

The Fund Office Report

Important News About Your Employee Benefit Programs in the Construction Trades Branch of Steamfitters' Local 638

Volume 3, Issue 2

April 2014

Go Paperless, Save Your Benefit Funds Money

Let's go paperless to reduce waste, save time and money. By completing the Notice of Electronic Disclosure and Consent Form you will be providing an e-mail address whereby you will electronically be notified when employee benefit notices are posted to your account on the Steamfitters' website. Please see the enclosed notice and consent form for details. You may also find the form online at www.steamfitters.com.



Vacation Plan Payout Checks

The semiannual Vacation Plan payout checks will be mailed or direct deposited the week of April 7th.

Inside this issue:

Vacation Plan Account

Go Paperless

Housing Benefit SBF & SRP

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Housing Benefit Security Benefit Fund & Supplemental Retirement Plan

Through the Security Benefit Fund (SBF) and/or the Supplemental Retirement Plan (SRP) the following housing benefits are available to active and return-to-work members.

- **PURCHASE OF A PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE**
 - Must be your primary residence and within 150 miles of the Fund Office.

Closing Costs

- SBF and/or SRP (SRP only if SBF balance is depleted.)

Down Payment - available from SRP only

Forms to be completed

- SBF - Application for Acquisition or Retention of a Residence or Rental Unit
- SRP - Hardship Withdrawal Package

Documentation Required

- Contract of Sale - Mortgage/Loan Application
- Estimate of Closing Costs

- **INITIAL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH A RENTAL**

- Home must be within 150 miles of the Fund Office

Costs: First & Last Month Rent & Security Deposit

- SBF only

Forms to be completed

- SBF - Application for Acquisition or Retention of a Residence or Rental Unit

Documentation Required - Lease or Invoice

- **PREVENTION OF EVICTION OR FORECLOSURE**

- Must be your primary residence and within 150 miles of the Fund Office.

- You must be at least 3 months behind on your rent or mortgage payments.

- Maximum of 2 distributions per calendar year

Rent or Mortgage Payments

- SBF and/or SRP (SRP only if SBF balance is depleted.)

Forms to be completed

- SBF - Application for Acquisition or Retention of a Residence or Rental Unit

- SRP - Hardship Withdrawal Package

Documentation Required for Eviction

- Eviction Notice or Letter from your Landlord's Attorney stating number of months and amount due

- Proof of Residence (Drivers License or Utility bill)

Documentation Required for Foreclosure

- Current Mortgage Statement and Foreclosure Notice from your lender

- Proof of Residence (Drivers License or Utility bill)

Please be aware of the following items PRIOR to applying for a SBF or SRP distribution:

- The amount of the benefit from either the SBF or SRP cannot exceed the documented amounts due and is conditioned upon both audit verification and Trustee approval.
- If you previously paid the costs for your Purchase or Retention of your primary residence your claim will be denied. Please remember to apply for benefits prior to closing or finalizing a lease.
- All of your assets, including those of your spouse and children, are considered when applying for a hardship distribution.
- Your SBF distribution is subject to federal, state, city and FICA taxes where applicable.
- Your SRP distribution is subject to federal, state and city taxes where applicable. An additional 10% "early withdrawal" penalty will be assessed upon filing your tax return unless you are over age 59 ½.
- All distributions will be reported to you on form 1099-R or W-2 at year end.

For questions or comments regarding benefit distributions from your SBF or SRP accounts please call the Fund Office , extension 252.

**Remember
Keep Your Pay Stubs**

Please review your pay stubs against your Statement of Earnings each quarter. Should a discrepancy ever arise upon reviewing posted hours on your Statement of Earnings against your pay stubs, contact the Remittance Department at (212) 465-8888, option 5. Please be prepared to provide copies of your pay stubs to the Fund Office.

**The Steamfitters'
Industry Fund Office**
5 Penn Plaza
21st Floor
New York, NY 10001-1887
Telephone:
(212) 465-8888
E-mail:
FundOffice@steamny.com
Website:
www.steamfitters.com



WTC In Progress

NEW Health & Welfare Benefits Booklet

The Health & Welfare Benefits Booklet, also referred to as the Summary Plan Description, was recently published and should have been received by now. It contains a wealth of information and is a great reference guide. Please make sure to hold onto the new publication and dispose of your old one. Contact the Fund Office at (212) 465-8888, menu option 4, if you have any questions regarding the material or if you don't receive a book in the mail by the end of April.

Preventative Care Benefits *Adult, Children and Women*

Take care of yourself. Use your preventative care benefits by getting regular checkups and exams which may help you stay well and catch problems early. It may even save your life. Below you'll find the first of a three part series regarding this topic. Children and Women preventative care benefits will follow in the next Fund Office Reports. The services listed below are at no cost to you when you get these services from doctors in your plan's network. Please be aware you have to pay the costs **if** you use a doctor outside the network.

Preventive versus diagnostic care

What's the difference? Preventive care helps protect you from getting sick. Diagnostic care is used to find the cause of existing illnesses. For example, say your doctor suggests you have a colonoscopy because of your age when you have no symptoms. That's preventative care. On the other hand, say you have symptoms and your doctor suggests a colonoscopy to see what's causing them. That's diagnostic care. Below is the preventative care screening tests and immunizations listing.

Adult preventative care ~ Preventative physical exams

Screening Tests

- Alcohol misuse: related screening and behavioral counseling
- Aortic aneurysm screening (men who have smoked)
- Behavioral counseling to promote a healthy diet
- Blood pressure
- Bone density test to screen for osteoporosis
- Cholesterol and lipid (fat) level
- Colorectal cancer, including fecal occult blood test, barium enema, flexible sigmoidoscopy, screening colonoscopy and related prep kit, and CT colonography (as appropriate)
- Depression screening
- Hepatitis C virus (HCV) for people at high risk for infection and a one-time screening for adults born between 1945 and 1965
- Type 2 diabetes screening
- Eye chart test for vision
- Hearing screening
- Height, weight and BMI
- HIV screening and counseling
- Obesity: related screening and counseling
- Prostate cancer, including digital rectal exam and PSA test
- Sexually transmitted infections: related screening and counseling
- Tobacco use: related screening and behavioral counseling
- Violence, interpersonal and domestic: related screening and counseling

Immunizations:

- Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough)
- Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B
- HPV
- Influenza (flu)
- Meningococcal (meningitis)
- Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR)
- Pneumococcal (pneumonia)
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- Zoster (shingles)

The preventative care services are recommendations as a result of the Affordable Care Act (ACA, or health care reform law). Ask your doctor what's right for you, based on your health condition and your age. Make sure to contact Empire BlueCross BlueShield at 1 (800) 553-9603 for further details on time, quantity limitations and general coverage concerning the listed item of interest.

Trustee Appointments

Education Fund:	Raymond Dean, Jr. (January 2013) Scott Roche (January 2013)
Security Benefit Fund:	Pat Daly (January 2013) Robert Egan (January 2013)
Vacation Plan	William Wangerman (January 2013)