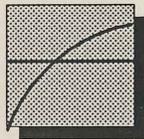




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**South St. Paul  
Police Relief Association**



**Annual Actuarial Valuation  
December 31, 1993**

**Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company  
Actuaries and Consultants**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Page</u>	<u>Item</u>
1	Signature Page
A-1	Comments
A-2	Contribution Rate
A-3	Present Actuarial Condition
A-5	Comparative Contribution Schedule
A-6	Contribution Work Sheet
B-1	Retirant and Beneficiary Data
B-4	Active Member Data
B-6	Brief Summary of Benefits
C-1	Valuation Method and Assumptions
D-1	Pension Benefit Obligation Schedule (for GASB 5 compliance)

Appendix I Financial Principles and Operational Techniques

Appendix II Meaning of Unfunded Accrued Liabilities

June 2, 1994

Board of Trustees  
South St. Paul Policemen's Relief Association  
South St. Paul, Minnesota

Submitted in this report are the results of the December 31, 1993 actuarial valuation of the assets, actuarial values and contribution requirements associated with the benefits provided by the South St. Paul Policemen's Relief Association.

The valuation results contained in Section A provide the actuarial information needed to determine the employer's "minimum obligation" effective January 1, 1995. Section A also contains comments regarding the valuation results.

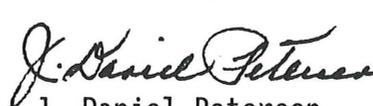
The valuation was based upon information furnished by the Association concerning benefits, financial transactions, active members, terminated members, retirants and beneficiaries. Data was checked for year to year consistency but was not otherwise audited by us. This information is summarized in Section B.

A description of the actuarial funding method and the risk experience assumptions used is contained in Section C. The economic risk experience assumptions, as well as the actuarial funding method to be used, are established by state law.

Information needed to comply with Statement No. 5 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board is contained in Section D.

The actuarial valuation was prepared using generally accepted actuarial principles and practices based upon the methods, assumptions, summary of plan provisions and the member and financial data described in this report.

Respectfully submitted,

  
J. Daniel Petersen

  
Gary W. Findlay

**Section A**

**Valuation Results**

## COMMENTS

### Economic Assumptions and Financing Method

The economic assumptions of 5% annual investment return and 3-1/2% annual salary increases are established by state law. State law also specifies that the annual minimum obligation of the municipality shall be determined by adding (i) the employer normal cost percent times covered payroll to (ii) the level dollar amount required to amortize the unfunded actuarial accrued liability by December 31, 2010.

It is worth noting that when the same assumptions and methods are applied to plans which differ in nature, the valuation results may not be comparable. Caution should be exercised when attempting to assess the financial condition of one Association relative to another on the basis of valuation results produced using the assumptions and methods mandated by state law.

South St. Paul Policemen's Relief Association

CONTRIBUTION RATE TO PROVIDE BENEFITS

Member portion & Employer portion  
Effective January 1, 1995

Contributions for	If Paid Equally Throughout Year Normal Cost % of Active Payroll for 1995	+	UAAAL Dollars
Normal cost of annuities:			
Age & service: to members	17.41%		
Age & service: to survivors	3.03		
Disability	3.03		
Death before retirement	2.06		
Refunds of member contributions	<u>0.05</u>		
Total Normal Cost	25.58%		
Amortization of unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities (UAAAL) (16 year level dollar payment)			
Retired lives			\$134,667
Active members			<u>181,832</u>
Total			316,499
Total Cost of Benefits	25.58%	+	\$316,499
Member contributions	8.00%		
COMPUTED EMPLOYER RATE:			
(a) If Paid Equally Throughout Year	17.58%	+	\$316,499
(b) IF PAID AT CALENDAR YEAR END	18.01%	+	\$324,315

South St. Paul Policemen's Relief Association  
 Present Actuarial Condition

---

The Association's accrued actuarial assets were in excess of \$8.4 million on December 31, 1993 -- a considerable sum of money if unencumbered and allocated among a small group of persons. This is not the case with the Association's assets.

The following schedule puts the \$8.4 million into perspective by showing the relationship between accrued actuarial assets, actuarial accrued liabilities, and the number of persons with actual and potential claims on the Association's assets.

	<u>Accrued Actuarial Assets</u>	<u>Actuarial Accrued Liabilities</u>	<u>Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liabilities</u>	<u>% Funded</u>
Retirants and Beneficiaries				
Retired Members (23)		\$ 7,890,060		
Surviving Spouses (14)		1,639,596		
Surviving Children (0)		<u>0</u>		
Total (37)	\$8,033,981	\$ 9,529,656	\$1,495,675	84.3%
Deferred Members (0)	0	0	0	
Active Members (9)	<u>392,664</u>	<u>2,412,183</u>	<u>2,019,519</u>	16.3
Total	\$8,426,645	\$11,941,839	\$3,515,194	70.6%

Actuarial accrued liabilities represent the value, computed as of December 31, 1993 of:

- (i) retirement allowances likely to be paid the 37 retirants and beneficiaries; and
- (ii) the contributions assumed to have been made for the 9 active members from entry into the plan until December 31, 1993.

The value of retirement allowances likely to be paid the 37 retirants and beneficiaries, discounted for investment earnings and mortality, was computed to be \$9,529,656 as of December 31, 1993. To put this amount in perspective, the \$9,529,656, together with investment earnings, will just be sufficient to pay the 37 retirants and beneficiaries their allowances for their remaining lifetimes. This assumes the 37 retirants and beneficiaries live and die according to the assumed mortality and the \$9,529,656 is invested to yield an average annual return of 5.0% over the remaining lifetimes of the retirants and beneficiaries.

With respect to the active members, the actuarial accrued liability of \$2,412,183 represents the amount that would have been accumulated by December 31, 1993. This assumes the normal cost (which is expressed as a level percentage of pay) had been contributed from the date of hire until December 31, 1993 for the 9 actives, and that these amounts had earned 5.0% interest. It also assumes that the members in the past have lived, died, withdrawn, retired and received salary increases according to the actuarial assumptions shown in this report.

Historical Funding Ratio Schedule  
(\$ in thousands)

Valuation Date <u>December 31</u>	Actuarial Accrued <u>Liabilities</u>	Accrued Actuarial <u>Assets</u>	% <u>Funded</u>
1984	\$ 9,173	\$4,013	43.7%
1985	9,733	4,570	47.0
1986	9,797	5,102	52.1
1987	10,018	5,656	56.5
1988#	10,663	5,984	56.1
1989	10,741	6,323	58.9
1990	11,321	6,897	60.9
1991	11,511	7,474	64.9
1992	11,599	8,153	70.3
1993	11,942	8,427	70.6

# After change in benefit provision.

South St. Paul Policemen's Relief Association  
 Computed Contributions - Comparative Schedule

---

Year Ended December 31		Total Normal Cost as a Percent of Valuation Payroll	Contribution For Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liabilities
Valuation	Fiscal		
1984	1986**	28.62%	\$357,253
1985	1987	27.49	365,143
1986	1988	27.43	339,661
1987	1989	26.42	323,331
1988	1990#	26.65	356,144
1989	1991	25.99	345,976
1990	1992	26.06	357,236
1991	1993	25.95	337,034
1992	1994	25.79	298,275
1993	1995	25.58	316,499

\*\* After change in assumptions.

# After change in benefit provision.

South St. Paul Policemen's Relief Association  
 CONTRIBUTION FOR CALENDAR YEAR EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1995

---

For any period of time the percent-of-payroll contribution rate is converted to dollars. The amount of dollars for any calendar year depends upon the results of the last actuarial valuation, and the timing of contributions within the year. The later the contribution date, the greater the dollar amount will be.

The municipality's dollar contribution for the year may be determined as follows:

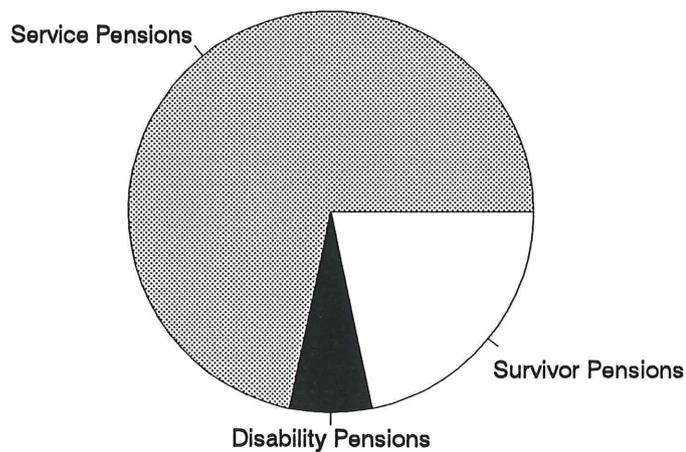
(1)	Estimated covered payroll for 1995		\$ _____
(2)	Total normal cost % from page A-2		25.58%
(3)	Total normal cost (Line 1 times line 2)		\$ _____
(4)	_____ x 1.035 1993 Administrative expenses paid from the Special Fund		_____
(5)	Amortization payment on UAAL from page A-2		316,499
(6)	Total contributions required (Line 3 plus line 4 plus line 5)		_____
(7)	Employee contributions (Line 1 times 8%)		\$ _____
(8)	(a) State amortization aid based on 12/31/78 UAAL of \$3,773,129	\$56,786	
	(b) State amortization aid based on 1984 legislation	<u>7,249</u>	
	(c) Total State amortization aid		64,035
(9)	Estimated insurance premium aid		_____
(10)	Estimated total contributions from other sources (Line 7 plus line 8 plus line 9)		_____
(11)	Employer's Minimum Obligation if payment is made in equal installments throughout the year (Line 6 minus line 10)		\$ _____
(12)	EMPLOYER'S MINIMUM OBLIGATION IF PAYMENT IS MADE AT YEAR END (Line 11 times 1.0247)		\$ _____

**Section B**  
**Valuation Data**  
**and**  
**Summary of Benefit Provisions**

South St. Paul Policemen's Relief Association  
 Retirants and Beneficiaries December 31, 1993  
 By Type of Annuity Being Paid

---

<u>Type of Annuity Being Paid</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Monthly Amounts</u>	<u>Computed Actuarial Accrued Liabilities</u>
Retirants receiving:			
Age & Service	21	\$40,205.10	\$6,830,136
Disability	<u>2</u>	<u>3,685.50</u>	<u>1,059,924</u>
Totals	23	43,890.60	7,890,060
Beneficiaries receiving:			
Spouse	14	12,140.38	1,639,596
Child	<u>0</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals	14	12,140.38	1,639,596
Totals	—	—	—
Totals	37	\$56,030.98	\$9,529,656



Monthly Amount Paid by Benefit

South St. Paul Policemen's Relief Association  
 Retirants and Beneficiaries December 31, 1993  
 By Attained Ages

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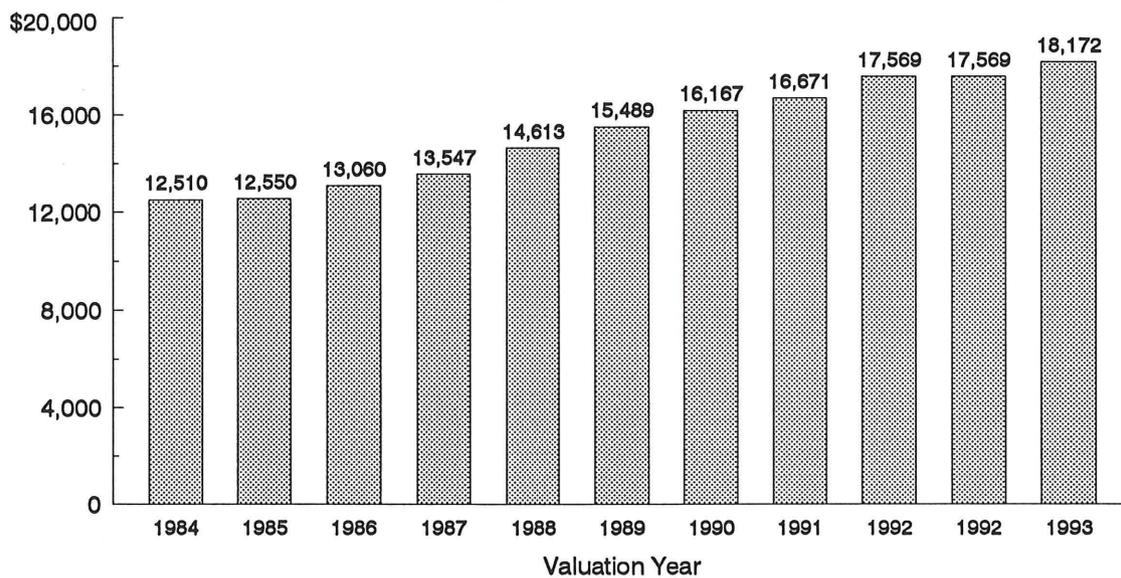
<u>Attained Ages</u>	<u>Number</u>		
	<u>Age &amp; Service</u>	<u>Disability</u>	<u>Death Before Retirement</u>
45-49		1	
50-54	2	1	1
55-59	1	1	
60-64	7		
65-69	8		
70-74	4		
75-79	4		
80-84	5		
90-94	<u>2</u>	—	—
Totals	33	3	1

South St. Paul Policemen's Relief Association  
 Retirants and Beneficiaries Added to and Removed from Rolls  
 Comparative Statement

---

Valuation Date December 31	No. Added to Rolls	No. Removed from Rolls	Rolls End of Year		Discounted Value of Total Allowances
			No.	Annual Allowances	
1984	7	2	30	\$375,300	\$6,019,320
1985	5		35	439,233	6,972,648
1986	1	2	34	444,037	6,772,128
1987	1		35	474,139	7,049,940
1988	2		37	540,675	7,953,960
1989	2	3	36	557,605	8,092,992
1990	2	2	36	582,022	8,551,632
1991			36	600,151	8,515,188
1992	1	1	36	632,500	8,804,232
1993	2	1	37	672,372	9,529,656

Average Annual Allowances



South St. Paul Policemen's Relief Association  
Active Members December 31, 1993  
By Attained Age and Years of Service

---

<u>Attained Age</u>	<u>Years of Service to Valuation Date</u>							<u>Totals</u>	
	<u>0-4</u>	<u>5-9</u>	<u>10-14</u>	<u>15-19</u>	<u>20-24</u>	<u>25-29</u>	<u>30 Plus</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Valuation Payroll</u>
35-39			1	1				2	\$ 88,452
40-44				1				1	46,828
45-49				1		2		3	141,126
50-54				1		1		2	98,785
60			—	—		1		1	46,828
Totals			1	4		4		9	\$422,019

While not used in the financial computations, the following group averages are computed and shown because of their general interest.

Age: 47.3 years.

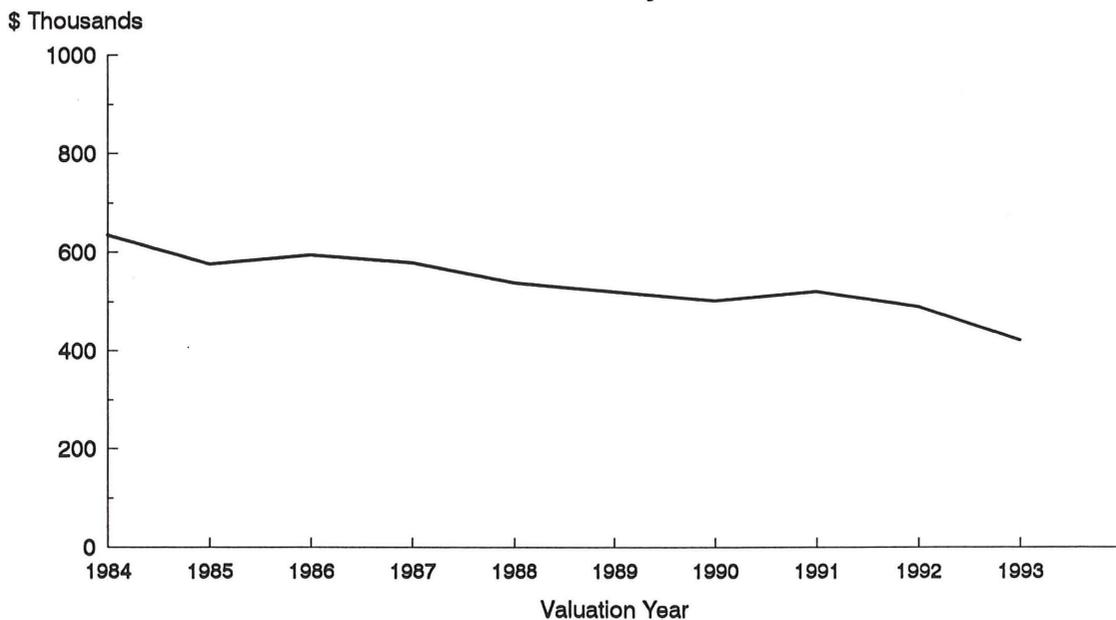
Service: 20.7 years.

Annual Pay: \$46,891.

South St. Paul Policemen's Relief Association  
 Comparative Schedule  
 Of Active Members

Valuation Date December 31	Active Members	Valuation Payroll	Average			
			Age	Service	Pay	% Incr.
1984	20	\$635,217	45.4 yrs.	15.8 yrs.	\$31,761	6.6%
1985	17	576,254	44.2	15.6	33,897	6.7
1986	17	594,956	45.2	16.6	34,997	3.2
1987	16	579,108	45.4	17.4	36,194	3.4
1988	14	538,973	45.4	17.7	38,498	6.4
1989	13	520,621	45.1	18.1	40,048	4.0
1990	12	502,904	46.3	19.3	41,909	4.6
1991	12	520,730	47.3	20.3	43,394	3.5
1992	11	490,564	47.3	20.4	44,597	2.8
1993	9	422,019	47.3	20.7	46,891	5.1

Valuation Payroll



South St. Paul Policemen's Relief Association

Brief Summary (12/31/93) of Benefit Provisions Evaluated and/or Considered

---

Age & Service Retirement

Eligibility. 20 years of service and 50 years of age.

Amount. 50% of base pay. For each year over 25, an additional 1/2% of base pay is added to the benefit. (The additional benefit is not subject to the post-retirement adjustment provisions.)

Pay Used For Plan Purposes. "Base pay" means the prevailing base pay of rank held at retirement.

Disability Retirement

Eligibility. Disabled to the extent that no longer able to perform the duties of a police officer before being eligible for age & service retirement.

Amount. Same as age & service retirement.

Member's Death While Active, Or In Deferred Status, Or Retired

Eligibility.

Spouse. Legally married to member at separation from service and residing with member at time of death.

Child. Younger than age 18.

Amount.

Spouse. 25% of base patrolman's pay.

Child. \$25 per month per child.

Vested Deferred. 5 years of service. Payment beginning is deferred to attainment of age 50.

Post-Retirement Adjustments ("Escalator"). Each time base pay is changed, benefit payments are simultaneously changed by the same percent that base pay is changed. (Not applicable to children's benefits.)

Member Contributions. 8% of base pay. Total member contributions are refundable, without interest, if no benefit is payable upon separation from service.

## **Section C**

### **Valuation Methods and Assumptions**

South St. Paul Policemen's Relief Association  
Valuation Methods and Assumptions

---

The Entry Age Normal Cost method was used to determine the normal cost of all benefits. The rate of investment return (interest) as required by state law used in making the valuation was 5.0 percent per annum, compounded annually. Age & service retirement was assumed to occur at age 58, attained age if older.

Mortality Table\*

---

Sample Ages	Single Life Values: Present Value of \$1 Monthly				Future Life Expectancy (Years)	
	Level For Life		Increasing 3.5% Yearly		Men	Women
	Men	Women	Men	Women		
45	\$177.21	\$189.58	\$280.82	\$314.75	29.50	34.00
50	163.12	177.21	246.55	280.82	25.20	29.50
55	147.50	163.12	212.60	246.55	21.16	25.20
60	130.52	147.50	179.49	212.60	17.42	21.16
65	112.87	130.52	148.28	179.49	14.05	17.42
70	95.20	112.87	119.70	148.28	11.09	14.05
75	77.77	95.20	93.83	119.70	8.52	11.09
80	61.71	77.77	71.69	93.83	6.39	8.52

\* UP-1984 Table set forward 2 years for males and set back 3 years for females.

Sample Rates of Separation from Active Employment  
Before Retirement, Death or Disability

---

Sample Ages	% of Active Members Separating within Next Year
20	1.50%
25	1.25
30	1.00
35	0.75
40	0.50
45	0.25
50+	0.00

Pay Adjustment Factor Used To Project Current Pays

---

<u>Sample Ages</u>	<u>Present Pay Resulting in Pay of \$1,000 at Age 60</u>	<u>Present Increase in Pay During Next Year</u>
20	\$ 253	3.5%
25	300	3.5
30	356	3.5
35	423	3.5
40	503	3.5
45	597	3.5
50	709	3.5
55	842	3.5
60	1,000	3.5

Use of the pay adjustment factor illustrated above is required by state law.

Anticipated Disability Retirements

---

<u>Sample Ages</u>	<u>% of Active Members Becoming Disabled within Next Year</u>
20	0.08%
25	0.08
30	0.08
35	0.08
40	0.20
45	0.26
50	0.49
55	0.89

## **Section D**

**The Pension Benefit Obligation  
and Certain Other Disclosures  
Required by Statement No. 5 of the  
Governmental Accounting Standards Board**

## PENSION BENEFIT OBLIGATION

---

The amount shown below as the "pension benefit obligation" is a standardized disclosure measure of the present value of pension benefits, adjusted for the effects of projected salary increases, estimated to be payable in the future as a result of employee service to date. The measure is the actuarial present value of credited projected benefits and is intended to (i) help users assess the plan's funding status on a going-concern basis, (ii) assess progress being made in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due, and (iii) allow for comparisons among public employee retirement plans. The measure is independent of the actuarial funding method used to determine contributions to the plan.

The pension benefit obligation was determined as part of an actuarial valuation of the plan as of December 31, 1993. Significant actuarial assumptions used in determining the pension benefit obligation include (a) a rate of return on the investment of present and future assets of 5.0% per year compounded annually, (b) projected salary increases of 3.5% per year compounded annually, attributable to inflation, (c) the assumption that benefits will increase 3.5% per year after retirement.

At December 31, 1993, the unfunded pension benefit obligation was \$3,585,403, determined as follows:

Pension Benefit Obligation:

Retirants and beneficiaries currently receiving benefits and terminated employees not yet receiving benefits	\$ 9,529,656
Current employees --	
Accumulated employee contributions including allocated investment income	392,664
Employer financed	<u>1,935,288</u>
Total Pension Benefit Obligation	\$11,857,608
Net assets available for benefits, at cost (market value was \$8,735,524)	<u>8,272,205</u>
Unfunded Pension Benefit Obligation	\$ 3,585,403

The total pension benefit obligation as of January 1, 1993 was \$11,500,161. During the year, the plan experienced a net change of \$357,447 in the pension benefit obligation.

CONTRIBUTIONS REQUIRED AND CONTRIBUTIONS MADE

The Association's funding policy provides for periodic employer contributions at actuarially determined rates that, expressed as percentages of annual covered payroll, are designed to accumulate sufficient assets to pay benefits when due. The normal cost and actuarial accrued liability are determined using an entry age actuarial funding method. Unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities are being amortized as a level dollar amount over a period of 16 years.

During the year ended December 31, 1993, contributions totaling \$492,250 -- \$455,892 employer and \$36,358 employee -- were made in accordance with contribution requirements determined by an actuarial valuation of the plan as of December 31, 1991. The employer contributions consisted of \$93,471 for normal cost and \$362,421 for amortization of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability. Employer contributions represented 87.55% of covered payroll.

Significant actuarial assumptions used to compute contribution requirements were the same as those used to compute the standardized measure of the pension benefit obligation.

Computed Contribution Comparative Schedule

Fiscal Year <u>December 31</u>	Valuation Date <u>December 31</u>	<u>Contribution Rates</u>		Valuation Payroll	<u>Dollar Contribution For Fiscal Year</u>	
		<u>Normal Cost % of Valuation Payroll</u>	<u>UAAL Dollars</u>		<u>Computed</u>	<u>Actual</u>
1987	1985	19.49%	\$365,143	\$576,254	\$477,455	\$522,445
1988	1986	19.43	339,661	594,956	455,261	481,086
1989	1987	18.42	323,331	579,108	430,003	437,697
1990	1988	18.65	356,144	538,973	456,662	463,225
1991	1989	17.99	345,976	520,621	439,636	464,606
1992	1990	18.06	357,236	502,904	448,060	472,702
1993	1991	17.95	337,034	520,730	430,505	455,892
1994	1992	17.79	298,275	490,564	385,546	
1995	1993	17.58	316,499	422,019	390,690	

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

ANALYSIS OF FUNDING PROGRESS

Valuation Date December 31	(1) Net Assets Available for Benefits	(2) Pension Benefit Obligation (PBO)	(3) Percent Funded (1)/(2)	(4) Unfunded PBO (2)-(1)	(5) Annual Covered Payroll	(6) Unfunded PBO as a Percentage of Covered Payroll (4)/(5)
1987	\$5,702,576	\$ 9,864,223	57.8%	\$4,161,647	\$579,108	718.6%
1988	6,113,209	10,565,146	57.9	4,451,937	538,973	826.0
1989	6,383,688	10,639,866	60.0	4,256,178	520,621	817.5
1990	7,027,947	11,225,425	62.6	4,197,478	502,904	834.6
1991	7,473,058	11,414,078	65.5	3,941,020	520,730	756.8
1992	8,184,806	11,500,161	71.2	3,315,355	490,564	675.8
1993	8,272,205	11,857,608	69.8	3,585,403	422,019	849.6

Analysis of the dollar amounts of net assets available for benefits, pension benefit obligation, and unfunded pension benefit obligation in isolation can be misleading. Expressing the net assets available for benefits as a percentage of the pension benefit obligation provides one indication of the plan's funded status on a going-concern basis. Analysis of this percentage over time indicates whether the system is becoming financially stronger or weaker. Generally, the greater this percentage, the stronger the plan. The unfunded pension benefit obligation and annual covered payroll are both affected by inflation. Expressing the unfunded pension benefit obligation as a percentage of annual covered payroll approximately adjusts for the effects of inflation and aids analysis of the progress being made in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due. Generally, the smaller this percentage, the stronger the plan.

## **Appendices**

## APPENDIX I

### FINANCIAL PRINCIPLES AND OPERATIONAL TECHNIQUES

---

Promises Made, and Eventually Paid. As each year is completed, the plan in effect hands an "IOU" to each member then acquiring a year of service credit -- the "IOU" says: "The Pension Plan owes you a portion of your retirement benefits, payments to be made in cash, commencing when you qualify for retirement."

The related key financial questions are: Which generation of taxpayers contributes the money to cover the IOU? The present taxpayers, who receive the benefit of the member's present year of service? Or the future taxpayers, who happen to be in town paying taxes at the later time when the IOU becomes a cash demand?

A sound principle of sound retirement plan financing is to have this year's taxpayers contribute the money to cover the IOUs being handed out this year. By following this principle, THE CONTRIBUTION RATE WILL REMAIN APPROXIMATELY LEVEL FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION -- our children and grandchildren will contribute the same percents of active payroll we contribute now.

#### A PENSION PLAN BECOMES CLOSED

The diagram in this appendix shows two important activities which occur after a plan has been closed to employees hired in the future.

Cash benefits paid continue to increase for decades, while active member payroll begins to decrease to zero.

Funding Method. A funding method is the long-term, planned pattern for employer contributions.

For an open plan (a plan covering future employees), the level-percent-of-active-member payroll funding method is the basic funding method.

The level-percent funding method can also be applied to a closed plan. However, the resulting contribution percent usually jumps to a high rate, because the number of covered active members is decreasing.

A preferred funding method for a closed plan consists of: level-percent funding for normal cost (the cost of members' service now being rendered); plus a level dollar contribution for unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities over a limited period of years. The period of years must be limited so that plan assets don't become zero while benefits are still payable.

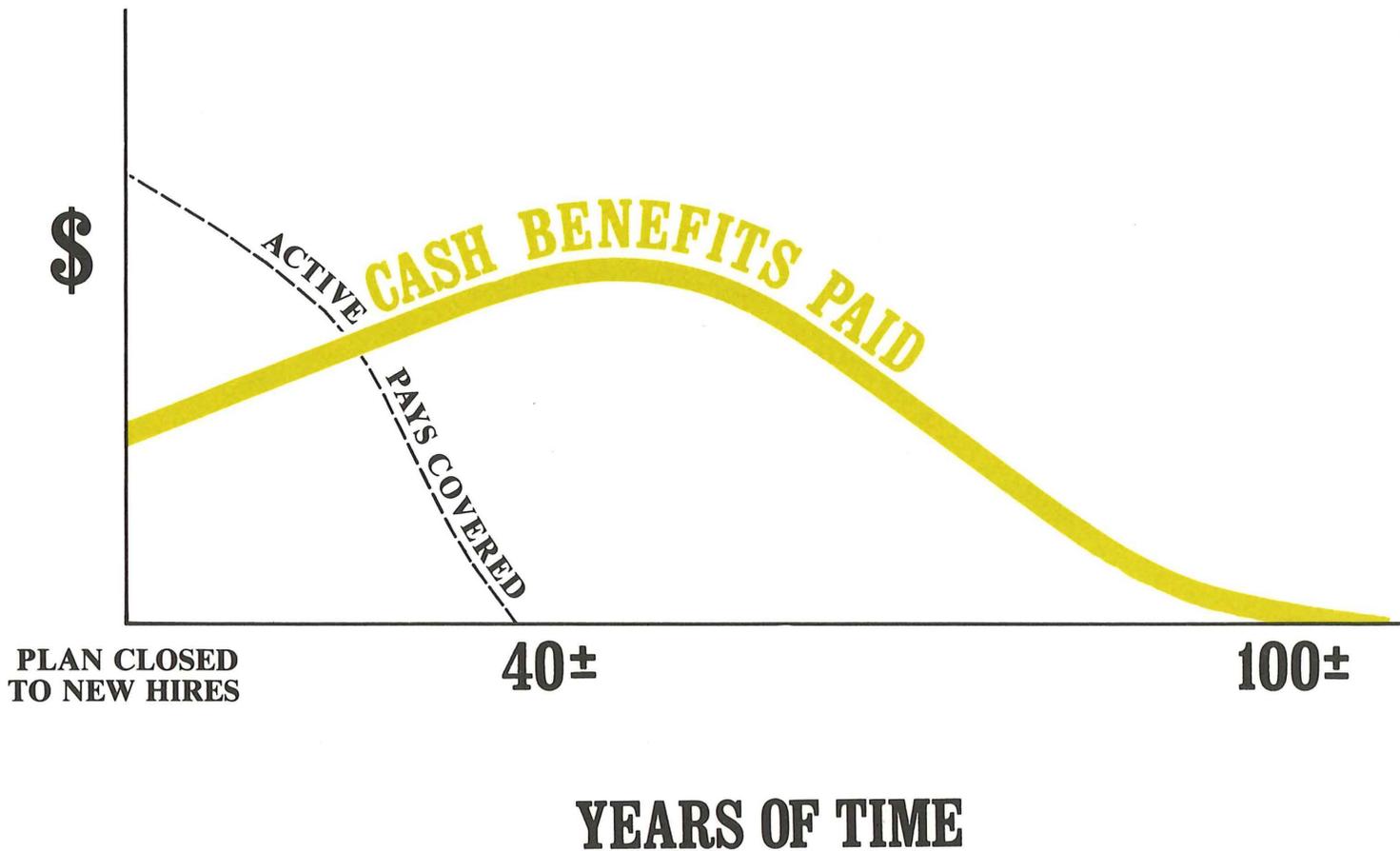
Computing Contributions To Support Plan Benefits. From a given schedule of benefits and from the employee data and asset data furnished him, the actuary determines the contribution rates to support the benefits by means of an actuarial valuation and a funding method.

In making an actuarial valuation, assumptions must be made regarding anticipated financial experiences for the next year and for decades in the future. Only the subsequent actual experience of the plan can indicate the degree of accuracy of the assumptions.

Reconciling Differences Between Assumed Experience and Actual Experience. Once actual experience has occurred and been observed, it will not coincide exactly with assumed experience, regardless of the wisdom of the assumptions or the skill of the actuary and the millions of calculations he made. The future can be predicted with considerable but not 100% precision, except for inflation which seems to defy reliable prediction.

A well-managed plan copes with these continually changing differences by having periodic actuarial valuations. Each actuarial valuation is a complete recalculation of assumed future experience, taking into account all past differences between assumed and actual experience. The result is continuing adjustment in financial position.

# A CLOSED PENSION PLAN



A plan becomes closed when no new hires are admitted to active membership. The persons covered by the plan at the time of closing continue their normal activities and continue to be covered by the plan, until the last survivor dies.

**CASH BENEFITS LINE.** After a pension plan becomes closed, the usual pattern is for cash benefits to continue to increase for decades of time. Eventually the cash benefits will peak, and then gradually decrease over more decades of time, ultimately to zero. The last cash benefit is likely to occur a century after the time the plan is closed.

The precise amounts of cash benefits cannot be known now, and must be estimated by assumptions of future experiences in a variety of financial risk areas.

## APPENDIX II

### MEANING OF UNFUNDED ACCRUED LIABILITIES

Almost every pension plan (public or private) has "unfunded accrued liabilities", so whatever they are, they aren't rare. Since the term is not part of everyday conversation, it needs some definition.

"Accrued liabilities" are the present value \$ of plan promises to pay benefits in the future based upon service already rendered - - - a liability has been established ("accrued") because the service has been rendered, but the resulting monthly cash benefit may not be payable until years in the future. Accrued liabilities \$ are the result of complex mathematical calculations, which are made by the plan's actuary (which is the name given to the specialist who makes such calculations).

If "accrued liabilities" at any time exceed the plan's accrued assets (cash & investments), the difference is "unfunded accrued liabilities". This is the common condition. If the plan's assets equalled the plan's "accrued liabilities", the plan would be termed "fully funded". This is a rare condition.

Each time a plan adds a new benefit which applies to service already rendered, an "accrued liability" is created, which is also an "unfunded accrued liability" because the plan can't print instant cash to cover the accrued liability. Payment for such unfunded accrued liabilities is spread over a period of years, commonly in the 20-40 year range.

Unfunded accrued liabilities can occur in another way: If actual financial experience is less favorable than assumed financial experience, the difference is added to unfunded accrued liabilities. In plans where plan benefits are directly related to an employee's pay near time of retirement (a common plan provision) rather than his average pay throughout his working career, unfunded accrued liabilities have been increasing in recent years because unexpected rates of pay increase have created additional accrued liabilities which could not be matched by reasonable investment results. Some of these unexpected pay increases are the direct result of inflation, which is a very destructive force on financial stability.

The existence of unfunded accrued liabilities is not bad, then (any more than a mortgage on your house is "bad"), but the changes from year to year in amount of unfunded accrued liabilities are important - - - "bad" or "good" or somewhere in between.

Nor are unfunded accrued liabilities a bill payable immediately (your food costs are payable immediately), but it is important that policy-makers prevent the amount from becoming unreasonably high and it is vital that your plan have a sound method for making payments toward them so that they are controlled.

The existence of large amounts of unfunded accrued liabilities indicates that total contributions in past years were less than level - - - an almost certain history if retired life liabilities are not fully funded now.