



Edward W. Hysyk  
President

# retiree wrapup Online Classes

## ONLINE CLASSES

The DC 37 Ed Fund is accepting applications for online classes for Spring 2021. Go to [bit.ly/3rUz9qI](https://bit.ly/3rUz9qI) to fill out an application, or go to [www.dc37edfund.org/retireeseducation](http://www.dc37edfund.org/retireeseducation) to print and mail in the application to the DC 37 Education Fund (mailing address is on the application). Keep in mind that these classes are only for DC 37 retirees who are members of the Retirees Association. For more information, contact Manuel Gomez-Rosa at [mgomezrosa@dc37.net](mailto:mgomezrosa@dc37.net), or call 212.815.1679.

## PHONE CALLS

Frequently, members of the Association leave voice mail messages without providing a complete call back number. If you want the Association to return your call, please leave a complete telephone number — with area code — and say your number twice.

## TAX DOCUMENTS

Some members have called the Association requesting copies of previous W2s, 1099s and other tax documents. The Association does not have access to your documents. I suggest you keep your tax documents for at least five years as Institutional Medicaid requires a financial lookback of five years.

## MEDICARE PART B REIMBURSEMENT

One of the Association's great triumphs is requiring the City, through its Office of Labor Relations (OLR), to reimburse the full cost of Medicare Part B premiums to eligible retirees and their spouses/domestic partners. The basic reimbursement for the Medicare Part B premium paid in 2020 is scheduled for April 2021. In March of this year, the payment for the 2019 Medicare Part B Reimbursement Differential is scheduled to be paid. These are scheduled dates and OLR has not informed us if the payments will be delayed due to COVID-19. For additional information, please visit the OLR website at [www.nyc.gov/olr](http://www.nyc.gov/olr).

## DUES DEDUCTION BY NYCERS OR BERS

About 80% of Association members pay \$3 monthly dues by automatic deduction from their pensions, which the Association encourages members to do. We have discovered that a NYCERS and BERS administrative error has resulted in a number of members not having the deduction made. NYCERS and BERS retirees are asked to check their pension statements to see that this deduction is still being made and contact the Office if this deduction has been dropped. Also, if your AFSCME PEOPLE deduction has been deleted, let us know.

## DC 37 DELTA DENTAL PLAN

A reminder that we have the DC 37 Delta Dental Plan and if you are a New York State resident, please verify that your dentist(s) participates in the "SELECT" plan. If you reside outside of the state, please verify that your dentist(s) participates in the "PPO" plan. If you have any comments or suggestions about the new dental plan, please email them to the Association.

## COVID-19 VACCINATION

The Association is not able to assist members seeking the COVID-19 vaccine. Whenever possible, we will try to post information about COVID-19 on our website. In the meantime, please stay safe, make sure you wear your mask, wash your hands frequently, and follow the CDC-recommended guidelines.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

(By Lesly Williams, Retirees Association Vice President)

As we celebrated Black History Month in February, it is incumbent upon us to share information and stories with each other and counter an image of the Black race that is false and misleading.

Throughout the years, the media and other platforms have often disregarded the significant contributions that African Americans have made to this country and elsewhere. The school system, which is tasked with shaping young minds, has not invested appropriate time and efforts to convey this information to students either.

Contributions of African Americans range from, but not limited to: literature, music, television, agriculture, sports, inventions in technology and sciences. As we are battling this devastating pandemic, it's important to note that an African American woman, Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, PhD, is the National Institute of Health lead scientist for coronavirus vaccine research.

Additionally, African Americans have discovered numerous items that are routinely utilized in our everyday lives. The blood bank was invented by Dr. Charles R. Drew in 1938. He discovered a method of separating red blood cells from plasma and then separately storing the two, which allowed blood to be stored for more than just one week.

The carbon filament light bulb was created by Lewis Latimer in 1868. The gas mask was invented by Garrett Morgan in 1916. The potato chip was invented by George Crum in 1853, and the widely used hair straightening treatment was invented by Sarah Breedlove and Madam C.J. Walker in 1905. These are just examples of the many contributions by African Americans.

As retirees, we have a very large and attentive audience. Let's inform and change the narrative. Let's celebrate these meaningful, significant contributions to American history! Let's celebrate Black History Month!

## SUPPORT AMAZON WORKERS

The mainly African American Amazon workers in Birmingham, Alabama, are currently undertaking a union organizing drive. Jeff Bezos — their boss and the richest man in the world — has authorized a vicious anti-union campaign. We should support this union drive and similar efforts of workers seeking better pay and working conditions.

## OFFICE CONTACT

Email [retassn@dc37.net](mailto:retassn@dc37.net). Phone 212.815.1781.

For news, benefit updates, and information on how to reach us, please visit:

[www.dc37retireesassociation.org](http://www.dc37retireesassociation.org)