

ALASKA TEAMSTER TRUST FUNDS NEWSLETTER

February 2007

New Prescription Drug Program Changes

The Trustees of the Alaska Teamster-Employer Welfare Plan recently decided to replace your pharmacy benefits manager, Express Scripts, Inc., with HealthTrans, Inc. The process included a request for proposal, which required respondents to agree to a contract with full disclosure in pricing. Of those that responded, four were interviewed and HealthTrans, out of Denver Colorado, was selected. Your prescription drug program will be expanded to include a 90-day at retail program. More information will be coming to explain this program along with your new prescription drug cards, which will be mailed in the middle of March. This card will replace all other medical, dental and prescription ID cards. The new card will be a combination card and will contain your medical, dental and prescription identification numbers. These identification numbers will continue to be unique numbers rather than your social security number to protect you against identity theft.

The Trust staff is excited about the change to HealthTrans. "The HealthTrans website is terrific and so easy to use," says Dennie Castillo in Customer Service. "We are all so excited about the change and look forward to improved customer service and the 90-day retail program will truly appeal to the membership and their families," Castillo added.

Beech Street Network

When you receive your new medical/dental/prescription identification card in March, the logo for the Beech Street Network will be imprinted on the card too. Information on the Beech Street Network was mailed out in October 2006. When you visit a physician or facility within the Beech Street Network you must have the Beech Street logo visible on your card in order to get the discounts. Remember, your copayment is 20% and there are no usual, reasonable and customary issues when you use a Beech Street provider. Stickers with instructions to adhere to your medical ID card were mailed with the original announcement. If you need additional stickers, please let us know and we will mail them to you. For more about Beech Street, visit the Trust's website at www.959trusts.com and look for the link "**Find Network Providers**" on the left of your screen.

Pension Update

The market value of assets as of February 2, 2007 was over \$814 million, up \$58 million from the beginning of the fiscal year, July 1, 2006. The fund is up about 9% for the period July 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006. The actuaries are in the process of completing the Actuarial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006.

The fund's market value of assets on June 30, 2000, at end of the longest bull market in history, was \$794 million; today we are up over \$814 million. Following that bull market was one of worst stock market declines in history. In 2001, 2002 and 2003 when the stock market was in a rapid decline, the fund's market value of assets decreased by over \$196 million. The actuaries recognize both gains and losses by averaging over five future years. This report will reflect the fifth and final year of the 2002 loss, or approximately \$18 million and the fourth year of the 2003 loss, or \$3.4 million. In 2004, 2005 and 2006, the market value of assets increased, offsetting those losses. While we do not expect this report to give the Trustees enough additional assets to improve the accrual rate at this time, the staff will have more information after the close of the fiscal year on June 30, 2007.

The Pension fund is managed by the **Russell Investment Group**. To learn more about the folks who manage your money, go to www.russell.com.

IT IS NEVER TOO EARLY, OR TOO LATE, TO START PLANNING FOR RETIREMENT

Retirement planning experts will tell you that you should have several sources of income during retirement, in addition to social security and your union pension fund. The Trust has been hosting Financial Planning Seminars several times each year prior to the Union meetings. These seminars are intended to help you develop guidelines on how much additional you should be saving and investing based on your present age and retirement income expectations. On February 1, 2007 in Anchorage and on February 6, 2007 in Fairbanks, a certified financial planner presented information on planning for retirement. Announcements for these seminars will be posted on the website at www.959trusts.com or on your workplace bulletin board. The staff is also conducting Benefit Roundtable Discussions. These are informal gatherings where you and your spouse or guest come and ask the Trust staff any questions you have about your benefits. Please watch the website or your bulletin board at work for the next Roundtable.

E-Communications

You can now use the new Electronic Communication Service that can make your receipt of Plan communications more convenient and save the trust money at the same time. This service will enable you to receive electronic notices from the Plan, instead of paper. This voluntary program uses your email and the Plan's website to get you all the information you need. For more information regarding E-Communications, please go to our website at www.959trusts.com and look for the link "**E-Communications**" on the left of your screen.

Medical/Dental Claims and Monthly Contribution History

Electronic access to your medical and dental claim information as well as your monthly contribution history, for both health & welfare and pension is now available. This is a voluntary program. You can enroll to access this information through the Plan's website at www.959trusts.com by clicking on the link "**Access Your Account**" on the left of your screen.

On-Line Access for Retirees

If you are retired, the new secure website - <https://959trusts.mypenpay.com> - allows you the convenience of going online to make changes to your mailing address, banking information and tax withholding. You can also view up to 18 months of your pension payment history. Check it out today!

If you have questions on the content of any of the information contained in this newsletter please contact Rose Kalamarides, Administrator, at rosek@959trusts.com or call her at 565-8310 in Anchorage or 800-478-4450 outside Anchorage.