

Bill Lathrop  
President



Rick Bruer  
Secretary-Treasurer

November 22, 2011

To: Platinum and Gold Members who receive benefits from the Drug Trust Fund

Dear Member:

You will receive your annual open enrollment packet from the Drug Trust Fund within the next few weeks. It is very important that you open and read this material. This is different from years past. Even if you are not changing your benefit plan or dependents, all members will need to send back the applicable forms this year.

Like the rest of the economy, the Trust Fund has suffered financially in the last 12 months. Many of our members have been scheduled less hours or been reduced from full-time to part-time and these declining hours means less money is paid into the Trust Fund which provides your benefits. In addition to declining hours, the Fund has paid for more than the normal amount of very large claims this year. Health Care Reform, although positive, has also added costs, such as the cost of providing benefits to dependents up to age 26. The down turn in the economy could not have been anticipated when the funding stream was negotiated in 2008.

The Trustees of the Drug Trust Fund have been forced to implement benefit changes in order to assure that there will be enough money in the Fund to continue providing comprehensive medical benefits. These were difficult decisions to make. In addition, beginning in March 2012, all participants will pay weekly premiums of \$7.00 for employee only, \$11.00 for employee and children and \$15.00 for employee and spouse with or without children. This money will be deducted from your paycheck, but you **must** fill out the payroll authorization form included in the open enrollment packet. If you do not fill out this form you will lose your medical benefits.

Please review all the information and return your documents as soon as possible. Our benefit staff at the local union as well as the staff at the Drug Trust Fund can answer any questions that you have.

Sincerely,

Bill Lathrop, President  
UFCW Local 1167

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