

Joe Mahoney Email

Greetings to all!!

By now you all may be reacting to the news that there is a 31% cut in our pension payments as proposed by the officers of our pension fund. I implore you all to please not despair! There are many things that can be done, but we need as much participation in this that is possible! I do not want to be pessimistic about this, but you have to realize that there is a much greater risk to us than the Central States pensioners. Our pension fund trustees have been able to observe the process and assess what made it fail with the Central States. They have had the time, probably with countless phone calls and conference calls, to determine the method to use to succeed in their proposal.

Time is SHORT!!! A 6 month period will be over before we know it!!!! Look at your calendars now to see what time is available. Some of you may think that it will be OK to vote "YES" for the cuts, and some of you will be a definite "NO". A yes will hurt right away, and a no may hurt even more 10 years from now if the fund really does run out of money. We are really between the rocks here, and we really need some good input... so here goes with the little bit I can think of:

The first thing to take note of is that:

No matter how strong your political feelings are in relation to the upcoming election, you MUST set them aside!

Although politics are involved with everything in regards to our pension cuts, any hostilities must cease! We have to deal with BOTH political parties... and BOTH Presidential candidates as equals, and no matter what, we must present ourselves in a civil tone with understanding of what the stakes are for us!!!! Anger will be our enemy!!! Dissention within will divide us!!

We are all in this together! It seems like the trustees of our pension fund are NOT going to differentiate between "orphans" and active employer participants. We cannot expect UPS to step in like they did for the other pension funds. UPS did not even want to participate in our pension fund as a trustee. We are in this OURSELVES !!! We can not anticipate any outside help on this... this is US and WE ARE ALONE!!!! Do not single out the "orphans" unless there is a really valid legal argument to make a differentiation. Remember, one of the pension fund trustees is himself an "orphan".

Start crunching the numbers!!! Look at how a pension cut will affect you! Begin to prepare for the worst case scenario... but above all, start looking at the numbers!!! It is important...especially if you intend to begin a letter campaign to your representatives.... And this is where the statement I made about POLITICS is going to come into play:

We HAVE to write letters to Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton, President Obama, our Senators in Congress and our House Representatives. ALL OF THEM!!!! ALL OF THEM!!!! No matter what you think of them! Also, write letters to FOX, CNN, ABC, NBC and CBS. They will be asking the questions of the candidates during the Presidential debates NEXT MONTH !!!!! NEXT MONTH !!! Time is really short on this!!!

Please note... no matter what you think of him, President Obama CAN reverse the Kline/ Miller act in his final hours as President. He does have the power to do this. Bear in mind, it will not solve the problem... it will just give more time to work out solutions to the problem. Use that type of argument if you decide to address him. (less confrontational) If you do write to him, please follow the protocols as outlined on the internet in regards to letters addressed to the POTUS!!!! No matter how you feel, he is the POTUS and must be respected as such!!!

Some things to mention are that both the House and the Senate majorities are opposed to changes in the Kline/Miller Act. They are opposed to any changes that may increase our national deficit. But, they may bend a bit if they get pressure. Alternatives exist even if the Treasury passes the changes to our pensions. We could opt for exemptions on mortgages, car loans and major purchases. Also, we could opt for a special deduction in our income taxes. In its essence, this pension cut will have an effect on the amount of Medicare insurance you can buy. If we appeal to them with realistic needs that they identify with, they may capitulate and make some changes. This may be more appealing to them because it does not look like a handout the way a bailout may look. Mention alternatives in your letters. Remember Bernie Sanders! There is an amendment that he proposed that is being looked at. Mention it. DO NOT LIMIT YOURSELF TO YOUR REPRESENTATIVE!! MAIL THEM OUT TO ALL OF THEM... California, Missouri, Wisconsin...WHEREEVER !!!! Do this now... that way it is in their faces when they come back from vacation!!!!

Demand the same considerations that were shown to the Central States Pension Fund!!! This is very IMPORTANT!!! Central States actually had a real live representative from the Treasury Department come to listen to their grievances and concerns in "town hall" type meetings! We must make appeals to fairness in representation. The Central States Pensioners had this, we must have the same voice!!!

WRITE LETTERS TO OUR PENSION REPRESENTATIVES!!! Demand an answer as to why they let this happen, why they started giving to those who lobbied for the ability to cut our pensions, if they are taking cuts... resigning (they should..it was THEIR watch), put as much pressure on them as you possibly can. Hold them accountable for every penny from 1998 !!! They were supposed to be there for US!!! We were not their meal ticket, we were their livelihood, and THEY LET US DOWN !!!!! Why were they there to begin with??? What guarantee can they give us that we will not be in this same position in 5 years...10 years... and why do they not write in that they will increase our pension payments as the market gets better and they gain some ground?

Contact our active members... those that are still working now... IT IS TIME TO CONFRONT YOUR UNION OFFICERS !!!!! If they cannot offer solutions now, how can you trust them with your next contract???

...and most of all...
GET OFF YOUR ASS !!!!!

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!!!!

-Joe Mahoney