like Airbnb and Vrbo (Vacation Rentals by Owner) by offering online or via social media properties that don't exist, don't belong to them or don't measure up to the gorgeous photos.

Avoid this scam: Keep all of your interactions with a vacation property's owners on the website of legitimate companies. A request to take your conversation off the site is a sign of a likely scam. If a property has few reviews or seems too good to be true, search the address online, or check it on Google Maps.

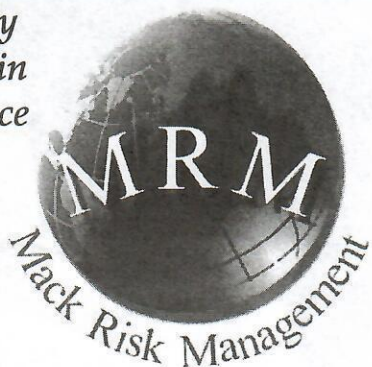
5. Airport and hotel Wi-Fi hacks

Connecting to public Wi-Fi gives savvy hackers easy access to your personal information.

Avoid this scam: Use your smartphone's hot spot to connect to the internet more securely. Or invest in a virtual private network (VPN), a service that encrypts your data to keep unscrupulous hackers from stealing sensitive information online. A VPN costs about \$30 to \$100 per year.

By Sari Harrar is an award-winning journalist and contributing editor to AARP publications.

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***Good Luck
to Members
of RECSL***

From

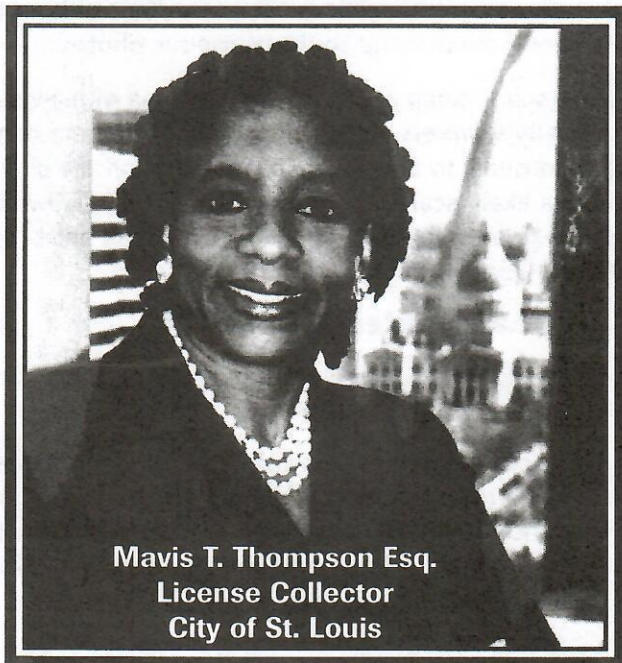
Gregory F.X. Daly

Collector of Revenue

City of St. Louis



***User Name: Retiree
Password: Relax***



**Mavis T. Thompson Esq.
License Collector
City of St. Louis**

**WISHING YOU ALL A
HAPPY AND SAFE**





RECSL Picnic Notice

Thursday,
August 19, 2021

11:00 am

American Czech Center

4690 Landsdowne

FREE HAMBURGERS AND HOT DOGS

Beverages available at the hall

Attendance Prizes of \$100,
\$50 and \$25 for members only

Come and visit with friends and enjoy a FREE lunch!

