

OCTOBER is Coming and Bringing Another AA Benefits OPEN ENROLLMENT!!!

The time is now to get educated on the upcoming open enrollment for 2011.

- How many times did you or your dependents go to the doctor, urgent care or hospital?
- What prescriptions are you purchasing?
- Do you need glasses?
- When was your last dental check up?
- Any money left in your FSA account?
- How does the new health reform affect me?
- What is the cost?

Now is the time to start thinking and researching this information. A good start is to attend the next Shop Steward meetings (Today, Sept. 13) and Membership meetings (Monday Sept. 27) where D'Ann Johnson will be presenting changes, cost, and updated information for the 2011 October AA Benefits Open Enrollment. Then, on Wednesday October 6, the HEALTH and BENEFITS FAIR will be at the Administration Building from 7:00am to 4:00pm. This will present an opportunity to ask questions directly to the insurance administrators such as AETNA, MetLife, Pacificare HMO, Community Care, and many others. You can also expect to receive important mailings from American Airlines between Sept. 17 and Oct 1, 2010 concerning Open Enrollment, providers, and dependents and adult children.

United Health Group Settlement

If you were at anytime covered by United Healthcare medical plan through American Airlines you may have received a notice and claim form concerning a class action settlement.

On January 14, 2009, United Health Group (formerly known as "United Healthcare" or "UHC"), its various affiliates and subsidiaries (collectively, "UHG"), and AA entered into a settlement agreement to resolve (subject to final Court approval) a lawsuit captioned American Medical Association, et al.v. United Healthcare Corp., et al *, that was filed in 2000 in the U.S District Court for the Southern District of New York (the "AMA lawsuit"). The lawsuit was filed as a class action by the AMA on behalf of the health plan members, health plan providers, the association, and various state medical societies and associations. The case challenges United Health Care and American Airlines reimbursements for out of network health medical services and procedures from March 1994 through the date of the final court approval of the settlement. Assuming the court does approve, under the terms of the settlement agreement, UGH will pay a total of \$350 million to the court appointed claim administrator Berdon Claims Administrator. The website address is: www.Berdonclaims.com

Are You Registered to Vote?

The last day to register to vote in the up coming November election is **OCTOBER 8!** You can pick up *Voter Registration Application Form* from the Grievance Office above the landing gear shop, the union hall or download on from the TWU514.org website link. Absentee ballot application deadline is October 27 and early voting is October 29-30 and November 1.

For out Members in Texas:

The last day to register to vote in the up coming November election is **OCTOBER 4!** Early voting starts on October 18 and ends on October 29.

For our Members in Tennessee:

The last day to register to vote in the up coming November election is **OCTOBER 4!** Early voting starts on October 13 and ends on October 28.

Questions from the Members

Q. Is it possible to negotiate the elimination of base shutdown? Jay Varvera, Hangar 1.

A. The simple answer is yes. But, taking into account that we are in mediation negotiations and we have already had a tentative agreement voted down by the membership and to my knowledge, the no vote was not driven by Base Closure being included in the TA. Also considering that base closure originally appeared on our contract because a majority of our members were in favor of it, I doubt that it would be high on the priority list to take out of our contract.

John Hewitt, Chairman of Maintenance
Transport Workers Union

Q. Why does the Informer bash other unions and not inform the membership of pertinent information regarding our local International Union? Matt Makela, Hangar 1

A. The Informer was developed pre2001 negotiations out of a demand from shop stewards and members to be informed about 2001 negotiations. It became a great tool for many issues. When rumors on the floor were causing problems within the membership it was used to let the members know the facts about the subject that was causing concern. Sam Cirri has renewed the effort to use the Informer as a tool to educate and inform the membership about negotiations or anything that can affect our members positively or adversely. When the Informer addresses the AMFA/AMP drive to take over representation it is because it is well known and documented that when these groups have been successful at winning representation it has been at the cost of union members careers at heavy maintenance bases. We would rather use our resources for more positive things for our members but they deserve to know all the facts about the risks involved.

Rick Mullings
TWU, Organizer/Communications

Want to be in the know?

Sign up for Email Alerts and the latest TWU updates.

Call the TWU Local 514 at 918-437-4300 and ask that your email be added.

Stay informed!!!