

# CENTRAL ILLINOIS CARPENTERS

## *Health and Welfare Trust Fund*

December 2009

Dear Eligible Participants and Covered Dependents:

Effective January 1, 2010, listed below are changes to the Plan due to "The Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008" and "Michelle's Law".

- **The Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008:** Mental Health and Substance Abuse benefits will no longer have limits on days or visits for inpatient or outpatient services. The benefits will be treated the same as any other medical benefit.
- **Michelle's Law:** Michelle's Law provides extended coverage for full-time students under certain circumstances. To cover an unmarried dependent child between ages 19-23, he/she must be a full-time student. However, if a full-time student dependent suffers from a serious illness or injury and has a medically necessary leave of absence from school which causes the child to no longer be considered full time, that child may be eligible to continue coverage as a dependent so long as the Fund Office is provided with a certification by the treating physician that verifies: 1) the child is suffering from a serious illness or injury, and 2) the leave of absence is medically necessary. In this situation, the child will be treated as a full-time student dependent for a period of up to 12 months after the first day of the leave of absence or until the date on which coverage would otherwise terminate under the Plan (such as attaining maximum age (23) for a student).

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact the Fund office at 866-732-1919. You may also visit the website at [www.cichealth.org](http://www.cichealth.org).

Sincerely,

**Board of Trustees**

