

RETIREE ADVISOR

Winter 2003 • Vol. 23, No.1

Produced for retired members of the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System

Tax Time Approaches

All retirees and beneficiaries who received TCRS retirement benefits in 2002 will receive a 1099-R with this newsletter. Following is an explanation of several key sections on the 1099-R form that will help you in filing your taxes.



Box 1: This is the total TCRS pension benefits you received. This amount should be reported on your IRS Form 1040, Line 16a.

Box 2a: This amount is the taxable portion of your benefit as calculated by TCRS. This amount should be reported on Line 16b of your IRS Form 1040. TCRS uses the Simplified General Rule to calculate the taxable amount. If you retired on or before July 1, 1986, the amount of your after-tax contributions has already been excluded from your taxable income and your TCRS benefits are now fully taxable.

Disability benefits from TCRS are fully taxable until the benefit is converted to a regular retirement benefit at age 60 or death. After that point, the Simplified General Rule is used to determine the taxable portion of each monthly payment.

Box 4: This indicates the amount of federal income tax withheld by TCRS in the year 2002. You may change your withholding at any time. **Forms to change or revoke your withholding election may be obtained by calling or writing TCRS or by accessing our Internet site at www.treasury.state.tn.us/tcrs.**

Box 7: This shows the type of benefit you are receiving. If you are a disability retiree, you may be eligible for a disability tax credit. (Refer to IRS Publication 524.)

Additional tax information may be obtained by calling the IRS toll-free number at 1-800-829-1040. In Nashville, call 834-9005.

2003 Direct Deposit Payment Schedule

January	31	May	30	September	30
February	28	June	30	October	31
March	31	July	31	November	26
April	30	August	29	December	31

Salary Limits Set for Temporary Employment

In addition to the existing time limits, a new law enacted in July 2002 imposes salary limits on temporary return to work.



Information concerning the salary limits may be found on the TCRS temporary employment form (www.treasury.state.tn.us/forms/tr0228.pdf). Or, you may contact TCRS or your employer for more information on the salary limits.

If you accept temporary employment on or after July 1, 2002, you must stay within the 100 days of work and the salary limits to prevent suspension of your TCRS benefit.

The TCRS temporary employment form, which must be completed, may be accessed at: www.treasury.state.tn.us/tcrs/forms/tr0228/pdf. You may also call TCRS at 1-800-770-8277 to request a copy of this form.

Calling TCRS

The local number for TCRS is (615) 242-6554. Our toll-free number is 1-800-770-8277. When calling TCRS, the following options are available:



Selection

Number	Service Area Desired
1	Retired Payroll, refunds, account balance questions
2	Insurance
3	Estimates, counseling appointments, field services
4	Benefit calculations, military credit or prior service

If using a touch-tone phone, it is not necessary to listen to the choices. Press the selection number after the automated attendant answers. If calling from Davidson or the surrounding counties, the automated system can be accessed locally by dialing 242-6554.

The TCRS Insurance Section has a separate toll-free number to better serve TCRS retirees. The toll-free number is 1-877-681-0155. Customer service representatives are available to assist you regarding your eligibility, enrollment, or premiums for the state-sponsored insurance plans.

Make a Note of This



- New tax laws have caused some retirees to be taxed at a lower rate. Your January 31st payment will reflect any change and a letter will be mailed to you detailing the change.
- The death of a retiree or beneficiary must be reported to TCRS as soon as possible following the incident.
- All changes for address, direct deposit, or income tax withholding must be made in writing and received at TCRS by the 15th of the month in order for the change to take effect that month. Forms may be obtained by calling TCRS retired payroll office or by visiting the TCRS web site at: www.treasury.state.tn.us/tcrs
- All insurance changes including termination requests must be submitted in writing and received at TCRS by the 15th of the month in order for the change to take effect that month.

Information Resource

TCRS TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

TCRS Main Line:	615-242-6554
Retired Payroll:	615-741-4913
TCRS Toll Free:	800-770-8277
Insurance Toll Free:	877-681-0155

TCRS INTERNET INFORMATION:

www.treasury.state.tn.us/tcrs
E-mail: TCRS.Financial@state.tn.us

TCRS MAILING ADDRESS:

TCRS
10th Floor
Andrew Jackson Bldg.
Nashville, TN 37243

OTHER TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Blue Cross/Blue Shield	
Medicare Supplement:	800-221-7828
Group Insurance:	800-558-6213
Social Security:	800-772-1213

SOCIAL SECURITY INTERNET SITE:

www.ssa.gov



The *Retiree Advisor* is a publication of TCRS, 10th Floor Andrew Jackson Building, Nashville, TN 37243, (615) 741-4913 or 1-800-770-8277.

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Treasury Department; Jan. 2003;
Authorization #309088; 82,000 copies.
This public document was printed at a
cost of \$.03 per copy.