

TEACHERS RETIREMENT INFORMATION BULLETIN

Retiree Edition ■ Winter 2023



ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT RELEASED

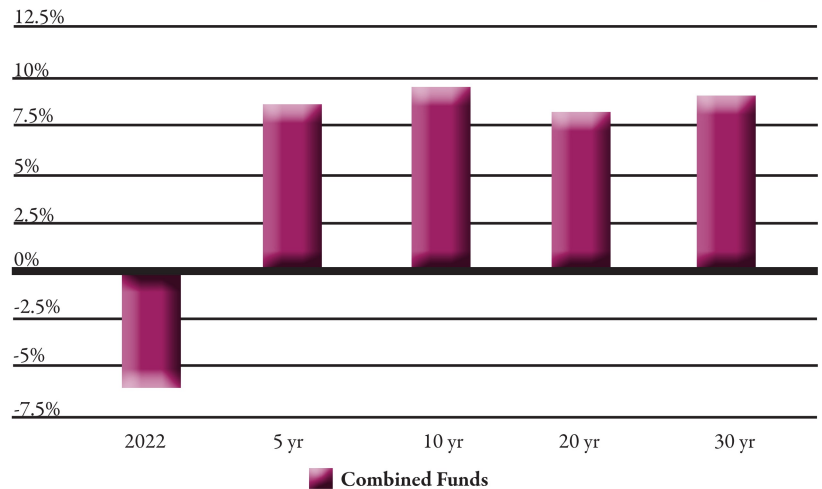
Annual Comprehensive Financial Report illustrates TRA fund status

Despite lower than expected investment returns for fiscal year 2022, TRA's outlook remains positive.

The investment return of -6.4% for fiscal year 2022 was significantly lower than the statutory assumed rate of return of 7.5%. Investment returns were weak during the fiscal year as markets reacted to a high inflation economy. Even with these weak returns, the actuarial value of TRA assets increased as of June 30, 2022, compared to the previous year-end. For actuarial purposes, investment gains and losses over or under the assumed return are recognized over a five-year period.

(Continued on page 3)

TRA Investment Performance (Return Percentage)

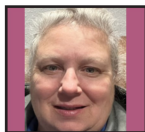


Investment returns are prepared using a time-weighted rate of return methodology, based on market value, net of investment expense.

Active members to vote on candidates



Wendy
Drugge Wuensch



Kathy
Oellerich



Chad
Ohl



Luke
Olson



David
Rondestvedt



Joyce
Ursin

Active TRA members will soon choose two representatives for the Board of Trustees in 2023. The two members will be selected for four-year terms. The terms of the elected members will begin on July 1, 2023.

Read full bios and statements under the Board of Trustees tab
(Continued on page 2)

PLEASE NOTE:

This article is for informational purposes. Only active members are eligible to vote for active member board positions. There is no retiree position up for election. The retiree representative seat will be up for election in 2025.

For up to date information, follow us on Facebook and Twitter at MinnesotaTRA



The TRIB is a publication of the Teachers Retirement Association (TRA) of Minnesota.

www.MinnesotaTRA.org

President's

c o r n e r

Maitha Lee Jones
TRA Board



Your Voice Matters

It is a new year, and with that comes a new state legislature as well as an election for the TRA Board of Trustees.

Looking to the board election, consider the importance of your voice in choosing who is seated. The two seats open are for active members. Only active members are eligible to vote for active member board positions.

The board oversees the administration of the pension fund. We hope to see high voter turnout to reflect the commitment and interest of our membership.

In 2021, voter turnout for the active election was 5.18 percent. Just 20 years prior in 2001, we saw 21.8 percent. For retirees, those numbers fell to 28.34 percent from 47 percent, respectively.

As board members, we owe a fiduciary duty to the active and retired members of TRA, to the taxpayers of the State, and to the State of Minnesota. We act as intermediaries to guide lawmakers to what we have carefully discussed to be the most prudent steps forward.

We appreciate the input we receive from members. Ultimately, it is our goal to find the best balance in benefits and maintaining a stable plan. We need to keep the plan solvent for both the retirees of today as well as future generations.

With a new session underway, our focus is to be prepared to present and share any information that will be helpful to lawmakers. TRA-- alongside the Public Employees Retirement Association, Minnesota State Retirement System and the St. Paul Teachers' Retirement Fund Association -- provide the Legislative Commission on Pensions

and Retirement (LCPR) with any expertise needed.

The board works together to find compromises, solutions, and ideas to present to legislators that we determine are the most effective ways to administer and improve our pension fund for all members. Ultimately, any changes to benefits, post-retirement increase adjustments, and contribution rates must go through the LCPR and to the legislature for final pension bill passage of the full house and senate. The governor must then sign the bill into law.

Your vote is an important step in this process.

Active members, please visit the Board of Trustees tab on the TRA website to review the candidates and choose who you believe will help TRA put its best foot forward into the future.

Election packets will be mailed to active members in March. If you would like to receive a ballot by email, be sure your email address is in your myTRA account.

There are two easy ways to vote-- by mail or online.

Simply follow the instructions in your election packet. To vote online, you will need the Election Code and Voting PIN that is printed in your packet.

YesElections, an independent election administrator, is conducting the board election for TRA.

Retirees, the next retiree representative position election is in 2025.

For now, you can check in on the work we as a board are currently doing with the LCPR at lcpr.mn.gov.

ELECTION

(Continued from page 1)

on the TRA website.

There are no term limits for board members. Only active members are eligible to vote for active member board positions. There is no retiree position up for election.

The TRA Board meets approximately eight times a year to oversee the administration of the pension fund. Board meetings are open to the public and subject to the Minnesota Open Meeting Law. Some of the major board responsibilities include: establish rules, policies and procedures for administering the plan; approve an annual budget; retain an actuary to assess the financial status of the plan; determine member appeals; and appoint the Executive Director. The TRA Board has no investment responsibility. TRA assets are managed by the State Board of Investment.

Board members are fiduciaries pursuant to Minnesota law and are also subject to state economic interest disclosures. As fiduciaries, board members owe duties to TRA participants and beneficiaries, Minnesota taxpayers, and the State of Minnesota. Therefore, they are required to act solely in the best interests of those groups and the TRA fund in exclusion of all other interests, including personal interests. Fiduciaries must impartially manage the plan for the exclusive purpose of providing authorized benefits and paying plan expenses.



Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2022

(Continued from page 1)

The market value of assets as of June 30, 2022 was \$25.6 billion. The five-year smoothing of investment gains and losses produced an accumulated deferred investment loss of \$334 million as of June 30, 2022. The deferred investment losses will flow through the smoothing method over the next four years.

The unfunded actuarial accrued liability was \$5.7 billion, a decrease of \$397 million from the previous year.

As of June 30, 2022, the funded ratio using actuarial value of assets stood at 82.0%, an increase from 80.2% the previous year. The market value funded ratio stood at 80.9%, a decrease from 92.0% the previous year. Using actuarial value of assets there is currently a contribution sufficiency of 1.10%.

Future scheduled increases of the statutory contribution rates will increase the contribution sufficiency to 1.55%. This sufficiency means that if all assumptions are exactly met in the future, the unfunded actuarially accrued liability will be fully amortized ahead of the scheduled statutory date of June 30, 2048.

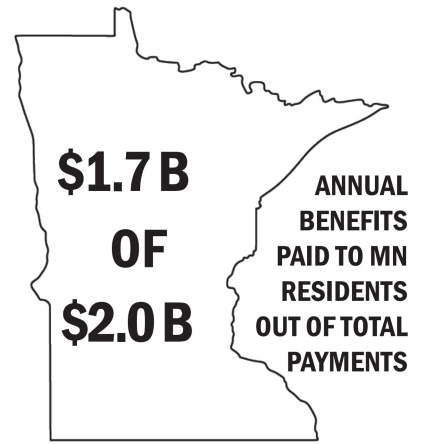
More detailed information is available in TRA's 2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and Popular Report. These reports can be found under the Financial tab, Annual Reports, on the TRA website.

BY THE NUMBERS

ACTIVE MEMBERS: 84,308

RETIREES: 69,891

**AVERAGE MONTHLY
BENEFIT: \$2,231**



INVESTMENTS

All TRA assets are invested by the Minnesota State Board of Investment (SBI). During fiscal year 2022, public equities returned -15.5%. The fixed income (bonds) portfolio returned -10.5%.

ing real estate and private equity, posted a return of 24.8% for the fiscal year.

The TRA investment portfolio produced a net loss of \$1.7 billion for the 2022 fiscal year.

The private markets class, includ-

ADDITIONS

Employee Contributions	\$429 Million
Employer Contributions	\$483 Million
Investment Income (Loss)	-\$1.7 Billion
Direct Aid	\$36 Million

Fiscal year 2022 additions to net position saw investments return a loss of \$1.7 billion to the fund. Employee contributions totaled \$429 million with employers adding \$483 million. Additional direct payments (state/city/county) were \$36 million.

DEDUCTIONS

Pension benefits paid to retirees and beneficiaries during the fiscal year totaled \$2.0 billion, an increase of \$35.8 million from the previous year. Additionally, TRA paid \$16.5 million in refunds to members who left teaching service and chose to withdraw their contributions. Total administrative expenses for the fiscal year were \$15.7 million.

Benefit Payments	\$2.0 Billion
Refunds	\$16.5 Million
Administrative Expense	\$15.7 Million

Financial

2018 Pension Law

[Annual Reports](#)

Investments

GASB



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Please check all boxes that apply: Name change Address change Email address addition/change


Present Last Name (Please Print)	First Name	Middle Name	Birth Name
Address			TRA Member Number
City, State and Zip Code		Email Address	

CREATE
your myTRA account!

MyTRA gives you instant on-line access to your account information anytime, anywhere.

- Safe**
- Secure**
- Up-to-date**
- There when you want it**

Contact Us  ACCOUNT LOGIN

Retirees  Employ

VIEW

- Statement of pension benefits
- Account value letter
- Payment detail/history
- Earnings limitation statement
- 1099-R

CHANGE

- Address
- Direct deposit

PRINT

- Beneficiary designation form
- Earnings limitation documents
- Income verification

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