



**New York City DC 37 Retirees Association
Special Membership Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2026, at 10:00AM
Virtual (Via Phone)**

Administrator Ann Widger called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. She thanked the members of the Association's Policy & Governance committee: Juan Fernandez, Ed Hysyk, Roberta Jackson, Julie Leibowitz, Bob Pfefferman, Aida Ross and Stephanie Thomas for their work in developing the proposed constitutional amendments that were presented for membership consideration.

She noted that the meeting was being conducted by telephone to maximize member participation and asked that everyone stay on the line as we read the proposed amendments and rules for this meeting. If you wished to follow along, visit www.dc37retirees.org/amend to find the documents.

She turned the meeting over to Ed Hysyk and Juan Fernandez, who presented and reviewed Proposed Rules 1 through 15.

Motion to accept the proposed rules made by Juan Fernandez and was properly seconded. There was no discussion and the motion was approved with 170 in favor and 4 opposed. A quorum was confirmed before voting by the moderator with 210 members on the call.

Ms. Widger turned the meeting over to Julie Leibowitz, who discussed the Policy and Governance Committee's process to review the Association constitution. She stated the proposed constitution had been pre-approved pending a vote by the membership. A copy of the pre-approval letter is available at www.dc37retirees.org/amend.

A motion to accept the proposed constitution was made by Julie Leibowitz and was properly seconded.

As provided in Rule 13, we reviewed the constitution article-by-article to consider any additional discussion. We started with Article IV as no amendments were proposed by the Policy and Governance committee to Articles I, II, and III.

Discussion on Article IV – Dues and Assessments:

Point of clarification was raised by Michael Kluger. There was no additional discussion on Article IV – the article was closed.

Discussion on Article V – Meetings of the Membership:

A motion was made to amend Article V; Section 2 by Michael Kluger to say: *“In order to be inclusive of members living in all US time zones, membership meetings shall begin no earlier than 1:00 PM Eastern time.”*

The motion was properly seconded. Additional discussion from was heard from Julie Leibowitz, who spoke in opposition to proposed amendment; Jon Forrester spoke; Edward Hysyk spoke in opposition; Martine Ortiz called the question. The Policy and Governance committee recommended a NO vote on the amendment.

A quorum was confirmed before voting by the moderator with 225 members on the call. The amendment was approved with a vote of 89 in favor and 81 opposed. There was no additional discussion on Article V – the article was closed.

Discussion on Article VI– Discipline:

There was no discussion on Article VI – the article was closed.

Discussion on Article VI – Nominations and Elections:

A motion to amend Article VI Section 4F was made by Michael Kluger to: *“Remove the phrase: ‘or retiree organization’” from that section.*

The motion was properly seconded. Additional discussion was heard from Edward Hysyk who spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment; Steven Beck spoke in support; Julie Leibowitz spoke in opposition; Martine Ortiz called the question. The Policy and Governance committee recommended a NO vote on the amendment.

A quorum was confirmed before voting by the moderator with 229 members on the call. The amendment was approved with a vote of 92 in favor and 74 opposed. There was no additional discussion on Article VI – the article was closed.

Discussion on Article VII – Duties of Executive Board and Officers:

A motion to amend Article VII Section 2 was made by Michael Kluger to say: *“Change the last sentence from ‘A summary of executive board meetings shall be made available to members via the Association website.’ to ‘The minutes and financial reports of executive board meetings shall be made available to members via the Association website.’”*

The motion was properly seconded. Additional discussion was heard from Roberta Jackson, who spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment. The Policy and Governance committee recommended a NO vote on the amendment.

A quorum was confirmed before voting by the moderator with 229 members on the call. The amendment was approved with a vote of 94 in favor and 63 opposed. There was no additional discussion on Article VII – the article was closed.

Discussion on Article VIII – Designation of Representatives to AFSCME Conventions and Council:
There was no discussion on Article VIII – the article was closed.

Discussion on Article IX – Finances:

A motion to amend Article IX Section 3 was made by Michael Klugerto say: “*Append to the end of the first paragraph: ‘The initial annual budget document and all subsequent budget modifications shall be made available to members via the Association website.’*”

The motion was properly seconded. Additional discussion was heard from Bruce Heigh, who spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment; Juan Fernandez spoke in opposition; Bob Pfefferman spoke in opposition; Nellie Johnson raised point of clarification; Martine Ortiz called the question. The Policy and Governance committee recommended a NO vote on the amendment

A quorum was confirmed before voting by the moderator with 228 members on the call. The amendment was rejected with a vote of 81 in favor and 84 opposed.

Additional discussion was heard with a friendly amendment to Article IX Section 1 by Tetina Bunche to say: “Change to *Secretary Treasurers.*” There was no additional discussion on Article IX – the article was closed.

Discussion on Article X – Subchapters:

Points of clarification were raised by Jacob Azeke, Nellie Johnson; Bruce Heigh. There was no additional discussion on Article X – the article was closed.

Discussion on Article X – Amendments and Miscellaneous Provisions:

A motion was made to amend Article X Section 1 by Michael Kluger to *remove the phrase: "or propose a substitute version."*

The motion was properly seconded. Additional discussion: Bruce Heigh made a point of clarification; Juan Fernandez spoke in opposition; Bob Pfefferman spoke in opposition; Bruce Heigh called the question. The Policy and Governance committee recommended a NO vote on the amendment.

A quorum confirmed before voting by the moderator with 217 members on the call. The amendment was rejected with a vote of 56 in favor and 95 opposed.

Additional discussion: A motion to amend Article X Section 1 was made by Michael Kluger to add “*There will be a process to allow members to vote who are unable to attend the meeting at which the voting takes place due to schedule conflicts.*” after “*Voting shall take place no earlier than twenty-one (21) calendar days [...] in any publication mailed to the members.*” and delete “*present and*” from “*A majority of those present and voting is required for adoption.*”

The motion was properly seconded. Additional discussion was heard from Bob Pfefferman, who spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment; Edward Hysyk spoke in opposition; Juan

Fernandez spoke in opposition; Martine Ortiz called the question. The Policy and Governance committee recommended a NO vote on the amendment.

A quorum was confirmed before voting by the moderator with 208 members on the call. The amendment was rejected with a vote of 40 in favor and 112 opposed.

Additional discussion: A motion to amend Article X Section 5 was made by Michael Kluger to add a new subsection which reads: *"Recordings shall be made of all membership meetings and Executive Board meetings, both regular and special. These recordings shall be made available to members via a password protected section of the association website in order to limit access to these recordings only to members."*

The motion was properly seconded. Additional discussion was heard from Stephanie Thomas, who spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment; Jon Forrester spoke in opposition; Bob Pfefferman spoke in opposition; Juan Fernandez spoke in opposition; Bruce Heigh spoke in opposition and called the question. The Policy and Governance committee recommended a NO vote on the amendment.

A quorum was confirmed before voting by the moderator with 198 members on the call. The amendment was rejected with a vote of 28 in favor and 121 opposed. There was no additional discussion on Article X – the article was closed.

The amendments proposed by the Policy and Governance Committee were discussed article-by-article according to the meeting rules. The original motion to accept the constitution as amended by the Policy and Governance Committee was properly moved and seconded. The Policy and Governance committee recommended a YES vote on the proposed amended constitution.

A quorum was confirmed before voting by the moderator with 191 members on the call. The motion to approve the constitution as amended by the Policy and Governance comments was approved with a vote of 142 in favor and 11 opposed.

The final constitution signed by President Saunders will be posted on the Association website as soon as it is available. If you have any questions, you can email or call the Association office at 212-815-1781 or retirees@dc37.net