

# LEOFF I Coalition

To say it was another busy year in the Legislature would be an understatement. With the tight budget, we were again fighting to maintain what we have. Once again, your LEOFF I Coalition has been and will be working on your behalf to protect and defend your pension system.

2004

## ANNUAL REPORT

### Coalition Officers:

President, Bob Monize  
Vice President, Dave Grayson  
Treasurer, Mike Matson  
Secretary, Don Daniels

I think it is important that your LEOFF I Coalition explain to you what we are about. We (LEOFF I Coalition) have been established to provide a powerful, effective and respected voice for members and beneficiaries of the LEOFF I Retirement System. Our (LEOFF I Coalition), objective shall be to unite all Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters belonging to the LEOFF I retirement System in the state of Washington. The "Mission Statement" of the LEOFF I Coalition is to maintain what we have, ensure the equitable distribution of the LEOFF I Pension System surplus funds, and to promote legislation most beneficial to LEOFF I members and beneficiaries. Another objective of the LEOFF I Coalition is to stimulate mutual cooperation between Law Enforcement and Firefighter organizations representing active or retired LEOFF I members in order to protect the integrity of the LEOFF I Law and the LEOFF I Retirement System Trust Fund. We (LEOFF I Coalition) shall disseminate information to all member organizations regarding legislation and related matters which affect the interest and welfare of LEOFF I System members and their beneficiaries.

The Coalition inquired about a few concerns with the State Investment Board. We have been concerned that the State and employers may later want to look for a way out of full funding well in the future, meaning when our numbers are less. We are still leery due to the past SB166 when an attempt occurred to terminate our pension plan and take our fund. Our amortization is predicted as 2024. The Actuary's Office reports that HB3174, the catastrophic illness bill, would have required members and employers to pay 6% contributions. HB3114/SB6355 would fine tune existing policy as the numbers of LEOFF I people decline and would allow an extra police officer to serve on the Board when, say, a firefighter was unavailable. What will happen when a single LEOFF I member remains under a disability board jurisdiction and when that scenario will begin to happen? We better come up with a plan that will benefit LEOFF I and do not let the State tell us that we only need one board for the whole state. The State proposed a measure almost four years ago to roll all disability boards into one, at the DRS in Tumwater. They learned that first class cities had their boards in protected statute, which helped the rest of us for the time frame. The future is murky to predict. It is just a matter of time until the disability boards will have to change. The current fight is in Snohomish County where your LEOFF I Coalition was first and led with investing \$10,000 to fight a lawsuit against the Snohomish County Disability Board. A report on a solution seems a bit in the distance still and will affect all boards.

This year, HB1328 would address the problem when a disability board is short an employee/retiree. If no one, Law Enforcement or Fire fighter, is available then one could be elected from only the local agency that had jurisdiction. In HB1319-SB5247 if passed would allow an ex-spouse of a plan to resume getting the pension benefits when the LEOFF I person dies, providing the spouse was provided benefits under a court approved settlement agreement incident in an divorce. HB1329 would provide an optional reduced retirement allowance with survivor benefits to spouses who are ineligible for survivor benefits under other plan provisions. It would allow a member to choose this retirement option, so long as there is some portion of his or her retirement benefit that is not subject to a property division pursuant to a domestic relations order. HB1044 would stabilize the employer's contributions for various pension plans. The Select Joint Committee on Pension Policy has seen some need to keep the funds reliable for the future, not just one year here and there. A big concern is that the legislature is aware of a budget shortfall of \$2.2 billion and need to put \$500 million in the pension funds, with no vision of how to do that. The Actuary's Office has not asked for LEOFF I employee contributions yet as we are still in a surplus position. As more and more people retire, the surplus will decrease in per portion. In short, 2005 will be another year again that your LEOFF I Coalition will watch very carefully to ensure that we maintain what we have and were promised.



**Bob Monize**  
President

LEOFF I  
COALITION



*Representing Active and  
Retired Members of the  
LEOFF I Retirement System*

# Annual Report

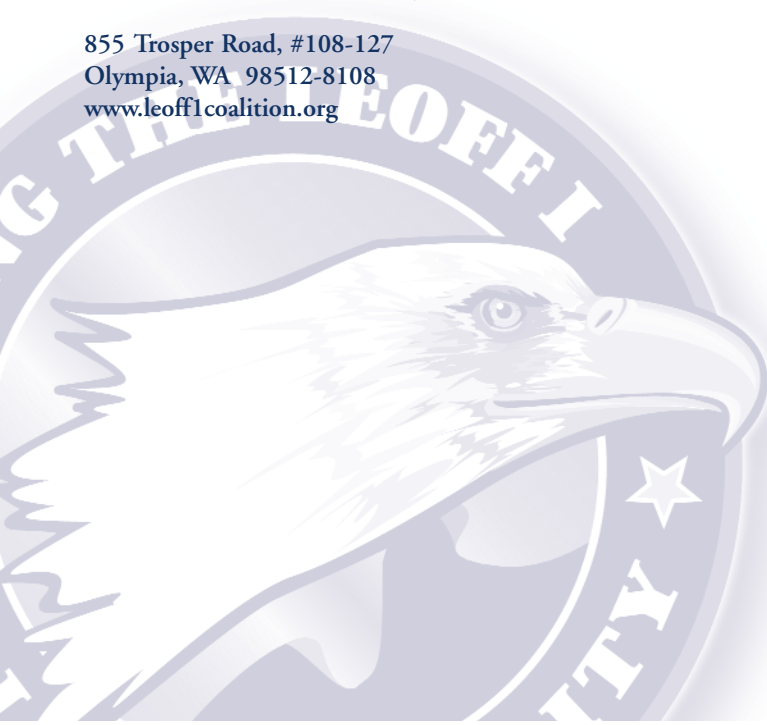
★ 2004 ★



LEOFF I  
COALITION

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# LEOFF I Coalition

*The mission of the LEOFF I  
Coalition is to protect the integrity  
of the LEOFF I Law and LEOFF I  
Retirement Trust Fund.*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Total Contributions	\$36,532.00
Earned Interest	\$1,464.00
Total Disbursements	\$23,596.00
Beginning Net Assets	\$166,188.00
Ending Net Assets	\$180,588.00