

# New York City DC 37 Retirees Association General Membership Meeting Minutes September 27, 2024, at 2PM (held virtually via Zoom)

The moderator began the meeting at 2PM 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. Deputy Administrator Brady mentioned the passing of Bill Lucy and members in Hurricane Helene.

# **REMARKS from Donald Afflick**

Terri Brady introduced union member Donald Afflick who gave remarks on the passing of Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus of AFSCME Bill Lucy.

#### **REMARKS from Khalia Kweli**

Terri Brady introduced the Program Coordinator for the DC 37 Political Action Department, Khalia Kweli. She spoke about the importance of supporting DC 37 endorsed candidates Vice President Kamala Harris and Tim Walz in the upcoming Presidential Election and all that is at stake. DC 37 is planning two bus trips to Philadelphia to participate in door knocking efforts on Saturday, October 5th and Saturday, October 19th. Those interested can sign up <a href="here">here</a>. They are also planning a Rally for Kamala Harris in Foley Square on Wednesday, October 23rd at 5PM. Those interested can sign up <a href="here">here</a>. She also made an ask that if you are unable to attend these events to please consider donating to the AFSCME PEOPLE program to help ensure that

AFSCME continues to advocate for pro-worker and pro-retiree candidates. Those interested can sign up <a href="here">here</a>. Kweli took a few questions.

### **REMARKS from Emily Bateman**

Terri Brady introduced the Eastern Region Organizer with the AFSCME Retirees Department, Emily Bateman. She spoke of the importance of supporting AFSCME-endorsed candidates and mentioned some additional ways to get involved leading up to Election Day. The first one she mentioned was the AFSCME Nationwide Phone Bank, which takes place virtually every Wednesday from 1PM-4PM Eastern Standard Time. Those interested can sign up <a href="here">here</a>. The next volunteer opportunity she mentioned was the AFSCME Nationwide Postcard Program, which can be done from retirees' homes. The postcards come pre-addressed and pre-stamped, so the members just need to write a personal message on them. Those interested can sign up <a href="here">here</a>.

### **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 45<sup>th</sup> 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 <a href="https://www.dc37.net/benefits/benefits\_all">https://www.dc37.net/benefits/benefits\_all</a>. 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 <a href="here">here</a>. 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. The meetings bring in between three to four thousand members monthly.

The DC 37 Office at 125 Barclay Street plans on re-opening at the end of October with a series of events including an Open House. When we have details, we will get them out to you via the website and social media and will discuss them at the next membership meeting. It will not be open to general membership meetings until next year.

She urged members to take advantage of the volunteer opportunities that Khalia and Emily mentioned to reach out and get Vice President Kamala Harris elected. We will share some policies through online communications on the different policy stances of the candidates. Now is the time to bring this home!

DC 37 Italian Heritage Dinner and the CBTU Brunch are coming up. If you have interest, we might have some room. Please reach out to us at 212-815-1781 or email at dc37retirees@afscme.org with interest.

If you need to get your union card and are a dues paying member for the year 2024, call 212-815-1781 or email dc37retirees@afscme.org to get your union card if you have not already received it.

Flu and COVID shots are covered if you are on Medicare as preventative services, so please reach out to your provider to get them so you can stay safe as we move into the holiday season.

## 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 1st, 2024-August 31st, 2024, stating that the association's total revenue is \$662,319.87, which accounts for \$599,047.18 in dues income. For 2024, we spent \$568,131.05 in expenses, leaving the Association with a surplus of \$94,188.82. Statement of Financial Position as of August 31st, 2024, which states the total assets are \$3,865,338.21. The Association's Liabilities are \$11,698.24 leaving the Association with equity of \$3,853,639.97.

#### **CLOSING REMARKS**

Anyone with further questions can call the Retirees Association office from 9:00AM - 5:00PM at 212-815-1781 or email <u>dc37retirees@afscme.org</u>. The meeting was adjourned.