

retiree wrapup



Edward W. Hysyk
President

Labor Day 2020

HAPPY LABOR DAY! We should appreciate the struggles and sacrifices union members have made in the past and are still making on behalf of all workers in America. We stand tall on the shoulders of countless giants and thank them for the living standards we enjoy today.

The response to my statement in the last issue of the PEP about obtaining forms for Medicare Part B and IRMAA reimbursement has been quite robust. If you requested a form(s), we have mailed them to you. You can also obtain the forms online at the NYC Office of Labor Relations' website at www.nyc.gov/olr under "RETIREE HEALTH BENEFITS."

Please do not send the form(s) to our office, but only to the address that appears on the form. Furthermore, please do not send the forms by certified and/or registered mail. Make sure you keep a duplicate copy of the form that you completed and mailed.

Members should be aware of the slowdown in mail service. When we send you mail, it may take several business days before you receive it. The same is true when sending mail to the Association, so please be patient.

By now all DC 37 Retirees should have received a Delta Dental Identification Card. If you have not, you should call Delta's customer service at 1.888.523.3237 or visit their website at www.deltadentalins.com/DC37. Once you receive the ID card, please go online and register.

Some members probably did not receive a stimulus check. If you think you are entitled to one but did not receive one, you can contact the IRS Economic Impact Line at 800.919.9835. Please remember that the stimulus program was means-tested and some members did not receive either a partial amount or the full amount because of their income.

Some checks were not sent out as checks but as a bank debit card. (I hope that you did not accidentally throw it out in the garbage.) Also, owing the IRS money for back taxes, student debt, or child support payments may have also prevented you from receiving a check.

I want to thank Lesly Williams, Vice President, Publicity/Public Relations, and Molly Charboneau, Retirees Association member and former employee of the DC 37 Communications Department, for their hard work in establishing our new website.

Starting with our September pension checks, 1% COLA increase will be added on the first \$18,000 of pension for those members who have been retired for at least five years. This is an increase of \$15.00 per month for those with an annual pension of \$18,000 or more. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that we will receive a COLA increase on Social Security pensions for 2021. Unlike city pensions, Social Security does not have a minimum COLA floor, and there have been past years where Social Security recipients have received no COLA increase.

Members have asked me when we are going to resume our monthly membership meetings here in NYC. At this time, we do not know. Large meetings are currently banned in NYC under the City's COVID-19 rules and regulations. No meetings will take place for the remainder of this year. Some members have asked us to have a virtual meeting (ZOOM), but given the number of members (27,00+), this is simply out of the question.

COVID-19 was also responsible for the DC37 Education Department having to cancel in-house education courses for retirees. We are exploring the possibility of doing online courses for retirees in 2021.

It is so important that all of our members register to vote and take all steps to insure that they vote in this upcoming election. This will be the most important election in our lifetime. **SO PLEASE REGISTER AND PLEASE VOTE BECAUSE EVERY VOTE COUNTS.**

Despite COVID-19, the Retirees Office has been open and functioning with a limited number of staff from the start of this crisis. They have been engaged with members remotely from their homes and from our office at 75 Maiden Lane. I want to especially commend our Secretary/Treasurer John Hardisty and staff member Polar Oquendo for coming into the office to service the needs of our members. I think we all should thank them and our entire staff for their dedication TO YOU!

May all of us keep those members, relatives, and friends who passed away this year due to COVID-19 and other illnesses in our prayers, and may we remember and pray for Alma Osborne, Stu Leibowitz, and Rochelle Mangual.

Visit the
New DC 37
Retirees Website

The DC 37
Retirees Association
has a new website to keep
members informed.

For news, benefit updates, and
information on how to reach us,
please visit:
www.dc37retireesassociation.org