

UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA
WELFARE AND RETIREMENT FUND

PRESS RELEASE

FOR MORNING PAPERS
APRIL 8, 1949

The trustees of the UMWA Welfare and Retirement Fund at their meeting April 7 adopted a resolution making pensions available at 60 years of age instead of 62 as heretofore.

The following statement and resolution was introduced by Trustee Bridges (Senator H. Styles Bridges - Rep., N.H. - the neutral trustee):

Pursuant to arrangements previously made, I employed Russell R. Reagh to make the necessary actuarial studies and Edward R. Hale, Esq. and Professor Arthur L. Brown to advise me on legal matters connected with such actuarial study. Mr. Reagh advises that from the viewpoint of long range financing it will make no appreciable difference currently to make payment of pensions on a pay-as-you-go basis to miners, either at age 62 or 60, in the amount of \$100 per month provided such miners fulfill the other requirements set forth in the Resolution of the Trustees adopted on April 12, 1948. Counsel have likewise advised me that, "In the light of our legal investigation and the conclusion reached by Mr. Reagh, we are of the opinion that you are justified and are acting with the prudence required of a Trustee in introducing and voting for a resolution reducing the pension age from 62 to 60 upon the terms and conditions of eligibility contained in the original resolution of April 12, 1948." In the light of these actuarial and legal opinions I am proposing to reduce the age of eligibility for pensions from 62 to 60, retaining, however, all the other terms and conditions of eligibility and other provisions contained in the Resolution adopted by the Trustees on April 12, 1948.

In addition, in proposing this change in the eligibility age I have taken into account the actual experience of the pension fund to March 1, 1949. I am

advised that as of March 1, 1949, 13,816 miners, with an average age of 66.1 years have qualified for and are receiving pensions. Of this number 1448, or 10.58%, retired at the age of 62 years; while 1492, or 10.8%, retired at the age of 63 years. I have been informed that only 3,738 of these 13,816 pensions, or 27.06%, have retired since October 1, 1948, when the pension program became fully activated. The other 10,078 miners, or 72.94%, had all retired before the pension fund was activated. Of the 3,738 miners who retired between October 1, 1948 and March 1, 1949, more than 50% already were receiving disability grants from the Welfare and Retirement Fund. The experience of the pension fund thus far would seem to indicate that the majority of miners prefer to continue to work so long as they are physically able rather than to retire. Accordingly, no undue burden will be assumed by the Trustees in changing the age of pension eligibility from 62 years of age to 60 years of age.

RESOLVED, that Resolution No. 8 of the Trustees adopted at a meeting of the Board of Trustees on April 12, 1948, establishing a pension fund from the Welfare and Retirement Fund and determining those eligible to receive such pensions be, and the same hereby is, amended to change the eligibility age for pensions for miners from 62 years of age to 60 years of age, all other requirements of eligibility therein set forth to remain unchanged. In all other respects the Resolution of the Trustees adopted on April 12, 1948, is hereby ratified and confirmed and shall remain in full force and effect.

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