

# **DC-37 LOCAL 1359 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 14, 2006**

PRESENT: See sign-in sheet.

A quorum was present.

Present Carbone called to order the General Membership meeting of November 14, 2006 at 6pm in the 5th floor cafeteria of Gertz Plaza.

A motion to accept the General Membership minutes of October 10, 2006 was made by Dennis Ifill and seconded by Mushtaq Ali. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report of November, 2006 was made by Dennis Ifill and seconded by Charmaine Hardaway. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The second reading of all of the proposed Constitutional Amendments was held.

President Carbone made a motion to accept all of the proposed constitutional changes as recommended by the Local's Constitution Committee. The motion was seconded by Larry Ramer. A discussion was held. The question was called. A voice vote was taken. An overwhelming "yes" vote was recorded to call the question. One member was opposed. The question having been properly called, a voice vote was taken with respect to the constitutional changes as proposed by the Constitution committee. An overwhelming "yes" vote in favor of all of the changes was recorded. There were two "no" votes noted. More than two-thirds of the members present having voted in favor of the Local's Constitution Committee's proposed amendments to the Constitution, the motion passed and all the amendments were approved.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

REALLOCATION OF RENT INSPECTORS' GRADES: on October 26, 2006 the NYS Dept. of Civil Service approved a reallocation of grades for DHCR inspectors. Rent Inspector I was increased from grade 11 to grade 14 and Rent Inspector II from grade 14 to grade 18, retroactive to April 6, 2006. The retroactive monies and re-allocation salaries will be reflected in the paycheck dated November 15, 2006.

DC-37's Legislative Conference was held on October 28, 2006. President Carbone attended and assured the Board that Local 1359's housing issues were again included on DC-37's political agenda for 2007.

PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (PEP): the ability of those in grades 17 and below to opt into the PEP started October 30, 2006 and runs thru November 24, 2006. Joining the program requires giving-up three days of annual or personal leave in return for a \$400 health insurance premium credit. President Carbone has applications for any interested member.

Handouts were made available to the General Membership concerning Peter Cooper Village. The development was sold to developer Jerry Spier who paid 5.4 billion dollars.

AFSCME Scholarships are still available. The deadline is December 31, 2006.

EMPIRE PLAN HEALTH INSURANCE: the rate increase for the Empire Plan for 2007 will be 7.9% over current premium amounts.

Pursuant to Chapter 111 Laws of 2006, eligible members will receive a back-pay award for 5 and 10 year longevity increases which the state paid late. The award will be paid in the paycheck dated November 15, 2006. In addition, the law requires that all future longevity awards be received by members in the first pay period after the appropriate anniversary date.

In the October 18, 2006 New York State Register, DHCR has put forward proposed modifications to the Rent Stabilization Code and the Rent and Eviction Regulations. Almost all of them are anti tenant. President Carbone will be testifying against almost all of the proposals.

President Carbone announced that he sent an E-mail to all local members advising them of the Local's new Web site: [www.local1359.org](http://www.local1359.org). All members are encouraged to visit the site.

Handouts were made available to the General Membership for soliciting potential contract proposals. The Local's contract expires on April 1, 2007. Members can see Charmaine Hardaway for a hard copy.

Copies of a DC-37 Child Care Survey were made available to the General Membership.

GERTZ PLAZA RENOVATIONS: after the 6th floor is completely renovated the 4th floor will be moving upstairs. The people on the 5th floor will then move to the 4th floor temporarily while their floor is renovated. Construction is projected to start sometime in January, 2007 but such estimates have been inaccurate in the past.

PER CAPITA TAX INCREASE: President Carbone advised the General Membership that effective January 10, 2007 the per capita tax rate will be increased by \$1.95 per month. The increase is mandated by AFSCME and results in a .90 increase in the Local's dues structure effective January 10, 2007.

LOCAL HOLIDAY PARTY: tickets are still available.

There is currently no state incentive for those wishing to retire.

President Carbone advised the General Membership that information will be available at the next meeting concerning the February, 2007 Black and Puerto Rican Caucus.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7pm.

/s/ Charmaine Hardaway  
Charmaine Hardaway – Secretary

Approved: January 9, 2007