

News From the Trusts – December 2017

Western and Central Washington

Carpenters Retirement Plan of Western Washington

Members should watch their mail for an important message about sustainable income benefits. Effective January 1, 2018, all sustainable income benefits earned for hours worked in 2017 will be increased based on the investment performance of the plan in 2016. The plan earned 5.13% in 2016 and, because this return is greater than the plan's hurdle rate of 4.00%, all members who had contributions to the Carpenters Retirement Plan in 2017 will experience a benefit increase. The increase is for working and retired members, and applies to sustainable income benefits only. Traditional benefits – those retirement benefits earned prior to 2017 – remain unchanged. Previously, the first adjustment to sustainable income benefits was scheduled for May 1, 2019. Information about this change – the 204(h) Notice – is scheduled to be mailed to members in the third week of December. Please contact Retirement Services at Carpenters Trusts with questions: (800) 552-0635.

New 401(k) Contribution Amounts

Effective January 1, 2018, all members are eligible to make hourly contributions of \$1/hour through \$9/hour, in one-dollar increments. If a member is or will be age 50 or older in 2018, he or she is eligible to make an additional hourly contribution of \$1/hour to \$3/hour as a “catch-up” contribution, again in one-dollar increments. The annual maximum contribution for 2018 is \$18,500 for individuals under age 50 and \$24,500 for individuals age 50 and older. Currently, the maximum contribution is \$8/hour for all members.

If a member wants to change his or her contribution amount, including increasing to the new hourly maximum, he or she should complete an application and send a copy to Carpenters Trusts and a copy to the employer. As a reminder, members can sign up for 401(k) contributions at any time during the year and can make up to two additional changes – increase or decrease the hourly amount – within the same calendar year. New 401(k) applications will be available at Carpenters Trusts before the end of the year. Please contact Retirement Services at Carpenters Trusts with questions: (800) 552-0635.

Carpenters Health and Security Plan Self-Pay Rates Set For 2018

As a reminder, the Board of Trustees set the 2018 rates for Self-Contribution Coverage, COBRA Coverage and Retiree Coverage in their October 17, 2017 meeting. The new rates go into effect for January 1, 2018 coverage. Members who are currently on one of these self-pay options were likely billed for January 2018 coverage in December. Please contact Participant Services at Carpenters Trusts with questions: (800) 552-0635.

Holiday Closures

Carpenters Trusts will be closed on the following days:

Thursday December 14, 2017 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm – holiday gathering
Friday December 22, 2017 and Monday December 25, 2017 – Christmas
Monday January 1, 2018 – New Year's Day