



## New York State Teamsters Benefit Funds

# Newsletter

Winter 2004

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### *Announcing the New IT Manager*

The Fund Office is pleased to announce that Joe Salerno has been hired as the new IT Manager. Joe had worked for Oneida Ltd. for the past 15 years as a manager in the data processing department before joining the New York State Teamsters Benefit Funds.

He will be reviewing our computer systems to upgrade our hardware and software, as necessary, to continue to support the health and pension fund administration.

Joe lives in Oneida with his wife and two children.



### *New Prescription Drug Administrator*

**CAREMARK**<sup>®</sup> *It all starts with care*<sup>®</sup> The Board of Trustees has selected Caremark, Inc. as the new administrator of the prescription drug program beginning February 1, 2005, replacing Express Scripts.

All participants will receive a "Welcome Packet" of information in the mail prior to the effective date of the change along with new prescription drug identification cards.

The Caremark prescription drug card is accepted at more than 57,000 pharmacies nationwide including many conveniently located in your local area.

Your prescription drug coverage will remain the same for acute medications (30 days or less) filled at the retail pharmacy. However, there is a change in the Maintenance Drug Program (long-term medications) which allows you to obtain a 90-day supply at the retail pharmacy or through the mail order plan.

Beginning February 1, 2005 the co-payments for the 90-day maintenance medications at retail will be three (3) co-payments but only two (2) co-payments through the mail order plan.

If you have any questions regarding the change to Caremark, you may contact a Customer Care Representative at 1-800-378-9295 or visit the Caremark Website at <http://www.caremark.com/nyst> available to all participants.

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

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

## Health Fund News

### *Change In The Life Insurance Schedule*

The Board of Trustees has adopted a new schedule for those members who are covered for the basic life insurance benefits effective **January 1, 2005**.

Eligibility for coverage under Option #1 and #2 will be accelerated so that you reach the maximum benefit within five (5) years from your entry in the plan according to the following schedule:

<i>Eligibility Quarters</i>	<i>Option 1</i>	<i>Option 2</i>
1 to 4	\$10,000	\$5,000
5 to 8	\$20,000	\$10,000
9 to 12	\$30,000	\$15,000
13 to 16	\$40,000	\$20,000
Over 16	\$50,000	\$25,000

All participants' coverage will be adjusted on January 1, 2005 to reflect the new schedule based upon their current total quarters of eligibility. As an example, everyone who has earned over 16 quarters of eligibility will immediately have the maximum amount of coverage under that particular option.

Always remember to keep your beneficiary updated. Whenever there is a change in your status (i.e. marriage, divorce, birth or death), you should contact the Fund office to request a form to designate a new beneficiary or visit our website at <http://www.nytfund.org> to download the appropriate form.

### *Additional Life Insurance Open Enrollment Ends December 2004*

The Highmark Life Insurance Company has offered all participants the opportunity to enroll in the additional life insurance program for up to \$50,000 member/\$25,000 spouse of coverage without evidence of insurability.

The open enrollment period will expire on December 31, 2004 after which time all current participants will be required to submit evidence of good health when you apply for coverage. In the future, only newly eligible members will be given the opportunity to enroll for the \$50,000/\$25,000 coverage without medical evidence.

Highmark has provided very reasonable group rates for this coverage which you should consider in your overall financial planning.

If you need further information, contact the Fund Office.

### *Other Health Information*

#### *New Disability Carrier*

Beginning February 1, 2005, **Hartford Insurance Company** will be the provider of the non-occupational disability coverage replacing ULLICO. All participants will receive a brochure in the mail with the information necessary to file a claim with Hartford. Additional brochures will also be available at the Local Union Offices and the Fund Office.

#### *COBRA Update*

The Department of Labor has issued some additional requirements for notification of certain qualifying events. It is important to notify the Fund Office in writing within 60 days of any qualifying event such as divorce or the loss of dependent eligibility. Otherwise, you will lose your rights to COBRA coverage.

#### *Health Fund Reminder*

If your spouse has health coverage available to him/her through their employer at no cost or at a minimal cost (less than 2% of their gross wages), the spouse **must** enroll for the coverage. If your spouse does not enroll, the NYS Teamsters Fund will provide only secondary coverage for any eligible expenses. If you have any questions about this rule or others, please contact a health fund representative at the Fund.

# Pension Fund News

## Working After Retirement

You may have heard that the U. S. Supreme Court has issued a decision regarding the rules affecting participants working after retirement.

In response, the Board of Trustees has adopted the necessary plan amendments which will be applied to all retirees in accordance with the Court's ruling.

Remember you must notify the Pension Fund Office in writing that you are working after retirement. You should also discuss this matter with a Pension Fund representative when you apply for your retirement benefits if you are thinking about post retirement employment.

## 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>.

## Congratulations Retirees!



### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

<i>NYS Teamsters Benefit Funds</i>	315-455-9790
<i>Blue Cross Blue Shield Claims</i>	1-800-414-8555
<i>Participating Providers</i>	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

**NEW YORK STATE TEAMSTERS  
BENEFIT FUNDS**

P.O. Box 4928  
Syracuse, NY 13221



**Forwarding Service Requested**

**Happy New Year!**

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

**~ Welcome New Groups ~**

- |                                  |                         |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Atlas Health Care Linen Services | Town of Gates           |
| A.W. Acker                       | Town of Ohio            |
| Champion Trucking                | Town of Oxford          |
| City of Gloversville             | Town of Salina          |
| Coca Cola Enterprises            | Town of Sydney          |
| Envirocon Inc.                   | Town of Wethersfield    |
| Hanson Aggregates                | Twin Oaks Marine        |
| Instantwhip                      | USF Holland Inc.        |
| Moyer Properties                 | Village of Akron        |
| Northern Lights Leasing          | Village of Brownville   |
| SMDI                             | Village of Lyons        |
| Town of Addison                  | Village of Tannersville |
| Town of Afton                    | Western Bituminous      |
| Town of Floyd                    | Yank Waste              |

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