



DC37 Retirees Association Monthly General Membership meeting

Tuesday, September 26th, 2023

10 AM- 12 NOON

The meeting was called to order 10:10am Roll call of Officers taken.

Minutes for **April, June, and July (Emergency Meeting)** were read by *Anna Berry*.

The motion to accept all three minutes was made by *Donald Afflick* and seconded by *Michelle Keller-Ng*. Motion passed; minutes accepted.

Treasurer's Report- The financial statement for May 2023, we had a surplus of \$ 84,412 that included \$54,412 for hand dues. The month of June 2023, surplus was \$9,836 that included \$35,169 that was paid to AFSCME. This has put the income down for the month because we paid three months per capita. The month of July 2023, surplus was \$15,756. Our YTD surplus through July is \$164,045. We have sent recruitment mailings for the first two quarters of 2023 to 1,800 new Retirees to join us. We are in the process of sending out a second dues mailing. These are the people who pay dues by check and did not respond to the first dues mailing. If they do not respond by the end of the year, they will lose their membership and we will drop them off.

Motion to accept financial report by *Michelle Keller-Ng*, seconded by *Julia Jorge*.

President Gervasi- Called for a moment of silence for *William "Bill" Schleicher*, former Editor, writer, and Activist of the DC37 Public Employee Press, *John Hudson*, Treasurer of Local 371, *Sonia Martinez* of Local 371 who lost her daughter and all others who have lost loved ones.

I would like to thank everyone who attended the Labor Day Parade. We had planned to have an in person meeting in September but unfortunately, we are having a problem with finding a venue. We have tried BMCC, CLC and all are busy. Hopefully we'll get something together for a December meeting. You might have received an orange or red card for \$3,000 Accidental & Death Dismemberment insurance that is free to Retirees. You are not obligated to purchase anything else.

Neal Frumkin- (VP, Inter- Union Relation)- There is a Bill on Pension COLA in Albany. Would like for Donald Afflick to follow up on that. There is a new Alzheimer's drug that is covered by Medicare B. It's an injectable for those with mild or early stage ALZ. The *United Auto Workers (UAW)* are on strike, and we need to support them. *Ray Markey* a retired former President of Local 1930 sent out emails trying to get people to sign on the Bill Retirement Health Statement, to help show that Retirees are in favor of having **Bill 1099** passed. We want to keep our Medicare the way it is.

Dominick Martino- (VP Social Security, Pensions and Medicare), Judge Frank rules in our favor. The City has appealed against it so we will be going back to court sometime soon. For now, we stay where we are. Do nothing until we tell you to. Everyone should have received a letter from the Pension Bureau on COLA. Retirees who are at least 62 and retired for 5 years, retirees who are 55 and retired for 10 years are entitled to it. Also, disability regardless of age and have been retired for 5 years are entitled as well. There will be a rise or raise in Premiums in 2024. Medicare Trustees estimate that Medicare part B would be \$174.80 that you will be paying every month. That's up \$9.80 from this year.

Donald Afflick- (VP Political Action), Social Security Trust Fund is good up until 2033 and Medicare is funded until 2031. We hope that Congress increases the Social Security payments to the people. There might be a Government Shutdown by October 1st, you need to call your Republican Legislators and let them know that we cannot afford a Government Shutdown. We have an election coming up on November 07th for the City Council. Early registration starts October 28th and goes through Nov. 05th.

Sallie Robertson- (VP Membership)- Encourages Retirees to check out our website, to attend meetings and rallies.

Michelle Lee Robbins- (NYC Organization of Public Service Retirees), City has appealed Judge Lyle Franks ruling. Please go to our website for updates. Also there will be a bus trip October 11th, 2023, going to Hartford Connecticut with “**BE A HERO**”, the Organization we went with on Amtrak to Washington DC. We will be protesting two insurance companies, AETNA & United Healthcare. Box lunch will be served. Please register as soon as possible. Buses will be leaving at 7am in front of City Hall 250 Broadway. If you are not going on the bus trip, please come out to The Triangle Shirtwaist Memorial event taking place on the same day at Washington Place and Greene Street from 11:30am to 1pm.

We are also Phone Banking for *Susan Zhuang*, who is running for NYC Council in District 43 of Brooklyn. If anyone is interested in phone banking, we are having sessions to instruct you on how to set up Google voice, so people don't have your exact phone number. Please go to our website for more information.

Good and Welfare

Anna Berry- Encourages everyone to go on the “**Third Act**” website. They have a wealth of information.

Jon Forster- (Co-Chair of Climate Justice Committee), Thanked everyone who came out to The Climate March on September 17th to end Fossil Fuels and gave updates on the organization “**Third Act**”.

Michelle Keller-Ng- (President of NYC CLUW), We need to acknowledge that this is Hispanic Heritage month and Yom Kippur. Let's come out to support our brothers and sisters of **UAW** who are on strike. They will be having a Solidarity Picket through **CLC** from 9:30am to 12noon at 450 W. 33rd street and 10th Ave. I encourage everyone to sign the 1099 Bill Retirement Health letter and share with others to do the same. Thank those who were able to come out to the Labor Day Parade, especially the silent protest at the church. Our message was seen and heard.

I have been asked to serve on the Board of **NYC Organization of Public Service Retirees** and I humbly accepted. There is a new vaccine for COVID. Please protect yourselves and take care of your health.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by *Dominick Martino* and seconded by *Yolanda Pumajero*.

Meeting adjourned 12:25pm

Next General Membership Meeting will be Tuesday, October 24th, 2023.

Submitted by

Anna Berry

Associate Recording Secretary