



Illinois Pensions Newsletter

A PUBLICATION OF IPPFA

August 2025

A Message from IPPFA President, James McNamee

Get the word out on Article 3 Police Creditable Service



IPPFA received an inquiry from a city clerk in a downstate municipality. A police officer had applied for pension with 26 years and 11 months of service. He was awarded a pension of 65% of pensionable salary. He protested that he didn't receive credit for 11 months of service and requested a refund of his payroll contributions from the months that didn't count towards his pension. The pension award was upheld and the refund request was denied. The city was seeking validation that they had done the right thing.

IPPFA doesn't give legal advice, but we informally agreed that the police pension fund had handled this application properly. Under the Article 3 "Downstate" Police statute, creditable service is awarded only for whole, complete years of service (not partial years or months). And refunds are only permitted when all pension rights are given up, such as separation refunds or portability transfers to another Article 3 fund. Additionally, a refund may be made to an estate in the rare case that a pensioner doesn't live long enough to at least collect his or her contributions.

It is frustrating that this officer could have worked one more month and received an extra 2-1/2% of salary for the rest of his life and that of a qualified survivor. **Police pension funds should consider letting active members know that service credit is only granted to whole years.** Maybe the problem experienced by this officer can be avoided at your pension fund.

Note that in the case of Article 4 fire pensions, service credit is given for each month after attainment of the vesting requirement.

One of the best ways for your membership to be up to date on their benefits is to provide copies of our updated IPPFA Retirement Guide, available on Amazon or through bulk order (10 or more) from IPPFA for \$7.50 per copy. In addition to police/fire pension information, they'll learn about their improved Social Security benefits, deferred compensation, and retiree healthcare savings.

Sincerely,
James McNamee
IPPFA President



IPPFA
PREPARE PROTECT EDUCATE INFORM

40TH
Serving Illinois Pension Trustees Since 1985

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[HEROES FAMILY FUND](#)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

[2025 HFF MidAmerican Golf Outing](#)

[2025 Employee Benefits Conference](#)

[2025 MidAmerican Pension Conference](#)

[Carterville Regional Seminar](#)

[2025 Heroes Family Fund Holiday Gala](#)

ONLINE TRAINING

[16 Hour Online CTP Course](#)

[8 Hour Online Seminar \(2025\)](#)

NEWS LINKS

[Strong Final Month of Revenues Elevates FY 2025 General Funds Revenue Total to Near \\$54.0 Billion](#)

[Spring 2025 Pension Legislation Overview](#)

[The GENIUS Act of 2025: Stablecoin Legislation Adopted in the US](#)

[Risk Commentary: Power shift in Eurasia; Comments on Likely Outcomes](#)

[The Funded Status of Public Plans Keeps Improving - Albeit Modestly](#)

[Import Surges and Tariff Avoidance: The Short-Term Impact of the Trump Administration's Trade Policies](#)

[Illinois to return \\$45 million of missing money to residents: 'This is not a scam'](#)

[Social Security's Financial Outlook: The 2025 Update in Perspective](#)

[Department of Energy Releases Report on Evaluating U.S. Grid Reliability and Security](#)

Duane Morris Class Action Review – 2025/2026: Mid-Year Class Action Settlement Report & Analysis

The Impact of Generative AI on Work Productivity

Trump wants to set up a sovereign wealth fund. What is it?

States face hard choices as budgets expected to tighten

State ends fiscal year with record revenue

Two health insurers leave Illinois market

UPCOMING PENSION TRUSTEE TRAININGS

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

2025 MidAmerican Pension Conference

October 1 - 2, 2025



Oak Brook Hills Resort

3500 Midwest Rd.

Oak Brook, IL 60523

[REGISTER NOW](#)

[Hotel Reservation](#)

CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES:

Looking to showcase your organization at our conference? Explore our exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities! Gain exposure, connect with key decision-makers, and make a lasting impact.

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Exhibitor Information

2025 Employee Benefits Conference

October 1, 2025



Oak Brook Hills Resort
3500 Midwest Rd.
Oak Brook, IL 60523

REGISTER NOW

Hotel Reservation

Sponsorship Information

2025 Carterville 8 Hour Regional Seminar

November 12, 2025



John A. Logan College
700 Logan College Road, F103
Carterville, IL 62918

REGISTER NOW

HEROES FAMILY FUND

Remembering Terrance Freeman



Rockford Fire Department End of Watch: November 22, 2009

This month, the Heroes Family Fund proudly honors the life and service of Terrance D. Freeman Sr., a devoted firefighter with the Rockford Fire Department who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Born on June 8, 1972, in Chicago, Terrance Freeman dedicated his life to public service and joined the Rockford Fire Department on February 23, 2005. Over the course of his career, he served with distinction at several stations, including Ladder Co. #2, Engine Co. #4, Ladder Co. #1, and Engine Co. #1. At the time of his passing, he was stationed at Engine Co. #3, where he was actively working toward earning his Paramedic certification.

On November 22, 2009, Firefighter Freeman passed away from an apparent heart attack, just hours after completing a shift that included multiple emergency responses. His death was officially recognized by the U.S. Fire Administration as occurring in the line of duty, a solemn reminder of the physical toll and invisible risks that come with a life of service.

Terrance Freeman is remembered not just for his bravery and professionalism, but for his unwavering dedication to the people of Rockford and to his fellow firefighters. His legacy lives on in the community he served, the department he loved, and the family and friends who continue to cherish his memory.

As we recognize Firefighter Freeman as our August Hero of the Month, we are reminded of the profound impact one life of service can have. The Heroes Family Fund is honored to shine a light on his story and ensure his sacrifice is never forgotten.

Join Us in Supporting the Heroes Family Fund

Help us honor Terrance and others like him by contributing to the Heroes Family Fund. Your generosity ensures that we can continue supporting the families of our fallen heroes in their time of need.

Guardian Sponsor: \$10,000+
Protector Sponsor: \$5,000–\$9,999
Courage Sponsor: \$2,500–\$4,999
Bravery Sponsor: \$1,000–\$2,499
Honor Sponsor: \$500–\$999
Community Sponsor: \$250–\$499
Supporter Sponsor: \$10–\$249

Scan or click the QR code below to make your donation today.



Support our Silent Auctions & Raffles!
Explore our Amazon Wishlist and contribute today.



[Amazon Wishlist](#)

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS:
Heroes Family Fund MidAmerican Golf Outing
September 30, 2025



Willow Crest Golf Club
3500 Midwest Rd.
Oak Brook, IL 60523

[REGISTER NOW](#)

This charity event is rain or shine, no refunds.

All proceeds go to the Heroes Family Fund.

Social Security Fairness Act Big Changes for Illinois Fire and Police!



The Social Security Fairness Act was signed into law on **January 5th**. This law increases benefits for fire and police personnel who have pensions from work that is not covered by Social Security. This affects the majority of Illinois “Downstate” fire and police. The law also repealed the Government Pension Offset that reduced or eliminated limited benefits that a police officer or firefighter might earn from a spouse’s Social Security record. IPPFA will schedule updates on this law via our **YouTube** channel and at our **2025 conferences and seminars**.

[IPPFA TV Interview](#)

The IPPFA Retirement Guide – 3rd Edition

The best source of information on the newly expanded Social Security benefits is the **3rd Edition of the IPPFA Retirement Guide**

The Social Security chapter has been **totally rewritten**. In addition, the book has been updated with the latest information on:

- Article 3 police pensions
- Article 4 fire pensions
- Public employee deferred compensation
- Retirement healthcare funding

Order Your Copy Today!

The IPPFA Retirement Guide – 3rd Edition is now available:

- On Amazon: \$9.99

- From the IPPFA Office: \$7.50 per book for bulk sales of 10 books or more
When the books are sold in bulk from our office, IPPFA avoids the Amazon royalty charge and passes the savings on to you.

For the earlier editions, IPPFA sold thousands of copies via bulk sale to police and fire pension funds, cities and fire districts and foreign fire insurance tax boards. Some entities bought 10 books and distributed them to the pension board, fire stations, police station libraries and alike. Other pension funds bought hundreds of books and supplied one to each active member.

[Order on Amazon \(Under 10 Books\)](#)

[Bulk Order from IPPFA \(10+ Books\)](#)

Get the Word Out!

Whatever the method, let's get the word out to our active and retired members on their new Social Security benefits.

[Download PDF](#)

EXPERT INSIGHTS

Each month in *Expert Insights*, IPPFA features timely tools, commentary, and resources from our trusted network of corporate members, attorneys, and subject-matter experts. These contributions reflect their deep commitment to strengthening Illinois' public pension community.

Are you a corporate member or legal professional with insights to share?

Share your expertise in a future Expert Insights feature and connect with the IPPFA community.

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