



**New York City DC 37 Retirees Association
General Membership Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2025 at 10AM (held virtually via Zoom)**

Administrator Ann Widger began the meeting at 10AM, gave welcome remarks and called the meeting to order. She introduced Deputy Administrator Terri Brady who led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence and reflection for those we have lost or who have fallen ill since our last meeting.

REMARKS from Khalia Kweli

Khalia Kweli, DC 37 Political Action Department, shared highlights for the NYC election calendar.

She stated that the General Election in New York is on November 4. The last day to register for the General Election or to request an application for the Absentee Ballot is October 25. The last day to send in your Absentee Ballot is November 4. If you have not voted in the last four years, please contact the Board of Elections to ensure your registration is up to date. The early voting period in New York begins October 25 through November 2. Please confirm your early voting site as that might be different from your usual polling location. She stated that DC 37 has endorsed Zohran Mamdani for Mayor of New York City. If you need any assistance, please contact the Political Action Department.

On Election Day, Political Action will be lobbying and running print and radio ads. Membership dues cannot be used to support many of the activities of the program. She expressed her gratitude for the generous support of the PEOPLE program and encouraged ongoing commitment. She stated that recent retirees must sign up again to request monthly voluntary due pension deductions to support the PEOPLE program. To sign up to make a donation please visit: <https://act.afscme.org/fundraising/contribute-to-afscme-people-and-help-protect-our-retirement> Retirees can find more information on the DC 37 Political Action page here: <https://www.dc37.net/PAC/political>.

If you would like to get more involved, she encouraged retirees to participate in the DC 37 monthly Political Action Committee meetings which take place at DC 37 Headquarters, 125 Barclay Street, on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6pm. The next meeting will be Thursday, October 9 and you can sign up online.

REMARKS from Mariama Da Costra

Mariama Da Costra, DC 37 Health & Security and Annuity, shared that our benefits have not changed and they include Health & Security Plans (health insurance, dental, optical, audiology, and Med-Team), Legal Services and Counseling, and Death Benefits.

The DC 37 Dental Plan is Delta Dental is a NY Select Plan and outside New York it is a Delta Dental PPO. The Delta Dental DC 37 Customer Service Center can be reached at 1(888) 523-DC37 (3237) or visit

<https://www1.deltadentalins.com/group-sites/dc37.html> . Eligible retirees are welcome to make an appointment for treatment at our DC 37 Manhattan Dental Center at 115 Chambers Street. To make an appointment, call 212-815-1006. She asked members to try to go to the dentist every 6 months for preventive healthcare.

She discussed the Prescription Drug Benefit for members. She encouraged them to use mail-order which offers a 90-day supply of medication and is more cost effective. For Medicare-Eligible members, she stated that the approved prescription provider is the Aetna SilverScript plan. She suggested members call 212-815-1608 for more information.

She reviewed Optical Benefits, which is \$250 once every two years, and includes an eye examination, and if needed, eyeglass frames and eyeglass lenses. She asked that members contact the office to ensure they are entitled to receive reimbursement and optical vouchers at 212-815-1234.

We have our Personal Service Unit professionally trained social work staff can help with emotional and family concerns and adjustment to retirement. You can call them to set up a counseling session at 212-815-1250.

The audiology benefits, one exam every 3 years, are provided at the DC 37 Health Center at 115 Chambers Street in Manhattan. This benefit is for members only. It provides a hearing evaluation by an audiologist and, if necessary, a hearing aid. Call 212-791-2126 to make an appointment.

She shared information about Municipal Employees Legal Services (MELS) that advise retirees on personal legal matters. She strongly encouraged retirees to have their wills drafted free of charge. For those living outside a 50-mile radius of the 5 boroughs, she suggested that you contact MELS for legal referrals in your immediate area. For more information, contact MELS at 212-815-1111.

The Death Benefit for DC 37 retirees is \$2,000. Members were encouraged to update their beneficiaries, addresses and contact information by calling Health & Security at 212-815-1234 or going to the Benefits website at https://www.dc37.net/benefits/benefits_all. She concluded by opening the floor for questions.

REMARKS from Stephanie Darrisaw

Stephanie Darrisaw, DC 37 Retirees Association, shared an update on the newly formed DC 37 Retirees Association Committees – Membership Recruitment and Engagement, Political and Legislative Action, Social and Community Engagement, and Policy and Governance.

She shared that the Membership Recruitment and Engagement Committee discussed strategies to get more spouses to join the Association, inviting non-members to meetings and events and reach out to locals to educate working members about the association. Recently, the Committee and other volunteers helped pack Welcome Letters to send to new members. They also brainstormed ideas for in person meetings in each of the boroughs.

She stated that the Social and Community Engagement Committee discussed plans for the Labor Day parade and Hispanic Heritage Month and they began planning for a Retirees Association Holiday Celebration in December. She shared that the Political and Legislative Action Committee discussed the upcoming General Elections in New York. The Committee also discussed the upcoming DC 37 Legislative Conference in October.

She stated that the Policy and Governance Committee began discussion around the Retirees Association Supplemental Death Benefit for members and the policy for Locals paying first year's dues for newly retired members who want to join the Association within 12 months of their retirement.

She concluded by stating that there were still spots available on the Committees due to some last-minute drop-offs and the need to ensure diversity and inclusion. She suggested that those who wished to get involved in the Committees or if anyone had suggestions, that they reach out to her via email at sdarrisaw@dc37.net.

Administrators Update from Ann Widger

Ann Widger shared that the Health & Security Trustees approved the renewal of the Aetna prescription drug plan for the calendar year 2026 and there will be no changes for next year.

She stated that Retirees from the Culturals and the New York Public Libraries should expect to receive their Part B Reimbursements in the mail soon and should reach out to Health & Security with any questions at 212-815-1234.

She also reminded members that the DC 37 Retirees Association Supplemental Death Benefit is \$500 for members who have been with the organization for seven years or more. She strongly encouraged members to ensure that their beneficiaries were noted with DC 37 Death Benefits department as the Retirees Association relies on that information for their disbursements as well. It is essential that Retirees keep their information updated. For more information contact Health & Security at 212-815-1234.

She continued by thanking Retirees for turning out to support the March on Wall Street, NYC Labor Day Parade and the African American Day Parade. She encouraged retirees to join District Council 37 and the New York Yankees for a fun-filled day at Yankee Stadium this weekend!

She highlighted the important dates for the upcoming General Election in New York:

- October 25: Last day to register for the General Election
- October 25: Last day to request an application for the Absentee Ballot
- October 25 - November 2: Early voting period in New York begins
- November 4: General Election Day in New York
- November 4: Last day to send in your Absentee Ballot

She also shared that the retiree education program offered by the DC 37 Education Department continues to be very popular – almost every class has a waitlist and the new in person classes and new offerings like drawing and dance have attracted a huge interest. There are currently more than 340 Retirees registered for education classes and more than 200 on waitlists. If you couldn't get into this season's session, be sure to sign up quickly for the next session – more info will be sent out toward the end of the year.

She updated retirees on the government shut down standoff. She shared that we were launching a day of action to flood Congress with calls opposing cuts to health care. She asked members to please call 1-202-946-8660 and spread the word so Congress hears AFSCME loud and clear.

She shared that in less than two weeks the National Retiree Program will be holding its annual Retiree Council meeting and biennial lobby day and nine DC 37 Retirees Association members will join other retirees from across the country to hear from speakers from the national union, share knowledge and lobby their members of Congress on Capitol Hill.

She reported that our 2nd membership solicitation mailing garnered more than 600 new members so far and that more than 2500 new members have joined since earlier this year. She asked members to encourage other retirees to join. They should call the association offices or go to dc37retirees.org/join. She reminded everyone that their spouses can join the association online via credit card now at dc37retirees.org/spouse or they can call the office at 212-815-1781 for more information.

She concluded with the schedule for upcoming:

- **October Membership Meeting**, Thursday, October 23, 10:00 AM (virtual)
- **November Membership Meeting (NO FULL MEETING).**
- **Town Hall Meetings, November TBD**, (in-person). We will be reaching out to members who may be interested in helping to coordinate meetings in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Queens, Staten Island and Manhattan.
- **Holiday Celebration, December TBD**, (in-person). The Social & Community Engagement committee will help organize. Stephanie Darrisaw to follow up with more information.
- **December Membership Meeting (NO FULL MEETING).**
- **Florida Meetings, February TBD**, (in-person). Members in Florida look out for an email about getting more involved and helping to organize meetings in Florida and/or reach out to Stephanie Darrisaw for more information.

This schedule should be published in the next issue of PEP which should be out soon.

Financial Report from Terri Brady, Deputy Administrator

Terri stated that our current membership has increased to 26,175. She shared that spouses are encouraged to join as well.

She stated that resources continue to be managed effectively with a strong focus on fiscal responsibility. She stated that the financial reports are posted on the Association website at dc37retireesassociation.org. If you have any questions, please contact us at 212-815-1781 or via email at dc37retirees@afscme.org.

CLOSING REMARKS

The meeting was adjourned.