

DC-37 LOCAL 1359 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES - FEBRUARY 13, 2007

PRESENT: See sign – in sheet.

A quorum was present.

President Carbone called to order the General Membership Meeting of February 13, 2007 at 6pm in the 5th floor cafeteria at Gertz Plaza.

A motion to accept the General Membership minutes of January 9, 2007 was made by Dennis Ifill and seconded by Darryl Adams. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for February, 2007 along with the Holiday Party Report for 2006 was made by Charmaine Hardaway and seconded by Dennis Ifill. The motion was unanimously approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On January 16, 2007 AFSCME approved all of the proposed changes to the local's Constitution as recommended by the Constitution committee and authorized by vote of the membership except for one proposal. As the local's delegates are also members of the Executive Board they fall under the majority vote requirement. Therefore AFSCME requires that all Local 1359 delegates must receive more than a majority of the votes cast to be elected. The updated constitution will be posted on the local's web site.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING COMMITTEE: the committee has met several times putting in place the local's demands for a successor agreement to the one which will expire on April 1, 2007. A letter has been served on the State of New York which requests the commencement of negotiations on a new contract. The new governor has yet to select a replacement for the head of the Governor's Office of Employee Relations so there may be a delay in commencing negotiations. The local is also still accepting input from members with respect to prospective contract proposals.

Handouts were made available to the General Membership giving a brief history of the new Commissioner, Deborah VanAmerongen. She formerly worked in HUD's Multifamily Housing Unit and she lives in a rent stabilized apartment. Her appointment is subject to approval by the State Senate.

President Carbone testified on behalf of the local and affordable housing initiatives at DHCR's budget hearing before the state legislature on February 6, 2007 in Albany. Copies of the testimony were made available to the General Membership and will shortly be posted on the local's web site.

SEFA: Gertz Plaza's donations were up over 16% for 2006. Beaver Street's and Albany's donations were down 1%. The Agency fell slightly short of its overall goal.

February is Black History Month at DC-37. You can consult the PEP and the local's bulletin boards for a list of events at DC-37.

VIP PROGRAM: handouts briefly describing existing and enhanced benefits were made available. A spokesperson for the program was also in attendance to answer questions from interested members.

IRISH HERITAGE CELEBRATION: the 15th Annual Irish Heritage celebration will take place on March 7, 2007, between 5:30 pm and 10:00 pm at DC-37. For tickets, which cost \$40.00, call 212-815-1741. Members can be reimbursed if said member(s) choose to pay for and attend the event upon presenting proof of payment to the local.

The application period for the Clerk II, Calculation Clerk II and other similar grade 9 promotional exams for eligible members in grades 6 & 7 has been extended to March 14, 2007. The March 24, 2007 date of the exam has not changed.

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE: there is free tax assistance through April 17, 2007 available to members with dependent children whose families earn less than \$40,000.00 in total income. Handouts on the program were made available.

QUEENS CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROJECT: if you live or work in specific Queens's zip codes with incomes ranging from \$35,283 for a family of two to \$62,178 for a family of 5 you are eligible. The subsidy is by voucher for child care assistance or placement. Handouts with the eligible zip codes were made available.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dennis Ifill and seconded by Charmaine Hardaway. The motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned 6:30 pm.

/s/ Charmaine Hardaway
CHARMAINE HARDAWAY
Secretary, Local 1359

Approved: March 13, 2007