

retiree wrapup



Edward W. Hysyk
President

Remember in November

I want to take this time to thank all of the first responders (city, state, and federal workers) who have met this COVID-19 crisis head on. Let us also remember all of the 9/11 responders who gave their lives on that horrific day, and almost 20 years later are still dying as a result of 9/11-related injuries.

We should also remember and honor the veterans who served in the military, especially on Veteran's Day, which this year is Nov. 11.

Please remember to vote in this crucial election on Nov. 3 and please ask your relatives and friends to also vote. If you vote by mail, please make sure that you allow sufficient time so that your ballot will be counted and not wasted. Thus, if you intend to vote by mail, the earlier the better.

I wish to take this time to honor a great American, Ruth Bader Ginsburg. May she rest in peace!

We would like to know your experience with our new DC 37 Delta Dental Program. Can you find a participating dentist more easily? Are you experiencing any administrative problems? Please email me at ehysyk@dc37.net or send me a letter at DC 37 Retirees Association, 75 Maiden Lane, Suite 501, New York, NY 10038. Make sure to provide a contact phone number. For additional information, please call Delta Customer Service at 1.888.523.3237 or visit www.deltadentalins.com/DC37

If you did not receive the Delta Dental Welcome Package (ID cards + letter), please call DC 37 at 212.815.1620 so they can verify your correct address.

I suggest that if possible, you establish an online computer account with Delta Dental so that you can track your dental history (procedures and costs vs. your \$1,700 annual limit). You can easily do this by going to the above-referenced website.

The NYC Office of Labor Relations is closed as is the client walk-in center. If you submitted a copy of any forms (Medicare Part B Reimbursement Differential Request Form) or the (Medicare Part B IRMAA Reimbursement Form), make sure that you have a copy for your records. Chances are that you did not receive a confirmation notice of your form submission and you will probably not receive one. Anything submitted by mail will be addressed when the office reopens. The IRMAA reimbursement is supposed to be paid in October of this year and the Medicare Part B Differential reimbursement is supposed to be paid during the first quarter (March) of 2021. At this point in time, I do not know if these payments will be ontime. For additional information, please visit the OLR website at www.nyc.gov/olr

This is the season (Fall 2020) when many of our members receive information in the mail about switching their medical plan to various Medicare Advantage plans. Please remember that if you switch to one of those plans, you will not receive Medicare Part B reimbursement from the City of New York and you may not receive certain DC 37 benefits.

If you want to change your medical plan, I suggest that you look at the NYC Office of Labor Relations (OLR) website at www.nyc.gov/olr. Any change that you make will become effective in Jan. 2021.

Correction: In the last issue, we inadvertently misspelled staff member Pilar Oquendo's name incorrectly.

Based on the current CPI figures, the September 2020 COLA is 1%. This COLA will be paid to:

- Retirees who have reached the age of 55 and have been retired for 10 or more years.
- Retirees who are 62 and have been retired for at least five years.
- Retirees who have a disability retirement and have been retired for five or more years.
- The spouses of deceased retirees who are collecting benefits under joint and survivor options.

If you are over 85, you may receive a letter and affidavit from NYCERS requesting you complete and notarize the enclosed affidavit and then return it to NYCERS. Failure to complete the affidavit and return it will result in the suspension of your monthly pension, and your health benefits will also be affected. If this happens, it may take weeks before NYCERS is able to restore your monthly pension check. **PLEASE DO NOT DISCARD THIS LETTER AND FORM!**

I have continually urged all of our members to have direct deposit for their monthly pension checks. Direct Deposit is easy, convenient, and secure. No more waiting for checks to arrive, and no more trips to the bank in bad weather. You can set up Direct Deposit of your NYCERS pension check by logging into your secure "MyNYCERS" account at www.mynycers.org, or mailing in paper form #380, which can be downloaded from the NYCERS website at www.mynycers.org. It is the smart thing to do, because if you lose, misplace, or do not receive a monthly pension check, it may take several weeks before you receive a replacement. Those checks may be replaced offline via the NYC Comptroller's Office, and with the slowdown of the postal service, replacement time has dramatically increased. Unfortunately, our Association can do nothing to expedite that process.

The financial crisis facing the City will not be solved after Election Day no matter who becomes the next President. The City is in a deep financial hole and unless it is given authority to borrow money, certain cuts will be inevitable. There is already talk about having retirees pay a portion of their health care costs. I am extremely thankful that we have a person like Henry Garrido, Executive Director of DC 37, who has always steadfastly maintained that he "will not throw the retirees under the proverbial bus" and continually reminds the active employees that they are really, as the late Stu Leibowitz used to say, "RETIREES IN TRAINING." Thank God for his leadership.

Please remember that both the leadership of DC 37 and the leadership of the DC 37 Retirees Association, are committed to protecting all of your pension benefits, health benefits, and Medicare Part B Reimbursement benefit.

Visit the DC 37
Retirees Website

www.dc37retireesassociation.org