

Important News About Your Employee Benefit Programs

The Fund Office Report

OCTOBER 2009

STEAMFITTERS & METAL TRADES

FUND ADMINISTRATOR TO ADDRESS MEMBERS AT OCTOBER MEETINGS

Fund Administrator Kevin Driscoll will be speaking to the members about their benefit programs at two separate union meetings during the month of October. Driscoll will comment on the investment performance of the funds assets and update the membership regarding the overall condition of the benefit programs. As always, Driscoll will field questions from the membership after his prepared remarks.

The meeting schedule is as follows:

October 28th	Steamfitters
October 29th	Metal Trades Branch (<i>Held at the Union office, 32-32 48th Ave., LIC, NY</i>)

This is a good opportunity to hear about your employee benefit programs and to ask important questions.

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NEW BENEFIT BOOKLET FOR SECURITY BENEFIT FUND TO BE ISSUED

An updated benefit booklet, often referred to as the Summary Plan Description or SPD, for short, has been completed. It will contain information regarding all of the benefits available through this plan including the newer benefits added over the past few years such as the housing, financial assistance and catastrophic events.

The booklet will be a very helpful guide to utilizing your Security Benefit Fund benefits. As always, should you have a question at any time regarding the Security Benefit Fund do not hesitate to contact the Fund Office Help Desk at Ext. 244.

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REMINDER: RETIRED PARTICIPANTS RECEIVING A DISABILITY PENSION BENEFIT

Shortly, you will be receiving "Your New Benefit Amount" letter from the Social Security Administration (SSA). You will be required to submit a copy of this to provide proof of your continued receipt of Social Security disability benefits when the Pension Fund conducts its annual audit.

Please send the letter you receive from SSA to the Fund Office or hold it until you receive our Annual Audit letter requesting same. If you have any questions on this subject please call the Help Desk at Ext. 244

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DO NOT ENROLL IN ANY MEDICARE PART D PROGRAM

The Trustees of the Welfare Fund have continued to offer full coverage in the prescription drug benefit program for all Medicare eligible members and dependents for 2010. A notice will be sent to all members in mid-November reminding them of this. A number of retired members have erroneously enrolled in a Part D program in the past. This action not only causes great confusion, but can cost the member significant out-of-pocket expenses because the Welfare Fund's drug benefit program is considerably better than most Part D programs being offered in the senior care marketplace.

If you or your spouse have any questions regarding Part D please do not hesitate to contact the Fund Office Help Desk at Ext. 244. Please remember that you should always sign up for Medicare's Part A and Part B programs as soon as you are eligible.

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MICHELLE'S LAW: NEW LAW ON DEPENDENT STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

As of January 1, 2010 a new federal law will take effect for both Welfare Funds. This law prohibits either Welfare Fund from terminating a student's health coverage on the basis of the child taking a medical leave of absence from school or changing to a part-time due for medical reasons.

The leave of absence or reduction to part-time status must be certified as medically necessary by the student's attending physician. The student must have been enrolled in either of the Welfare Funds before the first day of the leave. Coverage will be extended for one year. However, in no case can coverage extend past the normal dependent-eligibility age and period which for the two Welfare Fund's is the end of the year the dependent turns 23.

If you have a child which you feel may qualify please contact the Help Desk at Ext. 244. There is a qualifying process which must be followed in order to maintain your dependent's student status under Michelle's Law.

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RETIRED PARTICIPANTS & MEDICARE PART B

Whether you retire on a regular or disability pension you must enroll in Medicare Part B as soon as you are eligible. You will receive information regarding your eligibility directly from the federal government. Once you are eligible for Medicare Part B, your Welfare Fund coverage acts in a secondary role. If you do not enroll in Part B when you are supposed to you will have no benefits.

Although it is discussed at the bi-annual Retirement seminar, reviewed at great length at each individual pension interview, described in all retirement printed material and included in the Welfare Fund SPD benefit booklet with its own section, occasionally a member neglects to enroll.