

# UNITED TEAMSTER PENSION FUND-A

#### DECEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER



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#### ABOUT YOUR PENSION PLAN

The United Teamster Pension Fund-A (202) was started back in 1957. The last 50 years, the Plan has paid out millions of dollars in benefits to participants. The assets of the Plan are approaching 200 million dollars (see below). The benefits paid to pensioners are funded by current contributions (approximately \$11 million per year) and investment income.

Our Plan is invested with the help of our actuaries and investment managers to provide a high investment return with the least amount of risk. Since 1994, our investment strategy has returned over \$142 million, \$45 million of this was spent to pay pension benefits (see below).

The future — while no one can predict the future, a look at our Pension Plan's track record indicates that if we continue to make the proper investments and continue to negotiate pension contributions, our Pension Plan should be able to provide our retirees the base with which to enjoy retirement well into the future.

The table below is a breakdown by year from September 1994 through September 2007 of the market value of assets.

PERIOD ENDINGS	MARKET VALUE
September-1994	\$ 74,284,000
December-1995	\$ 90,520,000
December-1996	\$ 98,327,000
December-1997	\$114,580,193
December-1998	\$125,402,777
December-1999	\$132,511,752
December-2000	\$138,907,068
December-2001	\$133,381,299
December-2002	\$118,305,404
December-2003*	\$151,714,335
December-2004	\$150,246,549
December-2005	\$156,865,092
December-2006	\$158,580,745
September-2007	\$170,384,234

\*Note: Transfers of assets-approximately \$23 million from Local 918 Pension Fund. In addition, these figures do not include real estate holdings valued at approximately \$15 million.

Since the calendar year 1993 through December 31, 2006, the pensions paid to retirees were as follows:

PERIOD ENDINGS	BENEFIT PAYMENTS
1993	\$ 5,684,307
1994	\$ 6,875,715
1995	\$ 7,316,073
19 <b>96</b>	\$ 7,618,819
1997	\$ 8,016,911
1998	\$ 8,335,390
1999	\$ 9,070,441
2000	\$10,847,474
2001	\$11,869,191
2002	\$12,013,483
2003	\$13,462,345
2004	\$13,565,376
2005	\$13,743,961
2006	\$14,438,581

Beginning September 2003 pension payments include the Local 918 Pension Plan.

Please continue reading for more important information about your Pension Plan.



### RETIREMENT: EARLY PLANNING = HEALTHY RETIREMENT

Our goal as Trustees of our Pension Plan is to provide a Pension benefit that is part of your overall retirement income. Our defined benefit pension plan is designed to provide a stable income to be part of a three-step approach to retirement.

#### Step One: Social Security Income Benefit

After a lifetime of work, our nation has a national pension system, Social Security Income Benefit. This pension system provides stable monthly pension payments for our senior citizens.

Each person's social security benefit is different based on age and earnings. Before retiring consult the Social Security Administration about your benefit.

#### Step Two: Personal Savings

Saving money in today's economy is difficult, but saving just a small amount over a long period of time will add to your retirement income. A personal IRA is a popular way to save for retirement.

#### Step Three: Our Pension Benefit

Our eligible members who are part of our pension plan will receive a monthly defined benefit upon retirement. This benefit comes with several options (please review the new Summary Plan Description provided to you recently to review these options). Benefits are based upon contribution rates and years of service.

#### **EXAMPLE OF THE STEPS TO A HEALTHY RETIREMENT**

Below is an example of a market warehouseman who has worked for 35 years and is 65 years old as of 2/1/09. Remember this is an example, your benefit may differ depending on your personal situation.

#### Example

Average market warehousemen's annual income is approximately \$46,000 a year.

#### Retirement Income

Step 1 — SSI the approximate annual Social Security Benefit —	. \$14,400
Step 3 — Our Pension Plan	,
First 20 years of employment	
$20 \times $70 = $1,400 \text{ per month}$	
Last 15 years of employment	
$15 \times $80 = $1,200 \text{ per month}$	
Total \$2,600 per month	
Total annual Pension Income = \$2,600 x 12 months =	. \$31,200*
Total combined annual income	\$45,600

<sup>\*</sup>This benefit assumes a Two-Year Certain/Lifetime payment and does <u>not</u> allow for a Joint & Survivor Benefit.

For this example combination of social security benefits and our pension provide this member with almost 100% of his/her current income.

<u>Note</u>: For this example, we did not include Step 2 — Personal Savings. We cannot calculate each individual's savings.



#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR PENSION PLAN

Since January 1, 1957, when Local 202 first negotiated a pension contribution, you and thousands before you, have been provided a pension benefit.

This Fund, which is known as a Defined Benefit Plan, provides for an accrued pension benefit based upon the hourly amount contributed by your employer. You do not contribute to this Fund.

Unlike other pensions, such as 401Ks, this pension plan pays benefits to participants, which are determined under a formula specified in the plan rather than by investment returns. Thus, participants are generally protected from market losses with respect to benefits already earned (even if those benefits have not yet begun to be paid). Investment returns are nevertheless extremely important to the Fund because the Fund still relies on strong market performance to maintain its benefit formula for future benefits (and to increase that benefit formula to the extent feasible).

The Board of Trustees has established as the Fund's investment objective of 7.5% annual rate of return over the long term. In order to achieve this goal, with a minimum level of risk, the Fund is diversified among various types of assets. The Trustees have adopted a policy under which the Fund's assets are currently allocated in accordance with the following targeted allocation: 45% Domestic Equity, 35% Domestic Fixed Income, 10% Global, and 10% Real Estate. The allocation of assets is reviewed regularly and is modified based upon market conditions. See Asset Allocation.

The reason the Trustees diversify the Fund's portfolio in this way is that, particularly over the last decade, both the equity and fixed income markets have experienced significant volatility. By including various asset classes, the Board of Trustees is able to reduce risk more effectively. While the Fund is not immune from swings in the economy or market fluctuations, if there is a decline in one asset class, diversification often allows that decline to be offset by a better performance in another asset class.

Over the past five years ending September 30, 2007, the Fund has gained an average of 9.7% per year and exceeded the established return objective of 7.5%. See Portfolio Chart.

It has been this careful low risk investment planning

that has enabled the Trustees to provide increased pension benefits over the years.

An Annual Funding Notice is required by the Department of Labor for all union pension plans. This Notice may contain language which may be unfamiliar to you and therefore, the following points may be helpful to understand the information provided in the Notice.

- \* Funding a pension plan is similar to paying off a mortgage. It is usual for a pension plan to be less than 100% funded. Similar to a mortgage, it is usual to own less than 100% of your house. More importantly, similar to the mortgage, the more important question is "can we afford the monthly payment?" After the recent Plan changes, our actuaries and consultants assure us that we can afford our Plan and that the funded percentage is projected to increase in the future.
- \* The "funded current liability percentage" of 61% assumes that assets earn a rate of return of 5.77% each year into the future. This seems overly pessimistic given that the average return over the past five years ending September 2007 has been approximately 9.7% per year. If we conservatively assume assets earn 7.5% each year into the future, this funding percentage increases to approximately 66%.
- \* The notice suggests that the fund can pay benefits for 11 years and 5 months, a number determined by dividing assets by annual benefit payments. It correctly points out that this does not include the return on assets and contribution income during this time. If we do include the effects of future investment returns and future contribution income, the fund can pay benefits well into the future.
- \* The notice talks at length about plans that become insolvent and get the government (PBGC) involved. Please know that, while there are no guarantees, the Fund's actuaries and consultants have given us great assurance that our current state of the Fund, combined with our funding strategy for the near future, makes the chance of this happening extremely remote.

Hopefully, this information helps to clarify a very complicated Notice and provides you and your family a better sense of your pension plan.



## OTHER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

#### **Options At Retirement**

- Two Year Certain/Lifetime (The United Teamster Pension Fund-D (aka Local 918 Pension Fund) allows for a Three Year Certain/Lifetime),
- 50% Joint & Survivor Option,
- 75% Joint & Survivor Option This is a new Option beginning with pension benefits on or after January 1, 2008,
- Early Retirement,
- Disability Pension, and a
- Service Pension.

MARKET

#### YOUR PENSION ASSETS

Below is a current asset allocation of your Pension Fund.

TOTAL MARKET VALUE AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2007	\$170,384,234
EQUITY SEGMENT	73.5%
CASH SEGMENT	1.5%
REAL ESTATE	2.0%
BOND SEGMENT	23.0%

Note: Above chart does not include real estate holdings value at approximately \$15 million.

Below is a portfolio chart indicating the growth of the assets since September 1994 through September 2007.

#### YOUR PENSION ASSETS

VALUE					
174,080,000					}
163,840,000					<b>—</b> /
153,600,000				A 00	$\mathcal{N}$
143,360,000				V	A
133,120,000					
122,880,000					
112,640,000					
102,400,000		$\sim$			
92,160,000					
81,920,000					
71,680,000					
61,440,000					
51,200,000					
40.960,000					
30,720,000		<del></del>	- <u> </u>		
9/94	3/97	9/99	3/02	9/04	9/07

Note: This chart does not include \$15 million real estate holdings.

#### 2008 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

BRONX	NEW JERSEY
NYC Terminal Market	Local 111
Room 22-A	1308 Pierce Street
Bronx, NY 10474	Rahway, NJ 07065
MEETING DATE Time: 10:00 a.m.	

January 12 June, July & August meetings suspended

February 9 September 13

March 8 October 11

April 12 November 8

May 10 (Rahway, NJ) December 13

\*\*All meetings will be held at the Bronx Office, unless noted otherwise

<sup>\*</sup>See the Summary Plan Description for details.