

Pre-Retirement Death Benefits

As you are aware, in response to the 2006 Pension Protection Act there have been many Plan changes. These changes are not limited to pension and disability benefits but also extend in the event a Participant dies prior to retiring. This is a brief summary of the NPF's pre-retirement death benefits.

- If at the time of a death, a Participant qualifies for an NPF pension; his or her spouse will qualify for a monthly **Pre-Retirement Surviving Spouse Annuity the month following death. The benefit is actuarially adjusted to account for age at death.** The surviving spouse can defer receiving benefits until the Participant would have reached retirement age.
- If he or she is not married, and the death occurs on or after January 1, 2008, the beneficiary may be eligible to receive a Lump Sum Death Benefit in the amount of \$5,000 provided, if at the time of death, the following conditions are met:
 - The Participant had achieved Vested Status; and
 - worked 435-Hours of Work in Covered Employment within the 24-month period preceding his or her death; and
 - has not been employed in non-signatory employment; and
 - a QDRO has not been filed assigning a portion of his or her pension to a former spouse or dependent(s).

There is no beneficiary designation for this benefit, regardless of what the Participant may have filed with the local union office. In the event a Lump Sum Death Benefit is payable, this payment will be made to a Participant's children (to share equally), in the event there are no children, to parents (to share equally), in the event there are no parents, to siblings (to share equally). If none of these persons survive, no benefit is payable.

NOTE: as result of these changes, for pre-retirement deaths that occur on or after January 2008 – the Local Union is NO LONGER required to hold beneficiary designations for the Pre-Retirement Lump Sum Death Benefit.

If you have any questions concerning this benefit please contact info@smwnpf.org.