

# ***SEAFARERS PENSION PLAN***

5201 Auth Way  
Camp Springs, Maryland 20746-4275  
(301) 899-0675

Margaret R. Bowen  
Administrator

April, 2011

**IMPORTANT NOTE – YOUR BENEFITS HAVE NOT CHANGED.**

## **FUNDING RELIEF NOTICE TO PARTICIPANTS**

Name of Plan:	Seafarers Pension Plan
Taxpayer Identification Number:	13-6100329
Plan Number:	001
Plan Sponsor:	Seafarers International Union, Atlantic, Gulf, Lakes and Inland Waters District, AFL-CIO

The Pension Relief Act of 2010 was passed by Congress to alleviate some of the funding obligations imposed by the Pension Protection Act of 2006. Most pension plans experienced financial difficulty due to the recent economic recession. The Pension Relief Act provides several funding options that a plan can implement to ease the losses experienced during calendar years 2008 and/or 2009.

After due consideration, the Board of Trustees of the Seafarers Pension Plan have elected to take advantage of the special amortization rule. This rule will allow the Plan to extend the amortization period up to 29 years to spread out the net investment losses experienced by the Plan during 2008. (Normally, the amortization period is 15 years). Applying this rule will decrease the statutory minimum funding requirement that is taken into consideration when negotiating employer contributions. This may also have an effect on the Plan's zone status under the Pension Protection Act in future years. In order to take advantage of this extended amortization period, the Plan will not be permitted to increase benefits during the next two plan years unless the increase is funded by additional contributions and the current funded percentage and projected funding reserve (credit balance) is maintained after the benefit increase. The Plan is allowed to opt-out of this relief in the future.

If you need any additional information, please contact the Plan's Administrator at the above address.