



SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS PENSION PLAN
2017 ANNUAL FUNDING NOTICE
April 2018

This Notice includes important information about the funding status of the Southwest Ohio Regional Council of Carpenters Pension Plan (“the Plan”). It also includes general information about the benefit payments guaranteed by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (“the PBGC”), a federal insurance agency. This Notice is required by federal law, and all traditional pension plans, called defined benefit pension plans, must issue it every year regardless of their funding status. It does not mean that the Plan is terminating. It is provided for informational purposes only and you are not required to respond in any way. This Notice is for the 2017 Plan Year, which began on January 1, 2017 and ended on December 31, 2017.

How Well Funded Is Your Plan

The law requires the Plan Administrator to tell you how well the Plan is funded, using a measure called the “funded percentage”. In order to get this percentage, the Plan divides its assets by its liabilities on the Valuation Date. In general, the higher the percentage, the better funded the Plan. The Plan’s funded percentage for the 2017 Plan Year and the two preceding Plan Years is shown in the chart below. The chart also lists the value of the Plan’s assets and liabilities for the same period.

	2017 Plan Year	2016 Plan Year	2015 Plan Year
Valuation Date	January 1, 2017	January 1, 2016	January 1, 2015
Funded Percentage	49%	50%	59%
Actuarial Value of Assets	\$226,849,805	\$235,053,025	\$244,239,334
Value of Liabilities	\$460,087,441	\$470,229,784	\$408,066,808

Year-End Fair Market Value of Assets

The asset values in the chart above are measured as of the Plan’s Valuation Date. They are also “actuarial values”. Actuarial values differ from market values in that they do not fluctuate daily based on changes in the stock market or other markets. Actuarial values smooth out those fluctuations and can allow for more predictable levels of future contributions. Despite the fluctuations, market values tend to show a clearer picture of a Plan’s funded status at a given point in time. The asset values in the chart below are market values and are measured on the last day of the 2017 Plan Year. The chart also includes the year-end market value of the Plan’s assets for the two preceding Plan Years.

	December 31, 2017	December 31, 2016	December 31, 2015
Fair Market Value of Assets	\$230,327,519*	\$218,949,354	\$213,252,642

* Unaudited.

Endangered, Critical, or Critical and Declining Status

Under federal pension law, a plan generally is in “endangered” status if its funded percentage is less than 80 percent. A plan is in “critical” status if the funded percentage is less than 65 percent (other factors may also apply). A plan is in “critical and declining” status if it is in critical status and is projected to run out of the money needed to pay benefits within 15 years, or within 20 years if a special rule applies.

If a pension plan enters endangered status, the trustees of the plan are required to adopt a funding improvement plan. Similarly, if a plan enters critical status or critical and declining status, the trustees of the plan are required to adopt a rehabilitation plan. Funding improvement and rehabilitation plans

establish steps and benchmarks for pension plans to improve their funding status over a specified period of time. The plan sponsor of a plan in critical and declining status may apply for approval to amend the plan to reduce current and future payment obligations to participants and beneficiaries.

The Plan was certified as being in critical and declining status for the 2017 Plan Year because the Plan's actuary has determined that the Plan has not emerged from critical status, has a funded percentage less than 80%, and is projected to be insolvent within the next 20 years. Specifically, the Plan was projected to be insolvent in the 2033 Plan Year. Insolvent means that the Plan's available resources will not be sufficient to pay benefits under the Plan during the Plan Year for which they are due. Such insolvency may result in benefit reductions.

In an effort to improve the Plan's funding situation, the Board of Trustees adopted an updated rehabilitation plan on September 10, 2015. Since the Plan is not expected to emerge from critical status, the updated rehabilitation plan includes the use of the "exhaustion of all reasonable measures" as allowed under the *Pension Protection Act of 2006* (PPA). This means that, on an annual basis, the Board of Trustees will review updated projections based on reasonable actuarial assumptions to confirm that the rehabilitation plan is continuing to forestall insolvency and to determine if the Plan can expect to emerge from critical status at a later date. Scheduled progress will be determined based on the Plan continuing to forestall its insolvency.

The Plan Sponsor has taken the following legally permitted actions to prevent insolvency:

The Board of Trustees adopted an updated rehabilitation plan that includes changes in the Plan's Early Retirement, Disability Retirement, Death Benefits, and Suspension of Benefit rules, as well as scheduled increases in the hourly contribution rate. In addition, as of April 29, 2010, the Plan is not permitted to pay lump sum benefits (or any other payment in excess of the monthly amount paid under a single life annuity). If the Board of Trustees determines that further benefit reductions are necessary, you will receive a separate notice in the future explaining the effect of those reductions.

You can request a copy of the Plan's rehabilitation plan, any updates to such plan, and the actuarial and financial data that demonstrate any action taken by the Plan toward fiscal improvement by contacting the Plan Administrator.

If the Plan is certified as being in endangered, critical, or critical and declining status for the 2018 Plan Year, separate notification of that status has or will be provided to you.

Participant Information

The total number of participants and beneficiaries covered by the Plan on the January 1, 2017 valuation date was 5,501. Of this number, 1,691 were current employees, 2,647 were retired and receiving benefits from the Plan, and 1,163 were retired or no longer working for an employer and have the right to future benefits.

Funding & Investment Policies

Every pension plan must have a procedure to establish a funding policy for plan objectives. A funding policy relates to how much money is needed to pay promised benefits. The funding policy of the Plan is to meet minimum funding requirements of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

Pension plans also have investment policies. These generally are written guidelines or general instructions for making investment management decisions. The investment policy of the Plan is to invest in a diversified portfolio of assets that will maximize investment return over the long term while

minimizing investment return volatility and maintaining sufficient liquidity to pay Plan benefits and administrative expenses.

Under the Plan's investment policy, the Plan's assets were allocated among the following categories of investments as of the end of the 2017 Plan Year. These allocations are percentages of total assets:

<u>Asset Allocation</u>	
Stocks	<u>45.13%</u>
Investment Grade Debt Instruments	<u>22.53%</u>
High-Yield Debt Instruments	<u>4.93%</u>
Real Estate	<u>12.43%</u>
Other	<u>14.98%</u>

Events with Material Effect on Assets or Liabilities

Federal law also requires Plan Administrator to provide a written explanation of events, taking effect in the current Plan Year, which are expected to have a material effect on Plan liabilities or assets. For the 2018 Plan Year beginning on January 1, 2018 and ending on December 31, 2018, the following events are expected to have such an effect: None.

Right to Request a Copy of the Annual Report

Pension plans must file annual reports with the US Department of Labor. The report is called the "Form 5500". These reports contain financial and other information regarding the Plan. You can obtain an electronic copy of the Plan's annual report by going to www.efast.dol.gov and using the search tool. Annual reports are also available from the US Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration's Public Disclosure Room at 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N-1513, Washington, DC 20210, or by calling 202-693-8673. You can also obtain a copy of the Plan's annual report by making a written request to the Plan Administrator.

The Plan's annual reports do not contain personal information regarding Plan participants, such as the amount of your accrued benefit. You should contact the Plan Administrator if you want information about your accrued benefit. Your Plan Administrator is identified below under "Where to Get More Information".

Summary of Rules Governing Insolvent Plans

Federal law has a number of special rules that apply to financially troubled multiemployer plans that become insolvent, either as ongoing plans or plans terminated by mass withdrawal. The Plan Administrator is required by law to include a summary of these rules in this Notice. A plan is insolvent for a plan year if its available financial resources are not sufficient to pay benefits when due for that plan year. An insolvent plan must reduce benefit payments to the highest level that can be paid from the plan's available resources. If such resources are not enough to pay benefits at the level specified by law (see "Benefit Payments Guaranteed by the PBGC", below), the plan must apply to the PBGC for financial assistance. The PBGC will loan the plan the amount necessary to pay benefits at the guaranteed level. Reduced benefits may be restored if the plan's financial condition improves.

A plan that becomes insolvent must provide prompt notice of its status to participants and beneficiaries, contributing employers, labor unions representing participants, and the PBGC. In addition, participants

and beneficiaries also must receive information regarding whether, and how, their benefits will be reduced or affected, including the loss of a lump sum option.

Benefit Payments Guaranteed by the PBGC

The maximum benefit that the PBGC guarantees is set by law. Only benefits that you have earned a right to receive and that cannot be forfeited (called “vested benefits”) are guaranteed. There are separate insurance programs with different benefit guarantees and other provisions for single-employer plans and multiemployer plans. The Plan is covered by the PBGC’s multiemployer program. Specifically, the PBGC guarantees a monthly benefit payment equal to 100 percent of the first \$11.00 of the Plan’s monthly benefit accrual rate, plus 75 percent of the next \$33.00 of the accrual rate, times each year of credited service. The PBGC’s maximum guarantee therefore is \$35.75 per month times a participant’s years of credited service.

Example 1: If a participant with 10 years of credited service has an accrued monthly benefit of \$600.00, the accrual rate for purposes of determining the PBGC guarantee would be determined by dividing the monthly benefit by the participant’s years of service ($\$600.00 \div 10$), which equals \$60.00. The guaranteed amount for a \$60.00 monthly accrual rate is equal to the sum of \$11.00 plus \$24.75 ($.75 \times \$33.00$), or \$35.75. Thus, the participant’s guaranteed monthly benefit would be \$357.50 ($\35.75×10).

Example 2: If the participant in Example 1 has an accrued benefit of \$200.00, the accrual rate for purposes of determining the guarantee would be \$20.00 ($\$200.00 \div 10$). The guaranteed amount for a \$20.00 monthly accrual rate is equal to the sum of \$11.00 plus \$6.75 ($.75 \times \$9.00$), or \$17.75. Thus, the participant’s guaranteed monthly benefit would be \$177.50 ($\17.75×10).

The PBGC guarantees pension benefits payable at normal retirement age and some early retirement benefits. In addition, the PBGC guarantees qualified pre-retirement survivor benefits, which are pre-retirement death benefits payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who dies before starting to receive benefit payments. In calculating a person’s monthly payment, the PBGC will disregard any benefit increases that were made under a plan within 60 months before the earlier of the plan’s termination or insolvency, or benefits that were in effect for less than 60 months at the time of termination or insolvency. Similarly, the PBGC does not guarantee benefits above the normal retirement benefit, disability benefits not in pay status, or non-pension benefits, such as health insurance, life insurance, death benefits, vacation pay, or severance pay.

For additional information about the PBGC and the pension insurance program guarantees, go to the Multiemployer Page on the PBGC’s website at www.pbgc.gov/multiemployer. Please contact your Plan Administrator for specific information about your Plan or pension benefit. The PBGC does not have that information. Your Plan Administrator is identified below under “Where to Get More Information”.

Where to Get More Information

For more information about this Notice, you can contact the Plan Administrator, the Board of Trustees of the Southwest Ohio Regional Council of Carpenters Pension Plan, at 700 Tower Drive, Suite 300, Troy, MI 48098, or by calling 248-813-9800. For identification purposes, the official Plan Number is 001 and the Plan Sponsor’s Employer Identification Number, or “EIN”, is 31-6127287.

SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS PENSION PLAN
2018 NOTICE OF CRITICAL AND DECLINING STATUS
April 2018

On March 29, 2018 the actuary for the Southwest Ohio Regional Council of Carpenters Pension Plan ("Plan") certified to the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Plan Sponsor ("Board of Trustees") that the Plan is in "critical and declining status" for the 2018 Plan Year as defined by the *Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014* (MPRA). The 2018 Plan Year began on January 1, 2018 and will end on December 31, 2018. Federal law requires that you receive this Notice.

Critical and Declining Status

The Plan was certified as being in critical and declining status for the 2018 Plan Year because the Plan's actuary has determined that the Plan has not emerged from critical status, has a funded percentage less than 80%, and is projected to be insolvent within the next 20 years. Specifically, the Plan is projected to be insolvent in the 2036 Plan Year. Insolvent means that the Plan's available resources will not be sufficient to pay benefits under the Plan during the Plan Year for which they are due. Such insolvency may result in benefit reductions.

Benefit Adjustments under the Existing Rehabilitation Plan

In an effort to improve the Plan's funding situation, the Board of Trustees adopted an updated rehabilitation plan on September 10, 2015. Since the Plan is not expected to emerge from critical status, the updated rehabilitation plan includes the use of the "exhaustion of all reasonable measures" as allowed under the *Pension Protection Act of 2006* (PPA). This means that on an annual basis, the Board of Trustees will review updated projections based on reasonable actuarial assumptions to confirm that the rehabilitation plan is continuing to forestall insolvency and to determine if the Plan can expect to emerge from critical status at a later date. Scheduled progress will be determined based on the Plan continuing to forestall its insolvency.

The Plan Sponsor has taken the following legally permitted actions to prevent insolvency:

The Board of Trustees adopted an updated rehabilitation plan that includes changes in the Plan's Early Retirement, Disability Retirement, Death Benefits, and Suspension of Benefit rules, as well as scheduled increases in the hourly contribution rate. In addition, as of April 29, 2010, the Plan is not permitted to pay lump sum benefits (or any other payment in excess of the monthly amount paid under a single life annuity).

If the Board of Trustees determines that further benefit reductions under the rehabilitation plan are necessary, you will receive a separate notice in the future explaining the effect of those reductions. Any reduction of adjustable benefits, **other than the possible benefit suspensions discussed below**, will not reduce the level of a participant's basic benefit payable at normal retirement.

You can request a copy of the Plan's rehabilitation plan, any updates to such plan, and the actuarial and financial data that demonstrate any action taken by the Plan toward fiscal improvement by contacting the Plan Administrator.

Possibility of Additional Benefit Adjustments (“Benefit Suspensions”)

Federal law allows the board of trustees of a multiemployer pension plan in critical and declining status to suspend benefits in order to avoid becoming insolvent. A suspension of benefits means a temporary or permanent reduction of current or future payment obligations of the plan to its participants, including those retirees and beneficiaries receiving monthly benefits from the plan at the time benefits are suspended, subject to the restrictions described below. Reductions in a participant’s basic benefit payable at normal retirement may occur if benefits are suspended under MPRA.

As discussed below, even though the Plan is in critical and declining status, it has not yet met all of the conditions that would permit the Trustees to make benefit suspensions under MPRA. **The Plan submitted an application to suspend benefits to the Department of the Treasury on March 30, 2017. This application was withdrawn. A new application is expected to be submitted to the Department of the Treasury later this year. However, no benefits have been adjusted at this time.**

There are several rules and conditions that must first be satisfied before a plan is permitted to suspend benefits. For example, no benefit suspension may be implemented unless each of the Plan’s participants and beneficiaries are first notified of any potential suspensions and receive an individualized estimate describing the effect the suspension, if implemented, would have on their benefits.

The Secretary of Treasury, in consultation with the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) and the Secretary of Labor, can approve, reject, or not provide comment on any benefit suspension applications that they receive. Plan participants are permitted to submit comments to the Federal government regarding any possible benefit suspensions, and a participant vote would be required before any suspension of benefits may take effect.

There are limitations and restrictions on benefits that may be suspended. For example, any suspension of accrued benefits may not reduce the level of a participant’s benefit to less than 110% of the PBGC benefit guarantee level. There are also limits to the amount that benefits can be suspended for participants or beneficiaries who have attained age 75 as of the effective date of any benefit suspension. Participants or beneficiaries who have attained age 80 as of the effective date of any benefit suspension or who are receiving benefits based on disability (as defined under the plan) may not have their benefits suspended.

Where to Get More Information

For more information about this Notice, you can contact the Plan Administrator, the Board of Trustees of the Southwest Ohio Regional Council of Carpenters Pension Plan, at 700 Tower Drive, Suite 300, Troy, MI 48098, or by calling 248-813-9800. For identification purposes, the official Plan Number is 001 and the Plan Sponsor’s Employer Identification Number, or “EIN”, is 31-6127287.

Southwest Ohio Regional Council of Carpenters'

Fringe Benefit Funds

Health Fund: P.O. Box 1257, Troy, MI 48099

Pension Fund: 33 Fitch Blvd., Austintown, OH 44515



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