

**SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS PENSION PLAN
33 Fitch Blvd Austintown, OH 44515**

**SUMMARY OF MATERIAL MODIFICATION
AND REQUIRED NOTICE UNDER SECTION 204(h)
OF THE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT**

**TO: ALL PARTICIPANTS
ALTERNATE PAYEES UNDER QDROs WHOSE BENEFITS MAY BE AFFECTED
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS**

DATE: APRIL 14, 2003

As you know, over the past three years the stock market has experienced a severe tailspin, and this continues. To protect the Fund as much as possible from market downturns, the Fund's assets are invested in a highly diversified portfolio of quality stocks and bonds managed by several professional investment managers. Despite this, the continued negative performance of the stock market has resulted in losses to the Fund.

While it is hoped that this downturn is temporary, the Board of Trustees has determined that it is in the best interest of the Plan and its participants to take action at this time to forestall a funding deficiency. An amendment to the Plan was adopted on April 1, 2003 in accordance with Section 6.1 of the Plan document. Effective June 1, 2003 for hours worked on and after that date, the benefit credit for future accruals will be reduced from \$80.00 to \$50.00 per Year of Benefit Service. (An example of how this may affect your retirement benefit is attached.)

Your benefit earned for hours worked prior to June 1, 2003 will continue to be calculated at the applicable rate in effect for the year in which the hours were worked. The change in benefit accruals will have an impact only on those benefits earned as a result of hours worked on or after June 1, 2003. For those members already retired, the amount of their monthly pension will not change.

It is our hope that the markets will return to more traditional levels of performance in the near future. We are actively doing all that we can to see that the Fund is positioned to perform well when that happens. We thank you for your patience in these difficult times.

If you have any questions about these matters, please feel free to contact the Benefit Office at (800) 435-2388.

Sincerely,

The Board of Trustees

SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS PENSION PLAN

The following is an example of what the change in benefit accrual rates effective June 1, 2003 may mean to you:

Jim was born in December, 1948 and became a participant in the Plan in 1978. He will have earned 25 Years of Benefit Service and will have accrued a monthly retirement benefit of \$3,000 as of May 31, 2003. Assume that Jim continues to work under the Plan until his Normal Retirement Date (i.e., January 1, 2011). Assume also that he works 1,800 hours per year (150 hours each month) at a contribution rate equal to the base Journeyman's rate for each year. The benefit payable at retirement will be calculated as follows:

Accrued Benefit as of May 31, 2003	\$3,000.00
Benefit Credit Earned for remainder of 2003 Plan Year June 1, 2003 – December 31, 2003 [\$50.00 x 1,800/1,500] x 7/12	\$35.00
Benefit Earned based upon Hours Worked for the seven years until retirement (2004 through 2010) [\$50.00 x 1,800/1,500] = \$60/year [\$60.00 x 7]	\$420.00
Benefit Earned From June 1, 2003 through retirement	\$ 455.00
Total Accrued Benefit as of Normal Retirement Date [\$3,000.00 + \$455.00]	\$3,455.00

Thus, Jim would be entitled to a monthly benefit of \$3,455.00 at his Normal Retirement Date, payable as a Single Life Annuity. However, if he were married, the benefit would be paid on a reduced basis as a Joint & Survivor Annuity unless he elected otherwise and the Joint & Survivor benefit was waived by his spouse.