



Illinois Pensions Newsletter

A PUBLICATION OF IPPFA

November 2025

A Message from IPPFA President, James McNamee

Transfer Opportunity “Windows” Now Open



The recently passed Public Act 104-0284 provides an opportunity for some transfers of service within the “Downstate” Police and Fire pension systems as well as from Article 3 Police over to IMRF/SLEP. The information below is based on IPPFA’s reading of the new law and bulletins from the Illinois Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability (COGFA). Please refer any questions to your pension fund attorney and/or your fund’s professional pension administration firm if you contract for this service.

The law opens “windows” for transfer of service between the two Downstate funds and also for Police to IMRF. The allowance for transfer expires February 15, 2026.

The phrase “windows” does not appear in the law but this is a good descriptor for the limited time periods during which transfers can be made. It is IPPFA’s position that these limited opportunities are a poor mechanism for pension service accrual and transfer. These opportunities should either be made permanent *or* Article 3 and Article 4 Downstate systems should be admitted to the list of pension funds covered under the *Illinois Reciprocal Act*. If you agree, let your state legislators know.

The new opportunities are:

Six Month Window for Downstate Fire Members to Transfer Service Credit from a Downstate Police Fund. There is no permanent transfer opportunity between the Downstate Police and Downstate Fire pension funds. Previously P.A. 102-0063 opened a 6-month window in 2021 to allow a Downstate firefighter to transfer up to 8 years of credit from a Downstate Police pension fund to a Downstate Fire pension fund. The new P.A. 102-0284 opens an identical window that expires February 15, 2026.

Under the new law, the police pension fund must pay to the fire pension fund an amount equal to:

- 1) The amounts accumulated to the credit of the applicant on the date of transfer of service credit;
- 2) Employer contributions in an amount equal to the amount previously stated in item 1, and;
- 3) Any interest paid by the applicant in order to reinstate service in the Downstate

Six Month Window for Downstate Police Fund Members to Transfer Service Credit from a Downstate Fire Fund.

P.A. 102-0284 creates a new service credit transfer window, permitting active Downstate Police members to transfer up to 8 years of service credit from a Downstate Fire pension fund. An applicant must pay the difference between their past contributions (employee contributions, employer contributions & accumulated interest), and the amount they would have contributed to the Downstate Police fund for the equivalent service credits, as determined by the Downstate Police pension fund board. This law is now effective and the opportunity expires on February 15, 2026.

Six-Month Window for Downstate Police to Transfer Service Credit to IMRF.

Under prior law there was no reciprocity between Downstate Police pension funds and IMRF. A previous transfer window created by P.A. 102-1061 had allowed for the transfer of 10 years of service credit from Downstate Police to IMRF SLEP in 2022. Applicants were required to pay the difference between their employer and employee contributions from Downstate Police, and the equivalent contributions plus interest at IMRF's actuarially assumed rate.

P.A. 104-0284 reopens this transfer window for six months from the effective date of the bill, without a cap on the amount of service credits transferred. We believe the deadline will be February 15, 2026. An applicant transfers along with their service credit their employee contributions, employer contributions and any applicable interest that shall be determined by IMRF. Should there be a difference between the amount transferred from Downstate Police and the IMRF-determined contributions for the equivalent amount of service credit, the applicant is given the option of making up the difference or accepting a lower amount of service credit.

Sincerely,
James McNamee
IPPFA President



UPCOMING EVENTS

[Carterville Regional Seminar](#)

[2025 Heroes Family Fund Holiday Gala](#)

[2025 Certified Trustee Program 25-2](#)

ONLINE TRAINING

[16 Hour Online CTP Course](#)

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

NEWS LINKS

[Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability MONTHLY BRIEFING For the Month Ended: AUGUST 2025](#)

[More than 40% of city of Harvey staff placed on unpaid leave amid budget crisis](#)

[SEC Creates Cross-Border Task Force to Combat Fraud](#)

[Editorial: We strongly support this bipartisan plan to fix Illinois' broken state elections](#)

[I've Written About Loads of Scams. This One Almost Got Me.](#)

[Pritzker directs agencies to limit spending in response to Trump's economic policies](#)

[Employee Benefits in the United States Summary](#)

['This issue isn't going away': Illinois lawmakers delay pension reform again](#)

[Nuclear power, battery storage funding at center of energy policy debate](#)

[Analysis of the 2025 Federal Tax Changes Under the "One Big Beautiful Bill" Legislation](#)

[Beyond Awareness: Turning World Mental Health Day into Year-round Action](#)

[The Price Increases That Should Cause Americans More Alarm](#)

[Police agencies lower education standards as staffing shortages persist](#)

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UPCOMING PENSION TRUSTEE TRAININGS

2025 Carterville 8 Hour Regional Seminar

November 12, 2025



John A. Logan College

700 Logan College Road, F103
Carterville, IL 62918

[REGISTER NOW](#)

2025 Certified Trustee Program 25-2
December 16 - 17, 2025



NIU Outreach Campus
1120 E. Diehl Rd., Ste 107, Room 266
Naperville, IL 60563

[REGISTER NOW](#)

HEROES FAMILY FUND

Honoring Firefighter Daniel J. Bower
A Legacy of Service, Courage, and Commitment



Freeport Fire Department
End of Watch: November 12, 2013

The Heroes Family Fund is proud to honor the memory of Firefighter Daniel J.

Bower, whose life and service continue to inspire those who wear the uniform today.

Firefighter Dan Bower dedicated his life to serving others. He began his career with the City of Freeport Fire Department on August 29, 2002, and quickly earned the respect and admiration of his peers for his professionalism, compassion, and tireless work ethic. Throughout his career, Dan served as both a firefighter and paramedic, a member of the Hazardous Materials Team, and the MABAS 17 Technical Rescue Team. He also shared his expertise as a Confined Space Instructor with the Illinois Fire Service Institute, helping to train and protect fellow firefighters across the state.

Beyond his daily duties, Dan's leadership extended to the Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois (AFFI) Honor Guard, where he served as the District 7 Commander. His deep sense of duty, humility, and honor left an indelible mark on everyone who had the privilege to serve beside him.

Dan passed away in the line of duty on November 12, 2013, at the age of 38, after a courageous battle with cancer. Though gone too soon, his legacy of bravery, mentorship, and selflessness continues to shine brightly within the fire service community.

In recognition of his unwavering commitment, the AFFI Honor Guard established the Daniel J. Bower Commitment to Excellence Award. First introduced at the 21st Annual AFFI Honor Guard Convention in February 2013, the award was officially renamed and dedicated in Dan's honor at the 22nd Annual Convention on January 26, 2014. The award is presented to one individual who embodies the Honor Guard's motto "Whatever It Takes" and demonstrates a level of commitment and dedication above and beyond the call of duty.

This meaningful tribute ensures that Dan's spirit lives on through others who, like him, understand that the purpose of the Honor Guard and the fire service itself is bigger than any one individual.

Firefighter Daniel J. Bower's life serves as a powerful reminder of what it truly means to serve with courage, compassion, and integrity. His legacy continues to inspire the firefighting family across Illinois and beyond.

The Heroes Family Fund proudly remembers and honors Firefighter Daniel J. Bower and his enduring contributions to the fire service and his community.

Join Us in Supporting the Heroes Family Fund

Help us honor Daniel 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!
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[Amazon Wishlist](#)

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS:
Heroes Holiday Gala: A Season of Giving
December 4, 2025



Eaglewood Resort
1401 Nordic Rd.
Itasca, IL 60143

[RSVP NOW](#)

[ROOMING](#)

All IPPFA members are invited to attend at no cost.
Non-members will be required to pay a \$100 registration fee.

ROOMING DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 3RD

All proceeds go to the Heroes Family Fund.

2025 MIDAMERICAN PENSION CONFERENCE RECAP

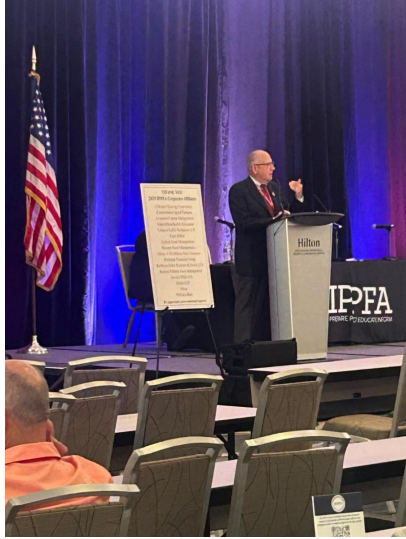
Thank You for Making the 2025 MidAmerican Pension Conference a Success!

As we wrap up another unforgettable conference, we want to extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who made the 2025 MidAmerican Pension Conference such a success.

From our dedicated trustees and members to our valued sponsors, exhibitors, and speakers—your engagement, insights, and enthusiasm helped create an event filled with meaningful conversations, valuable education, and strong connections.







We've just shared a gallery of photos highlighting some of our favorite moments—be sure to take a look and relive the experience!

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to strengthening public pensions. We look forward to seeing you again at next year's conference!

—The IPPFA Team

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.



Lauterbach & Amen, LLP

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

[Summary of Final Treasury Regulations: Catch-Up Contributions](#)

[Retirement Plan Changes Coming in 2026 for High Earners](#)

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

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ORDER THE IPPFA RETIREMENT GUIDE!

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)

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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.

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