



# TOOL TALK

A Publication of the Michigan Tooling Association

## From Rob's Roost

by: Rob Dumont,  
Managing Director



## Globalization To Mobilization

Efforts continue on the legislative front in Washington and Lansing although for practical reasons (read 'election') little contact of a meaningful nature is being had with lawmakers at either level. Certainly post election the flurry will get up to speed and I will be visiting with the survivors and newcomers in both capitals.

I was very disappointed that the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) in blatant disregard of a vote by its members has, under the guidance of former Governor John Engler, decided that HR 1498 will not be endorsed by that association. HR 1498 is wholly consistent with the World Trade Organization's regulations and would provide to U. S. manufacturers both a response to and a remedy for currency manipulation by, most notably, China as well as other Asian nations. The history of the vote is now unimportant as the multi-nationals who profit from currency manipulation and who populate the executive board of the NAM have had their way...at least thus far!

Be assured the fight is not over, in fact, I don't think the participants who represent the interests of you, our members, are even warmed up yet! We are seeking an 'audience' with Mr. Engler to afford him the opportunity to for once behave as an association executive rather than an ex-governor (and an apparently spoiled one at that). Should he decline the invitation to

meet then he will have escalated the matter to a different level and one, I am confident, that will be generally quite uncomfortable for him.

Certainly I believe that, as a member of NAM, if the membership of the NAM in its wisdom were to decide that HR 1498 ought not to be endorsed and supported, then so be it. But in circumstances where Mr. Engler himself called for a vote on the issue and the membership favored support by NAM for HR 1498 and, obviously disappointed (I was there in the room), Mr. Engler then set about to 'overrule' the result, clearly the process is at once both flawed and improper. It needs fixing and I, together with numerous other displeased NAM members, will work on that!

You can expect to soon receive a Special Edition of *Tool Talk*! The contents will detail significant changes that your Board of Directors are working on here at the MTA some of which will require your approval and all of which will enhance our potential impact on the advocacy front. I am quite excited by the changes and the opportunities they afford for better representation of your interests in the political process where numbers matter so greatly.

Stay tuned!

The election is history. Now the effort begins to meet and greet the new members and renew relationships with the survivors.

*(Note: For those of you who may be unfamiliar with HR 1498, you may read the bill in its entirety and more on our website at [www.mtaonline.com](http://www.mtaonline.com).)*

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### MTA Calendar of Events—November 2006

- 15 MTA Board of Directors meets
- 16 MTA WCF Annual Meeting at the Sterling Inn
- 23/24 MTA Offices Closed for Thanksgiving
- 28 MTA & NTMA sponsored dinner presentation "North American Tool Shops of the Future: Viable Strategies for a Shrinking Industry" 5:30 p.m. @ the Club Venetian in Madison Hts. RSVP Anne Cairns 586-677-5568 / [detroitntma@aol.com](mailto:detroitntma@aol.com)

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## Mark's Remarks

by: Mark Tyler, General Manager  
MTA Insurance Agency



### Certificate of Creditable Coverage— Due November 15th

One of the provisions of the federal Medicare Modernization Act signed into law in 2003 requires employers that provide prescription drug coverage to employees or retirees eligible for Medicare parts A or B must provide them with a *Notice of Creditable Coverage* before November 15th.

The notice must inform members whether their employer's drug coverage is "as generous as or more generous than" the standard coverage under the Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit. That means each group must determine whether the expected value of claims paid under its plan is equivalent to the value of claims that would be paid under the standard Medicare Part D benefit.

The Blues are dedicated to providing customer groups with the information they need so they can meet the deadline for sending the notices to their Medicare-eligible members. To do that, BCBS/BCN hired an actuarial firm to determine whether each of their standard drug plans meets the creditable coverage standard.

If you need a copy of the notice that you can give to your employees, just e-mail Mark Tyler, General Manager of the MTA Insurance Agency at [mark@mtaonline.com](mailto:mark@mtaonline.com) and he will e-mail back to you the forms needed to comply.

### 19 to 25 Year Old Coverage

Some members have dependents who are 19 to 25 years old who may no longer be eligible for coverage as dependents on their parents health care contracts effective January 2007. Members must act now to ensure their dependents do not go without health care coverage.

We sent a notification letter that dependents who are 19 or 25 years old will be removed from member's contracts in January 2007 unless the dependents meet the eligibility requirements for your group.

The letter advises members how to determine if a dependent is eligible to continue as a dependent on their present contract or for COBRA coverage.

For dependents who are eligible to remain on the member's

contract: complete the Enrollment/Change of Status Form and forward it to MTA.

For dependents who are not eligible to remain on the member's contract: complete the Enrollment/Change of Status Form indicating the dependent is to be removed and forward it to MTA; and, if selecting a BCBSM plan, complete and submit the application for individual coverage to be forwarded to BCBS.

If you have questions about coverage for dependents or how COBRA applies to your group, please contact Elaine at the MTA offices at (248) 488-0300, ext. 1309.

### University of Michigan Health System Primary Care Physicians Open to Accepting New BCN Membership

BCN is pleased to announce that starting January 1, 2007, over 130 primary care physicians of the University of Michigan Health System will accept BCN members. Members can select UMHS PCPs during the fall open enrollment for a January 1, 2007 effective date. The UMHS has health centers in Ann Arbor, Canton, Livonia, Brighton, Dexter, Chelsea and several other southeast communities.

Consistent with current practice, all BCN PCPs may continue to access UMHS specialty physicians through the usual referral and authorization procedures.

Members can choose their PCP by calling the BCN Customer Service number 1-800-662-6667.

**Note:** PCP changes cannot be processed online until 01/01/07.

### Blue Cross and Blue Shield Blue Care Network Rate Renewal Notice

If your rate renewal date is January 1 of each year, you should have already received your renewal notice with your new rates.

If you have NOT received this notice, please contact me immediately at (248) 489-8505 or e-mail to [mark@mtaonline.com](mailto:mark@mtaonline.com).



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## New Study on Workplace Violence

Nearly 5% of the 7.1 million private industry business establishments in the U.S. had an incident of workplace violence within the 12 months prior to completing a new survey on workplace violence prevention, according to the findings from the new survey which was conducted for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and released last week. Of these establishments, 21% reported that the incident affected the fear level of their employees and that the incident affected their employees' morale as well.

Most workplace violence studies are from the employee's or victim's viewpoint. Very little information previously existed regarding the policies, training, and other related issues from the employer's perspective. The Survey of Workplace Violence Prevention looks at the prevalence of security features, the risks facing employees, employer policies and training, and related topics associated with maintaining a safe work environment. Data is available for private industry, state government, and local government by industry (NAICS codes) and number of workers employed.

Over 70% of U.S. workplaces do not have a formal program or policy that addresses workplace violence. Consider adopting these suggestions for preventing workplace violence:

Adopt a zero tolerance policy to violence and affirm your commitment to safety by posting a written statement to that effect where employees will see it, include it in your employee handbook, and discuss it with new employees during the hiring process.

Prohibit weapons of any type at work or on company property and post signs where employees and visitors can view them.

Form a crisis management team who is trained in how to properly handle incidences that should arise.

Train your supervisors to recognize the early warning signs of potentially violent employees as outlined below:

- ❖ History of violent behavior or control difficulties (fits of rage or angry outbursts);
- ❖ Obsessive or excessive interest in weapons or paramilitary training;
- ❖ Carrying a concealed weapon or flashing a weapon to get a reaction;
- ❖ Direct or indirect verbal threats of harm/violence;

- ❖ Intimidating or harassing/bullying coworkers or supervisors;
- ❖ An obsessive involvement with the job as a sole sense of identity;
- ❖ Paranoid, perceiving a sense of injustice or persecution;
- ❖ Does not take criticism well, holds a grudge, verbalizes a hope that something will happen to an offending party;
- ❖ Comes from an unstable family, or recent family, financial or personal problems (drug/alcohol abuse, family death...);
- ❖ Has a tendency to push the limits of normal behavior (pranks, jokes...)
- ❖ Has called for help in the past without a response, or without the perception that help was offered;
- ❖ Feels helpless and desperate about conditions at work (deep cynicism of the system, depressed...);
- ❖ Has few outlets for anger and rage and believes focus of control is external; and
- ❖ Change in behavior (such as absenteeism, decreased productivity, social withdrawal, decreased personal hygiene...).

The findings of the Survey of Workplace Violence Prevention are reported in detail on the BLS website at [www.bls.gov/iif/osh\\_wpvvs.htm](http://www.bls.gov/iif/osh_wpvvs.htm). In addition, NIOSH has a free DVD about workplace violence that can be downloaded, viewed, or ordered at [www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/video/violence.html](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/video/violence.html).

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## New Director of Communications Says Hello

I'm Brian Sullivan and I'm the new Director of Communications for MTA. There are a lot of exciting things getting ready to happen that will make our Association more dynamic and effective for you and you'll be hearing about these things in the near future.

Please take a look at our new Blog Site called "Tell Aunt Elaine" which is a new, live, real-time blog site dedicated to toolers. Now you can talk with your business peers and exchange information and share common concerns.

And, please take a minute and e-mail me back at [brian@mtaonline.com](mailto:brian@mtaonline.com) so that we have your most up-to-date e-mail address so we can contact you with helpful information and updates. Thanks!

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# From the Desk of Gary Wood

MTA WCF Administrator



## Manufacturing Technology Mutual Insurance Company – We are almost there

The plans are nearing completion and many steps have already been taken for the Fund to be re-born in the entity to be known as the Manufacturing Technology Mutual Insurance Company (MTMIC)!

The Fund, you recall, has been regulated by the Workers' Compensation Agency (WCA) over the years and as such has been limited to admitting only those members who meet the state's closely defined membership qualifications. This has unfortunately limited the Fund to a smaller possible member pool as the WCA failed to recognize the changes that have taken place in your industry as necessitated by technology, international competition and regulations.

The Fund has always remained very viable as an organization, there were just too many limitations on investment opportunities (also regulated by WCA), growth, and enhanced pricing programs.

The nearly transparent metamorphosis to a mutual insurance company will overcome some of the regulatory hindrances and result in a more nimble organization that will be in a position to react more quickly to the members' needs and obtain more investment opportunities through enhanced options available to mutual insurance companies.

The real opportunity however, is in growth.

The larger an insurance company becomes, the more opportunities become available as they have the required financial backing, reinsurance coverage and agency force needed to sustain. While bigger is better from an economic standpoint, it can be unhealthy to the policyholder unless the company maintains that one-on-one relationship with the policyholders.

The ultimate design of the MTMIC is to remain true to the founding principals of providing the best coverage to the members for the most reasonable costs while serving the needs of the members by efficient claims handling and superior loss control.

You will notice I used the words "reasonable costs" when I described the MTMIC goals; the cheapest cost is not always the best option. If you have ever had a serious workers' compensation claim, you will know what I am writing about. One

poorly handled claim can be devastating to your costs both in the direct cost of premium and the hidden costs of lost productivity, employee relationships and MIOSHA fines.

We are working very hard at making all of the pieces come together on January 1, 2007. In case there is any problem with that goal, we have taken the appropriate steps to provide ongoing coverage for Fund members without any additional effort on their part. This should be a seamless transition.

I have already heard the "Scare Tactics" being used by some agents that there is a problem here or we would not be making these changes. The problems being mentioned do not exist; they are being created in the minds of our competitors to entice members to move the coverage to a competing company.

Just yesterday I was advised that a fairly recent member had left the Fund because they were told by an agent that they needed to "be careful". Today I saw their new policy: It was \$300 more per year and there was no dividend provision and, because they cancelled with no notice, we have to apply a cancellation penalty. The net result is that their new agent cost them nearly \$1000 upfront and a to-be-determined amount of dividends. I guess these people did need to be careful, they just chose the wrong people to be careful of.

### Claims

If any of you have older claims which we have been handling, you may be contacted by the staff as we are attempting to close those old claims. Effective October 1, 2006 the Fund transferred the financial liability for all claims occurring prior to January 1, 2006 to another entity. While the Fund's claim handling left little to be desired, they want us to take a new look at developing mutually agreeable settlements to these old claimants. If you have any questions, give me a call.

### MTA WCF Trustee election

The Trustees elections are taking place now. The elections are particularly important this year as the serving Trustees and the newly elected Trustees will comprise the initial Board of Directors of MTMIC.

Annually three of the nine Trustee seats are open to election and the three highest vote recipients are elected. This year there is an existing seat also available as Tim Zink, the longest serving Trustee (31 years!), will resign at the end of the year to pursue his retirement with the same vigor that he ran Metro Machine Works for many years.

The Trustees wish to extend him the best wishes as he takes a little time for himself after so many years "on the job". At times, Tim was a man of few words at the meeting, but when he spoke you better listen because he always provided meaningful input (and a few bad jokes).

The Trustee's ballot was mailed on October 23 and is due back by November 10. The results of the election will be available at the Fund's Annual Meeting.

### **Fund Annual Meeting**

The Fund's **FINAL** Annual Meeting is on November 16, 2006.

The annual meeting has always been an excellent opportunity to meet the Fund Trustees, the Fund Administrator and other members of the group. The staff of the Fund will be available to answer your questions and there will be a presentation of the annual report by the Fund Administrator.

The meeting is again scheduled to be held at the Sterling Inn on Van Dyke Avenue in Sterling Heights. This is the same location as last year but, if you need a map, call the Fund at (248) 488-1172.

This will be the last opportunity to meet as a Fund and maybe the last chance you will have for awhile to get a free lunch. The speakers have kept the presentation to less than thirty minutes and with that you should be able to get back to your business.

### **Service: Why you buy your coverage from the Fund!**

The results of the independent state required claim audit are in. Again the auditor states "...the MTA WCF is doing an outstanding job of managing MTA's claims." The staff of the claim department under the guidance of Donna Motley has again provided superior claims handling.

This result was repeated by a third party claims auditor that reviewed the claims prior to transfer of the liabilities. I was personally told; "We don't see this level of claims handling on an everyday basis".

### **The 2007 Renewal - Nothing much has changed!**

Those of you that have been in the Fund for awhile are used to the drill; we collect premium estimates and send you a renewal premium notice which spells out the total premium, the experience modification and any discounts that might apply to your business. The deposit premium is due in December.

Due to the conversion to a mutual insurance company, each of you will receive a cancellation from the Fund and a new policy from the mutual. I expect that we will receive a hundred calls on this so, please, tell the appropriate staff member what is happening.

The conversion will be an interesting and exciting time; please be patient if you do not get the immediate answer you have grown to expect. Already I am a day behind at times just getting to my phone messages. Hang in there; we will do everything possible to get your question on the list.

### **Holidays are here!**

Have a great Thanksgiving; the Fund offices will be closed on Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24 in observance of the holiday. We hope you continue to find many things to be thankful for in your daily lives.



We always welcome your input; give us a call with any comments or suggestions!

## **Do You Blog?**



What originally started as a personal, on-line journal has evolved into a widespread communication tool used for everything from food to politics. Blog sites have been credited for being a driving force behind such events as a source of information during the December 2004 Tsunami; a different perspective of the Iraq War; the 'Rathergate' scandal; the political crisis that forced U.S. Senator Majority Leader Trent Lott to step down; and, of course, let's not forget that relatively unknown blogger named Matt Drudge who wrote the first report on a now infamous former White House intern who was having sexual relations with a certain President.

In keeping with the latest trends, the Michigan Tooling Association has started their own blog site dedicated to toolers. We strongly encourage you to visit our webpage at [www.mtaonline.com](http://www.mtaonline.com) and click on the "Tell Aunt Elaine" button. Whether you want to remain anonymous and read what others are writing or you want to vent your own opinion, we are there to listen and so are your peers.

*Where can you take our blog site?*

**Join us today!**



# 2007 Annual Retirement Plan Limits Announced

Each year the IRS releases the cost-of living dollar limits as they relate to qualified retirement plans. It is important to stay up-to-date on these limits to ensure that your 401(k), profit-sharing, or other type of retirement plan is adhering to the IRS requirements.

## **Employee Pre-Tax Contribution Limit:**

The maximum amount your employees can defer pre-tax in 401(k), 403(b) and 457 employee contributions (402(g) limit):

2006 — \$15,000  
2007 — \$15,500

The maximum employee contribution to a Simple Plan (408(p)(2)(E) limit):

2006 — \$10,000  
2007 — \$10,500

## **Catch-Up Contribution Limits:**

The maximum additional contribution that employees age 50 and over may contribute after reaching the 401(k) annual contribution limit (414(v)(2)(B)(i) limit):

2006 — \$5,000  
2007 — \$5,000

The maximum additional contribution that employees age 50 and over may contribute after reaching the Simple Plan limit (401(k)(11) or 408(p) limit):

2006 — \$2,500  
2007 — \$2,500

## **Annual Compensation Limit:**

The maximum compensation that can be counted for all compliance testing and contribution allocation purposes (401(a)(17), 404(l), 408(k)(3)(C), and 408(k)(6)(D)(ii) limit):

2006 — \$220,000  
2007 — \$225,000

## **Defined Contribution 415 Limit:**

The maximum dollar amount that an employee can contribute to all qualified plans in both employee or employer contributions and forfeiture allocations (415(c)(1)(A) limit):

2006 — \$44,000  
2007 — \$45,000

## **Highly Compensated Employee Limit:**

The threshold limit for defining who is a Highly Compensated employee as defined by IRS regulations (414(q)(1)(B) limit):

2006 — \$100,000  
2007 — \$100,000

**Note:** The limit for 2007 is used to determine the HCE status in 2008. HCE status for 2007 is determined by using the 2006 compensation limit figure.

For a printable sheet of tax related limits, click on the “Admin Limits” button located at the bottom right side of our website homepage at [www.mtaonline.com](http://www.mtaonline.com).

Freedom One Financial Group is the MTA endorsed service provider for retirement plans to members. Contact Lesley Goodwin at (248) 620-8100.



## **E-Mail Information Form**

In the future, the Michigan Tooling Association would like to begin notifying our membership on matters of importance via e-mail. While we will still be sending communications out by regular mail, we would also like to take advantage of the opportunities that the electronic age has afforded to us. To do this, we need up-to-date e-mail information on each of our member companies.

Please provide MTA with a list of the names and e-mail addresses of those persons at your company who should be notified of valuable, pertinent information and upcoming events of interest. (Of course, MTA will not ‘share’ your information with others, nor will we ‘spam’ your company with frivolous e-mails.) Also, include your website address if you have one. Submit your company’s information form to MTA by fax (248-488-0500), by e-mail to [ron@mtaonline.com](mailto:ron@mtaonline.com), or simply call our office with the information (248-488-0300, ext. 1306).

# FYI

**MTA and the National Tooling & Manufacturing Association (NTMA) are holding the dinner presentation, "North American Tool Shops of the Future: Viable Strategies for a Shrinking Industry"** on Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. The speaker will be Dr. Jay Baron, President and CEO for the Center for Automotive Research (CAR) and Director of the Manufacturing, Engineering and Technology Group. He will discuss the strategies for tool shops to remain commercially viable with attention to areas of advanced engineering technology (process design), lean manufacturing techniques, specialization (critical supply chain relationships) to maximize facility utilization, innovation (low volume tool standards and tools for advanced materials) and globalization (global relationships).

Social hour starts at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner and the presentation. It will be held at the Club Venetian in Madison Heights. To RSVP, contact Anne Cairns at (586) 677-5568 or e-mail Anne at [detroitntma@aol.com](mailto:detroitntma@aol.com).

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**MTA WCF members: Don't forget that the final Annual Meeting of the MTA WCF** will be held on Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at the Sterling Inn at 15 Mile and Van Dyke in Sterling Heights. The Trustees and staff will be in attendance to answer your questions and discuss any of the topics associated with your coverage.

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**Two regular surveys are enclosed** with this issue of Tool Talk. One is the **Annual Christmas/New Year's Holiday Schedule** and the second is the **First/Second Quarter 2007 Business Trends Survey**. Please take a few moments to complete and fax them back to MTA at 248-488-0500 by Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.

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**Ballots to elect directors to the MTA Board of Directors** for the term beginning January 2007 will be mailed out to all members this month. Be sure to exercise your privilege to vote for your Board of Directors. The election results will be announced in an upcoming issue of Tool Talk.

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**Freedom One Financial Group, MTA's endorsed service provider of retirement plans, submitted an article** published on the MTA website entitled "**Spate of Class Action Lawsuits Targets 401(k) Fees and Expenses**". It addresses the important issue of recent lawsuits targeting 401(k) plan fees and expenses and how to protect yourself and your plan fiduciaries. To read this important article, go to our website at [www.mtaonline.com](http://www.mtaonline.com).

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**The IRS has just announced the standard mileage rates** for 2007. Beginning January 1, 2007, the rates are:

- 48.5 cents/mile for business miles driven;
- 20.0 cents/mile for medical or moving purposes; and
- 14.0 cents/mile for service to a charitable organization.

The rates are higher this year due to the higher prices for vehicles and fuel during the year ending October 2006.

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**The U.S. Department of Labor launched a new interactive website** to help employers understand their responsibilities and assist them in complying with federal laws. Named elaws, it provides easy to understand information in a question and answer format. The Health Benefits Advisor section provides information on the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA), Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act, Mental Health Parity Act, and Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act. There is also information on maintaining a Drug-Free Workplace, Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA), Federal Labor rules, OSHA/MSHA, Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) and much, much more. It is accessible at [www.dol.gov/elaws/](http://www.dol.gov/elaws/).

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**Michiganders have a new way of learning what their medical charges are going to be beforehand.** Spectrum Health, a Grand Rapids based health system, lists estimated charges for more than 100 inpatient and outpatient and diagnostic procedures on its website at [www.spectrum-health.org/averagecharges](http://www.spectrum-health.org/averagecharges). If you have a co-pay and you have a choice between different facilities, knowing the variation in costs can help you to make the proper decision on where to receive medical care. While physician charges are not yet included, the list is considered the most complete list of its kind in the state.

*Have a Safe and  
Happy Thanksgiving!  
From the Staff at MTA*



## In Honor of Veterans Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>



### It is the Soldier

-by Charles M Province

It is the Soldier, not the minister  
Who has given us freedom of religion.

It is the Soldier, not the reporter  
Who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the Soldier, not the poet  
Who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the Soldier, not the campus organizer  
Who has given us freedom to protest.

It is the Soldier, not the lawyer  
Who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the Soldier, not the politician  
Who has given us the right to vote.

It is the Soldier who salutes the flag,  
Who serves beneath the flag,  
And whose coffin is draped by the flag,  
Who allows the protester to burn the flag.



## MTA List of Endorsed Service Providers

- ❖ **Reliance Standard/Ameritas** (life/dental insurance)  
MTA contacts: Mark Tyler 248-489-8505  
Stella Krupansky 248-488-0300 ext. 1310
- ❖ **Blue Cross Blue Shield/BCN** (health insurance)  
MTA contacts: Mark Tyler 248-489-8505  
Elaine Burger-Laskosky 248-488-0300 ext. 1309
- ❖ **Federated Ins.** (property & casualty insurance)  
Provider contact: Joseph Busby 800-428-4143
- ❖ **Freedom One Financial Group** (401(k) programs)  
Provider contact: Lesley Goodwin 248-620-8100
- ❖ **John M. Packer & Associates** (unemployment)  
Provider contact: Nathan Wiest 800-482-2971
- ❖ **Custom Telecom** (phone/communications)  
Provider contact: Kathy Schaumburger 866-332-1200

**MTA receives a benefit from its Endorsed Providers when you, as a member, patronize them. This is one way we are able to maintain the level of dues.**

## Inflation Talk

### CPI-W Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers

Month	82-84	1967	57-59
<b>Sept 2006</b>	<b>198.4</b>	<b>591.0</b>	<b>687.3*</b>
August	199.6	594.6	691.5*
July	199.2	593.2	690.1*
June	198.6	591.7	688.0*
May	198.2	590.5	686.8*
April	197.2	587.3	683.1*
March	195.3	581.8	676.6*
Feb	194.2	578.6	672.8*

### CPI-U All Urban Consumers

Month	82-84	1967	57-59
<b>Sept 2006</b>	<b>202.9</b>	<b>607.9</b>	<b>706.9*</b>
August	203.9	610.9	710.3*
July	203.5	609.6	709.0*
June	202.9	607.8	706.9*
May	202.5	606.5	705.5*
April	201.5	603.5	702.0*
March	199.8	598.6	696.1*
Feb	198.7	595.2	692.2*

**Note: September 2006 CPI-W represents a 1.7% increase from one year ago; CPI-U a 2.1% increase.**

\* Base Year 1957-59 is no longer released. BLS has issued the following conversion factors from the 82-84 year:

CPI-W—.2886674 CPI-U—.2870447

## TOOL TALK®

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 Send/Fax to MTA—Attention: Tool Talk Editor.