



**New York City DC 37 Retirees Association  
General Membership Meeting Minutes  
November 21, 2024, at 10AM (held virtually via Zoom)**

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

**REMARKS from Khalia Kweli**

Ann Widger introduced the Program Coordinator for the DC 37 Political Action Department, Khalia Kweli. She gave a DC 37 political action recap where she mentioned how DC 37 members made phone calls and knocked on doors in Queens and took bus trips to Pennsylvania to speak to union members about the importance of the Presidential race. She discussed the shift in trends how Harris won with a margin of 11 percentage points, whereas Biden had a 23 percentage point win in New York state in 2020. DC 37 endorsed candidate Tom Swartz in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District won for a full term. DC 37 endorsed Kirsten Gillibrand won her race to be re-elected, despite Republicans having control of the Senate. DC 37 made a recommendation to vote Yes to Ballot Proposal 1 which adds protections to state bill of rights to protect access to reproductive healthcare in New York State, which passed. We need to continue building our political muscle. There are Citywide elections next year for mayor and city council seats. Thank you all who have supported the AFSCME PEOPLE program, please donate if you can. It is the DC 37 Political Action Fund with donations so we can have an active role in the political scene, since union dues cannot go towards political activities. [Link is here.](#)

DC 37 Lobby Day is our day to go to Albany to speak to our state legislators to talk to them about our Legislative Priorities. It is scheduled for Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 2025. The bus will be leaving from DC 37 HQ and spending the day in Albany. [Register for Lobby Day here.](#)

### **REMARKS from Norman Isaacs and Eugene Zaydfudim**

Brady introduced Norman Isaacs, the Benefit Coordinator, and Eugene Zaydfudim, Associate Council, who works at the DC 37 Health and Security Fund. 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](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](#).

*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.

Eugene discussed changes to Medicare Part D plan. Beginning in 2025, there will be a \$2,000 cap placed on out-of-pocket costs for drugs not covered under the Health and Security plan. The

donut hole is completely eliminated. The Aetna Silverscript plan has not changed, you will pay the same copays you have been paying. Once you reach cap, you will not need to pay for copays. The explanation of Benefits you receive from Aetna will show the progress.

Medicare Prescription Payment Plan. Beginning in 2025, there will be an optional payment plan that folks can join. Allows you to pay monthly prescription drugs monthly if you can't pay at the time of the appointment. This is a tool that helps manage monthly expenses. You can enroll or opt in by calling Aetna at 866-241-0357.

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.

For those retirees covered by Senior Care, a \$15 copay was suspended and did not go into effect. In accordance with a court order, copays are set to begin Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2025. The copay is a set dollar amount that you pay for various health services. Retirees are still responsible for the annual part B deductible and GHI deductible. A new ID card will be mailed out to you prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> 2025.

She thanked DC 37 Retirees for all the work that DC 37 retirees did for the election. We will do what we must to fight the regressive anti-retiree policies we will see coming from Donald

Trump's administration. We need to be prepared to fight. The sum of our strengths are bigger than the result of one election. You know from experience of our union's resilience and grit. You know what to do and how to stand up and fight back.

We are working to get financial affairs in order. Audits from 2018-2024 have been completed. A copy of the final auditor's reports will be posted on the DC 37 website. All relevant paperwork to get tax status back has been submitted, and we are waiting for the IRS to respond. We will continue to share monthly financial statements.

The DC 37 Office at 125 Barclay Street re-opened at the end of October. The Retirees will have space in this new building. Monthly membership meetings are attended by 3-4,000 members each month and are simulcasted in Spanish. We plan to continue these meetings in the new year. January's meeting will be virtual, we are looking to do hybrid meetings in the future.

We are looking to connect deeper with Retiree members across the country who want to get involved and build the strongest Retirees Association we can. Anyone interested in getting more involved with the union, please go to [getinvolved.dc37retirees.org](https://getinvolved.dc37retirees.org) and fill out the membership engagement form. Will be looking to put together committees and getting folks more involved!

No membership meeting in December. Enjoy the holidays!

The financial statements mentioned will be available on the Association's website. The statements are unaudited at this time. She gave a report from January 1st, 2024-October 31<sup>st</sup> 2024, stating that the association's total revenue is \$869,562.87, which accounts for \$806,290.18 in dues income. For 2024, we spent \$700,000.00 in expenses, leaving the Association with a

surplus of \$168,849.00. Statement of Financial Position as of October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, which states the total assets are \$3.9 million. The Association's Liabilities are \$12,864.00 leaving the Association with equity of \$3,928,134.29.

### **CLOSING REMARKS**

Anyone with further questions can call the Retirees Association office from 9:00AM - 5:00PM Monday-Friday at 212-815-1781 or email [dc37retirees@afscme.org](mailto:dc37retirees@afscme.org). The meeting was adjourned.