

# Chicopee Contributory Retirement System

## Newsletter for Active Members, Retirees & Their Families

274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA  
413-594-1542

SUMMER OF 2022

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Retirement is a change of circumstances allowing one to say with confidence "It's not my problem anymore!"

Author unknown

### [Chicopee Contributory Retirement Board new Staff Member:](#)

Please stop by our office and meet our new Administrative Assistant, Kyle Kelly. Kyle joined our staff in February after being a "Pandemic Response Clerk" for the city of Chicopee during the recent COVID Pandemic. You would often see Kyle at our COVID testing site, where he assisted the team with various tasks or when he was a door monitor at City Hall.

Kyle will be handling our new and active members of our system. So if you have a question please feel free to reach out to Kyle or any other staff member, as they will gladly help you at any time.

### ["Post Retirement Work"](#)

The Massachusetts Senate and the House of Representatives voted unanimously to override Governor Baker's previous veto of the proposed legislative increase in post-retirement work hours. As a result, the new annual limit for retirees is **1,200 hours** per calendar year if working in the public sector. This legislation does not impact the dollar amount that you can earn or the disability retiree reporting requirements.

**So please remember to call our office and ask for an Outside**

**Earnings Letter to show you exactly how much you can earn each year.**

### ["What is a Power of Attorney?"](#)

A Power of Attorney is a legal document that gives an individual the right to act on your behalf in case you are not able to do so due to an illness or accident. This individual can take any action that you permit in the document.

There are four (4) different types of POAs to choose from based on your particular situation.

**Limited:** this gives someone else the legal authority to act on your behalf for a limited purpose or for a limited time period.

**General:** this gives someone else the legal authority to act on your behalf for all affairs, but it would be revoked if you should become disabled or incapacitated.

**Durable:** this is the same as a General POA, but it would remain intact if you do become disabled or incapacitated.

**Springing:** gives someone else the authority to act on our behalf if you become disabled or incapacitated, but it only becomes effective when you actually become disabled or incapacitated.

Chicopee Contributory Retirement System  
274 Front Street  
Chicopee, MA 01013  
413-594-1542

Email:  
ahamblin@chicopeema.gov

Office Hours:  
Monday through Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### **2022 Pension Payment Schedule**

**July – Friday the 29th**  
**August – Wednesday the 31st**  
**September – Friday the 30th**  
**October – Monday the 31st**  
**November – Wednesday the 30th**  
**December – Friday the 30th**

### [Members of the Board](#)

Timothy O. O'Shea, Chairman  
Elected Member

Sharyn Riley, City Auditor &  
Member Ex-Officio

Debra Boronski, Appointed  
By the Mayor

Paul Mailhott, Elected Member

David Ference, Appointed by the  
Board

Anna Maria Hamblin  
Executive Director

## [“OPTION D Beneficiary Selection Forms”](#)

A lot of questions have come up recently and we feel that it is very important to remind all of our active members about an Option D beneficiary.

Every active member should consider naming an **Option D Beneficiary**.

We all know the difference between Options A, B and C when we retire. But what is Option D?

If you pass away while an active employee then Option D or the “Member-Survivor Allowance” can provide benefits to your dependents.

No one plans to die prior to retirement. Nevertheless, if it does happen, you can designate where the money you have been contributing into the retirement system should go.

Option D provides your named beneficiary with a monthly retirement allowance that you would have received under Option C had you retired on the date of death. If you are under the age of 55 at death, your age will be “bumped up” to 55 to calculate the allowance. (For members who have joined the system after April 2, 2012, the age is 60). The age of your beneficiary is also “bumped up” an equal amount. If you are over 55 (or 60 for the newer members) the calculation factor for your actual age at death is used.

### **Who can be an Option D beneficiary?**

Only **ONE (1)** Option D beneficiary may be named – either a spouse, child, former spouse who has not remarried, mother, father, brother or sister is eligible for designation.

**Surviving Spouses:** If you do not make an Option D designation, then your spouse can still elect to receive the Option D allowance,

or can request a refund of your accumulated retirement deductions in a lump sum if you have completed at least two (2) years of creditable service with our System and if you and your spouse have been married for a least one year and provided that you are living together at the time of your death.

The rights of an eligible surviving spouse will always trump any other person nominated as the Option D Beneficiary. The retirement board will notify your spouse of his/her rights to elect the Option D benefits and your eligible spouse will then have 90 days from the date of the notice to elect these benefits. To be effective, the election must be made on a prescribed form and filed with the Board. However, if your spouse is named by you as the Option D beneficiary, your spouse must receive the monthly allowance and will not be able choose between the allowance and a one-time lump sum benefit. If you have not named another individual as your Option D beneficiary, your accumulated deductions will be paid to the beneficiary that you have named on your beneficiary form prior to your death. If no one is named, then your spouse will receive the monies in a lump sum. If you named another individual as your Option D beneficiary, that individual will receive a lifetime allowance (instead of a lump sum payment being made to the surviving beneficiary of record). You may change your Option D beneficiary at any given time as long as written notice is given to the Chicopee Contributory Retirement System office. You can file a new Beneficiary Selection Form at any time.

Your Option D Beneficiary will remain in effect unless:

- ✓ You retire.
- ✓ You cancel it in writing.
- ✓ Your designated beneficiary predeceases you.
- ✓ Your surviving beneficiary is eligible to receive an accidental death benefit.

- ✓ Your eligible surviving spouse elects to receive a benefit, even if you did not choose your spouse as your Option D beneficiary.

Please contact our office for further information or if you have any questions. Our staff will gladly answer your questions.

## [“Monthly Board Meeting Schedule”](#)

The Chicopee Retirement Board meetings are now being held once a month on the fourth WEDNESDAY of each month at 8:30 a.m. The following is a list of remaining dates for calendar year 2022:

July 27<sup>th</sup>  
August 24<sup>th</sup>  
September 28<sup>th</sup>  
October 26<sup>th</sup>  
November 16<sup>th</sup>  
December 14<sup>th</sup>

(meetings are subject to change)  
The monthly Board Meetings are held in the Auditor's Conference Room on the third floor at city hall.

## [Chicopee Contributory Retirement Board numbers as of 2021:](#)

Active Members – 1,194  
Inactive Members - 244  
Retired Members - 923



[The Chicopee Retirement Board Members & Staff would like to wish everyone a happy summer. Enjoy your time with family & friends – and always stay safe!](#)