



**New York State Correctional Officers  
& Police Benevolent Association, Inc.**

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**- PLEASE POST -**

TO: Chief Sector Stewards With Binding Arbitration  
FROM: Sharon Smith, Health Benefits Specialist  
DATE: June 23, 2009  
RE: Arbitration Award Lasik Vision Benefit in Regard to Retirees

Since the arbitration award was signed, I have received telephone calls regarding the new Lasik Vision Benefit. Because the benefit does not become effective until 1/1/10, members were wondering if they would be eligible for the services upon retirement.

I initially contacted the Governor's Office of Employee Relations and was told that this benefit is available to active members only. However, after pursuing this matter further, I have established that any member who retires January 1, 2010, forward would be eligible for the benefit as long as they pick up COBRA coverage for their Vision Care benefit and receive the services within the 18 month eligibility period.

Feel free to contact me with any questions you might have.

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cc: NYSCOPBA Executive Board  
NYSCOPBA Jt. Committee on Health Benefits