



**New York City DC 37 Retirees Association  
General Membership Meeting Minutes  
March 27th, 2025, at 10AM (held in person at DC 37)**

Administrator Ann Widger began the meeting at 10:30AM and introduced Deputy Administrator, Terri Brady who began the meeting. Deputy Administrator Terri Brady 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. The Meeting Rules were read by Deputy Administrator Brady.

**Administratorship Update from Ann Widger**

Ann Widger gave an update on the Retirees Association Administratorship and explained why the DC 37 Retirees Association was put under Administratorship. Over the past year we were able to compile the back financial record and conduct audits for the missing 6 years, which is available on the association's website. We are also well on our way to reinstating the Association's tax-exempt status. We have also worked to modernize and standardize the associations bookkeeping and accounting practices and have begun to draft formal policies around the Associations supplemental death benefit among other things.

We have also begun the work to grow the chapter which over the past 6 to 7 years has remained relatively stagnant. More than 1,300 new DC 37 retirees have joined the ranks as dues paying members of the association. 400 DC 37 retirees have signed up for PEOPLE over the past year. And since May of last year, we have been holding monthly virtual memberships via teletown hall. Every month 3-4,000 DC 37 Retirees from not just here in NY but around the country have joined those calls to stay informed and stay involved -- including about 200 every month who join on our Spanish language line. Next month's meeting will be virtual again and after that we will decide month to month if they will be in person or virtual.

We are working diligently with DC 37 to move the Association's operations back into 125 Barclay St. We are also in the process of hiring new fulltime staff to help coordinate the work of

the association, continue to answer the phones full time and help with membership processing and bookkeeping.

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](http://getinvolved.dc37retirees.org)** and fill out the membership engagement form. Will be looking to put together committees and getting folks more involved. That means leaning on our experienced leaders to bring their wisdom to the table but also bringing in new leaders to bring in a fresh perspective to ensure the association is a place for DC 37 retirees to get organized for decades to come. Administrator Widger asked retirees to fill out the card on their table to get more involved, as well as to donate to the AFSCME PEOPLE Program.

Administrator Widger addressed recent threats to pensions in Albany. The city introduced an amendment to the state budget that attempts to delay contributions to our employee pension systems to pay for other city benefits like healthcare. Any proposal that could undermine our pensions is a non-starter. DC 37 and the Retirees Association DOES NOT support this amendment to the state budget. Not only did we oppose the initial introduction of this proposal, but our team in Albany is actively opposing it in the Senate and Assembly during the ongoing budget deliberations.

As the budget deliberations continue, if this proposal looks like it may move forward, we will be asking you to reach out to your state senator and assembly person to tell them to say no to undermining our pensions. Please be sure to provide us with your email address so we can keep you up to date.

Administrator Widger spoke about threats to retirees on a national level as well. In just two months, this administration has unleashed a barrage of attacks on unions and working people, giving billionaires like Elon Musk more power than ever before.

They want to turn public service workers into public enemy number one. Just look at what happened a few weeks ago when Musk retweeted a statement claiming that it wasn't Hitler and Stalin who murdered millions of people, but their public sector workers.

We are fighting back on other fronts as well. Recently, we won a big victory when a federal judge ruled that the federal government must re-hire thousands of illegally fired workers, including some AFSCME members in the federal sector. And you have probably seen we've filed a lawsuit to stop Musk and his lackeys from seizing our personal privacy data from the Social Security Administration. And we did that on behalf of AFSCME Retirees.

The House of Representatives recently passed a budget resolution that would require nearly a trillion dollars in cuts to Medicaid - just so billionaires can pocket even bigger tax breaks. Millions of children, seniors, and people with disabilities could lose their health care. These cuts would blow a giant crater into the budgets of every state, city, town, and community across America – putting ALL public services on the chopping block. The jobs, hard-won benefits, and financial security of AFSCME members across the nation are under attack.

Social Security isn't safe either. Elon Musk – literally the richest man on God's green earth – is running around calling Social Security a "Ponzi scheme." He wants to scam Americans out of the benefits they've earned over a lifetime of hard work.

Look at what this administration is already doing to Social Security. They're closing local Social Security offices our communities depend on. They're firing employees who process claims, conduct casework, and combat fraud. And they're ending phone services that help people access their benefits.

Administrator Widger introduced Ben Hodapp to talk more about the AFSCME Get Organized program.

### **REMARKS from Ben Hodapp**

Assistant Director of the AFSCME Retirees Department, Ben Hodapp spoke about AFSCME's Get Organized Program. Ben talked about cuts coming from the federal government including cuts to Medicaid, Social Security, and Medicare to pay for \$4.5 trillion for tax breaks. 1/3 of Medicaid money comes from the federal government and cuts will affect cities and states. AFSCME filed lawsuits to protect retirees' privacy to keep Elon Musk's DOGE out of Social Security. Go to [www.dc37retireesassociation.org](http://www.dc37retireesassociation.org) to sign our pledge to fight back. Text DC37Retirees to 267-267 to get regular updates from us. Sign up for [AFSCME's PEOPLE Program](#) so we can fight legislators in Congress to elect leaders who will stand up to Trump and Elon Musk. Stay involved in the fight, as we will be reaching out to members for stories.

### **REMARKS from Jeanette Barnes**

Administrator Widger introduced Jeanette Barnes, AFSCME Political Action/PEOPLE Assistant Director who spoke about the importance of donating to the AFSCME PEOPLE Program and electing representatives who have our interests in mind. Sign up for [AFSCME's PEOPLE Program](#) so we can fight legislators in Congress to elect leaders who will stand up to Trump and Elon Musk.

### **REMARKS from Genevieve Marcus**

Administrator Widger introduced Genevieve Marcus, Senior Member Benefits Advocate from the Research & Collective Bargaining Services department to discuss AFSCME Advantage benefits that all members of the DC 37 Retirees Association get. A few touched upon were car rentals, home insurance, flowers, as well as an AFSCME credit card. More about these benefits can be found [here](#).

### **REMARKS from Terri Brady**

The financial statements mentioned will be available on the Associations website. The statements are unaudited at this time. She gave a report from February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, stating that the association's total revenue is \$71,886.00. For 2025, we have had \$92,995.46 in expenses, leaving us with a current deficit of \$21,109.46. Statement of Financial Position for the Association as of February 28, 2025. The Associations total assets are \$4,030,102.87, liabilities are \$13,825.89 – leaving us with total equity of \$4,016,276.98.

### **CLOSING REMARKS**

The meeting was adjourned, and lunch was served.