

Building Your Tomorrow

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A Publication of the Trustees of the Building Trades United Pension Trust Fund

Planning to Retire?



If you would like to receive your first benefit payment on:	You must receive a Benefit Illustration Sheet from the Pension Fund Office between the previous:	And return your completed Application for Benefits and all necessary supporting documents no later than the previous:
January 1	October 1 through November 30	November 30
February 1	November 1 through December 31	December 31
March 1	December 1 through January 31	January 31
April 1	January 1 through February 28	February 28
May 1	February 1 through March 31	March 31
June 1	March 1 through April 30	April 30
July 1	April 1 through May 31	May 31
August 1	May 1 through June 30	June 30
September 1	June 1 through July 31	July 31
October 1	July 1 through August 31	August 31
November 1	August 1 through September 30	September 30
December 1	September 1 through October 31	October 31

Plan-Related Employment: Know the Rules Before Returning to Work in Retirement

Attention New and Current Retirees:

Every year, the Pension Fund reminds all retirees—and informs new retirees—about important rules that govern work after Retirement. These rules are especially critical for understanding how your pension benefits may be affected if you return to what’s known as Plan-related Employment.

Plan-Related Employment: It’s Not Just Your Old Job

Many retirees assume that only returning to the exact trade they worked in will affect their benefits. That’s not the case. Plan-related Employment includes work in any of the 11 trades covered by the Pension Fund—not just the one you worked in during your career. This means that even if you take a job in a different trade under the Fund (for example, if you were a plumber but now take up work as a carpenter), it could still be considered Plan-related Employment and may lead to a suspension of benefits. It also doesn’t matter whether you are working for a union or non-union employer – both can be considered Plan-related Employment.

When Are Benefits Suspended?

Your pension benefits may be suspended if you:

- Work in any trade or craft covered by the Fund;
- Work in the construction industry or a related field requiring similar skills;
- Work within the Fund’s geographic area (or outside of it if your hours are transferred under a reciprocity agreement);
- Work at a job that uses the skills you acquired in your trade, regardless of whether it falls under a collective bargaining agreement.

If you work 40 or more hours in a month after having already worked 320 hours in a calendar year, your pension benefits will be suspended for that month. This includes work as an employee or as self-employed. The only exception to this rule is that once you reach age 70½, you may work as many hours as you wish without affecting your pension benefits.

What If You’re Receiving Early Retirement Benefits?

For those receiving Early Retirement or Early Deferred Vested Benefits, the rules are even stricter. To qualify:

- You must genuinely intend to retire—meaning no further work for contributing Employers for at least 60 days after your Effective Date of Retirement Benefits.
- Contributions cannot be made on your behalf during that 60-day period (including transferred hours).
- If you return to work too soon, your benefits can be rescinded, and you may be required to repay any benefits already received.

You Must Notify the Fund Office

If you plan to return to work in any capacity that may be considered Plan-related Employment, you are required to notify the Fund Office. If you do not, and it is later discovered that you were working, it will be presumed you worked full-time and your benefits may be suspended or you may be required to repay over-payments. (cont.)

Can Working After Retirement Increase Your Benefit?

Yes! If you return to Covered Work after Retirement and work at least 300 hours in a calendar or Plan Year, those hours may increase your future monthly benefit. The increase is effective on June 1st following the year in which the credit was earned.

Bottom Line:

Whether you're newly retired or already receiving benefits, make sure you understand how any work in the Fund's 11 trades—not just the trade you worked—could affect your benefits. When in doubt, always contact the Fund office to confirm how your employment plans may impact your pension. For more information or to speak with someone about your individual situation, contact the Fund office. ■

Meet Your Trustees

Jim Parks



Jim Parks is a Principal and past President of Berghammer Construction Corporation. Jim has been a member of the Berghammer team since 1999 and applies his more than 35 years of experience in the construction industry to successfully manage all aspects of project delivery with a focus on pre-construction services. He routinely assists clients with project feasibility analysis and remains active during pre-construction, conceptual estimating, and preliminary budgeting processes. His experience and background in the industry includes multiple facility types such as industrial and logistics facilities, commercial office, education, and worship spaces.

Prior to joining Berghammer in 1999, Jim served as a Division President of a Wisconsin-based general contracting/construction management firm. He practiced real estate, bankruptcy, corporate law, and commercial litigation preceding his involvement in the construction industry.

A Milwaukee native, Jim earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Marquette University and his law degree from the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

In addition to being a trustee on the Building Trades Pension Fund, Jim is a member of the AGC E&R Foundation and serves on the boards of Nativity Jesuit Academy, Center for Working Families, and St. Mary's Visitation Parish. Jim also enjoys serving as a mentor for two Milwaukee area minority business owners.

Anthony Neira

Tony Neira has proudly served as a member of LiUNA Local 113 for over 31 years. He began his career with Spancrete Industries, with one of his most notable projects being the construction of Milwaukee's iconic Miller Park.

Tony's leadership journey within the union began when he was offered the role of Dispatcher. He was soon promoted to Business Representative, and in 2010, he was appointed Business Manager of LiUNA Local 113. In this role, he continues to advocate for union members and the labor movement.

Tony is actively involved in numerous committees across the Laborers' Union. He serves as a Trustee of the Building Trades United Pension Trust Fund, where he also sits on the Executive Board, the Eligibility Committee, and the Investment Committee. Additionally, he contributes his leadership to the Wisconsin Laborers' Health Fund, Vacation Fund, Apprenticeship & Training Fund, LECET, and serves as the Labor Chair for the Laborers' Local Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC).

Outside of work, Tony enjoys spending time outdoors—camping, fishing, hunting, and perfecting his grilling and meat-smoking skills. He is a proud father to four children—Erika, Patricia, Anthony, and Noah—and a devoted grandfather to four granddaughters: Sofia, Amelia, Aria, and Margot.



For more information on the Pension Fund, please scan the QR code below to visit the website:



Important Notice: Pension Payments Going Paperless in 2026

Effective January 1, 2026, all monthly pension benefit payments will be made by direct deposit only. This change is part of our ongoing efforts to provide faster, safer, and more reliable service to our Participants. If you are currently receiving your monthly pension benefit by paper check through the mail, you will need to switch to direct deposit before the end of this year.

To make the change, simply call the Fund Office, and we will send you the necessary forms to complete the process. Setting up direct deposit ensures your benefit arrives securely and on time—without the risk of mail delays or lost checks.

We appreciate your attention to this important update and your cooperation in helping us improve service for all retirees. If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact the Fund Office. ■

Employer Updates

NEW EMPLOYERS: The following employers recently entered into a participation agreement covered by the Building Trades United Pension Trust Fund

Employer	Craft	Address	Effective Date
Oosterbaan & Sons Co.	Painters	Posen, IL	Nov-24
Macaljon/SCL, Inc.	Carpenters	Savannah, GA	Feb-25
Aldridge Electric, Inc.	Laborers	Libertyville, IL	Mar-25
Sierrah Construction	Laborers	Milwaukee, WI	Mar-25
High Star Traffic	Laborers	Bartlett, IL	Apr-25
Edon Construction Co., Inc.	Carpenters	Alsip, IL	Jun-25
Architectural Sales of MN	Carpenters	Brooklyn Center, MN	Jun-25
DMT Contractors, LLC	Laborers	Kenosah, WI	Apr-23
F.A. Wilhelm Construction Co., Inc.	Laborers	Indianapolis, IN	Jul-25
Venture Landscape, LLC	Laborers	Mukwonago, WI	Feb-23

WITHDRAWN EMPLOYERS: The following employers have recently withdrawn from the Building Trades United Pension Trust Fund.

Employer	Craft	Address	Effective Date
Riverbend Plumbing, LLC	Plumbers	West Bend, WI	Apr-25
RS Plumbing Co., Inc.	Plumbers	Milwaukee, WI	Jan-25
Lancaster Management, Inc.	Carpenters	Atlanta, IN	Aug-25



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This newsletter is published by the Trustees of the BTUPTF

The Pension Fund is administered by Wilson-McShane Corporation.

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

Due to limited newsletter space, it is important that you are also familiar with your

Summary Plan Description (SPD). It contains detailed information concerning the Pension Plan. The most recent SPD was issued in 2021 and a copy was mailed to you. If you would like an additional copy of the SPD, feel free to contact us.

Phone number: (262) 784-7880
Toll free number: (800) 433-8570
Website address: www.thepensionfund.com

The SPD can also be found on the website or by scanning the QR code with a smart phone.

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