

UWUA Trust Fund Update

By National
Training Director
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The UWUA's three National Trust Funds provide members with training services, health and welfare, and retirement benefits. This column is an update for union members on key developments within the funds.

UWUA Power for America Training Trust

The Trustees of the UWUA Power for America Training Trust recently approved the expenditures required for the trust to become a "Partner in Education" with the Midwest Energy Association (MEA). This strategic partnership will position the trust to be a dynamic training force within the utility industries in which UWUA members work.

The MEA serves the people that bring electricity and natural gas to American homes and businesses. MEA was founded as a training association over 100 years ago by visionary distribution utilities in the Midwest to improve safety and efficiency. Utility companies nationwide now benefit from MEA's industry roundtables, operations conferences, and other events. Members collaborated to develop EnergyU, the world's premier online training and testing system for the gas and electric utility distribution industry. The MEA not-for-profit fee structure delivers to members and subscribers the best possible training at the lowest possible cost in the areas of natural gas, liquids, OSHA, electric, and leadership training.

This relationship with the UWUA Power for America Training Trust will expand over the coming months. The MEA website will soon include a UWUA portal and UWUA accredited on-line courses for participants to take to either gain new skills or refresh current occupation training requirements. This is an exciting addition to the UWUA Power

for America Training Trust Tool Box of Opportunity. The MEA and UWUA are committed to provide trust participants the best-in-class training experience that will prove to be a valuable, nationally recognized credential on their training resume.

UWUA Deferred Compensation Trust Fund (410k)

The investment-consulting firm of Morgan Stanley-Smith Barney (MSSB) was recently awarded the contract to be the trust's financial asset manager. MSSB also manages the assets of the UWUA Health & Welfare Trust Fund. By awarding MSSB this contract, the trustees were able to leverage the current relationship between the parties to gain a very competitive administrative cost structure. The trustees believe that MSSB will provide a professional asset management component that is required for the best return on investment for trust participants. Over the coming months, as the trust's current certificate of deposit assets reach maturity, they will be transferred to an MSSB account and the trustee-directed investment policy components will be implemented.

UWUA Health & Welfare Trust Fund

The recent enactment of the National Health Care Reform legislation will provide health care coverage for a large number of uninsured Americans. The legislation also mandates that insurance exchanges be created which will allow "competitive markets" to emerge for the purchase of health insurance products for individuals and small businesses. Analysis of the legislation's extremely vague content causes experts in the health care benefit fields to be very

concerned as to the eventual definition of the law's intent.

Over the coming months, the legislation mandates that the Secretary of Health and Human Services conduct hearings, public meetings and interested parties forums to gather input on the legislation's many unanswered questions. It is vitally important that the UWUA and labor be a part of these discussions as the lobbyists for corporations, health insurance, and pharmaceutical companies as well as a myriad of other interested parties are already lined up to try and influence the legislations' final language. The trustees, along with the trust fund professionals, are cautiously watching the debate, and will notify the fund's participants of any changes that might eventually be required due to this evolving legislation.

UWUA Power for America Training Trust:

www.power4america.org

UWUA Trust Fund (401K):

<http://www.uwuabenefits.org>

UWUA Health and Welfare Trust Fund:

<http://www.uwuabenefits.org>

Be sure to visit and bookmark the trust's website for timely, insightful information regarding the union and industry news —
<http://power4america.org>.

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https://twitter.com/UWUA_P4A
<http://www.youtube.com/user/UWUAPower4America>