

MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF ILLINOIS
September 8, 2011

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the State Employees' Retirement System of Illinois was held on Thursday, September 8, 2011, at 8:30 A.M. in the System's Springfield office at 2101 S. Veterans Parkway.

Committee members present:

Loren Iglarsh, Chairman
Lori Laidlaw, Vice Chairperson
Timothy Blair, Executive Secretary

Others Present:

Dave Roth, Attorney
Kathy Yemm, Manager, Claims Division
Joseph Maggio, Manager, Service & Refunds Division
Chris Silver, Supervisor, Disability Section
Michael Noblet, Supervisor, Pensions & Deaths Section
Kerry Walker, Assistant Supervisor, Disability Section
Randy Fox, Hearing

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the August 11, 2011 meeting of the Executive Committee were presented by Chairman Iglarsh for approval. Copies of the minutes were previously mailed to Committee members for review. There being no additions or corrections, on motion by Executive Secretary Blair seconded by a Vice Chairperson Laidlaw and by unanimous vote, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Routine Claims & Denial Report

The Routine Claims and Denials Report for the month of August, 2011 were presented for approval. Following review and discussion, Chairman Iglarsh moved acceptance of the Routine Claims and Denials Report for the period of August, 2011. Vice Chairperson Laidlaw seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Old Business

Robert Ruiz Pension

Mr. Ruiz is receiving a retirement annuity from SERS. He retired effective February 1, 2009 using reciprocity with the County Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago (CEA&BF).

Based on a review of the file and information submitted, the Committee finds Robert Ruiz worked for a state agency and retired under the Reciprocal Act.

On October 1, 2009, Robert Ruiz returned to full-time work for the State of Illinois, therefore, SERS and CEA&BF suspended his benefits. Mr. Ruiz is requesting his original reciprocal agreement be cancelled so he can still collect his pension benefits from the County Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago.

A personal hearing was requested in a letter dated November 19, 2009. This hearing continues to be deferred based on the request of Mr. Ruiz.

Proof of Birth

Acceptable Documents Policy

Section 1540-100 regarding Birth Date Verification: We have made limited exceptions for people born out of the country by accepting copies of, Naturalization papers or passports without a letter of "no record exists".

Based on an email from the Claims Division Manager at that time ,in 2008 the policy was reviewed by the Executive Committee and was approved at that time to accept DD 214's, Naturalization papers and immigration papers in lieu of a birth certificate without the necessity of obtaining a statement of "No Record Exists" from the state of birth. This decision cannot be located.

Recently it was found that some employees of the Claims Division are accepting only birth records or a letter stating "no record exist" with a copy of military papers, Naturalization papers, passport and other records with a date of birth on them.

All staff should be consistent and use the same documentation requirements for birth certificates. Staff is asking the committee for direction on whether they can accept DD214's and passports as proof of date of birth without the "No Record Exists" certification form the member's state of birth. Staff is also asking the Committee to clarify if a hospital record is acceptable as proof of birth date. This matter was referred to the Executive Secretary at his request to do further research. This subject continues to be deferred.

Wendie Medina

Service/Furlough

The System's attorney submitted a recommendation to deny based on the facts and findings on file in this case for the Committee's review. Following discussion, on motion by Executive Secretary Blair and seconded by Vice Chairperson Laidlaw and by unanimous vote, the Committee accepted Recommendation No. 2011-13 in the matter of Wendie Medina.

A copy of this recommendation has been made a part of this member's file.

New Business

Randy Fox

Service

Randy Fox requested a personal hearing before the Executive Committee. He is requesting that he be allowed to establish 12 months of military service credit under the alternative formula rather than under the regular formula.

In June 1979 Mr. Fox worked 8 hours out of a union hall for the Department of Transportation. He received .25 months of creditable service and had contributions deducted in the amount of \$3.84. His contributions remained on deposit with the System. Mr. Fox became a Department of Corrections employee under the alternative formula in November, 1987 and has continued his employment.

In April, 2011 he purchased 12 months of military service credit. Since he did not take a refund of the \$3.84, his military service was based on his salary and membership date of June, 1979 under the regular formula. Mr. Fox is willing to pay the additional contributions and interest of \$10,048.39 for the difference of the regular formula to the alternate formula cost of the military service.

Following a review of the file and some discussion, Vice Chairman Laidlaw moved approval of the appeal of Randy Fox to purchase military service at the alternative formula rate with payment to be made within 30 days of our billing letter. Executive Secretary Blair seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Veronica Wade

Write-Off

This account became eligible for a write off in June 25, 2004. Contributions in the amount of \$1,489.62 were written off on June 26, 2009. Ms. Wade has contacted us regarding her account and has requested a refund.

The Service & Refunds Division is requesting the Executive Committee to approve the reinstatement of this account so that a refund may be paid.

Following a review of the file and some discussion, Chairman Iglarsh moved that the appeal of Veronica Wade be approved. Vice Chairman Laidlaw seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Garrett Morris

Occupational Disability

Garrett Morris works for a state agency and a service connected leave of absence was granted.

Mr. Morris' claim for disability benefits was denied due to failure to apply for occupational disability benefits within the proper time frame.

Based upon a review of the file and information submitted, the Committee finds Garrett Morris works for a state agency and a service connected leave of absence was granted.

The System did not receive the employee's application for disability benefits within the time limitation pursuant to occupational disability benefits as noted in 40 ILCS 5/14-123, therefore the application was denied.

Mr. Morris requested a written appeal pursuant to the denial of disability benefits due to late filing, information was received with the appeal request which lists the reasons the employee failed to file on a timely basis.

Based on the facts of this case and information submitted, the Committee recommends approving Garrett Morris' appeal for a waiver of the twelve month filing limitation.

Following a review of the file and some discussion, Chairman Iglarsh moved approval of the appeal of Garrett Morris for a waiver of the twelve month filing time limit for occupational disability benefits. Vice Chairman Laidlaw seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Anthony Morgan Occupational Disability

Anthony Morgan works for a state agency and a service connected leave of absence was granted.

Mr. Morgan's claim for disability benefits was denied due to failure to apply for occupational disability benefits within the proper time frame.

Based upon a review of the file and information submitted, the Committee finds Anthony Morgan works for a state agency and a service connected leave of absence was granted.

The System did not receive the employee's application for disability benefits within the time limitation pursuant to occupational disability benefits as noted in 40 ILCS 5/14-123, therefore the application was denied.

Mr. Morgan requested a written appeal pursuant to the denial of disability benefits due to late filing, information was received with the appeal request which lists the reasons the employee failed to file on a timely basis.

Based on the facts of this case and information submitted, the Committee recommends approving Anthony Morgan's appeal for a waiver of the twelve month filing limitation.

Following a review of the file and some discussion, Vice Chairman Laidlaw moved approval of the appeal of Anthony Morgan for a waiver of the twelve month filing time limit for occupational disability benefits. Executive Secretary Blair seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Sharry Hill Occupational Disability

Sharry Hill works for a state agency and a service connected leave of absence was granted.

Ms. Hill's claim for disability benefits was denied due to failure to apply for occupational disability benefits within the proper time frame.

Based upon a review of the file and information submitted, the Committee finds Sharry Hill works for a state agency and a service connected leave of absence was granted.

The System did not receive the employee's application for disability benefits within the time limitation pursuant to occupational disability benefits as noted in 40 ILCS 5/14-123, therefore the application was denied.

Ms. Hill requested a written appeal pursuant to the denial of disability benefits due to late filing, information was received with the appeal request which lists the reasons the employee failed to file on a timely basis.

Based on the facts of this case and information submitted, the Committee recommends approving Sharry Hill's appeal for a waiver of the twelve month filing limitation.

Following a review of the file and some discussion, Chairman Iglarsh moved approval of the appeal of Sharry Hill for a waiver of the twelve month filing time limit for occupational disability benefits. Vice Chairman Laidlaw seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Marla Settle

Pension/Death Benefit Waiver

Marla Settle passed away on July 13, 2009.

Ms. Settle had no qualified survivor at the time of her death. Her parents Mr. & Mrs. Snyder are primary beneficiaries and Mr. Snyder had predeceased Ms. Settle on April 25, 2005.

Mrs. Ellen Snyder is requesting by written appeal that we except the completed waiver of benefit forms so the death benefit can be given to the last eligible survivor on this account, the member's daughter Ms. Morgan B. Settle.

Based on the facts of this case and information submitted and after some discussion the committee has agreed to approve the waiver of death benefit to Ellen Snyder. Vice Chairperson Laidlaw moved for approval. Chairman Iglarsh seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Shawn Grice

Pension-Reciprocal Refund

Shawn Grice is reciprocal with SERS and has retired from Cook County Retirement on December 31, 2008.

Ms. Shawn Grice is requesting a written appeal before the Executive Committee. She is attempting to obtain the monies she repaid in November, 2006 to establish 27.75 months of service credit to retire reciprocally. At the time of retirement she was told by SERS office she would have to wait until age 55 to collect her SERS pension.

At the time of retirement Ms. Grice applied to retire with Cook County Retirement at age 53 with 30 years, she failed at that time to request SERS pension, which is required by the reciprocal procedures. When Cook County was contacted it was indicated Ms. Grice was getting in excess of 80% of her AFC under their system alone and therefore it would not benefit her to use reciprocity.

Following a review of the file and some discussion, Vice Chairperson Laidlaw moved that the appeal of Shawn Grice be approved. Chairman Iglarsh seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Richard Hays

Occupational Disability

Richard Hays works for a state agency and a service connected leave of absence was granted.

Mr. Hays' claim for disability benefits was denied due to failure to apply for occupational disability benefits within the proper time frame.

Based upon a review of the file and information submitted, the Committee finds Richard Hays works for a state agency and a service connected leave of absence was granted.

The System did not receive the employee's application for disability benefits within the time limitation pursuant to occupational disability benefits as noted in 40 ILCS 5/14-123, therefore the application was denied.

Mr. Hays requested a written appeal pursuant to the denial of disability benefits due to late filing, information was received with the appeal request which lists the reasons the employee failed to file on a timely basis.

Based on the facts of this case and information submitted, the Committee recommends approving Richard Hays' appeal for a waiver of the twelve month filing limitation.

Following a review of the file and some discussion, Chairman Iglarsh moved approval of the appeal of Richard Hays for a waiver of the twelve month filing time limit for occupational disability benefits. Vice Chairman Laidlaw seconded the motion and all were in favor.

There being no further business to be brought before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30A.M.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for Thursday, October 6, 2011, in the Springfield office, with video conferencing in Chicago.

Loren Iglarsh
Chairman

Lori Laidlaw
Vice Chairperson

Timothy Blair
Executive Secretary