

HORACE MANN EDUCATORS CORP /DE/
 Form 4
 May 26, 2006

FORM 4

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
MELONE JOSEPH J

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
HORACE MANN EDUCATORS CORP /DE/ [HMN]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 1290 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 05/24/2006

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)

(Street)
 NEW YORK, NY 10104

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price |
| Common Stock ⁽¹⁾ | 05/24/2006 | | A | | 2,000 | A | \$ 0 ₍₂₎ |
| | | | | | 8,088.651 ⁽³⁾ | D | |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

SEC 1474 (9-02)

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

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| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | | | | Code V (A) (D) | | Date Exercisable Expiration Date | Title |
| Phantom Stock Units | \$ 0 ⁽⁴⁾ | 05/24/2006 | | A | 6,563.246 | 08/08/1988 ⁽⁵⁾ 08/08/1988 ⁽⁵⁾ | Common Stock |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| MELONE JOSEPH J 1290 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS NEW YORK, NY 10104 | | X | | |

Signatures

Rhonda R. Armstead, Attorney in Fact for Joseph J. Melone 05/26/2006

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) The acquisition of Common Stock reported hereby is in the form of restricted stock units which will vest on May 24, 2007.
- (2) Provided as compensation pursuant to the annual retainer compensation plan.
- (3) Includes 88.651 shares paid pursuant to stock dividends.
- (4) One-for-one.

The phantom stock units are estimated based on the market price of Horace Mann Educators Corporation Common Stock and are acquired under the Horace Mann Educators Corporation Director Stock Plan which are to be settled in Common Stock upon the reporting person's resignation from the Board of Directors.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.