

retiree

For up-to-date retiree info: dc37retireesassociation.org



Edward W. Hysyk
President

wrapup

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLUS PLAN WILL NOT COMMENCE APRIL 1, 2022

On Friday, March 4, 2022, the City of New York filed an appeal of the Court's ruling that allowed the Medicare Advantage Plus Plan to go forward, but required the City to provide Senior Care without any cost to retirees.

Given the uncertainty caused by the Court's ruling, and the appeal made by the City, the decision has been made that the Medicare Advantage Plus Plan will **not** commence on April 1, 2022. This means all retirees will remain in their current Plan until further action is taken.

The Office of Labor Relations now has information on its website at www.nyc.gov/olr, which says that "all retirees will remain in their current plans until further notice." For additional information, you can call the special Alliance call center at 1.833.325.1190, Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

We will post updates on our website at dc37retireesassociation.org as we have more information.

On Tuesday, April 12, during a virtual membership meeting, the Association will open the floor for nominations for the following offices:

- President
- Executive Vice President
- Secretary-Treasurer
- Recording Secretary
- Vice President for Publicity and Public Relations
- Vice President for Inter-Union Relations
- Vice President for Political Action and Legislation
- Vice President for Education and Service
- Vice President for Social Security, Pensions, and Medicare
- Vice President for Health Services
- Vice President for Housing
- Vice President for Membership
- Associate Secretary-Treasurer
- Associate Recording Secretary
- Associate Vice President for Publicity and Public Relations
- Associate Vice President for Inter-Union Relations
- Associate Vice President for Political Action and Legislation
- Associate Vice President for Education and Service
- Associate Vice President for Social Security, Pensions and Medicare
- Associate Vice President for Health Services
- Associate Vice President for Housing
- Associate Vice President for Membership
- Member-at-Large

To run for any of the positions, you must be a member in good standing of the DC 37 Retirees Association **and** you must have been in this status for at least one year prior to the date nominations take place. The nomination and election process will be conducted by the duly appointed Association's "Election Committee" and will adhere to the AFSCME Retiree Election Guide. Voting will be run by an impartial third-party vendor.

Some of the above offices may be abolished or changed if the newly revised Constitution is approved by AFSCME and takes effect during this election cycle. The election of Association officers will be conducted during May.

MEDICARE PART B REIMBURSEMENT

In the past, the NYC Office of Labor Relations (OLR) has made the standard reimbursement on the third Friday of April. Paper checks are mailed later. Please do not look for this reimbursement before April 15 and please wait several days beyond that date before you enter into "panic mode." You can file for IRMAA after you receive the standard reimbursement and you must wait for the 2021

IRMAA form to be available online at the OLR website. Under no circumstances should you use a previous year's form and cross out the date and write in "2021."

OPT-OUT STATUS

If you called, faxed, or emailed opt-out form(s) to remain in your current NYC medical plan (i.e. GHI Senior Care, etc.), you should verify that status by calling the Plan directly at 1.833.325.1190 unless you have received confirmation. If you rescinded your opt-out status, I also suggest you call the Plan. As I have previously stated, not everything you see or read on the internet is correct, accurate, and timely. It is up to you to exercise care and to use caution when visiting internet sites.

SPOUSAL/DOMESTIC PARTNER HEALTH COVERAGE

Unless you are a member of the NYS Pension System and have retired from a NYS agency, your spouse/domestic partner does not have health coverage upon your death. Their NYC spousal/domestic partner health coverage stops when you die. Even though you may have taken a pension option that leaves part or all of your pension to them, that does not include City health benefits. The City of New York allows the surviving spouse/domestic partner to purchase health insurance through the federal COBRA program for up to three years, but it is quite costly. The DC 37 Health and Security Plan provides the surviving spouse/domestic partner one year of coverage for dental, optical, prescription drugs, etc. After the year is complete, the spouse and/or domestic partner can purchase an additional one to two years of additional coverage under COBRA. Again, this involves monthly premiums.

DC 37 RETIREES ASSOCIATION SUPPLEMENTAL DEATH BENEFIT

If a beneficiary receives a death benefit from DC 37, they may be eligible for the \$500 supplemental benefit from the Retiree Association. To receive this benefit, the deceased member must have been a member of the Association for at least seven continuous years prior to death. A break in service resets the clock back to zero. Also, the beneficiary must apply for this benefit within three months after receiving the DC 37 Death Benefit check.

UPCOMING TUESDAY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Please remember that in addition to the April 12 membership meeting, we will be having Zoom membership meetings on May 10 and June 14, all of which will start at 10 a.m. EST. Each meeting will have the same meeting ID — 86269001308 — and can be accessed via the zoom.us site or by calling 646.558.8656. Our website (www.dc37retireesassociation.org) will have a link to these meetings and we will send out the link via e-blast before each meeting. You can add your contact email for e-blasts at our website.