

Building Your Tomorrow

Vol 18: No 3 Published Quarterly by the Trustees of the Building Trades United Pension Trust Fund 3rd Quarter 2009

This newsletter contains important information regarding recent Plan amendments. After reviewing, please place this inside your Summary Plan Description, as this publication also serves as a formal
SUMMARY OF MATERIAL MODIFICATIONS.

Notice of 2010 Benefit Rates

Following are the benefit rates for the 2010 Plan Year (June 2009 through May 2010). These rates apply to credit earned during the 2010 Plan Year **only**. Please refer to pages 102 through 112 of the 2006 Summary Plan Description and previous newsletters for benefit rates in effect for prior Plan Years. To calculate your Normal Retirement Lifetime Only benefit, take the number of hours credited in a particular Plan Year, divide it by 1,000, and

multiply it by the benefit rate in effect for that particular Plan Year. Do this for each Plan Year, and add the results of each year together for your total Lifetime Only benefit at Normal Retirement Age.

Feel free to contact the Pension Fund Office at (262) 784-7880 or (800) 433-8570 if you have any questions concerning your individual benefit rates, or for a personalized letter regarding your benefit status.

The rates listed here do not represent each and every contract your union may have with individual employers. There are many exceptions, and if your rate is not listed here, please contact the Pension Fund Office to find out your contribution rate and benefit multiplier.

In addition, if hours have been transferred to this Fund on your behalf from another pension fund, a different benefit rate may apply to you for the transferred hours. Please call the Pension Fund Office with any questions.

Finally, the rates listed here apply **ONLY** to the hours worked on or after June 1, 2009. They do **NOT** apply to hours worked in earlier Plan Years.

Trade	Contribution rate per hour worked	Multiplier per 1000 hours credited
Bricklayers	\$6.24	\$129.66
Carpenters	\$7.26	\$155.22
Cement Masons - 558	\$7.48	\$162.85
Cement Masons - 845	\$7.87	\$176.74
Heat & Frost	\$7.07	\$138.50
Ironworkers	\$7.07	\$131.35
Laborers	\$6.05	\$143.57
OPEIU	*	*
Painters	\$6.45	\$128.33
Plasterers	\$7.93	\$180.37
Plumbers	\$7.05	\$124.46
Roofers	\$5.67	\$ 94.59
Steamfitters	\$7.68	\$142.88
Tile Finishers	\$6.91	\$151.77
Tile Layers	\$6.91	\$150.38

* *OPEIU members:* Due to the various contribution rates negotiated with individual employers, a variety of rates apply for Office & Professional Employee International Union members. Please contact the Pension Fund Office for the rates that apply to you.

INSIDE

<i>Fall retirement seminar</i>	2
<i>Disability earnings limit rises</i>	2
<i>Annual statements coming soon</i>	3
<i>Documents needed to retire</i>	3
<i>Planning to retire?</i>	4

Fall Seminar for those 50 and older who are not yet retired

Our popular two-day pre-retirement seminar for those 50 and older is scheduled for **October 17 and October 24, 2009**. Invitations will be mailed in early September. Space is limited, so sign up early! (If you have attended this seminar in the past, we ask you not to sign up again, so those who have never attended have the opportunity.)

Information is provided on Social Security benefits, financial planning, social and quality-of-life issues, and your retirement benefits from the Building Trades Pension Fund. There is no charge

for this seminar. Lunch and snacks are provided.

Because of the variety of health plans covering building trades members, specific health insurance information is **not** provided at this seminar. Please contact your union health insurance office for information on your health insurance benefits.

Those who have attended this seminar in the past have responded positively. "Excelent program, thanks for offering it" is a typical comment taken from a recent participant survey.

Disability earnings limit rises to \$1,160 per month

Disabled Participants sometimes supplement their disability income by working part-time jobs in less physically demanding fields. The Pension Plan allows Participants receiving Disability Benefits from the Pension Fund to perform work that is not construction-related if their earnings from wages are under a certain dollar limit each month.

The dollar amount is established by multiplying 160 times the higher of: (1) the Federal minimum wage; or (2) the minimum

wage mandated by the state in which the work was performed. The current Federal minimum wage is \$6.55 per hour.

The Federal minimum wage rises to \$7.25 per hour effective July 24, 2009. This means that effective July 24, 2009, Disabled Participants may earn up to \$1,160 in gross wages per month, provided the work is not construction-related employment, without jeopardizing their Pension Fund Disability Benefits.

Building Your Tomorrow
Published quarterly © 2009 by
the Trustees of the
Building Trades United Pension
Trust Fund

All Rights Reserved

This newsletter is intended for your general information and not as a complete description of the Fund's legal documents. The Trust Agreement and Pension Plan document are the only instruments governing the legal rights, privileges and obligations under the Fund.

Michael Gantert
Fund Director

Lois Mathis-Gleason
Editor

Ramona Garrity
Assistant Editor

We welcome any comments or suggestions you may have for future issues of **Building Your Tomorrow**.

Due to limited newsletter space, it is important that you are also familiar with your Summary Plan Description (SPD). It contains detailed information about all areas of the Pension Plan. The most recent SPD was mailed in December 2006. If you would like an additional copy of the SPD, feel free to contact us at
(262) 784-7880
or toll free at
(800) 433-8570.

Our office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

website address:

www.thepensionfund.com

Annual Statements coming soon

The Pension Fund will mail your Annual Statement of Credits to you in late August or early September. When you receive it, please verify that all information, including your beneficiary information, is correct. Call this office if you have questions or if anything appears incorrect. As you read your statement, keep the following points in mind:

Plan Year

The Annual Statement of Credits reports hours by Plan Year, which is not the same as a calendar year. Plan Years run from June 1 through May 31. For example, the 2009 Plan Year lists hours worked from June 1, 2008, through May 31, 2009.

If you worked less than 300 hours in any Plan Year after 1980, you will not be credited with hours for that Plan Year.

Working as an apprentice

If you started your union career as an apprentice, the hours you worked during your first year might not appear on your statement. This is because most employers are not required by union contract to pay pension contributions for new apprentices until one year from the date of hire, or until 750 hours are worked, whichever comes later.

If your employers did not pay contributions for your first year of employment as an apprentice,

your hours worked still count towards Participation in the Pension Plan and towards the five years of Continuous Service you need to become vested in the Pension Plan.

Hours worked; hours credited

The number of hours credited may be different than the number of actual hours worked on your statement. There are a number of possible explanations for this:

If your employer's hourly pension contribution rate was higher or lower than the required minimum rate, your hours credited were adjusted higher or lower than actual hours worked to compensate for the different rate paid.

If you had hours transferred in from another pension fund, the benefit hours credited were adjusted higher or lower than the actual hours worked, depending if the other pension fund's contribution rate is higher or lower than this Pension Fund's rate.

If you were credited with less than 300 hours in a Plan Year, benefit hours credited were zero (beginning with the 1981 Plan Year).

If you forfeited any years of Continuous Service before becoming vested in the Plan by earning five years of service, no benefit hours were credited during those years.

Documents you will need when you apply for benefits

Because the amount and starting date of your pension are tied to your age, and because spouses and sometimes ex-spouses have specific legal rights regarding your pension, the Pension Fund requires certain documents when you apply for your pension benefits. The following documents, if applicable to your situation, may be required before benefits will be approved:

Birth certificates of you and your beneficiary
Marriage certificate
Divorce decree(s) with marital settlement agreement (property division papers)
Death certificate of spouse
Proof of any name changes of you and your beneficiary (legal documents that link the name given at birth to the current name)

Planning to Retire?



If you would like to receive your first benefit payment:	you must receive a Benefit Illustration Sheet between:	and return your completed Application for Benefits and all necessary supporting documents no later than:
October 1, 2009	July 1, 2009 & August 31, 2009	August 31, 2009
November 1, 2009	August 3, 2009 & September 30, 2009	September 30, 2009
December 1, 2009	September 1, 2009 & October 30, 2009	October 30, 2009
January 1, 2010	October 1, 2009 & November 30, 2009	November 30, 2009

 **The Pension Fund Office will be closed on Monday, September 7, 2009**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

BUILDING YOUR TOMORROW 3rd Quarter 2009
 A Quarterly Publication of the Trustees of
The Building Trades United Pension Trust Fund
 500 Elm Grove Road, Suite 300
 P.O. Box 530
 Elm Grove, Wisconsin 53122-0530

PRESORTED
 FIRST CLASS MAIL
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Milwaukee, WI
 Permit No. 3223