

The Fund Office Report

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

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The Educational Fund Unveils its Newly Renovated Training Facility

Training Center: 48-03 32nd Place, Long Island City, NY 11101

We are pleased to inform all of our members that the Steamfitter's Industry Training Center has been fully renovated. Classes should resume during the Fall of 2018.

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Disability Status Program



The Disability Status Program (DSP) allows you, as the participant, to maintain eligibility if you are unable to work due to a medical condition. To apply for the DSP, you must be covered under the Welfare Fund at the time of your injury or illness. You must also have a minimum of 10 Years of Credited Service in the Pension Fund at the time of injury or illness, and be covered under the Welfare Fund for no less than 48 of the 60 months prior to the date of injury or illness.

Please note that as a rule 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 your disability may include copies of Disability or Workers' Compensation payments and/or an Independent Medical Examination (IME) 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), you would remain covered for 2 months under the DSP (when regular eligibility rules would normally reestablish welfare coverage).



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.

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Notification of Divorce



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, entrance or discharge from military service, disability and changes to your beneficiaries.



Thinking About Retirement?

If you are thinking about retirement, we encourage you to schedule an interview with the Pension Department to find out about the process. If you know when you would like to retire, be sure to contact the Pension Department at least 3 months in advance so that we can send you the necessary application materials. The application must be completed at least 30 days, but no more than 180 days, prior to the effective date.

Upon applying for retirement, the Pension Fund must verify your age and legal marital status. You must be able to provide documentation for you and your spouse. Acceptable documents for date of birth and/or marriage include: birth certificates, passports, marriage certificate and/or a marriage license, baptismal certificates, naturalization or immigration papers. If you do not have any acceptable documentation, you should obtain copies of these prior to submitting your retirement application.

Please call the Fund Office at (212) 465-8888, menu option 3 for the Pension Department.

Retiree Disability Pension Benefits

The Pension Fund's Annual Pension Audit will be mailed to retired members who receive a Disability Pension benefit by early November. You will be required to provide proof of your continued receipt of Social Security (SS) disability benefits by submitting a copy of your most recent SS Disability check or a copy of "Your New Benefit Amount" notice from the SS Administration. If your check is electronically transferred into your bank account, you may submit your most recent bank statement, provided that the transfer is in your name. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Fund Office at (212) 465-8888, choose menu option 3 for the Pension Department.

Steamfitting Industry Assistance Program (SIAP) We're Here to Help!

We help members and their families dealing with alcoholism, drug abuse, misuse of prescription drugs and with emotional problems. Contact our Director of SIAP, Roger Ross, at (212) 563-0342. Please be assured all calls are kept **STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL**.