

The Trust continues to have group insurance contracts with Aetna Life Insurance Company to provide life insurance benefits for covered retirees only. The Trust provides the medical benefits under the Plan through a self-insured arrangement for covered retirees and spouses. Aetna continues to provide certain administrative services that are important in the operations of the Trust, including regular, comprehensive internal audits.

Aetna's audits of the Trust's internal operations continue to show outstanding results. These results reflect the cooperation, attitude and performance of the Trust's staff. Once again, each of this year's three audits reflected payment accuracies of 100% and statistical accuracies of 100%.

The Trust continues to perform "in house" audits on certain medical claims, large claims, and questionable claims. The Trust encourages the use of many types of cost-saving measures when possible, such as second surgical opinions; use of outpatient, rather than inpatient facilities; home health care; individual case management; FDA-approved generic drugs, etc. It has also continued its use of third-party organizations to obtain discounts from providers in exchange for prompt payment.

Conclusion

During the past fiscal year, the Trustees continued to monitor, review and evaluate closely the Trust's Plan of Benefits, the relationship of employer contributions to claims paid, the overall performance of the Trust's operations, the economic and other conditions affecting the Trust, legislation and other governmental actions affecting the Trust, and other pertinent matters, including the Trust's assets, projected liabilities, and projected income. In doing so, the Trustees continue to protect the financial stability and long-term viability of the Trust. As in the past, the Trustees will continue to make additional changes or modifications to the Trust's operations, including the Trust's Plan of Benefits on an as-needed basis.

Even with the unpredictability of health and health care issues, the Trust is able to deliver innovative programs and helpful support to those it serves.

From the Executive Director

As I reflect on my second year as Executive Director of G. M.P. – Employers Retiree Trust, I am struck by the volume and complexity of adaptations we have had to address, especially in light of the Affordable Care Act. We continue to monitor the changes and will update our participants when it affects the Trust.

As is my duty and honor, I attended many industrial relations, local union, and retiree branch meetings. Stepping to the "front line" allows me to gather input from employers and participants that allow us to continuously improve our processes and services.

I would like to thank the Trust family for their support of and commitment to those they serve. They enjoy having the opportunity to help our participants, increase efficiencies through ever-evolving technology, and serve as stewards of the Trust's funds.

I would also like to thank the Trustees who are committed to continuing to offer desirable benefits to participants, and to consider the many options that continue to present themselves as we prepare for a new era in health care.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as the Trust's Executive Director, and look forward to another challenging year.

Respectfully submitted,



Marilyn S. Barnes
Executive Director