June 26, 2017

NOTICE OF ZONE STATUS FOR 2017

To: All Participants, Beneficiaries, Local Unions, Contributing Employers, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation and Department of Labor

FROM: Harry Boot, Chairman Boot

Background

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 ("PPA") amended ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code to, among other things, impose additional funding rules for multiemployer plans with the goal of improving the financial condition of these plans. PPA also developed status categories based on a plan’s funding level. Beginning in 2008, the Plan’s actuary is required to annually certify to the Secretary of the Treasury and the Plan’s Board of Trustees whether or not the Plan is in Endangered or Critical Status. For the 2008 Plan Year, the actuary certified that the Plan was in Critical Status and the Trustees adopted a rehabilitation plan in accordance with the law in December 2008.

The Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014 (MPRA) added a new status category, Critical and Declining, effective for plan years beginning in 2015.

Critical and Declining Status

On May 29, 2017, the Plan's Actuary certified to the U.S. Department of the Treasury the Plan is in Critical and Declining Status for the Plan Year beginning March 1, 2017 because it has funding or liquidity problems, or both. A plan is defined as being in Critical and Declining status if the plan is critical and projected to become insolvent within the next nineteen plan years. In this instance, the Plan’s actuary determined that the Plan has an accumulated funding deficiency for the current Plan Year and is projected to go insolvent during the 2021 plan year.

Rehabilitation Plan

Under the PPA, plans in Critical Status must annually update the rehabilitation plan each year and present any changes to the bargaining parties. The current rehabilitation plan includes the following reductions in “adjustable benefits”: removal of the withdrawal benefit, 3-year certain and continuous option and the subsidized early retirement for terminated vested members.

If the trustees of the Plan determine that further benefit reductions are necessary, you will receive a separate notice in the future identifying and explaining the effect of those reductions. Any reduction of adjustable benefits will not reduce the level of a participant’s basic benefit payable at normal retirement. In addition, the reductions may only apply to participants and beneficiaries whose benefit commencement date is on or after 6/27/2008.

Additional information can be obtained from the Plan Office by calling 1-800-800-8860.
June 26, 2017

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administrations
Public Disclosure Room, N-1513
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

RE: United Furniture Workers Pension Fund A
Annual Funding Notice and Notice of Zone Status

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed herewith please find the Annual Funding Notice for the United Furniture Workers Pension Fund A for the fiscal year ended February 28, 2017 and the Notice of Zone Status for 2017.

The enclosed Notice has been mailed to the Fund’s covered participants, beneficiaries receiving benefits, local unions representing the participants of the Plan, each contributing employer, and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

Sincerely yours,

Dee Anne Walker
Director

Enclosure
DAW/lf
CC: Mr. Harry Boot
Kyle Flaherty, Esquire

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED