

# DC-37 LOCAL 1359 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 11, 2008

PRESENT: See sign-in Sheet.

A quorum was present.

President Carbone called to order the General Membership Meeting of March 11, 2008 at 6pm in the 5<sup>th</sup> floor Cafeteria at Gertz Plaza.

A motion to accept the General Membership minutes of February 12, 2008 was made by Dennis Ifill and seconded by Darryl Adams. The motion was unanimously approved.

A Local Election Committee has been established pursuant to the Constitution. Viola Laidlaw was elected by the election committee as Chairperson of the Local's 2008 election committee.

Sister Laidlaw thereupon opened nominations for all Local 1359 offices. Nominated candidates for Local offices are as follows:

PRESIDENT: Dennis Ifill  
Ernst Emmanuel  
Darryl Adams

VICE PRESIDENT: Darryl Adams  
Dennis Ifill  
Alrita Phillips (declined at the meeting)

TREASURER: Mushtaq Ali  
Alex Thomas

SECRETARY: Charmaine Hardaway  
Michelle Chapman

RENT EXAMINER REP: Keenon Roberts  
Michelle Chapman  
Mark Tepper

RENT PROGRAM SPEC: Rosie Rosario  
Helen Fang

RENT INSPECTOR: Elizabeth Marzan  
Eddie Daquin

CLERICAL REP: Cheryl Fraser

PROFESSIONAL REP: Cheryl King  
Laurence Ramer

OFFICE REP: Laurence Ramer  
Maurice Bouyea

DELEGATES: Mushtaq Ali  
Alexander Thomas  
Yuklin Guevara  
Shanomae Wiltshire  
Stacey Payton  
Jacquetta Ladson  
Ahmed Ali

CENTRAL LABOR  
COUNCIL John Lafferty  
Ahmed Ali

Nominations were then closed by the Election Committee Chair for the Local 2008-2011 election cycle.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report of March, 2008 was made by Charmaine Hardaway and seconded by Dennis Ifill. The motion was unanimously approved.

LOCAL PAY BILL: With respect to the 2007-2011 pay bill authorizing salary increases for Local members, President Carbone has been speaking with DC-37's Political Action staff and at this point the pay bill is being reviewed in the Governor's office. The pay bill should be introduced in the state legislature next week. Passage would follow thereafter.

GERTZ AIR QUALITY: With respect to the members' petition expressing concern over the air quality at Gertz Plaza, President Carbone met with ORA Deputy Commissioner Leslie Torres who advised that DHCR will pay for a professional company to conduct air quality testing on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floors at Gertz Plaza. The testing began on March 4, 2008 by a national environmental health and safety firm (ATC). Vice President Ifill accompanied the ATC professional through-out the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floors. Air quality sample tests were conducted in 14 working areas on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor and 14 working areas on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. Air sample monitors were placed on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floor for 1 hour each and an additional monitor was placed on the roof. Two 24 hour monitors were left, one in the MCI unit and one in the Overcharge 3 unit to take further environmental readings.

GERTZ MOVE: the final plans have not yet been approved by DHCR. However, demolition and construction work continues on the sixth floor. ORA Deputy Commissioner Leslie Torres showed President Carbone the office-type partitions for the new space. The partitions will stand 53-54 inches tall.

The Nurse's station at Gertz Plaza will be opened soon and staffed by a registered nurse. The nurse's name is Thomas Howard; his hours are 8am to 4pm (phone extension 4762).

PERB IMPROPER PRACTICE CHARGE: has been tentatively resolved with management as all language in DHCR's ethics guide, policy statement and residency form has been agreed to. CSEA, which joined the Local in this IP charge, resolved their complaint on the same terms and with the same language as the Local.

COMPRESSED TIME PROGRAM: there has been no decision by management concerning presenting us with any final proposals on the future of this program.

BLACK AND PUERTO RICAN CAUCUS: Darryl Adams gave a short report on the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus.

CARRIBBEAN HERITAGE COMMITTEE: is holding an Immigrant Rights forum and panel discussion at DC-37 on March 26, 2008 between 6pm and 8pm in room 1. It's free. All are invited to attend.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION TRAINEESHIP EXAM: President Carbone sent over 40 e-mails to members who are currently in clerical titles which are eligible to participate in the exam. President Carbone confirmed with NYS Department of Civil Service that employees in the title of Rent Examiner Junior are eligible to take the exam. If you have spent 2 years or more in an eligible clerical title you can take the exam. The benefit of the exam is that it permits clerical employees to transition to a grade 18 position after a two year traineeship.

President Carbone and Inspector Rep. Eddie Daquin met with ORA Deputy Commissioner Leslie Torres to discuss various issues affecting the rent inspectors including the return of the inspectors' original badges (the existing badges do not look official). Other issues discussed included the hiring of more inspectors, upgrading their equipment and upgrading their office space in certain borough offices.

The CLE spring class will be held the weekend of May 9 – 12, 2008 at New York Law School.

One of the benefits that were negotiated with the State during contract negotiations was an additional contribution to the DC-37 Health and Security Fund. The result of this added money is that a new prescription drug co-pay rebate benefit will be established for Local 1359 members. Any local member who has more then \$300.00 in co-pays in the calendar year 2008 will be reimbursed up to the next \$100.00 that you incur. This includes members and their families.

Nilico, a private union oriented company will be sending out second notices to members to participate in various life and other types of insurance plans.

President Carbone made a motion to reimburse members half of the entry fee (\$35 per entrant; \$17.50 reimbursement) to participate in the Chase Corporate Challenge for up to a maximum of thirty-five DC-37 members. The motion was seconded by Dennis Ifill. It passed unanimously.

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

Meeting adjourned 6:50pm.

/s/ Charmaine Hardaway  
CHARMAINE HARDAWAY  
Secretary, Local 1359

Approved: April 8, 2008