

*The following timeline outlines the events leading up to this meeting today as they relate to the changes that are being mandated for the Retirees who participate in the Mason Tenders' District Council Trust Fund medical plan.*

**Dec 2019** – The LFA Executive Board (EBOD) attended Mason Tenders' (MTDC) annual holiday party, at which time we were introduced to Anna Gutsin as the incoming Director of the Fund. Earlier the same day, Dan DiPleco as Delegate of the LFA to the MTDC, had attended their monthly meeting where a cryptic comment was made by Robert Bonanza, MTDC Business Manager that the LFA “pays almost nothing for medical” and that “it’s difficult to raise our hours”. A tentative meeting was set for January 16<sup>th</sup> to sit down with Ms. Gustin, a date that was to be confirmed after the holidays.

**January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020** – At the monthly LFA EBOD meeting, the date for the meeting with Ms. Gutsin was confirmed; Jerry Franza as Vice President and Dan DiPleco as Secretary-Treasurer were invited to attend with President/Business Manager Ciro Quattrocchi.

**January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020** – The meeting at the MTDC Headquarters in NYC. In attendance were Ciro and Dan from the LFA; the MTDC Board for Trustees was introduced to us, which included outgoing Director John Virga, incoming Director Anna Gutsin, Business Manager Robert Bonanza, Michael Prohaska as a Representative from Local 79 and Auditor for MTDC, Paul O’Brien from the Financial Department of MTDC, and several others. Mr. Virga addressed the group and explained that the medical premium for the Retirees had not been increased over many years, there had been hopes that “the numbers would get better”, and presented to us some documents including an Income and Expense Chart for Local 1261 covering the calendar years 2013 through 2018. The chart detailed that despite a growing number of active Members in the Plan, the number of Retirees continuing on MTDC Benefits also grew during this time, which resulted in a deficit of more than \$1M per year over the last six years, with a grand total of \$8,459,900. This computed to a 126% expenditure versus the income to Mason Tenders' for our local over these years. At this meeting we were **TOLD** that the only way to fix this debt, which had been assumed by Local 79 (the strongest of the four Locals that participate in the Plan), was to increase the premium being paid by the Retirees. The probable amounts for the increases were announced verbally, and it was said a document outlining the increases in three stages would be forthcoming. Ciro requested that the document be sent to the LFA EBOD for review prior to a mass mailing to the Retirees. Ciro and Dan voiced their shock, explaining how this would devastate the Retirees living on a fixed income, many of whom are receiving decimated pensions that were adjusted when Bishop Ford and Bishop Kearney closed, forcing the pension into Default Mode. Mr. Bonanza ended the meeting with the statement, “Sometimes bad meetings happen to good people,” at which time good-byes were exchanged and the LFA representatives left.

**January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020** – A first draft of the Summary of Material Modifications (SMM) was received by the LFA EBOD and its attorney, and an emergency meeting was scheduled to review the paperwork and make comment.

**January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020** – The LFA EBOD met and discussed the SMM. Dan DiPleco presented options for supplemental medical plans (such as AARP), as well as the logistics of moving to full Medicare including Part D and supplemental options for those who are eligible. The LFA’s Attorney was conferenced by phone to discuss the legalities of the situation, and the MTDC Plan Book was reviewed (page v, paragraph 2). Several recommendations and a list of questions about the proposed changes were created by the EBOD and sent to Ms. Gutsin’s office. The February 2020 LFA Newsletter supplement was drafted for a mailing to our Retirees.

**February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020** – The LFA EBOD assembled for its monthly meeting, at which time an email from Ms. Gutsin’s office was received answering some of the questions we had posed to her, and a revised schedule of increases was presented, to be mailed to all of the Retirees pending our acknowledgment of receiving the document. It was established that the MTDC’s new SMM would be mailed on or about February 12<sup>th</sup>, with the LFA’s Newsletter supplement to follow on or about the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020** – The LFA EBOD assembled for its annual LiUNA audit at the LFA Office. A meeting was requested with Ms. Anna Gutsin at the LFA Office to address in person the overwhelming phone call and email inquiries that were coming from current and prospective Retirees. It was stated in our communication with Ms. Gutsin that the LFA could not be held responsible for an influx of phone calls to the MTDC Office, nor any attempts by Retirees who might seek to contact various media outlets, use social media, seek outside legal counsel, lead public protests, or petition local elected officials to raise awareness of the premium increases. Ms. Gutsin agreed to a meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup>, and said she would be accompanied by Ms. Esther Chiara, who has been the contact person for all of our medical coverage issues for over 20 years. A letter to the Retirees about the upcoming meeting was drafted and mailed. The EBOD discussed the possibility of having information sessions at the Office with representatives from various insurance agencies, including but not limited to Aetna, Medicare, Union Plus, and AARP. It was agreed upon that no such meetings could be set in stone until after the meeting with the representatives from Mason Tenders, so that we could get a feel for what the Retirees are interested in.

**February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020** – Ciro contacted Mr. Paul Drazen, LiUNA Representative who reports to Mr. Ray Pocino, LiUNA Eastern Region Vice President and member of the MTDC Board. It was asked if Mr. Pocino had known about the changes to the medical coverage, because a letter was being drafted by Ciro to Ms. Gutsin and copied to Mr. Pocino and Mr. Bonanza to express the concerns for the future of Local 1261, to share his personal sentiments as someone who is also affected by these changes, and to provide Ms. Gutsin with how the affiliation between the LFA, LiUNA, and MTDC came to be, as she is new to the position and might not have knowledge of the deep history we share as one of the few non-construction Locals to enjoy their pension and medical benefits. (see attachment)

**February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020** – The letter to Ms. Gutsin was drafted and mailed. Copies were sent to Mr. Pocino, Mr. Bonanza, and Mr. Drazen; copies were provided for the EBOD and

Board of Directors (BOD) to review at the next day's meeting. It was reiterated in this letter that the LFA is not encouraging the use of public protests, television, print, or social media to spotlight the changes being made to the premiums for the medical coverage, nor is this Local advising Retirees to seek outside legal counsel or the aide of various politicians. There has been no reply from LiUNA or MTDC as of March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 when this timeline was compiled.

**February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020** – Ciro spoke at length with the LFA Attorney, formally inviting him to come to the meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup> as our Legal Counsel, to observe and review the presentation made that day. Mr. Ajlouny provided the EBOD with the name of the insurance broker that he uses in his practice. Ciro had a detailed conversation with Broker Stuart Muschaick, who outlined over the phone what information he would need from us (in progress) in order to research potential Medicare supplements as a possible new LFA Retiree Group. That evening, the LFA BOD had its monthly meeting, at which time the School Delegates and Alternates were provided with hard copies of all of the communications between the LFA and MTDC pertaining to this issue. The EBOD detailed the timeline of events (as presented here), and Delegates were strongly encouraged to have in-house meetings with the Membership to review the information prior to the March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, which will be open to all (RSVP necessary). The request was made by Ciro that at least one School Representative from each of the schools currently participating in the Plan (Archbishop Molloy, Nazareth, Bishop Loughlin, and Xaverian) be in attendance on March 11<sup>th</sup> to bring back more information to the Members.