

The Fund Office Report

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

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April 2015

FUND OFFICE UPDATE

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NEW OFFICE HOURS

The Fund Office has new office hours to better serve our members. We are open Monday through Friday from 7:30am - 4:00pm. Remember, you also may obtain information regarding your funds, benefits, download forms and view news items online at our website www.steamfitters.com.

We are still located at the same address of 5 Penn Plaza in Manhattan. The Fund Office will be relocating to the newly acquired Union building at 27-08 40th Avenue in Long Island City in the fall of 2016. We will keep you posted as the date nears.

Notary Service

Notary services are now available to our members at the Fund Office. Make sure to have proper identification items with you in order to take advantage of these services which pertain to Fund Office forms.



Acceptable identification items are state driver's licenses and non-drivers ID, passports, federal ID's such as military identification cards, state, county and local government ID's.

Vacation Plan Payout Checks

The Semiannual Vacation Plan Payout checks will be processed on April 7th. If you have signed up for direct deposit, the funds should be available in your account the day after it is processed, April 8th. For those members who will be receiving their check by mail, expect to get it by April 13th the latest, depending upon the speed of the U.S. Post Office delivery.

Please remember, you may enroll to have your benefits paid by the Fund Office through direct deposit, otherwise known as Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT). To enroll in direct deposit, you can find the EFT Authorization Form online at <http://www.steamfitters.com/construction-forms.asp> or call the Fund Office at (212) 465-8888 option 9.

Go Green

Save time, money, fuel, and the environment by using electronic services.



THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Dependent Coverage & The Affordable Care Act

The Trustees of the Welfare Fund, in compliance with the federal regulations evolving from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, are amending the termination coverage date for all dependent children. Effective on July 1, 2015, for all birthdays thereafter, coverage will be extended to the end of the month in which a dependent child turns 26.

For instance: If a dependent child becomes 26 on August 18, 2015 their coverage would extend to August 31, 2015.

Should you have any questions regarding this subject please contact the Welfare Fund at (212) 465-8888, Option 4.

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.

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Anthem, Inc., the second largest health care insurance company in the United States, the parent company of Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield, experienced a major data breach during a cyber security attack in late January 2015.

If you have any questions regarding this matter please go to the "Top News" section of the Fund Office website, the dedicated website Anthem/Empire established (www.AnthemFacts.com) or call the toll-free number at 1-877-263-7995. In addition, an Empire representative will be available at the Union Quarterly meeting on April 22nd to address any questions on an individual basis.



Medical Management

New Process for Inpatient Precertification

Participants and their families covered under the Empire EPO no longer need to receive an inpatient precertification for services provided by an in-network provider. This new procedure is valid across the country and has been in place since the beginning of this calendar year.

Please keep in mind that if a participant or dependent uses an out-of-network provider for hospital, medical, diagnostic, rehabilitative or any other care that is not deemed Emergency Care, your claim will be denied.

If you choose to use an out-of-network provider for part of your care you remain required to pre-certify any in-network service associated with that care. For instance: you voluntarily use an out-of-network surgeon that requires a stay in a network hospital. You must pre-certify the hospital stay or be subject to the 50% (up to \$2,500) penalty for not pre-certifying.

Thinking about Retirement?



If you are thinking about retirement, we encourage you to make an appointment to schedule an interview with the Pension Department to find out about the process.

If you already know when you want to retire, be sure to contact the Pension Department at least 3 months prior to your retirement date in order to receive your pension application materials. The application must be completed at least 30 days, but no more than 180 days prior to the effective date.

Please call the Fund Office at (212) 465-888, menu option 3 for the Pension Department.

Supplemental Retirement Plan



Members may check their Supplemental Retirement Plan (SRP) account balances daily. Simply visit www.mylife.newyorklife.com or call (800) 294-3575 where you will be instructed to establish your personal log-in account. The New York Life website allows you access to the "Morningstar Retirement Manager" a resource which provides comprehensive retirement, investment advisory, and portfolio management services for your investments in the SRP. The website and 800 number also allow you the ability to rebalance your SRP investments.