



New York State Teamsters Benefit Funds

Newsletter

2007

Board of Trustees Changes



The Transport Employers Association has named **Tom J. Ventura** as the new Employer Trustee on the New York State Teamsters Health and Pension Funds.

Mr. Ventura is Vice President Contract Administration at YRC Worldwide in their offices in Kansas City, Missouri. He is responsible for the economic aspects of the collective bargaining agreements covering the 40,000 union employees. Mr. Ventura has been with YRC Worldwide for 27 years in various capacities, primarily related to Accounting and Finance. He also serves as a Trustee on several other Teamsters' Funds including Central States, Central Pennsylvania, and 707 Road Carriers.

We look forward to working with him in the administration of our benefit programs.

Also, Trustee **Michael S. Scalzo, Sr.** has been selected as the new **Employer Co-Chairman**, replacing J. Dawson Cunningham who has retired.

New Fund Office Employee Supervisor, Member Services

The Fund Office is pleased to welcome Linda Derocher as the new Supervisor of Member Services for the New York State Teamsters Council Health and Hospital Fund.

Ms. Derocher has previously worked in the Taft-Hartley industry with Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield as an account representative in their labor division.

In particular, she was the representative to the New York State Teamsters Fund as well as other labor groups in the upstate New York area.

Ms. Derocher had taken some time off to spend with her family but has now returned to the work force with the New York State Teamsters.

Linda lives in Kirkville with her husband and two children and is a lifelong resident of this area.

She is anxious to work with our members and their families in the day to day administration of the Health Fund.



In This Issue:

Health News

- ◆ Gardasil
- ◆ Flu Shots
- ◆ Pre-Authorization For Surgical Procedures and Hospital Admissions
- ◆ Hospital Emergency Rooms
- ◆ Premium Assistance Extended To Local Union Health Plans

Pension News

- ◆ Supplemental Social Security Benefit
- ◆ Section 415 Incentives Made Permanent
- ◆ Visit Our Website
- ◆ Planning Your Retirement

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

Email: benefits@nytfund.org

Health Fund News

Gardasil

Many members have asked about coverage for the new vaccine, Gardasil, which is being recommended for females ages 11—26 for prevention of certain strains of cervical cancer.

The New York State Insurance Commission had mandated coverage of the vaccine for all insured contracts. However, self insured plans like the NYS Teamsters Council Health and Hospital Fund are not subject to the state regulations, but have always considered these mandates whenever a change has occurred in the past.

In reviewing the vaccine with the Fund's health care consultants and medical authorities, the Board of Trustees has decided not to provide coverage at this time, but will continue to monitor the situation for future consideration.

If you have any questions about the vaccine, you should discuss the matter with your physician.

Flu Shots

We have been advised that there will be sufficient flu vaccinations available this season so we can make arrangements for clinics later this year. We will send further details to the local unions as flu season approaches.

Pre-Authorization For Surgical Procedures and Hospital Admissions

The Health Fund **requires** all elective surgery and non-emergency hospital admissions to be pre-authorized to insure coverage of the procedure under the Plan. There are some surgical procedures that may be recommended by your doctor, which have not yet been approved for treatment in accordance with accepted medical practice. Therefore, it is always best to receive pre-approval whenever you are contemplating either **inpatient or outpatient** surgery to confirm coverage. The phone number to call for all pre-authorizations is located on your Excellus Medical Identification Card.

Hospital Emergency Rooms

It has come to our attention that some hospital emergency room doctors do not always participate with Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield even if the hospital is a participating hospital for inpatient admissions.

We have identified the following three hospital emergency rooms in which the doctors do not participate with Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield, although there may be others that we are not aware of at this time:

Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare (Utica, NY)
St. Mary's Seton Health (Troy, NY)
Columbia Memorial (Hudson Valley, NY)

If you need to use the emergency room for non-life threatening medical conditions, please try **not to** use these hospital emergency rooms to avoid any out of pocket expenses.

Premium Assistance Extended To Local Union Health Plans

The Board of Trustees has extended the Premium Assistance Program for qualified non-medicare retirees to include medical plans available through our participating local unions, in addition to those offered by Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield through the Fund.

To qualify for the premium assistance program you must have the following:

- At least 60 quarters of health fund coverage (40 for disability) and participate at the time of retirement in both the NYS Teamsters Health and Pension Funds, and
- Not be eligible for Medicare

If you are interested contact your local union for information about any available medical plans. The extension to local union medical plans will begin **July 1, 2007**.

Pension Fund News

Supplemental Social Security Benefit

We have seen many members taking advantage of the Supplemental Social Security benefit adopted by the Board of Trustees in 2004. You can earn this additional benefit after you reach your “unreduced retirement date” (30 years of service at any age or age 60 and 15 or more years of service) and you continue working at least another twelve months or more.

This benefit is in addition to your regular pension benefit and provides you with the opportunity to earn future credited service as well as extra monthly income for a specific period or a lump sum payment at retirement.

If you want further information on this benefit option, please contact the Pension Fund office for more details.

Section 415 Incentives Made Permanent

In 2001 the President signed the Economic Growth and Tax relief Reconciliation Act (“EGTRRA”). The Act included several beneficial changes to Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code that affected multi-employer pension plans such as the New York State Teamsters Conference Pension and Retirement Fund. The Act not only increased the Section 415 benefit limits for both early and normal retirements, but also provided for the elimination of the “100% of Pay Limit”.

One of the most notable characteristics of EGTRRA was that its provisions were designed to “sunset” or revert to the provisions that were in effect before EGTRRA, unless further legislation was enacted to make its changes permanent.

We are pleased to report that the recently signed Pension Protection Act of 2006 (H.R. 4) made the EGTRRA provisions permanent and will therefore not expire on January 1, 2011.

The many years of effort by the Trustees, Business Agents and participants to remove certain restrictions on pension benefits have proven successful and will benefit members now and for years to come.

Visit Our Web-Site

If you want to contact the Fund Office online for general information about your benefits, forms, pension application or other information, you can access our web site at <http://www.nytfund.org>. We have links to other websites including participating providers with Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield, Davis Vision, EBS (dental plan administrator), the IBT and some employers.

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).

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| <i>NYS Teamsters Benefit Funds</i> | 315-455-9790 |
| <i>Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield</i> | |
| <i>Claims</i> | 1-800-414-8555 |
| <i>Participating Providers</i> | 1-800-810-2583 |
| <i>Medco (Prescription Drugs)</i> | 1-800-939-2108 |
| <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

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

~ Welcome New Groups ~

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| A.J. Missert Inc. | Town of Brighton |
| Aldridge Electric | Town of Brookfield |
| Ameripride Service | Town of Champlain |
| Associated Textile Rental Svc. | Town of Chatham |
| Atlas Cold Storage | Town of Fayette |
| Bartyzel, Inc. | Town of Hartwick |
| Bradford County | Town of Hume |
| Eaglewood Associates | Town of Lansing |
| HP Hood LLC | Town of Lysander |
| Innovative Office Solutions, Inc. | Town of Madrid |
| International Chimney | Town of Pittstown |
| KB Ad Specialties, LLC | Town of Plattsburgh |
| Kraft Foods | Town of Savannah |
| Montgomery County | Town of Triangle |
| Mountainside Farms | Village of Bainbridge |
| Musolino Auto Service | Village of Cayuga Heights |
| Niagara Independent Media | Village of Coxsackie |
| Plattco Corporation | Village of Lake Placid |
| Syracuse Haulers | Village of Malone |
| TC Health Sources | Village of Mexico |
| Town of Alden | Village of Montour Falls |
| Town of Argyle | Village of Potsdam |
| Town of Arkwright | Village of West Carthage |
| Town of Barker | Village of Whitesboro |
| Town of Birdsall | |

Labor Trustees: Employer Trustees:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Gary R. Staring <i>Co-Chairman</i> | Michael S. Scalzo, Sr. <i>Co-Chairman</i> |
| John Bulgaro | Daniel W. Schmidt |
| Fredrick J. Carter | Tom J. Ventura |
| Ronald G. Lucas | Thomas K. Wotring |

