

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

PRESENT: See sign-in sheet.

A quorum was present.

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

A motion to accept the General Membership Minutes of October 9, 2007 was made by Dennis Ifill and seconded by John Lafferty. The minutes were unanimously approved.

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

A moment of silence was taken in remembrance of our sister Barbara Banks who passed away between meetings.

Copies of the 2008 meeting schedule were distributed to the General Membership.

The General Membership meeting for November, 2008 will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2008 as Tuesday, November 11, 2008 is Veterans Day and State and DC-37 offices will be closed. This follows past Local practice in similar circumstances.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: since the last meeting there has been a settlement between CSEA's four bargaining units and the State of New York. The highlights of the contract are: It is a 4 year contract, retroactive to April 2, 2007 with 3% in the first 3 years of the contract and 4% in April 2010. The downstate adjustment is increasing from \$1,302.00 to \$1,850.00 on April 1, 2008 and to \$3,026 in October, 2008. The Local will enter intensive bargaining with the state beginning on November 14, 2007 for three days. President Carbone is optimistic that an agreement can be reached with the employer shortly.

Members on the October performance advance cycle and who were otherwise eligible to receive pay increases (because they were below the job rate) should have received them in the October 31, 2007 paycheck. Those members eligible for the grade 18 merit step above the job rate should have also received it.

EMPIRE PLAN: the state put out a new drug RFP and a new vendor won the drug contract which is United HealthCare Medco. When a new vendor wins a contract for drugs, the preferred drug list changes. A copy of the new preferred drug list, effective January 1, 2008, was made available to the General Membership. In addition, President

Carbone made available the 2008 member co-premium payments for the Empire Plan and all of the HMO's. The Empire Plan rates are going up 4.2% to \$22.19 for individuals and rising 6.2% to \$95.10 for families. HIP rates are going up 9.3% to \$20.68 for individuals and 7.3% to \$95.97 for families.

GERTZ MOVE: the building owner was to do some additional minor work on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor, which included the installation of 27 new windows which was agreed upon with OGS. The owner's architect still has not presented the updated DHCR plans which would include Deputy Commissioner's Leslie Torres's changes to the original renovation plans.

UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICE: on November 7, 2007 the local filed an Unfair Labor Practice charge with the state Public Employees Relations Board (PERB) against DHCR based upon the content of their new Ethics Guide re: the residency questionnaire, the new outside employment rules and the new ethics reporting requirements concerning relatives, among other changes. The changes to the compressed time program are not a part of the improper practice charge at this time because the employer is still bargaining with us over this issue..

AFSCME FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP: the deadline to apply is December 31, 2007. There are 13 total scholarships of \$2,000.00 each for up to four years. The requirements are that you must be a graduating high school senior who is the son/daughter or relevant grandson/granddaughter of an AFSCME member enrolled in a full time degree program.

On October 29, 2007 there was an incident in the mail room at Beaver St. A mail room employee picked up an envelope and a white powdery substance fell out of the envelope. The police were called by the agency and the building was shut down by emergency personnel. No hazardous material was found.

The DC-37 2008 Legislative Conference was held on October 27, 2007 in room one at DC-37. President Carbone and John Lafferty attended. President Carbone assured that the Local's legislative agenda items were included in DC 37's 2008 legislative agenda (e.g., repeal of the Urstadt Law and high rent vacancy decontrol).

FLEX SPENDING ACCOUNT: the ability to participate/enroll for 2008 ends November 16, 2007. The Flex Spending Account for 2008 has two parts to it, the Health Care Spending Account and the Dependent Care Advantage Account. For 2008 there is no state contribution for the DCAA account. As of January 1, 2009 it is expected that the state DCAA contribution will be restored and that it will be at a higher rate and beginning at lower amount.

There is a Keyboard I exam on January 26, 2008. The deadline to apply is January 10, 2008. The only requirement is you must type 35 words per minute with 96% accuracy.

PER CAPITA TAX INCREASE: effective in paychecks dated January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 all four local dues rates will increase by \$.90 to amortize the increase in per capita taxes imposed

by AFSCME. The local is compelled to effectuate the increases by adjusting each category of dues rates.

HOLIDAY PARTY REPORT: the Holiday Party will be held on December 14, 2007 at the Floral Terrace Catering Hall, 250 Jericho Turnpike from 9pm to 2am. Vice President Ifill made a motion to allocate an additional \$1,000.00 toward the DC-37 Local 1359 Holiday Party. The motion was seconded by Charmaine Hardaway. The motion was unanimously approved.

On October 17, 2007 President Carbone received a response from the state department of Civil Service concerning his letter of September 27, 2007 about scheduling new DHCR civil service exams. The letter indicated that Civil Service plans to schedule various agency exams during the 2008-2009 testing year. A discussion was held.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mushtaq Ali and seconded by Charmaine Hardaway.

Meeting adjourned 6:40pm

/s/ Charmaine Hardaway  
CHARMAINE HARDAWAY  
Secretary, Local 1359

Approved: January 8, 2008