



1. New Monthly Newsletter Format

We hope you like the new look of our monthly newsletter! Share this [sign up link](#) with others who would like to receive our newsletter. If you would like to be removed from the distribution list, click the "unsubscribe" link at the bottom of this page.

Send feedback on the new format and suggestions for future newsletter topics to us at pension@osa.state.mn.us.

2. Reporting Status Dashboard

A reporting status dashboard for fire relief associations is now available on the [OSA website](#). The dashboard shows a relief association's status in meeting its requirements with the OSA to qualify for fire state aid, and to view the status of relief association report submissions and the OSA's review of the submitted reports.

The new dashboard will allow you to check at any time whether we've received all required reports from your relief association and if there's an anticipated fire state aid distribution date.

3. Fire Relief Association Working Group

The State Auditor's Fire Relief Association Working Group met on August 21. The group discussed the current statutory minimum retirement age of 50 for relief association members and whether there should be an option of earlier withdrawals. Discussion on this topic will be continued during the next Working Group meeting on September 5. Thoughts on allowing for retirement benefit distributions prior to members reaching age 50 can be shared with us at pension@osa.state.mn.us.

Recordings of Working Group meetings and links to meeting materials are posted on the [OSA website](#).

TIPS FOR TRUSTEES

4. Fire State Aid Allocation Agreements

Fire state aid can be allocated between a relief association and affiliated municipality if the fire department is a combination fire department, and both the relief association and municipality have mutually agreed to an allocation method. If both of these criteria are met, the municipality may use the portion of fire state aid it retains pursuant to the agreement to pay employer contributions to the Public Employees Retirement Association on behalf of its full-time firefighters.

The authority is described in [Minn. Stat. § 477B.042](#) and includes filing requirements with the OSA.

5. Marriage Dissolutions

A reminder that relief associations have some options regarding the timing of benefit payments following the divorce of a relief association member. If the bylaws allow, a relief association can pay the benefit amount due to an alternate payee immediately following finalization of the divorce, rather than waiting until the relief association member reaches age 50 and separates from active service.

Allowing payment as soon as practicable following finalization of the divorce helps ease the administrative burden of maintaining records and contact information of former spouses. Relief associations wishing to permit these immediate payments must do so through an amendment to their bylaws. The relief association member cannot be paid his or her portion of the benefit until after reaching the relief association's minimum retirement age and separating from active service.

[Learn More](#)



September 5: Fire Relief Association Working Group meeting from 2-3:30 p.m.

September 15: First certification deadline for 2024 fire state aid. To be certified as eligible, all 2023 information must be submitted to the OSA, the OSA review must be completed, and any issues resolved.

September 25: Fire Relief Association Working Group meeting from 10-11:30 a.m.

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