



# New York State Teamsters Benefit Funds

# Newsletter

2005

## *New Trustee*



Fredrick J. Carter, President and PEO of Teamsters Local 687 was recently elected as a new Trustee on the New York State Teamsters Health and Pension Funds.

Mr. Carter has served as a Trustee on many other Teamster funds and has considerable experience and knowledge of the benefit programs.

We welcome him and look forward to his participation on the Board.

## *Supervisor, Member Services*

Patti Catalano has joined the New York State Teamsters Benefit Fund Office in April as the Supervisor, Member Services.

Ms. Catalano had spent over 20 years with Blue Cross Blue Shield in customer service and other related departments. She has extensive experience in dealing with members and claim issues and can assist you with these matters.

Patti is a native of the Upstate New York area and currently resides in Clay with her husband and two sons.

She will be a great addition to the staff.



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Visit our Website at <http://www.nytfund.org>

Email: [benefits@nytfund.org](mailto:benefits@nytfund.org)

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## Health Fund News

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### ***New ID Numbers Issued by Blue Cross Blue Shield***

In an effort to protect individual privacy, Excellus has issued new identification cards to all participants using a different number rather than the Social Security numbers. Be sure to inform your physician of the new ID number.

### ***Dental Claims Over \$300 Require Pre-authorization***

Remember, whenever you are going to have dental services performed which are \$300 or more, the plan requires the dentist to receive pre-authorization from EBS, our claims administrator, so you know the services are covered under the Plan.

### ***Life Insurance Increase For Dependents***

The Board of Trustees recently increased the amount of life insurance for dependents. For those members participating in the life insurance program, your spouse is covered for a maximum of \$10,000 while each of your dependent children are covered up to a maximum of \$7,500.

### ***Meningitis Vaccines***

The Board of Trustees has approved the coverage of Meningitis Vaccines for dependent children when required for student admission to school or college. This coverage becomes effective January 1, 2006.

### ***Summary Annual Reports***

The Summary Annual Report for the New York State Teamsters Council Health & Hospital Fund and the Legal Benefit Plan are included for your information.

### ***Medicare Part D Notice For Those Over 65***

We have included the notice required by law to inform any member who is eligible for Medicare about the Prescription Drug Program available through the Federal Government Medicare Program and creditable coverage with the New York State Teamsters Council Health and Hospital Fund.

### ***Flu Shots***

The Board of Trustees has approved providing flu shots (if available) to all eligible members and their dependents at individual locations arranged through your local union. Announcements of the location, date and time will be made once the availability of the vaccine is confirmed with the providers.

### ***Legal Plan***

The discounted rate that may be charged by a participating attorney for non-covered services under the Legal Benefit Plan has been increased to \$150 per hour. This change will not affect covered services which are paid in accordance with the schedule in the Summary Plan Description.

### ***Prescription Drug Program***

#### ***Some helpful hints...***

If you are obtaining a 90-day supply of your medications, please remember that your co-payments are less if you use the mail order plan. You will pay only two (2) co-payments at mail order for a 90-day supply of your maintenance medications, as opposed to three (3) co-payments for a 90-day supply at the retail pharmacy.

Also keep in mind, if you can use generics, it will save you on the co-payments at both retail and the mail order program.

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# Pension Fund News

## *Summary Annual Report*

The Board of Trustees is pleased to enclose the most recent Summary Annual Report for the New York State Teamsters Conference Pension and Retirement Fund. The level of funding has increased and investment returns have surpassed the actuarial projections in both years.

Remember, your pension plan is in compliance with funding requirements and was not affected by some of the problems that caused the recent pension crisis in the airline industry or other employer defaults that will put a strain on the PBGC, the agency that insures pension funds. The New York State Teamsters Conference Pension and Retirement Fund is a defined benefit plan and has maintained appropriate funding for benefits since its inception in 1954.

The Trustees are committed to protecting your benefits now and in the future so that you can look forward to a secure retirement.

### **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:**

<i>NYS Teamsters Benefit Funds</i>	315-455-9790
<i>Blue Cross Blue Shield</i> Claims	1-800-414-8555
Participating Providers	1-800-810-2583
<i>Caremark (Prescriptions)</i>	1-800-378-9295
<i>EBS Benefit Solutions (Dental)</i>	1-800-803-5773
<i>Davis Vision</i>	1-800-999-5431
<i>Legal Benefit Plan</i>	1-888-697-8527
<i>Hartford Life (Disability)</i>	1-877-534-6206

## *Planning Your Retirement*

Planning for your retirement involves careful consideration of many different issues. You may be asking:

*When do I need to contact the Fund Office?*

*How do I apply for my pension benefit?*

*Will my spouse receive a benefit after my death?*

*What about my health benefits?*

The Board of Trustees and the Fund Office Staff are committed to making your transition into retirement as smooth as possible. We recommend that you contact the Fund Office at least 90 days prior to your anticipated retirement date to discuss these issues.

You can receive information pertaining to your retirement by writing to the Pension Fund at the following address:

New York State Teamsters Conference  
Pension and Retirement Fund  
PO Box 4928  
Syracuse, NY 13221-4928

We encourage you to schedule a personal appointment in the Fund Office to formally apply for retirement. Please contact us at least two weeks prior to the date you would like to visit so that the appropriate information can be prepared. Appointments can be scheduled by calling (315) 455-9790 and selecting option #2 (pension).

In addition, our website is a great source of information containing forms, directions and more. You can visit us on the web at <http://www.nytfund.org>.

**NEW YORK STATE TEAMSTERS  
BENEFIT FUNDS**

P.O. Box 4928  
Syracuse, NY 13221



**Forwarding Service Requested**

# Best Wishes for the Holidays

**NEW YORK STATE TEAMSTERS  
BENEFIT FUNDS**  
 3 Northern Concourse  
 Syracuse, NY 13212  
 Phone: (315) 455-9790  
 Fax: (315) 455-1237

~ Welcome New Groups ~

Ameripride Linen	Town of Henderson
Bakemark Ingredients	Town of Mexico
Coeymans Landing Marina	Town of Newstead
Comac Builders Supply	Town of Perth
George C. Miller Brick Co.	Town of Rose
Grandstand Sales Inc.	Town of Rutland
Lamar Central Outdoor	Town of Stafford
NES Rentals of Rochester	Town of Watertown
Pound Ridge Dairy	Town of Yorkshire
Quality Carriers	Village of Adams
Roberts Thompson	Village of Addison
Spa Steel Products Co. Inc.	Village of Allegany
Town of Cairo	Village of Avoca
Town of Castile	Village of Cayuga Hgts
Town of Cicero	Village of Lewiston
Town of Dansville	Village of Painted Post
Town of Elma	Village of Sodus Point
Town of Greenville	Weckesser Brick Co.
Town of Hartland	Yanke Waste Co. Inc.

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