



**New York City DC 37 Retirees Association
General Membership Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2024 at 10AM (held virtually via Zoom)**

The moderator begins the meeting at 10AM and introduced Administrator, Ann Widger to begin the meeting. Widger gave welcome remarks and calls the meeting to order. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Administrator Widger. Moment of Silence and Reflection for those we have lost, including former Executive Board Member Caryle-Linda Rosenblatt was led by Administrator Widger.

REMARKS from ODETTY TINEO

Ann Widger introduced Odetty Tineo, DC 37 Political and Legislative Director, who discussed lobbying victories on the Tier 6 Pension Plan, Lobby Day in Albany, donating to the PEOPLE program and political phone banking and door knocking volunteer activities for retirees. For more information about volunteer activities email politicalaction@dc37.net. Ms. Tineo encouraged retirees to participate in DC 37's political action committee on the 2nd Thursday of every month from 6:00PM – 7:30PM on Zoom. You can sign up here: <https://www.mobilize.us/afscmedc37/event/381480/>

Regarding questions about the endorsement process, Ms. Tineo said there is a Screening Committee consisting of 15 members, including a retiree who screens candidates interested in being endorsed by DC 37. The screening committee members are appointed by the executive board.

REMARKS from STANLEY REID

Ann Widger introduced Stanley Reid, who works at the DC 37 Health and Security Fund. Stanley discussed the enhancement made by the fund to the optical and dental benefits.

Optical Benefit Increase: Effective March 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. 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 100+ 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, 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.

DC 37 Dental Center: The DC 37 Dental Center, located at 115 Chambers Street, is now a state-of-the-art facility, you can schedule an appointment by calling (212) 815-1006. Retirees asked follow-up questions regarding the benefits. More information can be found at https://www.dc37.net/benefits/benefits_all. Any inquiries about DC 37 Health and Security Fund benefits should be directed to them by calling 212-815 -1234.

REMARKS from ANN WIDGER

Ann Widger gave an update on the Retirees Association Administratorship. She stated that on February 22nd of this year, AFSCME President Lee Saunders put the DC 37 Retirees Association under Administratorship due to serious violations of the AFSCME Financial Standard Code, International Constitution and the Chapter's Constitution including failure to conduct annual audits and failure to file annual tax returns which resulted in the IRS revoking the Association's nonprofit tax-exempt status. This put the Associations funds and the members' dues money in jeopardy. On March 14 there was a hearing held by the AFSCME Judicial Panel on whether the Administratorship was warranted. On April 5 they issued a decision upholding the Administratorship. This Judicial panel decision is posted on the Associations website: www.dc37retireesassociation.org.

Administrator Widger introduced herself and Terri Brady, Deputy Administrator, and their positions in AFSCME as Retiree Director and Retiree Field Coordinator. She stated that they serve as the Administrator and Deputy Administrator as part of their jobs with AFSCME International. They are not paid any additional salary from the Retirees Association.

She said they are working with a certified public accounting firm to conduct audits for the years the association has missed which includes 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 and are in the process of filing necessary paperwork to reinstate the Association's tax-exempt status and modernize the Association's financial systems. The Association's phones are now staffed full time from 9:00AM – 5:00PM Monday-Friday.

Widger noted that the DC 37 Education Department is offering spring education classes held virtually. At the time of the meeting, 183 retirees signed up for classes across the offerings. Look for more info about fall offerings and a survey about what kinds of classes you want soon. Education offerings will continue to be held virtually for the time being and will start in person starting in 2025.

Widger said that future membership meeting dates can be found on our website. Right now, they are held virtually with both Zoom and phone options.

Widger also noted recent communications to retirees regarding calling their legislator to ask them to fix Tier 6 as well as information about Medicare Part B and the IRMAA Reimbursement. Information can also be found on our website and OLR's website: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/olr/health/retiree/health-retiree-medb-irmaa.page>. Inquiries about Part B reimbursement should be directed to OLR at [\(212\) 513-0470](tel:2125130470).

Widger noted that they are trying to collect member email addresses and cell phone numbers to communicate more effectively. They have also started a DC 37 Facebook page which you can like here: <https://www.facebook.com/dc37retirees>

Widger mentioned that people often ask if their benefits will be affected due to the Administratorship. Your benefits are not impacted by the Administratorship, including the \$500 death benefit. The Association's death benefit will continue.

Widger also mentioned that in terms of any potential changes to NYC healthcare, the matter is in the courts' hands, and we will be monitoring the courts decisions on the issue. We will keep members up to date when the courts decide about any changes to retiree health care.

REMARKS 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 presented the 2018-2023 statement of financial position that showed the Association operated with a net surplus every year except 2019. The Associations assets have grown over time and were at \$3.8 million at the end of 2023. Next, she presented the 2018-2023 statement of activity. The chapter's income averaged between \$900,000 and \$1 million per year. Dues income decreased over those years and membership saw a similar decrease.

Brady presented the Association's Quarter One Statement of Financial Activity. So far in 2024 the Association has brought in \$253,693 in dues and income and spent \$208,981 leaving a surplus of \$44,711. She noted that the majority of the expenses were incurred before the administratorship began and that all the financial statements are unaudited.

CLOSING REMARKS

Widger noted that we would follow up on any unanswered questions after the call. Anyone with further questions can call the Retirees Association office from 9:00AM - 5:00PM at 212-815-1781 or email retassn@dc37.net. The meeting was adjourned.