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**FIREFIGHTERS'  
RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
FINANCIAL REPORT**

**June 30, 1999**

Under provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of the report has been submitted to the media, or approved, entity and other appropriate public officials. The report is available for public inspection at the Nation House of Representatives of the Legislative Auditor and, where appropriate, at the office of the parish clerk of court.

Printed Date July 24 1999  
Release Date \_\_\_\_\_





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To the Board of Trustees  
Firefighters Retirement System  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

This letter is intended to confirm that the Board is fully informed about significant matters relating to the conduct of the annual audit of Firefighters Retirement System so that you can appropriately discharge your oversight responsibility and so that we comply with our obligations to you under professional standards. This letter is intended solely for the use of the Board of Trustees of Firefighters Retirement System.

The following summarizes various matters which must be communicated to you under generally accepted auditing standards.

#### **The Auditor's Responsibility Under Generally Accepted Auditing Standards**

We originally communicated to the Board of Trustees in our arrangement letter that the audit would be conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. An audit, as such, is not designed to include a detailed audit of all transactions nor to discover all defalcations, irregularities or illegal acts, should any exist. An audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards is designed to obtain reasonable rather than absolute assurance about the financial statements. We believe that our audit accomplished those objectives.

#### **Significant Accounting Policies**

Management has the ultimate responsibility for the appropriateness of the accounting policies and procedures used by the System. There were no changes in existing significant accounting policies and procedures during the current year which should be brought to your attention.

#### **Management Judgments and Accounting Estimates**

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the preparation of the financial statements and are based upon management's current judgment. The process used by management encompasses their knowledge and experience about past and current events and certain assumptions about future events. Management has informed us that they used all the relevant facts available to them at the time to make the best judgments about accounting estimates, including the estimated actuarial accrued liability, and we concur with the results of these estimates.

*Significant Audit Adjustments*

There were 31 audit adjustments made from the original trial balance presented to us to begin our audit. We also accumulated some potential adjustments that collectively were considered immaterial and, therefore, were not made to the financial statements. We have discussed these potential adjustments with management.

*Other Information in Documents Containing Audited Financial Statements*

We have not been informed of any documents that contain your audited financial statements. If there were such documents, we have a responsibility to determine that financial information included in those documents is not materially inconsistent with the audited financial statements of the System.

*Disagreements With Management*

We encountered no disagreements with management over the application of significant accounting principles, the basis for management's judgments on any significant matters, the scope of the audit, or significant disclosures to be included in the financial statements or on the wording of our report on the financial statements.

*Consultations With Other Accountants*

We are not aware nor have we been informed of any consultations management had with other independent accountants about accounting or auditing matters. Also, there were no major issues discussed regarding the application of accounting principles or auditing standards in connection with our engagement.

*Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit*

We encountered no difficulty in the performance of the audit.

*Material Contingencies*

The financial statements reflect no disclosures associated with material contingencies and there were no matters we believe should be disclosed as such.

We would be pleased to respond to any questions you have about the keeping or to discuss any other matter you would like to discuss.

PROVOST, SALTER, HARPER & ALFORD, L.L.C.

*Provost, Salter, Harper & Alford, LLC*

October 28, 1999

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# **FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

To the Board of Trustees  
Firefighters' Retirement System  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

We have audited the statement of plan net assets of the Firefighters' Retirement System as of June 30, 1999, and the related statement of changes in plan assets for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the System's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

Except as discussed in the following paragraph, we conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. These standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

*Governmental Accounting Standards Board Technical Bulletin 98-1, Disclosures about Year 2000 Issues*, requires disclosure of certain matters regarding the Year 2000 issue. Firefighters' Retirement System has included such disclosures in Note 10. Because of the unprecedented nature of the Year 2000 issue, its effects and the success of related remediation efforts will not be fully determinable until the year 2000 and thereafter. Accordingly, insufficient audit evidence exists to support Firefighters' Retirement System's disclosures with respect to the Year 2000 issue made in Note 10. Further, we do not provide assurance that Firefighters' Retirement System is or will be year 2000 ready, that Firefighters' Retirement System's year 2000 remediation efforts will be successful in whole or in part, or that parties with which Firefighters' Retirement System does business will be year 2000 ready.

In our opinion, except for the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had we been able to examine evidence regarding year 2000 disclosures, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the plan net assets of the Firefighters' Retirement System as of June 30, 1999, and the changes in plan net assets for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated October 28, 1999 on our consideration of the Firefighters' Retirement System's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws and regulations.

We have also previously audited, in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, the financial statements as of June 30, 1998, 1997, 1996, 1995, 1994, 1993, 1992 and 1991 (some of which are presented herein), and we expressed unqualified opinions on those financial statements. In our opinion, the information set forth in the required supplementary information for each of the nine years in the period ended June 30, 1999, appearing on pages 15 through 17, is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements from which it has been derived.

Our audit was conducted for the purposes of forming an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying supplemental information schedule on page 18 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements of the Firefighters' Retirement System. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly presented in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

PROVOST, SALTER, HARPER & ALFORD, L.L.C.

*Provost, Salter, Harper & Alford LLC*

October 28, 1999

**FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM***Statement of Plan Net Assets**June 30, 1999***ASSETS**

<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<u>\$ 40,681,781</u>
<b>Receivables</b>	
Employer	588,345
Employee	322,885
Interest and dividends	<u>3,591,000</u>
Total receivables	<u>5,182,130</u>
<b>Investments at Fair Value</b>	
U. S. Government Securities	994,287,251
Corporate bonds	96,175,018
Common stocks	<u>250,273,519</u>
Total investments at fair value	<u>540,655,828</u>
<b>T% notes receivable from merged systems</b>	28,092,811
<b>Property, building, equipment and fixtures, net of accumulated depreciation of \$137,556</b>	1,781,710
<b>Prepaid expense and other</b>	<u>224,085</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>621,458,355</b>
<b>Liabilities - Accounts Payable</b>	<u>428,333</u>
<b>Net assets held in trust for pension benefits (a schedule of funding progress is presented on page 16.)</b>	<u><b>\$ 621,030,022</b></u>

**FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM***Statement of Changes In Plan Assets**Year Ended June 30, 1999***Additions**

<b>Contributions</b>	
Employer	\$ 7,844,115
Employee	6,985,038
<b>Total contributions</b>	<b>14,829,153</b>

**Investment Income**

Net appreciation in fair value of investments	20,340,465
Interest and dividends	17,993,567
	38,334,032
<b>Less investment expenses</b>	<b>1,681,596</b>
<b>Net investment income</b>	<b>36,652,436</b>

Interest from notes receivable	1,383,190
State appropriations from insurance premium taxes	9,000,724
Assets transferred from merged systems	45,082,828

<b>Total Additions</b>	<b>107,890,321</b>
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**Deductions**

Annuity benefits	21,458,568
Disability benefits	1,233,590
Refunds to terminated employees	414,482
Administrative expenses	489,888

<b>Total Deductions</b>	<b>23,596,528</b>
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<b>Net Increase</b>	<b>84,293,793</b>
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**Net Assets Held In Trust For Pension Benefits**

Beginning of year	136,826,789
<b>End of year</b>	<b>\$ 621,000,022</b>



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## **FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

*Notes to Financial Statements*

*June 30, 1999*

### **1. Description of Plan**

The following brief description of the Firefighters' Retirement System Pension Plan (Plan) is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for more complete information.

**General.** The Plan is a cost sharing, multiple-employer, defined benefit pension plan covering firefighters employed by any municipality, parish, or fire protection district of the State of Louisiana, under the provisions of Louisiana Revised Statutes 11:2251 through 2269, effective January 1, 1990.

**Plan Membership.** Employer and employee membership data at June 30, 1999 is as follows:

<b>Employer Members</b>	
Cities	40
Parishes	5
Special districts	28
Total employer members	73
<b>Employee Members</b>	
Current retirees and beneficiaries	1,693
Discontinued vested participants	28
Terminated due a refund	73
Active plan participants	3,118
Total employee members	4,296

### **Plan Benefits**

**Normal Benefits.** Employees with 20 or more years of service who have attained age 50 or employees who have 15 years of service who have attained age 55 or 25 years of service at any age are entitled to annual pension benefits equal to 3.0% of their average final compensation based on the 36 consecutive months of highest pay multiplied by their total years of service, not to exceed 100%. Employees may elect to receive their pension benefits in the form of a joint and survivor annuity.

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## **FIREFIIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

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*Notes to Financial Statements, Continued*

*June 30, 1999*

If employees terminate before reaching 10 years of service, they forfeit the right to receive the portion of their accumulated plan benefits attributable to their employer's contributions. Benefits are payable over the employees' lives in the form of a monthly annuity. Employees may elect an unannounced benefit or any of four options at retirement.

1. At death, their beneficiary will receive a lump sum payment based on the present value of the employee's annuity account balance.
2. At death, their beneficiary will receive a life annuity based on their reduced retirement allowance.
3. At death, their beneficiary will receive a life annuity equal to 5% of their reduced retirement allowance.
4. Any other benefit certified by the actuary and approved by the Board of Trustees that will be equivalent in value to their retirement allowance.

Death Benefits. If an active employee dies and is not eligible for retirement, his survivors shall be paid:

1. If the employee not eligible to retire dies in the line of duty, their spouse will receive monthly, an annual benefit equal to 2/3 of the employee's average final compensation. If death is not in the line of duty, the spouse will receive monthly, an annual benefit equal to 7% of the member's average final compensation multiplied by his total years of service; however, the benefit shall not be less than 45%, nor more than 50% of the employee's average final compensation.
2. Children of deceased employees will receive the greater of \$200 or 10% of the member's final average compensation per month until reaching the age of 18 or until the age of 22, if enrolled full time in an institution of higher education. The surviving totally physically handicapped or mentally retarded child of a deceased employee, regardless of age, shall receive the benefits as long as they are dependent on the surviving spouse.
3. If an employee, who is eligible to retire dies before retiring, the designated beneficiary shall be paid under option 2, above.

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## FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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Notes to Financial Statements, Continued

June 30, 1999

Disability Benefits. If an eligible member is officially certified as disabled by the State Medical Disability Board, he shall receive the greater of retirement, if eligible or disability benefits as follows:

1. Any member totally disabled from injury received in the line of duty, even though the member has less than 5 years creditable service, shall be paid, on a monthly basis, an annual pension of 80% of the average final compensation being received at the time of the disability.
2. Any member of the System who has become disabled or incapacitated because of continued illness or as a result of any injury received, even though not in the line of duty, and who has 5 years of creditable service, but is not eligible for retirement under the provisions of R. S. 11:2254 may apply for retirement under the provisions of this section and shall be retired on a 75% of the retirement salary to which he would be entitled under R. S. 11:2256 if he were eligible thereunder or 75% of the member's average salary, whichever is greater.
3. Should a member who is on disability retirement die and leave a surviving spouse, the surviving spouse shall receive a benefit of \$200 per month. When the member takes disability retirement, he may, in addition, take an actuarially reduced benefit in which case the member's surviving spouse shall receive 50% of the disability benefit being paid immediately prior to the death of the disabled retiree. If the surviving spouse remarries prior to age 55, such benefits shall cease; however, the benefits shall resume upon subsequent divorce or death of the new spouse, and the approval of the Board of Trustees.

Deferred Retirement Option Plan. After completing 20 years of creditable service, a member may elect to participate in the deferred retirement option plan for up to 36 months.

Upon commencement of participation in the plan, employer and employee contributions to the System cease. The monthly retirement benefit that would have been payable is paid into the deferred retirement option plan account.

Upon termination of employment, a participant in the program shall receive, at his option, a lump-sum payment from the account or an annuity based on the deferred retirement option plan account balance in addition to his regular retirement benefit.

If employment is not terminated at the end of the 36 months, the participant resumes regular contributions to the System.

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## FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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Notes to Financial Statements, Continued

June 30, 1999

No payments may be made from the deferred retirement option plan account until the participant retires.

During the year ended June 30, 1999, \$7,004,622 was credited to deferred retirement option plan accounts on behalf of 422 participants.

*Initial Benefit Option.* Effective June 16, 1999, members eligible to retire and who do not choose to participate in DRSP may elect to receive, at the time of retirement, an initial benefit option (IDO) in an amount up to 24 months of benefits, with an actuarial reduction of their future benefits. Such amounts may be withdrawn or remain in the IDO account earning interest at the same rate as the DRSP account.

### 2. Summary of Significant Accounting and Financial Reporting Policies

Governmental accounting principles and practices are promulgated and established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). The GASB has issued a Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards. This codification and subsequent GASB pronouncements are recognized as generally accepted accounting principles for state and local governments. The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with such pronouncements.

In November of 1994, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 25, "Financial Reporting for Defined Benefit Pension Plans and Note Disclosures for Defined Contribution Plans". The statement was effective for years beginning after June 15, 1996. The System adopted Statement No. 25 effective July 1, 1999.

The Statement establishes a financial reporting framework for *defined benefit pension plans* that distinguishes between two categories of information: (a) *current financial information about plan assets and financial activities* and (b) *actuarially determined information, from a long-term perspective, about the funded status of the plan and the progress being made in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due.*

Plans are required to present two financial statements:

- (a) *a statement of plan net assets that provides information about the fair value and composition of plan assets, plan liabilities, and plan net assets; and*
- (b) *a statement of changes in plan net assets that provides information about the year to year changes in plan net assets.*

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## **FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

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*Notes to Financial Statements, Continued*

*June 30, 1999*

The requirements for the notes to the financial statements include a brief plan description, a summary of significant accounting policies, and information about contributions, legally required reserves, and investment concentrations.

Information in the second category should be included, for a minimum of six years, in two schedules of historical trend information that should be presented as required supplementary information. The required schedules are (A) a *schedule of funding progress* that reports the actuarial value of assets, the actuarial accrued liability, and the relationship between the two over time and (B) a *schedule of employer contributions* that provides information about the annual required contributions of the employers (ARC) and the percentage of the ARC recognized by the plan as contributed. Note disclosures related to the required schedules should be presented and should include the actuarial methods and significant assumptions used for financial reporting.

**Basis of Accounting.** The System's financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Contributions are recognized in the period in which the employee is compensated for services. Benefits and refunds are recognized when due and payable.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents.** Cash and cash equivalents includes demand deposits in banks and temporary cash investments in money market accounts with the trust department of the investment custodian bank. The money market balances consist of government backed pooled funds.

**Valuation of Investments.** All investments are fixed-income securities and common stock and are reported at fair market value based on quoted market prices.

**Investment Income.** Interest income is recognized on the accrual basis as earned.

Gains and losses on exchanges of fixed-income securities and common stocks are recognized using the trade date basis.

**Estimates.** The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires the use of estimates. The actuarial accrued liability is based on estimates and assumptions as explained in footnote 4 and the supplementary information.

### **1. Contributions and Reserves**

**Contributions.** Contributions for all members are established by statute at 8.0% of taxable compensation. The contributions are deducted from the member's salary and remitted by the participating agency.

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## **FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

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*Notes to Financial Statements, Continued*

*June 30, 1999*

Administrative costs of the retirement system are financed through employer contributions. According to state statute, contributions for all employees are actuarially determined each year. For the year ended June 30, 1999, employer contributions were 9% of member's earnings. The System also receives funds from insurance premium taxes each year as appropriated by the Legislature. This income is used as additional employer contributions.

**Reserves.** Use of the term "reserves" by the retirement System indicates that a portion of the fund balances is legally restricted for a specific future use. The nature and purpose of these reserves are explained below:

**Expense Fund Reserve.** The Expense Fund Reserve provides for general and administrative expenses of the System and those expenses not funded through other specific legislative appropriations. Funding consists of transfers from the retirement funds and is made as needed.

**Annuity Savings.** The Annuity Savings is credited with contributions made by members of the System. When a member terminates his service, or upon his death before qualifying for a benefit, the refund of his contributions is made from this reserve. If a member dies and there is a survivor who is eligible for a benefit, the amount of the member's accumulated contributions is transferred from the Annuity Savings to the Annuity Reserve to provide part of the benefit. The Annuity Savings as of June 30, 1999 is \$60,788,779. The Annuity Savings is fully funded.

**Pension Accumulation Reserve.** The Pension Accumulation Reserve consists of contributions paid by employers, interest earned on investments and any other income not created by other accounts. This reserve account is charged annually with an amount, determined by the actuary, to be transferred to the Annuity Reserve to fund retirement benefits for existing recipients. It is also relieved when expenditures are not covered by other accounts. The Pension Accumulation Reserve as of June 30, 1999 is \$281,182,657. The Pension Accumulation Reserve is 83.22% funded.

**Annuity Reserve.** The Annuity Reserve consists of the reserves for all pensions, including cost-of-living increases, granted to retired members and is the reserve account from which such pensions and annuities are paid. Survivors of deceased beneficiaries also receive benefits from this reserve account. The Annuity Reserve as of June 30, 1999 is \$248,125,554. The Annuity Reserve is fully funded.

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## FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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Notes to Financial Statements, Continued

June 30, 1999

Deferred Retirement Option Account. The Deferred Retirement Option Account consists of the reserves for all members who, upon retirement eligibility, elect to deposit into this account an amount equal to the member's monthly benefit if he had retired. A member can only participate in the program for three years, and upon termination may receive his benefits in a lump sum payment or by a true annuity. The deferred retirement option as of June 30, 1999 is \$30,033,041. The Deferred Retirement Option account is fully funded.

### 4. Required Contributions

FRS funding policy provides for periodic employer contributions at actuarially determined rates that, expressed as percentages of annual covered payroll, are sufficient to accumulate sufficient assets to pay benefits when due. Level percentages of payroll employer contribution rates are determined using the entry age actuarial funding method. FRS amortizes the unfunded liability over a closed 30 year period based on level payments. Subsequent changes to the unfunded liability are amortized over 15 year periods if related to gains and losses, changes in assumptions, or changes in benefits. Amortization of unfunded liabilities arising from mergers is over 30 years unless the actuarial committee specifies a shorter period.

Contributions totaling \$23,272,444 (\$18,568,752 employer and \$4,703,692 employee) were made in accordance with actuarially determined contribution requirements determined through an actuarial valuation performed at June 30, 1999. These contributions consisted of (a) normal cost of \$18,260,543 and (b) amortization of the unfunded actuarial liability of \$5,011,978.

Significant actuarial assumptions used to compute contributions requirements are: (1) a rate of return on the investment of present and future assets of 7% per year compounded annually; (2) projected salary increases that vary according to years of service ranging from 8.03% in the first year of service to 4% for service after 14 years; (3) pre- and post-mortality life expectancies of participants based on the 1980 Group Annuity Mortality Table; (4) rates of withdrawal and termination from active service before retirement for reasons other than death (based on a table in the actuarial report which is based on the System's experience); and (5) rates of disability (increasing from 8.1% at age 35 and below to 2.0% at age 54 and above). The foregoing actuarial assumptions are based on the presumption that the plan will continue. Basic valuation assumptions are the same as those utilized for the prior year.

### 5. Deposits and Investments

Deposits. Deposits are carried at cost. The carrying amount of deposits is separately displayed on the balance sheet as "cash and cash equivalents". At year end, the carrying amount of the System's deposits was \$40,681,781 and the bank balance was \$40,833,946. All of the bank

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## FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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Notes to Financial Statements, Continued

June 30, 1999

balance was covered by federal depositary insurance or collateral pledged in the name of the System or the treasurer for the State of Louisiana (GAAP category 3).

**Investments.** Statutes authorize the System to invest in a prudent manner and limit investments in common stocks to 35% of the total portfolio. All of the Plan's investments are insured or registered and held by a bank-administered trust fund or a Securities and Exchange Commission registered broker-dealer (GAAP category 1). Investments at cost and fair value as determined by quoted market prices at June 30, 1999, were:

	A amortized Cost	Fair Value
U. S. Government Securities	\$ 183,200,387	\$ 194,207,281
Corporate bonds	90,268,588	90,175,008
Common stock	201,813,183	258,273,419
	<u>\$ 475,282,158</u>	<u>\$ 542,655,708</u>

### 6. Securities Lending

The system is authorized by its Board of Trustees to operate a securities lending program. This program is designed to produce supplemental income on investments with little or no additional risk. All securities are available for loan to pre-approved securities dealers. Securities dealers must meet specific criteria to be approved. Securities are loaned for cash or securities issued by the U.S. Government or its agencies. The System cannot pledge or sell securities unless the borrower defaults. U.S. Securities are loaned for 102% of the market value of the loan, plus accrued interest. Other securities are loaned for collateral valued at 105% of the market value of the securities plus any accrued interest. As of June 30, 1999 all loans were open, i.e. they mature each day. The System did not have any credit risk at year end because the collateral held reflected the market value of securities on loan. There were no violations of legal or contractual provisions, nor borrower or lending agent default losses during the year. The System has an indemnification agreement with their lending agent in case of borrower default. At year end, broker-dealers held investments under securities on loan contracts as follows:

U. S. Government Obligations	\$ 38,891,913
Domestic bonds	2,641,658
Common stock	15,687,552
	<u>\$ 57,121,123</u>



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**FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

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*Notes to Financial Statements, Continued**June 30, 1999***7. 7% Notes Receivable From Merged Systems**

7% notes receivable from merged Systems at June 30, 1999 consisted of the following:

<u>System</u>	<u>Annual Payments (Including Interest)</u>	<u>Final Payment Due</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Baton Rouge	\$ 69,818	December 3, 2018	\$ 555,290
Bogalusa	127,859	January 1, 2019	852,879
Kenner	325,790	April 1, 2019	2,968,735
Lafayette	789,584	May 1, 2024	19,112,083
New Iberia	166,268	November 4, 2018	1,328,733
New Iberia retirees	118,352	January 1, 2013	965,084
West Monroe	171,340	January 1, 2019	1,678,048
	<u>\$ 1,699,894</u>		<u>\$ 25,095,511</u>

During the year ended June 30, 1999, mergers were completed from cities who had previously been members of other statewide retirement systems. As a result of these transfers, the Firefighters' Retirement System received cash and securities of \$21,089,495.

**8. Concentrations of Credit Risks**

The Firefighters' Retirement System has notes receivable from cities within the state. The collectibility of the receivables described in Note 7 above is dependent on the continued existence and solvency of these entities.

Also, as noted in Note 5, the Firefighters' Retirement System has concentrations of investments in U.S. government and agency securities as well as bonds and stocks of U. S. corporations. The value and collectibility of these investments is dependent on the normal market conditions that impact these types of investments as well as the continued existence and solvency of these entities.

**9. Risk Management**

The Firefighters' Retirement System is exposed to various risks of loss related to acts; theft of; damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; and natural disasters for which the System carries insurance through the State of Louisiana, Office of Risk Management at levels which management believes are adequate to protect the System. Settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

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## **FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

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*Notes to Financial Statements, Continued*

*June 30, 1999*

### **10. Year 2000 Issues**

The Year 2000 issue is the result of shortcomings in many electronic data processing systems and other electronic equipment that may adversely affect the System's operations as early as fiscal year 1999.

The Firefighters' Retirement System has completed an inventory of computer systems and other electronic equipment that may be affected by the Year 2000 issue and that are necessary to conducting the System's operations. Based on this inventory, the System is in the testing and validation stage. Programming changes have been made to all critical systems and they are believed to be year 2000 compliant. Costs incurred have not been material to the financial statements.

Because of the unprecedented nature of the Year 2000 issue, its effects and the success of related remediation efforts will not be fully determinable until the year 2000 and thereafter. Management cannot assure that the System is or will be year 2000 ready, that the System's remediation efforts will be successful in whole or in part, or that parties with whom the System does business will be year 2000 ready.

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## FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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*Supplementary Information*

*June 30, 1999*

The information presented in the required supplementary schedules was determined as part of the actuarial valuations at the dates indicated. Additional information as of the latest actuarial valuation follows.

Valuation date	June 30, 1999
Actuarial cost method	Entry age
Amortization method	Level dollar - closed
Remaining amortization period	22 years
Asset valuation method	Market value adjusted to defer 1% of all realized and unrealized capital gains and losses accrued during the fiscal year.
Actuarial assumptions:	
Investment rate of return*	7%
Projected salary increases*	4% - 8.12%
Cost of living adjustments	Only those previously granted

\*Includes inflation at 3.25%.

**FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

Schedule of Funding Progress

June 30, 1999

Actuarial Valuation Date	Actuarial Value of Assets (\$)	Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL) Entry Age (\$)	Unfunded AAL (\$/AAL) (1-a/b)	Funded Ratio (a/b)	Covered Payroll (C)	U.A.A.L. as a Percentage of Covered Payroll (10-a/c)%
6/30/99	\$ 818,878,334	\$ 808,878,152	\$ 10,000,182	99.0%	\$ 32,755,784	30.5 %
6/30/98	519,854,537	574,854,352	54,999,815	90.4%	79,171,264	69.4 %
6/30/97	453,753,348	578,363,348	124,610,000	85.0%	72,868,548	86.6 %
6/30/96	411,294,139	476,872,995	95,578,856	87.3%	65,320,300	87.2 %
6/30/95	364,634,304	412,855,998	47,221,694	89.4%	64,880,138	73.4 %
6/30/94	298,878,279	303,994,700	5,116,421	97.4%	44,352,448	18.3 %
6/30/93	287,118,887	278,878,895	18,760,008	103.9%	42,050,873	61.8 %
6/30/92	240,828,098	227,278,348	13,549,750	106.0%	39,155,969	69.9 %
6/30/91	225,978,143	208,788,848	17,189,295	108.6%	36,034,317	69.8 %

**FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM***Schedule of Employer Contributions And Other Contributing Entities**June 30, 1999*

Year Ended June 30	Employer Contributions		State of Louisiana	
	Annual Required Contribution	Percentage Contributed	Annual Required Contribution	Percentage Contributed
1989	\$ 3,345,028	100%	\$ 9,020,724	100%
1990	6,384,748	100%	9,648,323	100%
1991	6,281,641	100%	8,960,320	100%
1992	6,236,490	100%	6,291,800	100%
1993	4,357,781	100%	2,538,417	100%
1994	3,893,468	100%	1,938,560	100%
1995	3,695,837	100%	5,345	100%
1996	3,588,935	100%	16,838	100%
1997	3,526,735	100%	1,534,811	100%

**FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM****Transfers' Per Diem****Year Ended June 30, 1999**

	Number of Meetings	Per Diem
B. Brady Housard	14	\$ 1,050
William Desormaux	12	900
Michael Heraphil	14	1,050
Clendon King	12	900
Donald Magant	10	750
Margaret McCoy	12	900
		<u>\$ 5,550</u>



**REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER  
FINANCIAL REPORTING BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT  
AUDITING STANDARDS**

To the Board of Trustees  
Firefighters' Retirement System  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

We have audited the financial statements of the Firefighters' Retirement System, State of Louisiana, as of and for the year ended June 30, 1999, and have issued our report thereon dated October 28, 1999, which was qualified because insufficient audit evidence exists to support the Firefighters' Retirement System's disclosures with respect to the Year 2000 issue. Except as discussed in the preceding sentence, we conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

**Compliance**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Firefighters' Retirement System, State of Louisiana's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws and regulations, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

**Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Firefighters' Retirement System, State of Louisiana's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our

consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reflect to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in accounts that would be material in relation to the general purpose financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

This report is intended for the information of the Board of Trustees and management, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

PROMOST, SALTER, HARPER & ALFORD, L.L.C.

*Promost, Salter, Harper & Alford, LLC*

October 28, 1999



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## **FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

*Independent Auditor's Comment on Resolution  
Of Prior Audit Findings*

*Year Ended June 30, 1999*

There are no prior year audit findings for which the Firefighters' Retirement System has not implemented the corrective action recommended.