

The Fund Office Report

JANUARY 2011

STEAMFITTERS & METAL TRADES

CHANGES IN HEALTH COVERAGE BECAME EFFECTIVE ON JANUARY 1, 2011 *EMPIRE BLUECROSS ISSUED NEW ID CARDS*

With the new year came changes in the hospital, medical, prescription drug, dental and vision coverages for both steamfitters and metal trades members. There was also a change to the hearing aid benefit available to only the steamfitter group and a change to the supplemental disability benefit previously offered to only the metal trades group. A detailed notice of these changes, specific to each group, was mailed to all participants, active and retired, in mid November. In addition, copies of the notices are available on the Fund Office website (www.steamfitters.com) under the Top News section located on the home page.

Empire Blue Cross issued all covered members new ID cards in late December which included the new co-pays amounts for office visits and emergency room usage. If you received a card for a divorced spouse or ineligible dependent please contact the Fund Office promptly so that all records can be corrected. You will be held personally accountable for unauthorized use.

Should you have any questions do not hesitate to contact the Fund Office at Ext. 589.

STEAMFITTERS

HEALTHCARE REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNT..... LET'S ALL GO GREEN!!

If you have a balance in your Healthcare Reimbursement Account and would like to submit an application, instead of accumulating prescription receipts or numerous pages of explanation of benefit forms, why not log on to the appropriate Empire/Medco/MetLife websites and print-out a history of your usage once every six months.

The website addresses are as follows:

Empire (hospital and medical)..... [www.empireblue.com]
Medco (prescription drugs)..... [www.medcohealth.com]
MetLife (dental)..... [www.metlife.com/dental]

This process can save you time. It provides a concise and complete history [why risk losing receipts] of your co-payments and any out-of-pocket expenses. And, importantly, it helps keep the environment green!

“JACK, THERE’S JUST NO WAY TO SAY THANKS”

If you counted each Fund Trusteeship separately, for both Steamfitters and Metal Trades, Jack Torpey has been a professional guiding light in your benefit administration for almost 1,000 Trustee Meetings!! And for a vast majority of those meetings, Jack has been either the Chairman or Co-Chairman of each fund. Jack has lead the funds through all kinds of challenges including legislative, economic, tax and good governance. However, Jack always held the participant and their families in the forefront of his thought. It is impossible to adequately express the mutual appreciation of members, fellow Trustees and Fund Administration. So, simply: “Thank You Jack.”

STEAMFITTERS

RECENT TRUSTEE CHANGES

WELFARE FUND

Anthony Saporito replaced Alexander E. Gettler (Dec. 2010)
John Torpey resigned (Dec. 2010)

PENSION FUND & SRP PLAN

Anthony Saporito replaced Alexander E. Gettler (Dec. 2010)
John Torpey resigned (Dec. 2010)

EDUCATIONAL FUND

Anthony Saporito replaced Alexander E. Gettler (Dec. 2010)
John Torpey resigned (Dec. 2010)

SECURITY BENEFIT FUND

Anthony Saporito replaced Alexander E. Gettler (Dec. 2010)
John Torpey resigned (Dec. 2010)

VACATION PLAN

Alexander E. Gettler resigned (Dec. 2010)
John Torpey resigned (Dec. 2010)

METAL TRADES & STEAMFITTERS

METLIFE DESIGNATED LIFE INSURANCE CARRIER

As of January 1, 2011 MetLife has been chosen as the group life and accidental death and dismemberment insurance carrier. This designation pertains to both the Steamfitters' Industry and Metal Trades Branch Welfare Funds.

The life insurance benefit will remain at the \$50,000 amount which is the most permitted without an imputed tax consideration under federal law. The base benefit for accidental death will also remain at \$20,000.

A detailed list of the dismemberment and additional death benefits will be published in the April 2011 newsletter and will be placed on the Fund Office website as soon as it is available.

— IMPORTANT RE-PRINT —

STEAMFITTERS HRA: OTC MEDICINES AND DRUGS TO LOSE REIMBURSEMENT

As of January 1, 2011, the reimbursement of over-the-counter (OTC) medicines and drugs through your Healthcare Reimbursement Account will no longer be permitted unless the medicines or drugs are prescribed by an appropriate health care provider.

The new reimbursement rules go into effect for expenses incurred on or after January 1, 2011. This new regulation will have no effect on the reimbursement of co-pays from Medco for prescription drugs.

This change was mandated as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act. These two pieces of federal legislation, together, are commonly referred to as the new national health care reform law.

The HRA claim forms will be amended to take into consideration this new rule. If you have any questions please contact the Fund Office at Ext. 589.