

# **DC-37 LOCAL 1359 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 12, 2007**

PRESENT: See sign-in sheet.

A quorum was present.

President Carbone called to order the General Membership Meeting of June 12, 2007 at 6pm in the 5<sup>th</sup> floor cafeteria at Gertz Plaza.

A motion to accept the General Membership minutes of May 8, 2007 was made by Dennis Ifill and seconded by Darryl Adams. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made to correct the May, 2007 Treasurers Report by specifying it as such.. It had been specified as the month of April, 2007 and the typographical error required correction to May, 2007. The May Treasurers Report also omitted food disbursements for the April, 2007 general membership meeting. These items were included within and made a part of the June, 2007 Treasurers report. A motion was made by Dennis Ifill and seconded by Niamah Balal to approve both the May and June, 2007 reports. The motion was unanimously approved.

NEGOTIATIONS: President Carbone presented a contract update to the General Membership. With respect to the other state bargaining units, little or no movement has occurred. An update will be posted on the Local's website shortly. A picture of the commencement of our bargaining session can be found in the current issued of the PEP.

On May 24, 2007 President Carbone met with ORA's new Deputy Commissioner Leslie Torres. They discussed a variety of issues including staffing levels. Deputy Commissioner Torres did advise that there will be new hires at ORA.

DHCR's Family Day will be held at FDR State Park, field 5D on Friday, July 27, 2007. Bus transportation is available for members and will make stops in Brooklyn, the Bronx and Queens. The cost for the bus will be \$8.00 for union members, children 12 and younger and MC's. All other guests will pay \$10.00. The cost of the bus will be shared between CSEA, PEF and DC-37. A contribution was also received from the MC's.

A motion was made by Vice President Ifill to approve an expenditure of up to \$900.00 for the Local 1359 picnic brunch as well as to make a \$300.00 contribution to the DHCR Family Day Committee for activities that will take place on that day. The motion further included authorization to expend up to \$1,016.50 for the total cost of the bus, subject to ticket receipts and a 1/3 cost contribution from CSEA and PEF (the MC's contribution has already been received) and to authorize the payment of \$35.00 for the park bus permit fee and to reserve field 5D a fee of \$100.00. These items will also be shared by CSEA

and PEF. The motion was seconded by Charmaine Hardaway. The motion was unanimously approved.

HOLIDAY PARTY Vice President Ifill made a motion to set aside \$1000.00 as a down payment for the Holiday Party once a venue has been found. The motion was seconded by Charmaine Hardaway. The motion was unanimously approved.

CIVIL SERVICE: a number of clerical list were issued by Civil Service. Local 1359 has two members on the clerk II list. The list was distributed to Clerical Representative Cheryl Fraser. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy can see Cheryl Fraser.

JERRY CLARK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: open to children and grandchildren of AFSCME members. It provides a scholarship of \$5,000.00 for eligible college juniors and seniors. You must currently be a sophomore at a 4 year college; have a social science major, and, have a minimum 2.5 grade point average. The deadline to apply is July 1, 2007. Anyone interested should see President Carbone or Secretary Hardaway for an application.

There are two pending bills in Albany which are subject to lobbying by tenant groups. Both bills call for increasing the decontrol threshold to \$2,800.00 and indexing it to the consumer price index effective October 1, 2007 for controlled units and January 1, 2008 for stabilized units.

Members who are currently retiring under a state retirement plan are receiving forms indicating they can participate in GHI's dental or optical plan. These plans are not free and they duplicate similar benefits provided by the DC-37 Retiree Benefit Fund which does not have a premium cost. Any DC-37 member eligible for health insurance in retirement is eligible for DC-37 dental and optical benefits which have no premium cost. Members should therefore be cautioned about participating in GHI's plans as it may needlessly cost them money.

There will be a PEP article in the June, 2007 issue concerning N.Y. State's recognition, effective May 1, 2007, of out of state and out of country same sex marriages with respect to these spouses qualifying for state health care and other benefits.

RENT GUIDELINES BOARD (10/07 – 9/08 Rates): the next RGB public hearing will be on June 19, 2007 between 4pm and 10pm at LaGuardia Art Center – 23110 Thompson Ave at Van Dam St., LIC. Directions: E, V or R train to Queens Plaza, G train to Court Square.

GERTZ PLAZA: the building owner's architect has yet to send the required revised drawings/plans to the state OGS to modify the original plans that were submitted and found inadequate. Until these plans are approved, construction activity cannot begin. There is no set meeting date at this time to do so.

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

Meeting adjourned 6:40.

/s/ Charmaine Hardaway  
CHARMAINE HARDAWAY  
Secretary, Local 1359

Approved: September 11, 2007