

# 14th Annual World Pension Alliance and Transatlantic Conference

Hilton Back Bay, Boston, MA

June 14-16, 2023



mebco



Association Européenne des Institutions Paritaires  
European Association of Paritarian Institutions



## PROGRAM

---

Wednesday, June 14 – Friday, June 16, 2023

Hilton Back Bay  
40 Dalton Street  
Boston, MA 02115



mebco



Association Européenne des Institutions Paritaires  
European Association of Paritarian Institutions



WORLD  
PENSION  
ALLIANCE

## THANKS TO...

---

The National Coordinating Committee for Multiemployer Plans, the Multi-Employer Benefit Plan Council of Canada, the European Association of Paritarian Institutions, and the World Pension Alliance are pleased to thank our sponsors for their generous support of our work.



# AGENDA AT A GLANCE

---

## Wednesday, June 14

**7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.**

Breakfast & Registration  
Westminster

**9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.**

Welcome & Opening of the Day  
Belvidere

**9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**

Addressing Pension Fund Solvency

**10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

Coffee Break

**11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Impact of Inflation and Rising Interest Rates

**12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Lunch  
Westminster

**2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

ESG and Sustainable Finance – Woke Investing or  
Responsible Stewardship

**3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Closing the Racial, Ethnic, and Gender Wealth Gaps in  
Retirement

**5:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.**

Close of Day

**5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

Reception  
40 Dalton Restaurant

## Thursday, June 15

**7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.**

Breakfast & Registration  
Westminster

**9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.**

Opening of the Day  
Belvidere

**9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**

Promoting Mental Health

**10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

Coffee Break

**11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Controlling Healthcare Costs

**12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Lunch  
Westminster

**2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Is Telehealth Here to Stay?

**3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Cybersecurity – Protecting Participant Data

**5:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.**

Close of Day

## Friday, June 16

**7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.**

Breakfast & Registration  
Westminster

**9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.**

Opening of the Day  
Belvidere

**9:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

Worker Power – The Changing Labor Force and Collective  
Bargaining

**11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Close of Conference

# WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

## FOCUS ON PENSIONS

---

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

### **Breakfast & Registration**

Westminster

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

### **Welcome & Opening of the Day**

Michael Scott, Executive Director, NCCMP and Chair, WPA

9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

### **Addressing Pension Fund Solvency**

With the passage of the American Rescue Plan in 2021 and the establishment of the Special Financial Assistance program, the most deeply troubled of U.S. multiemployer plans have begun to receive federal assistance that will enable them to pay full benefits through 2051, and 1.5 million participants will be protected from reductions to their promised benefits. This assistance has highlighted the need to focus on pension fund solvency. This session will consider how pension funds and regulators around the world view solvency, how plan trustees ensure solvency of the funds they manage, and what role national pension backstops play in plan solvency.

**Keynote:** Hon. Gordon Hartogensis, Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

**Panel Discussion:** *Mariah Becker, Director of Research and Education, NCCMP*

Jason Russell, Senior Vice President and Actuary, Segal

Dr. Christoph Kiehn, Vice President Finance and Risk at SOKA-BAU

Domenic Barbiero, Principal and Consulting Actuary, Eckler

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

### **Coffee Break**

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

### **Impact of Inflation and Rising Interest Rates**

As interest rates continue to climb to their highest point in a decade, pension funds must consider what that means for their approaches to investments and to long-term pension funding. This session will consider the impact on pension funds of recent tightening of monetary policy throughout the world, including plan investment decisions, long term funding and benefit design.

**Keynote:** Jared Gross, Managing Director and Head of Institutional Portfolio Strategy, J.P. Morgan

**Panel Discussion:** *Matti Leppälä, Secretary General/CEO, PensionsEurope*

Jared Gross, Managing Director and Head of Institutional Portfolio Strategy, J.P. Morgan

Onno Steenbeek, Managing Director Strategic Portfolio Advice, APG Asset Management

Riley St. Jacques, Partner, PBI Actuarial Consultants

12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

### **Lunch**

# WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

## FOCUS ON PENSIONS

---

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

### **ESG and Sustainable Finance – Woke Investing or Responsible Stewardship?**

Throughout the world, regulatory agencies with authority over pension funds have taken different approaches to the use of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors in selecting and evaluating investments. This session will explore the evolving views on ESG investing around the world, including what is permitted, what is required, enforcement efforts, using litigation as a tool to enforce accountability and governance, and new developments in each region.

**Keynote:** Hon. Lisa Gomez, Assistant Secretary for EBSA, U.S. Department of Labor

**Keynote:** Brian Hale, President and COO, Ullico, Inc.

**Keynote:** Nancy Juda, Of Counsel, Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd

**Panel Discussion:** *Monte Tarbox, Executive Director of Investments, National Electrical Benefits Fund*

Brian Hale, President and COO, Ullico, Inc.

Matthies Verstegen, Head of Brussels Office, Dutch Federation of Pension Funds

Murray Gold, Senior Partner, Koskie Minsky

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### **Closing the Racial, Ethnic, and Gender Wealth Gaps in Retirement**

The gaps in retirement security experienced by people of color, ethnic minorities, and women as a result of wage or opportunity disparities or time away from the workplace are well known. There is a similar gap in representation among the leadership of pension funds and pension fund professionals. This session will discuss both national and EU policy efforts to close the retirement savings gap, as well as the role that pension plans themselves can play in ensuring a more equitable retirement.

**Keynote:** Nari Rhee, PhD, Director, Retirement Security Program, UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education

**Panel Discussion:** *Mariah Becker, Director of Research and Education, NCCMP*

Karina Ransby, Executive Director, Pension & Welfare, Insurance and Pension Denmark

John R. Harney, Partner, O'Donoghue & O'Donoghue LLP

Robert Blakely, Partner, Blakely + Duschenski

5:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

### **Close of Day**

Mariah Becker, Director of Research and Education, NCCMP

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

### **Reception**

Please join us for a reception at the 40 Dalton restaurant at the Hilton Back Bay

# THURSDAY, JUNE 15

## FOCUS ON HEALTHCARE

---

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

### **Breakfast & Registration**

Westminster

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

### **Opening of the Day**

Mariah Becker, Director of Research and Education, NCCMP

9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

### **Promoting Mental Health**

The global COVID-19 pandemic threw into sharp relief the importance of mental health and mental health benefits. This session will consider approaches to providing mental health benefits throughout the world, including plans' efforts to support participants in crisis, legal and regulatory requirements around the world with regard to availability and access, and emerging best practices.

**Keynote:** Hon. Lisa Gomez, Assistant Secretary for EBSA, U.S. Department of Labor

**Panel Discussion:** *Giuseppe Perretti, Policy Advisor for Healthcare & Provident Funds, AEIP*

David Brenner, Senior Vice President, National Director of Multiemployer Consulting, Segal

Pamela Storey Baker, M.Ed. (Ed Psych), RP (she/her), Manager FSEAP Eastern Ontario, Family Services Ottawa

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

### **Coffee Break**

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

### **Controlling Healthcare Costs**

Rapidly increasing healthcare costs are a universal challenge. In the United States, Congress has enacted legislation to both permit Medicare to negotiate certain drug prices for the first time in history and to limit the out-of-pocket cost of insulin for Medicare. While this has spurred the major insulin manufacturers to cap the price of some insulin products, the actual cost impact for plans may be more limited. This session will explore efforts areas of innovation including pharmacogenetic testing, product listing agreements, and recent and future legislation in the U.S. and other countries.

**Keynote:** George Bognar, Vice President, Health Consultant, East Region, Segal

**Panel Discussion:** *Mariah Becker, Director of Research and Education, NCCMP*

George Bognar, Vice President, Health Consultant, East Region, Segal

Mike Sullivan, Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder, Cubic Health

12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

### **Lunch**

# THURSDAY, JUNE 15

## FOCUS ON HEALTHCARE

---

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

### **Is Telehealth Here to Stay?**

In response to the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries expanded the ability of plans and healthcare providers to provide healthcare services remotely through video conferencing or other means. Many plans and participants have found this approach to providing healthcare to be more convenient and easier to access than traditional, in-person visits for routine care, in addition to improving access for underserved areas that are underserved by healthcare professionals. As we emerge from the pandemic, plans and legislators consider the impact and effectiveness of telehealth during the pandemic, and whether access to telehealth should continue.

**Keynote:** Kathy Bakich, Senior Vice President, Health Compliance Practice Leader, Segal

**Panel Discussion:** *Mariah Becker, Director of Research and Education, NCCMP*

Kathy Bakich, Senior Vice President, Health Compliance Practice Leader, Segal

Sibylle Reichert, Executive Director, International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies (AIM)

Joe Whitney, Director, Canadian Regulatory and Public Affairs, Manulife

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### **Cybersecurity – Protecting Participant Data**

As trustees of pension and health funds, our funds are entrusted with a huge amount of sensitive participant data making them a tempting treasure trove for unscrupulous individuals. This session will discuss cybersecurity requirements for both pension and health funds throughout the world, as well as best practices that plans are putting in place to safeguard participants' data.

**Keynote:** Rebecca L. Rakoski, Co-founder and Managing Partner, XPAN Law Partners

**Panel Discussion:** *Cheldon Angus, Chief People & Technology Officer, Saskatchewan Healthcare Employees' Pension Plan*

Rebecca L. Rakoski, Co-founder and Managing Partner, XPAN Law Partners

Prof. Paolo Balboni, Professor of Privacy, Cybersecurity, and IT Contract Law at the European Centre on Privacy and Cybersecurity (ECPC) within the Maastricht University Faculty of Law.

Jeff McMurray, CISSP-ISSAP, CISA, CISM, CGEIT, Executive Director, Technology Risk Consulting KPMG LLP

5:00 p.m.

### **Close of Day**

Mariah Becker, Director of Research and Education, NCCMP

# FRIDAY, JUNE 16

## FOCUS ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

---

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

### **Breakfast & Registration**

Westminster

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

### **Opening of the Day**

Alex McKinnon, President, MEBCO

9:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

### **Worker Power – The Changing Labor Force and Collective Bargaining**

Whether it's new organizing at Amazon warehouses and Starbucks cafes, or the ever-continuing shift to gig work, the face of the workforce is changing rapidly. This session will explore recent developments in how workers approach work and organizing, and the role that collective bargaining can play in ensuring worker rights, representation, and benefits.

**Keynote:** Mary Vogel, Executive Director, Building Pathways

**Panel Discussion:** *Mariah Becker, Director of Research and Education, NCCMP and Giuseppe Perretti, Policy Advisor for Healthcare & Provident Funds, AEIP*

Mary Vogel, Executive Director, Building Pathways

Nicole Schwartz, Executive Director, TradesFutures

Dana Schäfer, Vice President Posted Workers Scheme, SOKA-BAU

Derik McArthur, Director, UFCW Local 175 & 633

### **Close of Conference**

Michael Scott, Executive Director, NCCMP and Chair, WPA

Matti Leppälä, Secretary General/CEO, PensionsEurope

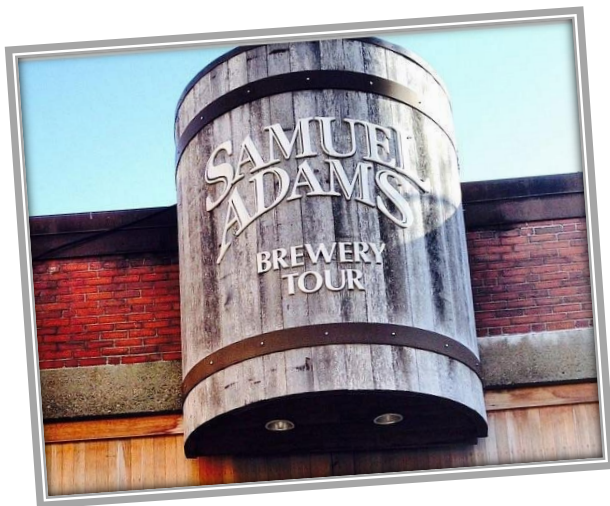
## THINGS TO DO

Located in Boston's Back Bay neighborhood, we're a 5-minute walk from Prudential Center and three blocks from Fenway Park – home of the Boston Red Sox. The Charles River, Boston Commons, and many historical and cultural venues are within walking distance.



- Since 1912, fans have flocked to Fenway Park to watch the home team play in the heart of Boston. It is referred to as, "America's Most Beloved Ballpark" by Major League Baseball and sports enthusiasts. Home to Red Sox Legends, Williams, Yaz, Fisk, Rice, and Pedro to name a few. Visit [www.mlb.com/redsox/ballpark](http://www.mlb.com/redsox/ballpark) for our tour information.

- Museums
- Walk the Freedom Trail
- Shopping on Newbury Street
- John F. Kennedy Library
- Stroll Boston Common and the Boston Public Garden



- Harbor Cruises and Sailing
- Take a brewery tour
- And more...

1. Boston Common Park
2. The John Hancock Tower
3. Bunker Hill Monument
4. New England Aquarium
5. Museum of Science
6. Symphony Hall
7. Faneuil Hall Marketplace
8. South Station
9. Boston Logan Airport

