

Dear RTAC Member:

Congratulations and Best Wishes to those of you who have been retired at least one year and are at least 60 years of age and above. You will see that your January 2, 2024 CTPF Pay Advice statement includes your Automatic Annual Increase (AAI) for 2024 in the Income Column. The increase is a 3% annually compounded amount over your 2023 monthly income.

CTPF pensioners have enjoyed this benefit for decades to help them meet the increasing costs of living. There have already been attempts to lower or eliminate the AAI for CTPF and other public agency retirees. Thus far, all attempts have been successfully defeated due to legal challenges. You may recall the 2012 infamous Proposition #49 which was designed to eliminate our and other public retirees' annual cost-of-living increases. However, we worked together and defeated that attempt.

In 2013 RTAC established a Legal Defense Fund (LDF) to engage a legal team which would defend our benefits against any legislation that might be enacted which could reduce or eliminate these benefits. It has been estimated that a credible legal challenge to combat any harmful legislation would require an initial payment of at least \$250,000.

RTAC welcomes any contribution you wish to make to the Legal Defense Fund. It is suggested that one month's increase (as listed in the 'Messages:' section on your CTPF January 2024 payment notice) would be appreciated. Your contribution of \$100 or more will include you in the LDF President's Circle. Lesser gifts are also acknowledged. [The donation form is available at https://rtac.org/LDstuff/LDFDonationForm.pdf](https://rtac.org/LDstuff/LDFDonationForm.pdf).

Please be aware that there have also been hints that public agency employees' pensions should be subject to the Illinois Income Tax. For more information on RTAC's past legal actions, please see [this page](#) on our RTAC.ORG website.

If you know any retired Chicago Public School educators who are as yet not RTAC members, please encourage them to join RTAC to strengthen our organizational sphere of influence. ([A membership application is available here.](#)) Also, please encourage them to contribute to the Legal Defense Fund. RTAC's mission to preserve and protect our pensions and benefits are strengthened when all CTPF pensioners support our efforts on everyone's behalf.

REMEMBER, THE PENSION YOU SAVE COULD BE YOURS!

Louella B. Preston, President

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