

The Fund Office Report

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

Volume 5, Issue 2

July 2016

Inside this issue:

The Fund Office
is Moving to a
New Location

Improvements
to Prescription
Drug Coverage

Welfare Fund-
Disability
Pension
Health Benefits

Retirees
Disability
Pension
Benefits

Notification
of Divorce

Welfare Fund-
Disability
Status
Program

Trustee
Appointments

The Fund Office is Moving to a New Location!

New address:

**27-08 40th Avenue 2nd Floor
Long Island City, NY 11101-3725**

We look forward to welcoming you there!



The Fund Office will be closed for the move on August 11th and 12th and will reopen at our new location on Monday, August 15, 2016.

Our phone numbers will remain the same. The main Fund Office number: (212) 465-8888.

New Departmental Fax Numbers:

Administration:	(917) 281-9514	Pension Fund:	(917) 281-9517
Accounting:	(917) 281-9515	Welfare Fund:	(917) 281-9518
Remittance/Cash:	(917) 281-9516		



**EXPRESS
SCRIPTS**

Improvements to Prescription Drug Coverage

Effective July 1, 2016 the Welfare Fund has considerably improved our drug coverage with Express Scripts. The goal is to provide you and your families with better healthcare outcomes. The improvements include two specific programs; *ScreenRx* and *Advanced Utilization Management*.

Each year over 200 of our members and dependents do not use their drug benefit program effectively and, thereby, risk poor health. *ScreenRx* is a voluntary adherence screening solution that applies behavioral science, clinical specialization and actionable data to help those patients make better decisions that will improve their health. Predictive models identify patients at risk for nonadherence. Participants, who are at elevated risk for nonadherence, are contacted before it becomes a problem. Patients will be offered personal attention that will include renewal assistance, reminder devices and clinical education. Express Scripts specialist pharmacists have the expertise to intervene and help patients overcome obstacles to adherence. The ultimate goal is better healthcare!

The Fund has had utilization programs in place for over a decade. These programs which include Prior Authorization, Step Therapy and Drug Quantity Management have guided you and your dependents to safer and more appropriate drug choices. The *Advanced Utilization Management (AUM)* programs expand on these base programs by using a cutting-edge and progressive approach to managing patient drug utilization. The AUM programs will guide patients to safer, more cost-effective drug choices using clinically based criteria, designed to ensure the healthiest possible outcomes. Please contact the Fund Office at (212) 465-8888; menu option 4 if you have any questions regarding these improvements.

WELFARE FUND

Disability Pension Health Benefits

Effective April 1, 2016 health benefits will be provided to a participant for not more than two (2) years from the effective date of a disability pension from the Metal Trades Branch Local 638 Pension Fund. This benefit will be provided as long as the participant is either covered in the Welfare Fund as an active participant the day before his/her Social Security Administration Disability Award or covered in the Welfare Fund for no less than 48 months of the 60 months prior to the date of injury or illness.



Notary services are 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 are specific 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.

Remember Keep Your Pay Stubs

Please review your pay stubs against your Statement of Earnings. 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. Additionally, please note, information regarding hours will not be provided over the phone.

The Metal Trades Branch
c/o 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



PENSION FUND

Retirees Disability Pension Benefits

Retired members who receive a Disability Pension benefit will be receiving the Pension Fund's Annual Pension Audit in the mail shortly. You will be instructed to provide proof of your continued receipt of Social Security (SS) disability benefits to satisfy the audit requirement. You must submit a copy of your most recent SS Disability check or a copy of "Your New Benefit Amount" notice which you receive from the SS Administration. If your check is electronically transferred into your bank you may submit your most recent bank statement provided it states the transfer is in your name. Should you have any questions regarding this subject please contact the Fund Office at (212) 465-8888; menu option 3.

Notification of Divorce

TIMELY NOTIFICATION IS IMPERATIVE

Keeping the Fund Office up to date regarding changes in your life is important. In the event of a divorce, it is imperative the Fund Office remove any dependents from coverage whom we should no longer include on premium payments, prevent the utilization of ineligible benefits, offer COBRA coverage within 60 days from the date of divorce (required by law) and avoid delaying a prospective retirement process. **Please be aware participants are financially liable for the costs the Welfare Fund incurs due to your non-notification.**

To report a divorce to the Fund Office immediately upon its completion call the Welfare Fund at (212) 465-8888, menu option 4. You will be instructed to submit a full copy of your judgment of divorce document. If your divorce Document is not yet available from the court or municipal clerk, you will be required to complete a pre-printed affidavit.

In order to prevent any delays in your prospective retirement process the Pension Department requires the following divorce documentation to determine whether your former spouse is entitled to a portion of your benefits from the Pension Plan: Judgment of Divorce, Settlement Agreement or Stipulation of Settlement, Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law. You will be required to furnish these documents when you apply for your retirement benefits. If at that time it is determined that a former spouse is entitled to a portion of your Pension benefits and we do not have the appropriate records on file, it will delay your retirement.

You should also report events such as a change of address, a new spouse, a birth, adoption of a child, your entrance or discharge from military service, disability and changes to your beneficiaries.

WELFARE FUND

Disability Status Program



The Disability Status Program (DSP) is designed to help covered participants maintain eligibility if they are unable to work due to a medical condition. The DSP can protect you from losing coverage if your illness or injury prevents you from working. As a prerequisite to the DSP application process, you must be covered in the Welfare Fund at the time of your injury or illness. You must have a minimum of 10 Years of Credited Service in the Pension Fund at the time of injury or illness and be covered in the Welfare Fund for no less than 48 months of the 60 months prior to the date of injury or illness.

Under the rules of the Welfare Fund, you must report any injury on or off the job which will effect your ability to work to the Fund Office as soon as possible. Your completed DSP application must be received within 30 days of the injury or illness and must be accompanied by a letter from the attending physician detailing the injury or illness. Proof of disability may include copies of Disability or Workers' Compensation payments and/or an Independent Medical Examination (IME) will be conducted by the Professional Evaluation Group (PEG).

Participation in the DSP cannot exceed 12 months and includes coverage for all dependents. Upon returning to work (or being deemed physically able to return to work), a participant would remain covered for two months (when regular eligibility rules would normally reestablish welfare coverage).

Trustee Appointments of January 1, 2016

Education, Pension and Welfare Funds: Robert Bartels, Jr.