

News Release



U.S. Department of Labor
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C.
USDL 03-236

For Immediate Release
Thurs., May 8, 2003
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Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao to Meet With 2003 ERISA Advisory Council

WASHINGTON—Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao will meet with the Advisory Council of Employee Welfare and Pension Plans on May 9, 2003 to swear in the Council's new members and discuss ways to improve the retirement security and health coverage of America's workers.

"The diverse expertise of the members of this Advisory Council will offer tremendous insights into a variety of pension, health and other benefit plans under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act," said Secretary Chao. "Last year, the Council's recommendations were used to develop programs involving orphan plans, fiduciary education and electronic plan filings. I look forward to working with the Council as they consider emerging issues affecting the retirement and health benefits of workers and their families."

Secretary Chao also will announce the new leadership of the 15-member Advisory Council. Ronnie Sue Thierman of San Francisco, Calif. will serve as the Council chair and David Wray of Chicago, Ill. as the vice chair.

New members appointed to three-year terms to represent respective fields on the Council include Mary B. Maguire, a consultant with Davis Consulting in New York City, corporate trust; R. Todd Gardenhire, vice president of Salomon Smith Barney in Chattanooga, Tenn., investment management; Mark Bongard, an attorney with Ashland, Inc. in Lexington, Ky., employer representative; Thomas Nyhan, general counsel to the Central States, Southeast and Southwest Welfare and Pension Funds, of Rosemont, Ill., employee organizations; and Antoinette Pilzner, an attorney with the Michigan law firm of Butzel Long in Detroit, Mich., general public.

Two new members, appointed to fill the one-year unexpired terms of departing members, are Donald B. Trone of Pittsburgh, Pa. to represent the investment counseling field and John S. "Rocky" Miller of Los Angeles to represent employer organizations (multi-employer plans). Trone is the president and founder of the non-profit Foundation for Fiduciary Studies affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh. Miller is a partner in the California law firm of Cox, Castle and Nicholson.

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