

Retired Cleveland Iron Workers first to see pension cuts

Retirees in the Cleveland Iron Workers Local 17 Pension Fund are the first pensioners in the country to see cuts to their retirement benefits as a result of the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act (MPRA).

Congress passed MPRA late in 2014 as an amendment to a bill to continue funding for the federal government. It received almost no debate. The law opened the door for trustees of severely distressed multiemployer pension plans to reduce benefits for current and future retirees—if doing so could save the plan from future insolvency. Changes must be approved by the U.S. Treasury Department.

In a post on Local 17's web site, trustees said participants "saved themselves by implementing benefit cuts now to avoid the projected insolvency in 2024."

The plan put forth by labor and management trustees of the

Iron Workers Local 17 pension fund reduces accrued benefits and eliminates early retirement subsidies and extra benefit credits. Trustees said the average cuts are about 20 percent, but that includes workers who are years away from retirement. Roughly 336 current retirees will experience cuts of 30 to 60 percent, according to the Pension Rights Center (PRC), an advocacy group.

Out of 1,938 eligible voters, 616 voted in favor of the cuts and 320 voted against. Another 1,002 current and former workers in the fund didn't vote. Under MPRA rules, the uncast votes were counted as approving the cuts.

The vote was administered by the Treasury Department.

The cuts went into effect Feb. 1.

According to PRC, eight other pension plans have applied to the Treasury Department

to cut retiree pension benefits. Four applications were denied and four others — impact-

ing more than 71,000 workers — are in various stages of review by the Treasury Department.

Another 70 plans are in "critical and declining" status and are eligible to make cuts.



James Coon



Raymond Thomas



Cynthia Newton



Chris Frost



Melissa Haggerty



Sydney Montanaro



Scott Sell



The team at
**THOMAS, COON,
NEWTON & FROST**
can help you:

Get Workers' Compensation benefits for on-the-job injuries or illness.

Get Social Security benefits if you can't work.

Recover damages if you are injured by someone's negligence.

Helping injured people for over 25 years.

Workers' Compensation

Construction Injuries

Death Claims

Personal Injury & Product Liability

Medical Malpractice

Social Security Disability

Mesothelioma

Call us today at
503-228-5222

Straight answers.
No cost for consultation.
Our law offices are located on the MAX Light Rail at SW 2nd & Yamhill.

**THOMAS, COON,
NEWTON & FROST**
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
820 SW Second Ave, Ste. 200
Portland, Oregon 97204
www.stc-law.com

Seniors disconnected from White House

Early in January, the Alliance for Retired Americans announced a "National Medicare, Medicaid & Social Security Call-In Day" for Jan. 23. The purpose was to send a message to newly-elected President Donald Trump, telling him to keep his campaign promise of not cutting Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid.

Jan. 23 arrived, but when senior citizens across the country called the White House comments line at 202-456-1111, they were met with a recorded message.

"The comment line is currently closed, but your comment is important to the president."

The recording then instructs callers to send comments online at www.whitehouse.gov, or by Facebook messenger.

According to the Pew Research Center, 41 percent of Americans 65 and older do not have Internet access.

"How are seniors suppose to get their message heard?" asked Scott Blau, president of the Oregon chapter of the Alliance for Retired Americans.

Some media reported that the White House plans to get the phone line back up soon, though there is no confirmed time line. At press time, the comment line was still closed. Moreover, Trump's White House Facebook account didn't have Messenger installed.

Under the Obama Administration, the White House used a team of volunteers to accept comments from callers.

SERVING UNION MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR NEARLY 40 YEARS

\$29
Exam & Digital X-Rays¹

Special Offer for Union Members and Their Families

\$1,250 off of your Ortho Treatment Plan²

- General, Specialty & Orthodontic Dentistry under one roof
- Convenient locations & extended hours
- Same-day emergency appointments
- No Cost to Participate – there are no additional membership fees or dues
- No Restrictions – No Per Visit Charges
- Acceptance is guaranteed
- We accept dental insurance, self-funded Union plans & reduced rates for uninsured

<p>Beaverton 4655 SW Griffith Dr., Ste. 105 503-644-1400</p> <p>Grants Pass 1035 NE 6th Street 541-479-6696</p> <p>Gresham 443 NW Burnside Rd. 503-492-8487</p> <p>Hillsboro 7206 N.E. Cornell Rd. 503-640-9999</p> <p>Milwaukie 17186 SE McLoughlin Blvd. 503-659-2525</p>	<p>Portland 3580 SE 82nd Ave. 503-777-0761</p> <p>Salem 831 Lancaster Mall Dr. NE, Ste. 2 503-362-8359</p> <p>Tualatin 7965 SW Nyberg St. 503-404-0294</p> <p>Wilsonville 25700 SW Argyle Ave., Ste. F 503-682-8552</p>	<p>Vancouver 2101 NE 129th St. Ste. 101 360-574-4574</p> <p>Austin Phoenix, DDS, MS Jeff Pearson, DMD Marcus David Uchida, DMD Shelley R Aronson DDS</p> <p>3250 SE 164th Ave., Ste. 102 360-891-1999 Austin Phoenix, D.D.S., M.S. Peter Vu, D.M.D.</p> <p>Northwest Dental Associates, P.C. Jeffrey Pearson, DMD Brian Smith, DDS</p>
--	---	--

For more information please call **Jill Alcantar**
360.787.6975 | BrightNowDental.com

Bright Now! Dental

Northwest Dental Associates, P.C.; Jeffrey Pearson, DMD; Brian Smith, DDS
¹Exam retail price \$108 (ADA Code 150). Digital X-rays retail price \$156 (ADA Code 210). New cash patients only. There may be future costs based on diagnosis. *Reg. price \$,5920. Valid on standard new full orthodontic cases only. See office for complete pricing information. Offer is subject to change, cannot be combined and must be booked by 12/31/16. © 2016 Smile Brands Inc. All rights reserved.