

# **DC-37 LOCAL 1359 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 13, 2007**

PRESENT: See sign-in sheet.

A quorum was present.

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

A motion to accept the General Membership minutes of February 13, 2007 was made by Dennis Ifill and seconded by Vern Williams. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report of March, 2007 was made by Charmaine Hardaway and seconded by Dennis Ifill. The motion was unanimously approved.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Kathy Loughran a representative from NILICO addressed the General Membership. Ms. Loughran advised the membership of the various insurance programs and benefits NILICO offers. NILICO is a 100% union insurance company. Handouts were made available to the membership.

President Carbone advised the General Membership that Deputy Commissioner Paul Roldan was let go by DHCR.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: no State bargaining units have met or are scheduled to meet since the Governor has not replaced the Director of GOER or authorized the state to commence bargaining. The local's negotiating committee is also still accepting input from members with respect to prospective contract proposals.

On February 22, 2007 President Carbone met with the new Commissioner Deborah VanAmerongen. She seems very concerned about affordable housing. She is also a rent stabilized tenant who resides in Manhattan.

President Carbone acknowledged the passing of former DHCR Commissioner Joseph Lynch.

VIP PROGRAM: handouts were made available to the membership. Anyone interested in the VIP program which provides insurance and other benefits can call 1-800-347-6071.

Vice President Ifill gave a report on the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus also attended by members Rochelle Davis and Keenon Roberts. Handouts were made available.

HEALTH CARE: Local 1359 along with CSEA, PEF and other state unions sued the State of New York when it attempted to shift the cost of the Medicare Part B premium into the employee rate base. The lawsuit was successful. Beginning April 4, 2007 the premium for all Empire Plan members and HIP individual members will be going down. The Empire family rate is going from \$92.54 to \$89.59 and the individual rate will go from \$22.54 to \$21.30 per pay period. The HIP individual rate will go from \$19.67 to \$18.92. The HIP family rate, however, will increase slightly from \$88.97 to \$89.42 per pay period. Aetna members will see also their rates increase as a result of complicated cap formulas. However, any member who will see their plan rate increase will be permitted to opt out of that program into any other NYSHIP plan during March, 2007. In addition, no member in such a plan will be charged any retroactive premium increase. Members entitled to a refund will receive it sometime later this year.

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 were made available.

DC-37 EDUCATION FUND: an education fund survey was made available to the General Membership to complete and return to the Fund.

STARRETT CITY: the sale of the complex to the private developer has been voided by HUD.

DEPENDENT CARE ADVANTAGE ACCOUNT: the employer contribution to the program is ending on April 1, 2007. This affects anyone who may have a change in status (e.g., looking to send your child to summer camp) and would have otherwise been entitled to a state contribution under the Local's contract.

GERTZ MOVE: the nurse's station will be moved from the sixth floor to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. The inspectors will be moved from their present location on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor to an area further to the rear on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. The remaining state employees on the sixth floor will also be moved to a rear area on the fifth floor. This is all in preparation for the reconstruction of the sixth floor to allow DHCR to move into renovated space in 2008.

SALARY INCREASES: effective April 4, 2007 the annual salary of all members will increase by \$800.00. In addition, the grade 18 merit step above the job rate will be paid to all eligible members effective April 4, 2007. This will be reflected in pay checks received on May 2, 2007.

CHASE CORPORATE CHALLENGE: President Carbone put forth a motion to allocate up to a maximum of \$900.00 to defray the expenses of DC-37 Local 1359 road runner participants to the extent of ½ the entry fee plus up to \$10.00 for the lunch box expenses for 36 or more runners plus support staff. The motion was seconded by Dennis Ifill. The motion was unanimously approved.

Due to a printing error on their plaques, the following members received new plaques to reflect the achievement awards issued at the 2006 Local Annual Holiday Party: Joyce Hylton Spence, William Miller, Rolando Young and Maynard Anderson.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.

/s/ Charmaine Hardaway  
CHARMAINE HARDAWAY  
Secretary Local 1359

Approved: April 10, 2007