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Local 2627

District Council 37

AFSCME AFL-CIO

General Membership Meeting

January 17, 2017

Minutes

Treasurers Report

Presidents Report

Special Presentation – Ruth Pena DC37 Housing Committee

Old Business

New Business

Good and Welfare

President Ajaye called the meeting to order at 6:10 P.M. There was a quorum.

14• Minutes

President Ajaye asked for a motion to accept the minutes for the January 17, 2017 meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Brother Brian Wonserver. Brother Sorif Vatabu (CCRB) seconded. A vote to accept the minutes was taken and passed.

18• Treasurers Report

Brother Artie Kellam asked about the November Treasurers report. Brother Dunne stated he didn't have it with him and would bring it to the next GM meeting (March 21, 2017).

Brother Jim Ryan (CUNY) made a motion to accept the December Treasurers Report. Sister Barbara McCarthy (DOC) seconded. A vote to accept the December Treasurer's Report was taken and passed.

Brother Jim Ryan (York College) made a motion to accept the 2016 yearly Treasurers Report. Brother Noel Ramos (DCAS) seconded. A vote to accept the 2016 yearly Treasurers Report was taken and passed.

27• Presidents Report

President Ajaye mentioned that Brother Mitch Goldberg was correct when he stated that we were unable to increase the discretionary money without having it in two meeting notices. He wanted to thank Brother Goldberg for pointing this out. The vote to increase the Presidents discretionary money will be held during the March 2017 meeting.

President Ajaye introduced Ruth Pena, Director of the DC37 Housing Committee. President Ajaye is the Chair of the DC37 Housing Committee. The Housing Committee of DC37 assists the

34 members with everything housing related including buying homes, getting mortgages, rental
35 apartments and the filling out of applications, credit counseling, rental assistance for those behind
36 in rent for a one-shot deal, refinancing, foreclosure prevention and grants. Ruth encouraged the
37 membership to call her. There is a Housing Seminar every other month. The next one is
38 February 17th.

39 President Ajaye discussed the MELS (Municipal Employees Legal Services) benefit. MELS can
40 be reached at 212.815.1111. MELS assist employees with a variety of non-criminal legal
41 services including child suspension, credit issues, house sales, etc. The value for this benefit is
42 \$127, which the members get taxed on. Brother Ryan spoke about his experience with MELS.
43 He informed the members that they even assist with getting Access-A-Ride. He highly
44 recommends this service. Sister Julie Leibowitz also mentioned that everyone should use them
45 to create a will. Brother Lanni reminded the members that had Brother Ryan used his own
46 lawyers he would have paid thousands of dollars.

47 Mark Heron from Research and Negotiation discussed the contract extension with the
48 Membership. He explained that the money in the benefit fund was too low and steps needed to
49 be taken to add more money in the fund in order to maintain the current level of benefits. The
50 fund is used to provide prescription drugs, tuition reimbursement, MELS, and other medical
51 benefits such as dental etc. It is proposed that the current contract be extended 2 months and 23
52 days. This will provide a cash infusion of \$200 per member and that will allow the DC37
53 members and the DC37 Retirees to continue using these benefits. The main reason the fund is
54 using money in the reserve is due to the continuous rising costs of prescription drugs. A ballot
55 will be mailed to the members to vote on this contract extension. Mark is encouraging the
56 members to vote yes in order to maintain these services. Sister Barbara McCarthy asked Mark
57 how this issue will be addressed going forward. CUNY members do not have to vote on this.
58 The \$200 was negotiated into CUNY's last contract.

59 Mark also reminded the members to make sure that all of their beneficiary information is current.
60 If it is not current it can cause a lot of problems upon your death.

61 President Ajaye reported that in August of 2018 the prescription plan was due to go bankrupt.
62 DC37 is making some changes. 93% of every dollar that comes into the fund goes to prescription
63 drugs. The dental office in Brooklyn is closing, but the dental office in Manhattan will be open 7
64 days a week with extended hours.

65 President Ajaye discussed the current President, politics and the new right-to-work states. He is
66 encouraging all of the members to get involved with local politics and to make a difference. Life
67 as we know is going to be changing if we do not get active and involved. He mentioned the
68 Wisconsin reform issues and stating that the right-to-work states are making a lot of money and
69 many states are going to jump on board.

70 A motion was passed during the Eboard to contribute \$1000 to Mayor DeBlasio's campaign. He
71 is labor friendly and he has stopped privatizing. Another motion was passed to contribute \$500 to
72 Leticia James. She is also a friend and supporter of unions.

73 President Ajaye reported that there is an issue with the NYCHA telecommuting and flex time
74 program. Members complained that not everyone was able to get it. This is solely a
75 management issue. This is up to the Agency and there nothing the union can do. Sister Julie

76 Leibowitz asked if there was a specific unit where this was being offered and only one employee
77 that is not able to take advantage of this. In that situation there might be cause.

78 President Ajaye discussed the importance of attending events especially Labor Day. People
79 watch how many people come out during these events and if there is a low turnout, the politicians
80 will not take the issues seriously. In these times it is even more important to get out there.

81 President Ajaye mentioned that the members need to let the Union know if there are issues.
82 Complaining about something but refusing to come forward is not helpful for anyone. He
83 mentioned that Brother Frank Durham was the only member who stood up in his agency. There
84 is a lack of unity and that allows management to get away with things that they should not be
85 doing. They violate the contract but the members will not file a grievance. Some members
86 receive Comp Time, which is not pensionable instead of overtime pay. Members can file a
87 grievance if they are being forced to work overtime. President Ajaye mentioned that Social
88 Security will not go as far many years after being retired. It cannot be relied on to pay the bills.
89 The pension is extremely important to the members and need to be protected.

90 Maria Rico from Advanced Cardiovascular Associates gave a presentation about critical services
91 they provide. She talked about the health fair that our Local is holding on March 31st and about
92 the risk factors. People with Diabetes, Cholesterol, High Blood Pressure Hypertension, family
93 history should be tested. They use a signal sonogram to perform these tests that would help
94 prevent heart attacks and strokes. All insurance will be accepted and there is no cost to the
95 members. Everyone is welcome to participate. No one will be turned away. Screenings can
96 save lives. She gave an example of a Captain at Ryker's Island. He had high blood pressure
97 and only 20% of his heart functioning. He was a heart attack waiting to happen. He is currently
98 wearing a vest at all times because he has to wait 90 days for the insurance to cover the
99 defibrillator. Heart Disease kills more woman than breast cancer. Every 2 seconds someone
100 dies of a heart attack, every 4 minutes someone will die of a stroke. It is a lot easier to prevent
101 this from happening than to end up in the hospital or possibly dead. She also stated that after
102 having a stroke there is a 3 hour time limit where you can still get medical attention and be ok. A
103 team of cardiologists and nurses will be on site doing these non-invasive tests.

104 Local 2627 is moving from the Professional Division to the White Collar Division. President Ajaye
105 introduced Tyler Hemmingway the Director of the White Collar Division. Tyler introduced himself
106 to those who didn't know him and encouraged the members to get involved.

107• **Old Business**

108 None

109• **New Business**

110 Sister Julie Leibowitz mentioned that on Jan 26th Local 371 is holding the Charles Ensley
111 Education Fund Raiser. She is personally purchasing tickest and informed the members in case
112 they wanted to attend with their own money. They have a silent auction with sports and music
113 memoribelai. The event will be held at Russo's on the Bay.

114 Brother Cody Childs reported that the Black History program will be on Wednesday 2/8/17. The
115 theme of the event will be Motown Revolution with a special tribute to Stevie Wonder.

116 Brother Mike Lanni reported all of the good initiatives that President Ajaye implemented such as
117 tuition reimbursement and the Educational Scholarship.

118 **Good and Welfare**

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| Robert Curry | Z | His mother passed away. |
| George Kajdi Compton Thompson | DHS | His mother passed away. |
| Randolfo Montalvo | NYCHA | He had surgery. |
| Jerry Shen | HHC | His father-in-law passed away. |
| Delores Roberts | HRA | The member passed away. |
| Marsha Gorelin | HRA | Her mother passed away. |
| Dalal Fahmy | HRA | Her father passed away. |
| Joseph Ruza | HRA | Dalal had surgery. |
| Donald Loggins | HRA | Joseph is recovering from surgery. |
| Tamara Levina | HRA | He is recovering from surgery. |
| Sofia Grinshpun | DOF | She is recovering from surgery. |
| | DOF | She is recovering from surgery |

119

120 Brother Terry Dunn made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mohammad
121 Chowdhury. A vote was taken and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 PM.