



Pension Perspective

FROM THE BROTHERS PENSION PLAN

APRIL 2008

Dear Pension Plan Participant —

Desperate times call for desperate measures, or do they?

Indeed, these do seem like desperate times. The Standard and Poor's 500 Index declined by 9.5 percent during the first quarter of the year, giving evidence that the U.S. economy is tottering on the brink of recession. The average price of gas is edging toward \$4 a gallon, the cost of basic food staples is up 50 percent in the past six months, and there are mounting concerns over slowing home sales and rising health-care costs.

Nevertheless, desperate times do not call for desperate measures; they call for deliberate planning and increased frugality: Families eat out less, turn off their lights more, avoid needless trips in the car, discontinue their cable service, work overtime, and even turn to eBay to help stretch their dollars and decrease their expenses.

In such times, it is tempting for people to eliminate their saving programs in order to put a little extra cash into their checking accounts. Retirement savings and children's college tuition are easy targets and often the first place people look to bridge their financial gaps. Some even look to pull funds from their retirement savings to meet their present needs. Such desperate acts are the pawn-shop equivalent of sacrificing the proverbial future on the altar of the present — and often unnecessary.

Families who meet desperate times with calm discipline work hard to find ways of continuing their saving programs as a first priority. In fact, such families have even made plans to spend their governmental Economic Stimulus Act rebate checks — arriving shortly — in ways that will not include high definition televisions.

Desperate times call for calm discipline.

Jay A. Wittmeyer
Director of Pension Plan and
Employee Financial Services



Experts think \$4 per gallon pump prices for regular could become common in many areas across the country in coming weeks.

Lori Domich
Member Services Representative

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Quarterly Fund Performance Report

for the period ending March 31, 2008

All Pension investment funds must meet socially responsible investment guidelines.

Performance Report

| FUNDS (Net of Investment Fees) | BENCHMARKS (Gross) | |
|--|--|--|
| Common Stock Fund: Rate of Return Current quarter (8.1%) Year to date (8.1%) Five years 14.6% | S&P 500: Rate of Return Current quarter (9.4%) Year to date (9.4%) Five years 12.8% | |
| Balanced Fund: Rate of Return Current quarter (4.2%) Year to date (4.2%) Five years 10.4% | Blended Balanced Index: Rate of Return Current quarter (4.6%) Year to date (4.6%) Five years 9.4% | |
| Bond Fund: Rate of Return Current quarter 1.7% Year to date 1.7% Five years 4.2% | Lehman Bros Gov/Credit: Rate of Return Current quarter 2.5% Year to date 2.5% Five years 4.4% | |
| Short-Term Fund: Rate of Return Current quarter 0.1% Year to date 0.1% Five years 2.4% | 3-Month T-Bill: Rate of Return Current quarter 0.9% Year to date 0.9% Five years 3.1% | |
| Community Development Investment Fund: Rate of Return Current quarter 0.5%* Year to date 0.5%* Three years 2.3%* *Interest accrues on a quarterly basis. This ministry-focused fund does not have a benchmark. | Consumer Price Index: The CPI is an indicator of inflation. It is not a benchmark for the CDIF. Current quarter 1.3% Year to date 1.3% Three years 4.9% | |

Five-year returns are annualized for the period ending Dec. 31, 2007.