



# REINFORCING LINKS

BENEFIT INFORMATION FOR RODWORKER MEMBERS OF LOCAL 721

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Welcome** to this issue of *ReinforcingLinks*, the newsletter for the Local 721 Rodmen Benefit and Pension Funds.

In this issue of *ReinforcingLinks*, we have an article, **Retirement Isn't a One-Day Event**, on things to consider while planning for retirement. The article **When Can I Retire?** illustrates the requirements needed for various retirement benefits under the Pension Plan. **Using the Online Member Inquiry System** tells you how to access your personal information online so that you can do some retirement planning. In **Plan Improvements**, we have reiterated the Benefit Plan changes that went into effect on October 1, 2001. One of these changes was the addition of coverage for laser eye surgery and the article **No More Glasses** explores the basics of laser eye surgery. Finally, as always, **Additional Resources** provides contacts for more information.

We hope you find this issue of *ReinforcingLinks* helpful and will share it with your family.

Sincerely,

The Board of Trustees

### **Employer Trustees:**

*Charles Dietrich  
Laurent Gravelle  
Joel Zagerman*

### **Union Trustees:**

*Tony Almeida  
Michael Coleman  
Darren Mahoney*

*This newsletter provides only some information on the Benefit and Pension Plans. For more complete information, you should check the documents governing the Plan (the Insurance Policy, the Fund documents, and the Trust Agreement). If there is any discrepancy between information presented in this newsletter and the Plan documents, the Plan documents will govern.*

## MORE INFORMATION

Retirement Isn't A One-Day Event . . . . .	2
When Can I Retire . . . . .	3
Using the Online Member Inquiry System . . . . .	3
No More Glasses . . . . .	4
Benefit Plan Improvements . . . .	4



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT ADMINISTRATION

AT 416.223.0383 OR 1.800.387.8075  
OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.ONTARIOIRONWORKERS.COM

We all look forward to the day that we'll retire. Some of us are close enough to have the date all picked out. Maybe you'll have a huge party. Maybe you'll go on a long trip. Maybe you should celebrate, catch up on sleep or visit the kids. And then what? What will you do for the rest of your life (the 20 or 30 years after you retire)?

We tend to think that retirement is all about finances. In our preoccupation with financial issues for retirement, we sometimes forget that we still need to live after retirement. And, there's more to life than having somewhere to sleep and something to eat. If you're an active person before retirement, you will still need activities after retirement. It's just that the activities will change. You will no longer be spending eight hours a day at work. So what will you do? Who will you talk with? What will get you out of the house?

It's important to keep your mind and body active after you retire. A report from the International Longevity Center found "Inactivity is one of the greatest threats to the physical and mental health of older people."\* For some of us, the only physical activity we get each day is at work. Make an effort to incorporate some physical activity into your daily routine such as walking, golfing, playing tennis or bike

riding. Retirement gives you the opportunity to try new activities like taking dance or yoga classes. Also, you can revisit activities you may used to do like swimming, bowling or gardening.

The best part of retirement is that you're free to spend your time as you wish. To help keep your mind sharp, volunteer, go back to school or work part-time in a field you enjoy or always wanted to try. The Volunteer Opportunities Exchange (VOE) is a tool that connects agencies looking for volunteers with people seeking volunteer opportunities. For information on VOE, contact Volunteer Canada at 1-800-670-0401 or visit [www.voe-reb.org](http://www.voe-reb.org).

For many people, work provides a portion of their socialization each day. A recent study found that friends can mean more than money when it comes to retirement happiness.\* We all need someone to talk to. You may be surprised to find that close friendships can add nearly two years to your life expectancy.\* Friends can offer a buffer to stress

and emotional support. Find at least one activity that provides interaction with others. If you have a hobby, it may be fun to join a group or club where you can socialize with others who have similar interests.

If you're married and your spouse is also retired, retirement can present a new challenge (24 hours a day, seven days a week with each other). When planning your retirement activities, talk to your spouse about activities you can share and activities that you can do separately. Having a separate activity will give you a little "time away" and something new you can talk about. Talk to your spouse about your retirement plans. You should both voice your concerns and expectations when planning your new lives together.

Ending your lifelong employment can be exciting and a bit scary. However, with financial and life planning, retirement can be the most enjoyable part of your life.

\*Source: AgeVenture News Service, [www.demko.com](http://www.demko.com)

### To Learn More About This Topic...

...come to the Ironworkers Local 721 Rodmen Benefit and Pension Seminar.

Date: Saturday April 27, 2002

Time: 9:00 AM

Where: The Wyndham Bristol Place Hotel, Balmoral Room  
Toronto Airport  
950 Dixon Road

Seating is limited so call Ironworkers Local 721 (416-236-4026) to reserve our your seat today.



## WHEN CAN I RETIRE?

There are several different types of retirement pensions under the Pension Plan. The requirements for each type of pension are summarized in the table below. However, as a member of the Plan, you must stop working to begin receiving benefits from the Plan.

If you wish to obtain an estimate of the amount of your monthly pension and the options that are available to you, please contact the Administrator's office.

### Applying For a Benefit

When you are ready to retire, you need to apply for benefits. Follow these simple steps to apply for benefits:

1. Call the Administrator at 416-223-0383 or visit [www.ontarioironworkers.com/forms.htm](http://www.ontarioironworkers.com/forms.htm) for an application.
2. When you receive your application package, complete the forms and return them to the Administrator.

3. As part of your application, you will be required to submit proof of your age for yourself and your spouse, if applicable. This proof may be any of the following:
  - A birth certificate,
  - A baptismal certificate,
  - A passport, or
  - Citizenship papers.
4. You will also need to submit proof of your marriage, if applicable.
5. If you are married and choose a form of payment other than the normal form, the 66 <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>% guaranteed benefit, you must submit the Spousal Waiver Form signed by your spouse and notarized.
6. Submit your application at least **one month before** your planned retirement date so that your pension benefits are not delayed.

Life Event	Requirements	Benefit Payable
Normal Retirement	You are at least age 60 You apply for benefits	1st full calendar month after you reach age 60, if later, after you stop working
Early Retirement	You are between ages 50 and 60 You apply for benefits	1st full calendar month after you meet the requirements for benefits including receipt of an application by the Administrator
"85-point" early retirement	Your age and your service total 85 You apply for benefits	1st full calendar month after you meet the requirements for benefits including receipt of an application and any other required documents by the Administrator

## USING THE ONLINE MEMBER INQUIRY SYSTEM

### Using the Online Member Inquiry System

We are pleased to announce that our website, [www.ontarioironworkers.com](http://www.ontarioironworkers.com), now has a Member Inquiry section that allows secure access to your personal information. Within Member Inquiry you can review the data we have for you:

- Eligibility,
  - Benefit hours,
  - Beneficiaries,
  - Dependents,
  - Pension hours,
  - Marital status, and
  - Union history.
- Your information is only available by logging into a secure site. In order to get to your personal information the first time, you must follow these steps to log in:
1. Click on "Member Login."
  2. Click on "Secure Member Login."
  3. Answer "okay" to go to a secure site.
  4. Click on "Registration." (After the first time, you can just login and skip to step 5).
  5. Enter your identifying information and select a Login Name and Password
  6. Select the information you want to review from the tool bar.

While the thought of no more glasses is very appealing to those of us who wear contacts or glasses, you should be aware of some basic information if you are considering laser eye surgery. Be sure to discuss laser eye surgery with your eye doctor before considering the surgery.

**5 Things You Should Know**

1. Laser eye surgery is irreversible.
2. It does not always correct your vision fully so you might still need to wear glasses.
3. It will not correct future changes in your eyes so it is likely you will need glasses again in the future.
4. It may take some people several weeks after surgery to see clearly, although many people can see clearly within 24 hours.
5. After surgery, you need to avoid any great jarring for many months.

**Types of Procedures**

There are three types of common laser surgeries: LASIK, PRK and PK RK. Both laser in-situ keratomileusis (LASIK) and photorefractive keratectomy (PRK) are used to treat near-sightedness, far-sightedness and astigmatism. LASIK is the latest technique and seems to be more effective and have fewer complications than PRK. Both of these procedures take a few minutes per eye. Radial keratotomy (RK) was the first of these types of procedures to become popular. It is used less and less often now and it only corrects mild to moderate near-sightedness. This procedure takes less than thirty minutes.

The following Benefit Plan changes went into effect on October 1, 2001:

- For active members and pensioners under the age of 60:
  - Increased life insurance from \$25,000 to \$35,000.
  - Added dependent life insurance of \$15,000 for spouse coverage and \$7,500 for each child (from birth).
  - Added laser eye surgery coverage for you and your dependents (see side box).
- For active members and pensioners, increased the lifetime medical maximum for coverage outside Canada from \$500,000 to \$1 million.

**Laser Eye Surgery Benefit**

The Plan pays 100% of expenses up to a lifetime maximum of \$1,000 per person, with the following restrictions:

- All surgery must be performed by a qualified Ophthalmologist; and
- Surgery is covered for individuals who are:
  - At least age 18,
  - Have had stable vision in both eyes for at least one year prior to surgery,
  - Are not pregnant, and
  - Are free of medical and eye problems that may increase complications.

**Additional Resources**

**Administrator**

Ontario Ironworkers/Rodmen Benefit Plan Administrators Corporation  
 111 Sheppard Avenue East  
 North York, Ontario M2N 6S2

Within Metro Toronto: 416-223-0383  
 Elsewhere in Canada: 1-800-387-8075  
 Fax: 1-416-223-0956  
 Our web site: www.ontarioironworkers.com

<b>For:</b>	<b>Contacts:</b>	<b>At (e-mail address):</b>
Claims	Vera Boichevski Zoe Esteves Janet Schaerf	vera@ontarioironworkers.com zoe@ontarioironworkers.com janet@ontarioironworkers.com
Disability Benefits	Monika Sone	monika@ontarioironworkers.com
Pension Benefits	Jan Joyette Marie Nicholson	jan@ontarioironworkers.com marie@ontarioironworkers.com
Employer Accounting	Pat Barwell Jean Collins Alfie Iliakis	pat@ontarioironworkers.com jean@ontarioironworkers.com alfie@ontarioironworkers.com
Managing Director	Michael Melvin	mmelvin@ontarioironworkers.com