



**New York City DC 37 Retirees Association
General Membership Meeting Minutes
August 29, 2024, at 10AM (held virtually via Zoom)**

The moderator began the meeting at 10AM and introduced Deputy Administrator, Terri Brady who began the meeting. Terri Brady gave welcome remarks and called the meeting to order. Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence and reflection for those we have lost was led by Deputy Administrator Brady.

REMARKS from Anna Berry

Terri Brady introduced union member Anna Berry, who discussed her recent trip to the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists Annual Region 1 Conference in Syracuse, NY. The theme was “Never Back Always Forward: Hate Cannot Erase Us.” General Session panels included concerns on housing, equal pay for black women and members heard from Deputy Mayor of Syracuse Sharon Owens.

REMARKS from Meghan Shineman

Terri Brady introduced the Senior Director of Research and Development from the New York City Department for the Aging, Meghan Shineman. She spoke about the Department’s Healthy Aging Fair with Mayor Eric Adams: A Great Place to Age Well and Healthy. This event is designed so that community members can learn about the different social services offered to the retirees of the city. More information can be found [here](#). It will be held Thursday, September 26th at 9AM-1PM at the Asphalt Green at 555 East 90th Street New York, NY 10128. They are also doing a Service Needs Assessment online. For those that complete the survey, you would be entered in a drawing for a gift card. The link to the survey can be found [here](#). Anyone can reach out to her at (212) 602-4171 or via email at MShineman@aging.nyc.gov with any questions. Shineman took a few questions.

REMARKS from Norman Isaacs

Brady introduced Norman Isaacs, the Benefit Coordinator, who works at the DC 37 Health and Security Fund. First, he reminded the change of office if you need Health and Security Services is in person at 420 West 45th Street and taking new people in person that this address. Please update Health and Security with your current information: marital status, new address, update them with beneficiary information. More information can be found at https://www.dc37.net/benefits/benefits_all. Please be sure to update your Beneficiary Information if you are looking to change your Beneficiary at dc37.net and fill out the Change of Beneficiary form [here](#). The Audiology Department operates out of 115 Chambers Street. 212-791-2126 with Audiology help. Norman did a reminder about the enhancement made by the fund to the optical and dental benefits.

Optical Benefit Increase: Effective February 1, 2024, all participants will now have a \$250 optical benefit to be utilized every 24 months based on your last date of service for all optical services. There are three ways to use your Optical Benefit: request an Optical Voucher, Optical Direct Reimbursement or a combination of both. Sunglasses fall under optical benefits. More information can be found [here](#) or by calling 212-815-1234.

Enhanced Dental Benefits: Beginning February 1, 2024, dental coverage was expanded to cover 105 additional dental procedures with cost sharing and price protection as well as enhancing the coverage of five existing dental services – periapical X-rays, periodontal cleanings (up to 4 per year), occlusal guard, posterior composites and root canals – at 100% (up to the \$1,700 annual maximum) when you visit a Delta Dental dentist within the preferred Delta Dental network.

Any inquiries about DC 37 Health and Security Fund benefits should be directed to them by calling 212-815-1234. Isaacs took a few questions about these benefits.

Administratorship Update from Ann Widger

Ann Widger gave an update on the Retirees Association Administratorship. She said the dates for future meetings have been scheduled out to the year's end and are available on the website. Due to the announcements, the meetings bring in about 4,000 members monthly. We may change the time for the September membership meeting due to the Wellness Fair, but we will keep you updated.

The AFSCME International Convention was held August 10th-15th in Los Angeles. DC 37 Retiree guests attended the Retiree Council Meeting. They heard from a variety of speakers and participated in workshops, convention business and even a rally for better wages for our California sisters and brothers of California Local 3299. They heard from President Saunders and Secretary Treasurer McBride and as well as Ways and Means Committee Members in the House of Representatives Jimmy Gomez and Judy Chu. They heard from AFL-CIO President Liz Schuler and Governor Tim Walz. They rallied in support of Local 3299 and spent time deliberating resolutions, which are available on the AFSCME website.

We are all in for Harris Walz! Henry Garrido kicked off the New York delegation at the roll call vote at the DNC. Over the next few weeks, we will be providing details about how to get involved with phone banking into battleground states from your home as well as participating in a post carding program so retirees anywhere can get involved in contacting other AFSCME Retirees. Now is the time to bring this home!

Project 2025 calls for the end of public service unions altogether. Its 900 pages include drastic cuts to Medicare and Medicaid as well as anti-union and anti-retiree plans. There is no mention of Social Security in Project 2025, except to say they have so much to say they can't fit it in 900 pages of this document. They're hiding something. [Sign up to phone bank here](#) and sign up to write postcards for Harris Walz [here](#)! Postcards will be out around mid-September. Please remember to go to AFSCME.org/vote to get more information on how to get involved with the elections mentioned earlier and to check your voter registration status!

On September 25th from 6:30PM-7:30PM MELS is offering a Wills Probate and Living Trust webinar on DC 37 website. Will send out an email on this, but the link to sign up is [here](#).

Sign-ups for the Fall Education classes are now closed. There have been almost 500 registrations for those classes, compared to the Spring there were just over 200. We will have more info and repeats of the same classes in the Winter Session. More info coming out later this fall. Some classes will be on Zoom and some in person at 125 Barclay St for the Winter Session.

Anthem Blue Cross has been in negotiations with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center for the year 2025. These are negotiations, and the parties announced that negotiations have stalled. This happens with insurers and providers often, usually the parties work it out. The existing contract goes through to the end of the year, so you will have access to these services until at least March 1st, if not longer if they don't come to a conclusion. The main impact is on the Anthem Blue Cross plan for Pre-Medicare Retirees and working members, so it does not impact over 65 retirees on Medicare. We will update you with any new information as it progresses.

There are no changes to Health and Security benefit levels. We are working with Health and Security to make state-based prescription drugs even more affordable and work with your current plan. More info on this in the new year.

Office phones will be closed both Friday August 30th and Monday September 2nd for the Labor Day Holiday.

REMARKS from Rhonna Bonsu

Terri introduced Rhonna Bonsu, DC 37 liaison to the Central Labor Council for the DC 37 Retirees Association. The official New York City Labor Day Parade will be held on September 7th. If you are coming to the Grandstand you must have a ticket, so please contact Rhonna via 347-328-3182. First there is a labor service in the morning at Saint Patrick's Cathedral on 5th Ave (between 50th and 51st streets) at 8:30AM. The parade steps off from 44th Street & Fifth Avenue at 10:00AM, marching North to the Grandstand at 64th Street.

Financial Update from Terri Brady

Terri Brady, Deputy Administrator of the DC 37 Retirees Association gave the financial report.

The financial statements mentioned will be available on the Associations website. The statements are unaudited at this time. She gave a report from January 2024-July 31st, 2024 stating that the association's total revenue is \$569,524.013, which accounts for \$529,932.32 in dues income. For 2024, we spent \$497,128.13 in expenses, leaving the Association with a surplus of \$72,396.00. Statement of Financial Position as of July 31st which states the total assets are \$3,845,642.42. The Association's Liabilities are \$13,795.27 leaving the Association with equity of \$3,831,847.15.

CLOSING REMARKS

Anyone with further questions can call the Retirees Association office from 9:00AM - 5:00PM at 212-815-1781 or email retassn@dc37.net. The meeting was adjourned.