



**New York City DC 37 Retirees Association
General Membership Meeting Minutes
February 27 2025, at 10AM (held virtually via Zoom)**

The moderator began the meeting at 10AM 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 was led by Deputy Administrator Brady.

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 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 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. Things are moving very fast. Ben took a few questions from members.

REMARKS from Norman Isaacs

Administrator Widger introduced Norman Isaacs, the Benefit Coordinator 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. 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. There are additional costs if you see a dentist out of network.

Any inquiries about DC 37 Health and Security Fund benefits should be directed to them by calling 212-815-1234.

Health and Security has Benefits Fairs from 10am-12pm on the last Monday of the month and 2-4pm on the last Wednesday of the month at 125 Barclay St. If you have any questions you can come to the Benefits Fair and get your questions answered. Isaacs took a few questions about these benefits.

Administratorship Update from Ann Widger

Ann Widger gave an update on the Retirees Association Administratorship.

There is a group of retirees promoting legislation in the city council that would amend the administrative code that would preserve healthcare choice for retirees who retire from city service. We sent out a petition [here](#) to ask members to call their City Councilperson and tell them to not sign on to Intro 1096. The legislation says that the city must offer Medicare eligible retirees at least one medigap plan with benefits equivalent to city retirees as of December 1st, 2021. DC 37 is opposing this legislation because it tries to unlawfully restrict the rights of workers and unions to negotiate health care. It violates state and local law which requires health benefits to be a mandatory subject of bargaining. It is the statutory duty of unions and employers to negotiate the benefits received in retirement. The New York Courts have affirmed this as defined by collective bargaining agreements. More importantly, this bill fails to address the underlying issue of controlling and funding healthcare costs. Removing the union's ability to negotiate healthcare and mandating equivalent care could lead to unnecessary restrictions and could put premium free healthcare benefits at risk. Call your city council member and tell them to not support this legislation - Intro #1096-2024.

Audits from 2018-2023 have been completed. Currently in the process of completing the 2024 audit. 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 once that space is completed. Monthly membership meetings are attended by 3-4,000 members each month and are simulcasted in Spanish. We plan to continue these meetings but we will be having Thursday, March 27th's monthly meeting in person only at this time. Information about how to register is coming.

There was a data error, and some current members accidentally received an organizing mailing. If you received it and know that you are already a dues paying member, please ignore. You can give the form to a friend or your spouse, as your spouse is welcome to join us too!

Cash dues: You can send a check in for 2025 now, but we are working on annual renewal invoices for 2025 have been sent out if you are not on dues deduction. If you think you should receive one and don't by the end of February, send a check in. Please sign a dues deduction form if you are able, as it is automatically renewed each year. We launched a new digital membership form that will include paying cash dues if you choose to do so online via credit card. You can do so at **dc37retireesassociation.org/join**.

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** and fill out the membership engagement form. Will be looking to put together committees and getting folks more involved.

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 January 31st, 2025, stating that the

association's total revenue is \$76,080.16 which accounts for \$69,509.00 in dues income. For 2025, we spent \$89,156.22 in expenses, leaving the Association with a surplus of \$4,618.89. Statement of Financial Position as of January 31st, 2025, which states the total assets are \$4,059,847.39 million. The Association's Liabilities are \$22,460.95 leaving the Association with equity of \$4,037,386.40.

CLOSING REMARKS

Anyone with further questions can call the Retirees Association office at 212-815-1781 or email dc37retirees@afscme.org. The meeting was adjourned.