

First Quarter – 2007

Same-Sex Marriages

Effective May 1, 2007, The New York State Department of Civil Service modified its prior policy with regard to recognition of same-sex marriages. Any same-sex marriage that is legal in the jurisdiction where it was performed is recognized for the purposes of providing spousal benefits eligibility in the New York State Health Insurance Program. Please refer to PA Memorandum #07-08 issued on April 27, 2007 for details. Any questions on this policy change may directed to the Public Employer Liaison Unit.

Medicare Part D Employer Subsidy Update

To date, NYSHIP applied for and received estimated Employer Subsidies covering January through November 2006 and, most recently, the first quarter of 2007 (January – March). The Employer Subsidy for December 2006 has not yet been released pending the completion of the 2006 reconciliation by CMS; by including the December subsidy as a part of the final reconciliation the need to recover any subsidy overpayments will be minimized. The Employer Subsidy for January - March 2007 will be credited to the July 2007 bill. We will continue to distribute subsidy payments as soon as possible following receipt from CMS.

GASB 45 Agency Census Report

In addition to the information previously provided to your agency regarding GASB 45 (PA Memorandum #06-11 and PA Memorandum #06-18), NYSHIP will also provide agency census reports upon request. Since the data included in these reports will be current at the time they are provided, it is important that your agency NYBEAS file is up-to-date, including correctly identifying and coding retirees before requesting census reports. To request a copy of your agency's census information, please send an e-mail to: Melinda.Beyer@cs.state.ny.us and include your name, agency name & code number, mailing address, phone number and e-mail address.

NYSHIP Representation at Municipal Events

During the next quarter, NYSHIP's Empire Plan will be represented at the following event:

- The *2007 Annual Conference* sponsored by the NYS Conference of Mayors to be held on June 10-12, 2007, in Saratoga Springs, New York.

If you are planning to attend an event, please stop by the NYSHIP exhibit.

Save the Dates!

The 2007 PA Regional Meeting dates have been scheduled. Please mark your calendars for:

- Tuesday, October 2nd in Saratoga Springs
- Wednesday, October 3rd in Rockland County
- Thursday, October 4th in Long Island

Additional details will be distributed later this summer.

Transmission of Reports Electronically

Many agencies receive the Empire Plan Experience Report via *e-mail*. If you would like to be added to our distribution list, you may contact us at the address or *e-mail* below.

CEO & HBA Name and Address Changes

Please be sure to notify EBD of any changes in the names and/or addresses (including *e-mail* address) of your agency's CEO or HBA, so that we may keep our mailing lists up-to-date. This updated information should be sent to:

Debbie D'Orazio
Employee Benefits Division
NYS Department of Civil Service
Alfred E. Smith State Office Building
Albany, New York 12239
or e-mail: Deborah.Dorazio@cs.state.ny.us