

# The Fund Office Report

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

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### Security Benefit Fund & Vacation Plan Accounts INCOME ALLOCATION & ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGE

The 2022 income allocation and administrative charge for the Security Benefit Fund have been posted to participant's accounts. For your information, the income allocation percentage was 1.72% of the participant's average balance in 2022. This average balance is determined by taking the four quarterly closing balances in 2022, adding them up and dividing by four. This average balance is then multiplied by the percentage and the amount is credited to the participants' accounts. The administrative charge is \$302.86 per participant and every account that can sustain the charge has had this amount deducted. All members with an account balance of \$10,000 or less and deceased members with a balance greater than \$50.00 were not charged a fee. Normally the Fund does not charge accounts with a balance under \$2,500 however, the Trustees voted at their last SBF meeting to change it for this year to \$10,000 and under. This was the third year in a row that change was made.

In 2022, the Vacation Plan was able to generate enough interest to offset expenses and therefore there will be no administrative charge in 2023.



Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center

### MSK DIRECT Be Sun Smart!

Healthy skin starts by being sun smart to protect yourself and reduce sun exposure. Some of the essential steps you can take to keep your skin healthy are to keep an eye out for changing spots and moles during monthly self-exams and apply sunscreen daily. By increasing your skin IQ, you can take an active role in reducing your chance of developing various forms of skin cancer and detecting it early. Watch for more information about melanoma and the signs to look for when checking your skin: <https://www.mskcc.org/direct/dc37/be-sun-smart>

#### Take Action

**Skin self-exams should be done every month** using a mirror. Start at the top of your head or the bottom of your feet and go over your entire body, including your back and ears. The **ABCDE method** is a good guide to help you identify new or changing suspicious spots or moles.



**Asymmetry**  
One half doesn't match the other.



**Border**  
The edges are uneven and irregular.



**Color**  
The shade does not match that of your other moles.



**Diameter**  
The width is more than 6 millimeters.



**Evolution**  
There are changes in the size, shape, surface, or color.

If you are concerned about changes in your skin, contact your dermatologist. It may not be cancer, but your doctor will be able to provide individualized guidance.

Steamfitters Local 638 has a partnership with MSK Direct to provide employees, and their families dedicated access to exceptional cancer care, support, and expert resources from the world's leading cancer specialists at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK). If you or a family member are impacted by cancer and would like to discuss treatment options at MSK, call the dedicated MSK Direct phone line for Steamfitters' members at (833) 516-1116 or [mskcc.org/steamfitters638](http://mskcc.org/steamfitters638).

## Online Security Tips

The internet can be a dangerous place. Please use the following tips to help keep you and your private information safe.

- Monitor online accounts
- Select strong passwords
- Use multi-factor authentication
- Keep information up to date
- Close unused accounts
- Avoid free Wi-Fi
- Beware of phishing attempts (*don't click on links or attachments in emails where you are unaware of the sender*)
- Use antivirus software and keep apps and software current
- Know how to report theft and security incidents.



## SWAC & TWIC

Effective **May 9, 2023**, the Steamfitters Industry Labor Management Cooperation Committee will reimburse a steamfitter for your Secure Worker Access Consortium (**SWAC**) or Transportation Worker Identification Credential (**TWIC**) application fees. These fees must be paid by you and not your contractor in order to be eligible for reimbursement.

If you are eligible, you must complete the application and submit it along with your paid receipt. You can find the forms by following the link below and navigating to the Construction Trades "Forms" section on [www.steamfitters.com](http://www.steamfitters.com)

If you have any questions regarding this new benefit, please contact the Disbursements Department at 212-465-8888, option 8.

## Return to Work Pensioners

If you have a minimum of 1,000 hours earned in 2023 you are eligible for an additional year of Pension credit. An additional Pension credit for 2023 becomes payable effective February 1, 2024 at the earliest. **Please be aware, benefits are not paid automatically, you must apply.** For an application, contact the Fund Office at (212) 465-8888, menu option 3 for the Pension department. Your application must be submitted at least 30 days prior to your benefit effective date. As an example, if your effective date is February 1, 2024 a valid application must be received no later than January 1, 2024.



### ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS

## Disability Status Program

The Disability Status Program (DSP) is designed to help covered active participants maintain eligibility for up to three years maximum if you become unable to work due to a medical condition or injury. As a prerequisite to the DSP application process, you must be covered in the Welfare Fund at the time of your injury or illness, have at least ten years of service in the Pension Fund (unless you're an apprentice), earned at least one year of credit within the three years prior to your disability event, and have been covered for at least 10 of the 40 calendar quarters immediately preceding the date your DSP application is received by the Fund Office.

Under the rules of the Welfare Fund, you must report any injury on or off the job which will affect your ability to work to the Fund Office as soon as possible. Your completed DSP application must be received within thirty (30) days of the accident or illness. You will be required to undergo an independent medical examination as part of the process prior to approval. If you have any questions about the DSP please call the Welfare Department at (212) 465-8888, menu option 4.

