



**New York City DC 37 Retirees Association  
General Membership Meeting Minutes  
April 24th, 2025, at 10AM (held virtually via Zoom)**

Administrator Ann Widger began the meeting at 10AM and 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.

**REMARKS from Odetty Tineo**

Political and Legislative Director for DC 37's Political Action department, Odetty Tineo, spoke to members about updates to the state budget and DC 37 endorsed candidates for the upcoming city-wide elections. Odetty mentioned that the state does not have a budget, despite the deadline being April 1<sup>st</sup>. Legislators were brought back this week to get a budget next week. Items we have been fighting for include a 7.8% COLA for Human Service sector workers. Enforcing pension smoothing—DC 37 has made it clear they were opposing any changes to the pension. Budget would allow the state to disperse adding money to the pension, but DC 37 did not want our pensions to be used for that, got confirmation that they will not be supporting getting that bill passed. Often last-minute editions to the budget, so we are watching to make sure that language does not go through once it passes.

DC 37 City endorsements: Delegate body met Tuesday night and voted on the final slate of endorsements. Democratic Primary June 24<sup>th</sup>, June 14-22 early voting in 5 boroughs. City Council, Borough President, Public Advocate, City Comptroller, Mayor, District Attorney for Brooklyn and Manhattan. Here are just some of the endorsements DC 37 made: We recommend voting for the Mayoral race. **Mayor- Ranked Endorsement**

1. Adrienne Adams, 2. Zohran Mamdani, 3. Zellnor Myrie. **City Comptroller:** Mark Levine, **Public Advocate:** Jumaane Williams.

Please see a full list of endorsements [here](#).

Because we have our list, we need to educate members on who to vote for. The VMO program goes from May 5<sup>th</sup> to Election Day. Door knocking and phone banking efforts will take place. \$22/hour for folks interested in participating. Please put your first and last name, local you retired from, and what you are interested in doing [Politicalaction@dc37.net](mailto:Politicalaction@dc37.net) to help out. Odetty took some questions.

### **REMARKS from Mariama Da Costra**

Administrator Widger introduced Mariama Da Costra, the manager of the Annuity Health and Pension Department. Please update Health and Security with your current information: marital status, new address, and 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](#). Before you get a reimbursement form, please call Health and Security to make sure that you are eligible first. That number is 212-815-1234.

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

### **Administratorship Update from Ann Widger**

Ann Widger thanked those who came to DC 37's first in-person membership meeting since before COVID.

We have also begun the work to grow the chapter which over the past 6 to 7 years has remained relatively stagnant. More than 2,000 new DC 37 retirees have joined the ranks as dues paying members of the association. 500 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. We are trying to strike a balance of in person and virtual membership meetings until the hybrid option is available at DC 37's Headquarters. Our next membership meeting will be in person on May 29<sup>th</sup> at 125 Barclay St at 10:30AM.

We are working diligently with DC 37 to move the Association's operations back into 125 Barclay St and should be back there in the summer. We are also in the process of hiring new full-time staff to help coordinate the work of the association, continue to answer the phones full-time and help with membership processing and bookkeeping.

We worked diligently to put together the missing audits for the association, which are available on our website. We are also in the process of completing the 2024 audit. The association's tax-

exempt status has been reinstated, so we are going through paperwork to finish that process, as well as filing a 990 for 2024.

The administratorship will continue for now, but not forever. 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 get 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. We are forming 3 committees for folks interested in playing a part to get the association in a place for DC 37 retirees to get organized for decades to come:

Political Action Committee, Policy and Governance Committee, and Organizing Committee. Anyone interested, please email [dc37retirees@afscme.org](mailto:dc37retirees@afscme.org) to join.

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.

Administrator Widger spoke about threats to retirees on a national level. 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.

AFSCME is fighting these threats in courts and in the court of public opinion. We are getting stories from retirees and the work they did. We are fighting to protect Social Security from Elon Musk and DOGE to make sure they don't dismantle and undermine the institution. 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. A Federal judge granted us a preliminary injunction last week. It is now on appeal to the 4<sup>th</sup> circuit. We dug in on Social Security because it's a program that touches all Americans. Every worker pays into it and your right to privacy is something we have held sacred. The administration is closing Social Security offices, reducing the workforce, requiring seniors to come in in person or go online instead of calling like they used to be able to do, purposefully creating long wait times and undermining a system that was efficient.

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.

AFSCME launched AFSCME GO to stand up against these cuts. 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.

DC 37 is holding town halls in the next 6 weeks to educate members. Save the Date!

**Brooklyn:** Thursday, May 1, Noon-2 p.m.: HRA, 505 Clermont Ave. [RSVP HERE](#)

**Manhattan:** Thursday, May 8, Noon-2 p.m.: Metroplus, 50 Water St. [RSVP HERE](#)

**Bronx:** Thursday, May 15, Noon-2 p.m.: HRA, 2500 Halsey St. [RSVP HERE](#)

**Queens:** Thursday, May 22, Noon-2 p.m.: DOE, 44-36 Vernon Blvd, Long Island City. [RSVP HERE](#)

**Harlem:** Thursday June 12, 6-8 p.m.: Harlem Hospital, 506 Lenox Ave. [RSVP HERE](#)

**Staten Island:** Tuesday, June 17, 6-8 p.m.: New Dorp High School, 465 New Dorp Ln. [RSVP 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 March 2025, stating that the association's total revenue is \$89,384. For 2025, we have had \$30,573.66 in expenses, leaving us with a current surplus of \$58,810.34. Statement of Financial Position for the Association as of March 31st, 2025. The Associations total assets are \$4,087,614.68, liabilities are \$12,027.36 – leaving us with total equity of \$4,075,587.32.

### **CLOSING REMARKS**

The meeting was adjourned,