

retiree

Up-to-date retiree info: dc37retireesassociation.org

wrapup



Robert Gervasi
President

Let Me Introduce Myself

I hope the arrival of this issue of the PEP Talk finds all of you well and in good health. First and foremost, I would like to thank former President Ed Hysyk and his Executive Board for all the hard work it takes to keep the Retirees Association running well.

There are more than likely some curious minds wondering where I came from. Let me tell my story.

I started my 32-year career with the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation in September 1968 as an Attendant (Local 1505). I was drafted into military service (Army) from 1970 through 1971. During that time, I served one year in Vietnam as an infantryman with the 101st Airborne Division.

I returned to city service in January 1972. Two years later, I was promoted to the title of Park Maintainer and moved to Local 983. I was recalled to the military in the summer of that year to supplement troop shortages in the National Guard due to the cessation of the draft.

I spent another 17 years in the Guard rising to the rank of Platoon Sergeant (E-7). In 1980, I was promoted to the title of Park Supervisor and moved to Local 1508. During that time, I was a Shop Steward in Queens. In 1982, I was promoted to the title of Principal Park Supervisor where I served the union as both the Recording Secretary and Vice President.

I retired from Parks in December 2000. Shortly after my retirement, I went to work for District Council 37 as a Representative in the Blue Collar Division. Somewhere around 2017-2018, I was promoted to Assistant Director in the Blue Collar Division. I retired from DC 37 in late September 2020.

I am happy to report that the treasury of the Retirees Association is in good financial standing thanks to John Hardisty.

Presently, the court case decision regarding the Medicare Advantage Plan is on the Appellate Court's calendar for some time in October 2020. The request for an extension by our attorneys was denied. Just a reminder that attorney fees are costly, and the efforts being spearheaded by the NYC Organization of Public Service Retirees can be supported with contributions via their website at NYCRetirees.org. It is of the utmost importance that they stay in the fight to preserve and protect retiree health benefits. Information about the increase in Social Security benefits should come out this October and is expected to be about 9%. The pension COLA of 3% is due this October. Keep in mind there is an \$18,000 cap on that 3%. In other words, if your annual pension exceeds \$18,000 annually, there will be an adjustment in your COLA to a lesser percentage.

Recently passed federal legislation will affect retirees covered by Medicare part D plans (including our DC 37 drug coverage) and in some cases, Part B costs as well. The effective dates for implementation are not

immediate. The Retirees Association has fought for these changes and hopes that our members and others will benefit from them.

Drug Negotiations:

- Beginning in 2026, price negotiations will start.
- Beginning in 2026, 10 high-cost drugs will be subject to Medicare negotiations on price. In 2027, an additional 15 will be negotiated. In 2028, 15 more, with 20 additional drugs to be negotiated in 2029.
- Capping out-of-pocket costs (OPC)
- Beginning in 2024, individuals who reach the catastrophic level (\$7,400 in 2023) will have no further OPC.
- Beginning in 2025, that limit will be \$2,000.
- Beginning in 2023, there will be a \$35 monthly cap on the cost of insulin through the Part D plan.

Vaccines:

- Beginning in 2023, there will be no cost for those covered by Part D plans.

On Aug. 29, 2022, the call center at the Office of Labor Relations will re-open. Retirees can call 212.306.5050 between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Walk-ins are expected to begin sometime in November at the OLR offices located at 22 Cortlandt Street, 12th-14th floors, New York, NY 10007.

In closing, to email the Retirees Association, please contact us at retassn@dc37.net or call 212.815.1781. I'd also like to thank all our retirees who turned out to march in this year's Labor Day Parade.

