



**SHEET METAL WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
LOCAL UNION NO. 28 FUNDS & PLANS
METROPOLITAN NEW YORK AND LONG ISLAND**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GLEN CAMISA**

December 1, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We are pleased to announce that the Board of Trustees has decided to change the Welfare Fund's Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) medical and hospital network from MagnaCare to Empire BlueCross BlueShield effective March 1st, 2012. The Trustees have decided to make this change for two important reasons. The first is that the Empire BlueCross network is the largest national network in the country, with over 650,000 providers nationwide. This will offer Local 28 members a much wider choice of doctors, hospitals and other medical providers. In addition to the nationwide coverage, Local 28 members will also have access to the largest local New York network, boasting over 60,000 providers located in the New York area. The second reason for this change is that the Trustees anticipate that our Welfare Fund will realize savings by switching to Empire BlueCross. Because of its size, Empire receives discounts from providers that are not available through other PPO networks. The Trustees make every effort to keep the costs of the medical program as low as possible so that the Fund can continue to deliver quality benefits to you and your families.

It is important to note that there are no benefit changes planned for this transition. We are simply changing the PPO network from MagnaCare to Empire BlueCross BlueShield. Over the next few months, we will be sending out additional communication materials that are extremely important to you and your family. Most importantly, in February 2012, we will be issuing new Identification cards that you and your families will need to receive health services on or after March 1st, 2012.

If you would like to browse the listing of providers participating in the Empire BlueCross BlueShield network, you can do so by going to www.anthem.com and following these easy steps:

- Go to www.anthem.com

- On the right side of the page, click on “Find a Doctor” located in the “Useful Tools” section.
- From the drop down menu, you may search for a directory of providers in your city, state or zip code.
- If you are looking for a particular provider, you also have the option to search by that provider’s name.

Although this function is updated by Empire at least twice per week, and the information is generally accurate, it is always best to ask your provider if they participate in the BlueCross BlueShield PPO plan before visiting their office or facility.

Should you have any questions concerning this transition or any of the Plan’s other benefits, please do not hesitate to contact the Fund Office. We will continue to keep you updated on the progress of this transition.

On Behalf of the Board of Trustees,



Glen Camisa

Executive Director