

LOCAL 197 NEWS

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December 2009

**Union Christmas Party
Friday, December 11th.**



The Local will have it's annual Christmas Party and give out the Years of Service Pins. Party starts at 7 p.m. in our meeting room. We will have hors d'oeuvres and liquid refreshment. We hope that you plan to attend

RETIREES' MEETING

**Tuesday, December 15th at CJ's
10 a.m.
For a breakfast/brunch**

UNION MEETING

Wednesday, December 23rd at 6 p.m.

At this meeting, members who work under the inside agreements, will vote on the allocation of the new increase money.

The Union Office will be closed on December 24th, 25th and January 1st.

On December 31st, the Union Office will close at noon.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S MINUTE

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope that everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving! I would also like to say Merry Christmas to those members and their families, who I won't see personally.

The Fall Trustees meeting has held in October and everything is beginning to settle down. There were some actions taken by the Trustees on the Health and Welfare Fund. The actions which impact you most directly as a participant are as follows.

The proposed \$.10 increase in the Health & Welfare has been pushed back until January 1, 2011. It might have gone completely away, but caution is being taken to insure that the increase isn't really needed.

The dollar amount for taking the wellness assessment has been increased from \$50 to \$100 but has to be completed within the first three (3) months of the calendar year or the first three (3) months after you initially become eligible for plan benefits.

A review system has been set in place to determine if a name brand prescription is more suited for a participant's needs rather than the generic brand. If the review decides that the name brand is more appropriate, then it will be treated as the generic as far as plan payment is concerned. In other words, you would not have to pay the "difference" in the cost of that particular prescription. You would still, however, be responsible for the co-pay as though it was the Generic.

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