

**Local 2627  
District Council 37  
General Membership Meeting  
November 15, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m. by Robert Ajaye, President  
There was a quorum.

In attendance were Executive Board Members:

Robert Ajaye, President  
Michael Lanni, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Gene Olmstead, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Bruce Heigh, Treasurer  
Judy Briggs, Secretary  
Cody Childs, Executive Board Member  
Robert Fishburne, Executive Board Member  
Susie Yuen, Executive Board Member

**Agenda:**

Minutes  
Treasurers Report  
Presidents Report  
Old Business  
New Business  
Good & Welfare

**Minutes**

A motion to accept the September 20, 2011 minutes was made by John Wilson, TRS, and seconded by Laura Pirtle, FDNY.

Gilbert Sambolin, DOE, complimented the new Secretary, Judy Briggs on the comprehensive minutes for September 20, 2011.

Corrections were noted. A vote was taken. The motion passed to accept the Minutes.

**Treasurer's Report**

Bruce Heigh, Treasurer, made a Treasurer's Report for October 2011, November 2011 and for January 1, 2011 to September 30, 2011. Gilbert Sambolin made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Julie Anne Liebowitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Bruce Heigh noted that AFSCME has sent a letter to Local 2627 that there would be no dues increase for the upcoming year. This is the second year in a row that AFSCME has not had a dues increase due to economic conditions.

Bruce Heigh noted that there is no Trustees Report at this meeting due to there being no available minutes for the last 6 months of the last Secretary's term that caused the audit to be late.

### **Local 2627 Executive Board Motions**

Judy Briggs, Secretary, read the motions made at the September 7, 2011 and October 4, 2011 Executive Board meetings.

Robert Ajaye, President, explained that the union, Local 2627, pays half the price of a ticket for the Italian Heritage Dinner Dance.

He explained that the dedication of the Martin Luther King Memorial in Washington, D.C. was the event the Local 2627 Board authorized the train ticket for, for Mike Lanni, 1st Vice President, to attend.

Robert Ajaye explained that there is no Trustee's Report at this meeting because there are no minutes yet from the last 6 meetings of the previous Secretary's term. All 6 sets will be done.

Anyone can read the Executive Board Minutes. Just ask and the office will send you a copy of the Executive Board Minutes.

### **President's Report**

Robert Ajaye, President, reported that he would begin with the good news. The Pay Order Date for Adjustment to Gross has been set as December 9<sup>th</sup> for all Mayoral Agencies, December 23<sup>rd</sup> for HHC, and December 15<sup>th</sup> for Housing Authority. The Pay Order dates for CUNY and Transit have not been set yet. The amount will be an increase of 5.47% over the previous ATG, retroactive to March 2, 2010.

The Telecommunications Exams are being postponed. No tentative date has been set for them to be rescheduled.

Robert Ajaye introduced Oliver Gray, Associate Director of DC 37 and invited him to say a few words. Mr. Gray said that it was good to be at the meeting and see democracy in action.

Robert Ajaye announced that the DC 37 attorney has found a loophole to protest the determination that Local 2627 may not sue the City for failing to offer exams while provisionals are in title. The previous determination said Union is barred by law from proceeding with the litigation until such time as the legislation expires on December 31, 2014. The case will be tested.

Robert Ajaye reported that there was a City Council hearing to present evidence about the contracting out of IT jobs. The Deputy Mayor gave assurances the contracting out would not affect our members. Letitia James had put forth bill that contracting out would be evaluated. However, despite assurances, two days later, David Moog of DC 37 discovered that they were trying to introduce a \$300 million no bid contract on our jobs. The public hearing was on Thursday. They were trying to slip something in on us in 72 hours.

According to the Citywide contract, the City is required to inform DC 37 of a contract hearing 90 days in advance with 45 days to go to the Controller's office for DC 37 to present an alternate plan. In spite of there being only 72 hours notice, due to Local 2627's e-alert system, 20 members of Local 2627 showed up for the hearing at 22 Reade Street. Members gave testimony. Bernie McFall, Office Administrative Trials & Hearings, Henry Garrido, Gene Olmstead, Rudy Kormann, Organized Crime Control Commission and myself gave testimony. Rudy Kormann had 10 years experience as consultant and full time employee. He said he didn't see why City employees couldn't do the work.

Thanks to the Comptroller, John Liu, the contract put forward by DoITT for \$300. million in IT contracting is now on hold. John Liu is examining it.

It's important that the members vote for people who have the labor union agenda. If they don't have our agenda, we need to lay off the politicians. The politicians get their salary for the rest of their life if they do one term. If they pass away their spouse gets their pension.

Robert Ajaye introduced and asked Raoul Martinez and Jon Ng, DC 37 Council Representatives, and Dana Tilghman, who has 10 years experience at DOE as Council Representative to stand up to be recognized. He said these are your council reps. They handle your grievances. He explained that there are DC 37 experts to deal with grievances. The staff in the Local 2627 office is not handling anything with a Grievance past Step 1.

On November 10<sup>th</sup> the City offered DC 37 the same thing the State offered the State employees, a 5-year contract that included 0%, 0%, 0%, 2%, 2%, furloughs, bigger contributions to the pension plan, and to have you pay into the pension plan for your whole career. DC37 is coming back asking for a fair wage increase. DC 37 hasn't said yet what percent it will be asking for. We want everything to stay in place, plus enhancements. In a worst case scenario, DC 37 will wait a contract out.

Mayor Bloomberg vetoed the bill the City Council put forth to have contracts evaluated. The City Council has assured the union they will override the veto. The City Council feels it is important because Mayor Bloomberg only won by 1% in the last election, even though he paid millions in advertising.

Lillian Roberts climbed six and seven flights to put flyers under people's doors to vote. If Lillian Roberts can do it, we can do it. At least members should come to the Labor Day parade. DC 37 is no longer 125,000 employees; it is 114,000. Recently with OTB, 1400 members lost their jobs, lost all health care, and in addition retired members lost their benefits. Two buses went to Albany – a bus only holds 49 people. This is complacency.

DOE laid off 700 people. We lost 3 members, computer aides, because there are no computer aides. We are trying to move them into DOC. On Oct. 5 there was a DOE rally with only 125 people. When DC 37 loses 11,000 people it loses dues and the most expensive part of dues is health prescriptions. Consultants don't get checked by DOI. The couple who stole money and fled to India, didn't have their passports removed. Did anyone not get their paycheck after 9/11. Everyone got paid because Local 2627 members were doing their jobs.

We have members dying on lists. The strongest agency in Local 2627 is HRA; 5 members on our board are from HRA. You have to show solidarity. We have to tie them up in litigation by knowing if you start something with one of the members you have to deal with all the members. We want you to go get education, to get certified.

Jerry McEntee, President of AFSCME is retiring. Danny Donohue is running for his position. I hope DC 37 will support Lee Saunders.

We had a meeting with DOC at OLR about DOC moving to Citytime. They will have two methods to use, the hand scanner or webclock. Everything at DOC will remain the same. Most places people come in on the hand scanner and go out of on the webclock. Florence Smith, DOC, asked how the webclock was used. Rudy Kormann explained you have to log into Citytime then punch into the webclock. It takes about 3 minutes. You get paid for your work schedule, even if you clock in earlier. If you clock out late, they have no obligation to pay you. Michael Zumbuskas, DOT, said they round up. If you are working 12 minutes, you could lose pay. If the shuttle bus is late, it is not DOC's problem. The reason for Citytime is that people were stealing. Robert Ajaye said he was at a QWL; there are people who have not been late or absent for 20 years. Gilbert Sambolin asked if privacy issues have been considered. Robert Ajaye explained that the biometric hand scanner reads hand, not fingerprints.

Flo Bolton, DoITT, asked about the \$300. million contract proposed and the new proposed Citywide agreement. Robert Ajaye said information is on the website, including the WBAI radio show. The IT contracting contract is now on hold. John Liu is looking at it. Robert Ajaye explained that when you retire you do not continue to pay dues to the Union.

Rudy Kormann asked what is going on with reclassification of titles. Robert Ajaye explained that the bill has 1 more year. He said, if we do the right thing and go to the polls, it will die next year. Gilbert Sambolin asked if it doesn't die next year, should people doing out of title work grieve now. Robert Ajaye said just file grievance. Choose who is going to go first if 5 or 6 people are grieving the same thing. With 5 or 6 grievances at the same time for the same thing no one is going to get it. Local 2627 cannot handle 5 grievances.

Robert Ajaye explained that DC 37 trying to change the language in the contract regarding the standby rules. At Design & Construction they recouped the money. Only 1 member was willing to stand up and grieve.

Rudy Kormann explained that another contract John Liu is looking into is a GIS system on the fire trucks that do not work. Robert Ajaye explained that once Citytime was taken over by city employees it was up and running in less than a year. Gene Olmstead testified that before Citytime, HRA had a timekeeping system that worked. CUNY had their own timekeeping system. Robert Ajaye said that there was a revolving City group that went around to all the agencies. That group was disbanded. There is no oversight of consultants.

DC 37 has education scholarships. The deadline is March 12, 2012 if you want to apply for Freshman and Juniors for a technical school or college. The SAT program is \$75. members and \$85. non-members, The higher the SAT the greater chance you can get scholarship. At the beginning of year, I want to have the local think of giving \$25K to 5 of our children.

DC 37 has MELS that does wills, divorces, debt collection counseling, 2<sup>nd</sup> opinions on medical, personal services for emotional issues.

At the last Executive Board meeting, with Salary Review I made a promise to write a letter to Research & Negotiations about the status of Salary Review. I'm going to tell you honestly it is not going to go any place.

Robert Ajaye recognized Mitchell Goldberg. Mitchell Goldberg asked how DC 37 stood on the changes to the pension plan. Robert Ajaye explained that John Liu came down to DC 37 to talk to about it. They are hiring an outside group to manage the pension funds. Mitchell Goldberg cited municipalities in California that ran a shortfall in pension funds and there was no accountability by brokers. *The Chief* article was not clear about how DC 37 felt about it. Bruce Heigh asked if there was someone from the DC 37 pension committee who could come to a Local 2627 meeting. He suggested that Mitchell Goldberg write a letter to the *Public Employee Press* about it and he would get an answer. Robert Ajaye said Dennis Deahn of DC 37 was on the pension committee. The plan is to consolidate 5 pension plans. NYCERS is one of them. They want to have more flexibility to invest at a faster rate. They don't have people who have expertise on the outside. They want to know what their options are. Mitchell Goldberg asked to bring someone in. Robert Ajaye recognized Judy Briggs. Judy Briggs asked whether this will come before DC 37 membership. She expressed the opinion that with new tiers proposed in State and City pension systems asking for pay into the pension system for the lifetime of a person's career, a lot of money will be floating into the pension system. She suggested a lot of people would be trying to get their hands on that money. She said with salesmen making recommendations there is the equivalent of insider trading. Robert Ajaye said it is coming before the Central Labor Council. Bruce Heigh reported that the TWU and TEAMSTERS were the 2 union pension systems that did not agree, because they said they were not informed about it. Terry Dunne said there should be complete separation of the people making recommendations from the people selling and making commissions. Bruce Heigh said the consolidation of 5 pension systems into 1 pension system would be saving the City more than \$2 billion a year, according to the presentation. Judy Briggs said this is the promise. A member said sometimes funds become too big. When a fund gets too big they cannot invest it effectively.

Mitchell Goldberg commented on the suggestion that Local 2627 give education scholarships. He said the whole purpose for being here is for collective bargaining, not to give scholarships. Local 2627 is not a social welfare organization. He asked members to consider something that benefits all the members. Robert Ajaye said the members are going to vote on this and anyone opposed should vote no.

Gilbert Sambolin said he would like to make a motion that Local 2627 buy jackets for Shop Stewards that says Local 2627 Shop Steward. No second. Robert Ajaye said there was no quorum. It was tabled. Robert Ajaye said we will find out a vendor who makes a jacket for \$35-\$40. and anyone who wants a jacket can get a jacket.

Rudy Kormann proposed research on what City employees have written that are saving money. He proposed a media blitz. There was discussion. Michael Zumbuskas said that with Facebook and Twitter, public TV and YouTube you can get it out in the media. He reported that he is running for State Assembly next year on the Independent line. Robert Ajaye said the union is interested not in the ticket so much as what you stand for. Gilbert Sambolin commented that at the NY Tech Summit NYC employees receiving awards. Local 2627 needs to gather info on these applications saving the City millions. Robert Ajaye said people who have Twitter & Facebook should set up pages.

#### Old Business

At the Central Labor Council, as the representative from Local 2627, Gene Olmstead learned that *The Chief* is no longer a union shop. Use the *Press Digest*. Bruce Heigh said the paper was sold. There are new typesetters. The typesetters in the new shop are non-union.

#### New Business

Robert Ajaye said if you want to talk to me, call me.

#### Good & Welfare

Michael Lanni reported that the Local had sent good and welfare to these members.

Pat Washington (Director of DC37 Membership Services)	Death in her family.
Dennis Serraine (DOF)	Dennis Serraine is ill.
Maureen Fyffe (DOF)	Death in her family.
Kenny Williams (DoITT)	Kenny is recovering from surgery.
Karen Hadley (DoITT)	Karen is recovering from surgery.
Jonathan Bleich (DoITT)	His father passed away.
Dennis Harney (HRA)	Dennis is ill.
Theo Gary Brunson (HRA)	Death in the family.
Susan Tumilowicz (HRA)	Her mother passed away.
Gregory Floyd (Teamsters)	Death in the family.
Gary Andretta (NYCHA)	Death in his family.
Rolando Dewindt (NYPC)	He is ill.

Gilbert Sambolin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cody Childs seconded the motion. A vote was taken. The vote passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Briggs  
Local 2627, Secretary

Attachments:

Treasurer's Report, for October 2011, November 2011 and for January 1, 2011 to September 30, 2011.