



# Pension Fund Notes

Newsletter of the American Federation of Musicians and  
Employers' Pension Fund

## Joint Select Committee to Hold Field Hearing in Ohio

The Joint Select Committee on the Solvency of Multiemployer Pension Plans has announced that its next hearing will be held outside of Washington, D.C. The “field hearing” will take place **on Friday, July 13 at 2:00 p.m. ET** at:

**Richard H. Finan Finance Hearing Room of the Ohio State House**  
**1 Capitol Square**  
**Columbus, OH, 43215**

The hearing, entitled “Understanding What’s at Stake for Current Workers and Retirees,” will feature testimony from the following witnesses:

- Ms. Roberta Dell, Chief Union Steward, Spangler Candy Company
- Mr. David A. Gardner, Chief Executive Officer, Alfred Nickles Bakery Inc.
- Mr. Bill Martin, President, Spangler Candy Company
- Mr. Brian Slone, Apprentice Instructor, Millwright Local 1090
- Mr. Mike Walden, President, National United Committee to Protect Pensions
- Mr. Larry Ward, Retired Coal Miner and Former President of United Mine Workers of America, District 6

The hearing will be broadcast live [on the Committee’s website](#), and it will be archived there for later viewing.

We urge participants to use the occasion of this field hearing to visit [the AFM-EPF website](#) and use the tools there to tell your story to those Members of Congress who represent you in the House and Senate and to the Joint Select Committee. Implore them to take action this year to protect the retirement security of all AFM-EPF participants. Let them know that your vote in the November election will be determined by what they do to solve the multiemployer pension crisis.

At this time, the Butch Lewis Act is the only legislation introduced in Congress that would provide the AFM-EPF and other funds with the financial support required to avoid insolvency. The Trustees continue to support the Butch Lewis Act. However, as we discussed in [the February 18 issue of Pension Fund Notes](#), the Butch Lewis Act has stalled in Congress, not attracting the bipartisan support necessary to bring it to the floor of either chamber for a vote. Indeed, the lack of any movement on the Butch Lewis Act is precisely why House and Senate leaders of both parties established the Joint Select Committee.

Because a majority of Democrats and a majority of Republicans on the Joint Select Committee must agree on any solution that emerges for consideration by both chambers of Congress, it is unlikely that the Butch Lewis Act will be adopted in its current form. As Butch Lewis Act sponsor and Joint Select Committee Co-Chair [Sen. Sherrod Brown \(D-OH\) has said](#), “I don’t have preconceived notions on what we end up with. I’d love to end up with Butch Lewis—I think that’s the best idea. But I also understand we’ve got to get five Republican and five Democratic votes.” Therefore, while the Trustees support the Butch Lewis Act, we will be advocating that the Joint Select Committee forge a bipartisan solution that fully addresses the financial issues facing our Fund, while also treating our participants fairly.

In letters sent [to Congressional leaders in January](#) and [to members of the Joint Select Committee in May](#), the Trustees stated, “Any solution must be available to all funds in critical and declining status, regardless of whether or

not they are able to fulfill the benefit suspension requirements under MPRA.”

As we get closer to the Joint Committee’s deadline at the end of November, we will continue to communicate openly and honestly based on the realities on Capitol Hill. If those realities change, we will reassess.

Because it is still unclear what kind of solution will come out of the Joint Select Committee—or if they will come to a bipartisan agreement at all—it is important that multiemployer pension funds, participants, unions and employers speak loudly and with one voice. AFM-EPF participants can join this effort by [using the tools on the Fund’s website](#).

[view this email in your browser](#)

**American Federation of Musicians and  
Employers' Pension Fund**

PO Box 2673

New York, NY 10117-0262

[www.afm-epf.org](http://www.afm-epf.org)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).