

1 **Local 2627**

2 **District Council 37**

3 **AFSCME AFL-CIO**

4 **General Membership Meeting**

5 **November 17, 2015**

6 **Minutes**

7 **Treasurers Report**

8 **Presidents Report**

9 **Special Order of Business: Child Scholarship**

10 **Old Business**

11 **New Business**

12 **Good and Welfare**

13 President Ajaye called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M. There was a quorum.

14 **• Minutes**

15 Brother Alvin Knowles (DOE) made the motion to accept the September 16th minutes. It was
16 seconded. The motion to accept the September 16th minutes with no corrections passed.

17 **• Treasurer's Report**

18 Sister Barbara McCarthy (DOC) made the motion to accept the September 16th Treasurer's
19 Report. It was seconded. The motion to accept the Treasurer's Report with no corrections
20 passed.

21
22 **• Presidents Report**

23 President Ajaye relayed the importance of aiding Puerto Rico, stating that they are in a dire
24 financial state. We have a lot of DC37 members in Puerto Rico. He informed the membership
25 that we need to lobby the politicians and get them to do the right thing regarding the status of
26 Puerto Rico. DC37 is sending 2 buses to Washington to lobby on behalf of Puerto Rico.
27 President Ajaye would like the Local to sponsor one of the buses. He reminded the membership
28 how important it is to be involved politically, using the growing right to work states and the low
29 voter turnouts as an example. AFSCME and the Central Labor Council (CLC) have requested
30 dues increases in response to the members opting out of dues in the right to work states. The
31 increase for AFSCME will be 80 cents and the increase to the CLC will be 2 cents. President
32 Ajaye also reminded the membership that we are under attack. The billionaires want to "take us
33 out". We pay a significant amount of money for them to manage our pension funds. The
34 combined pensions in NYC are about \$162 million and that money is at risk. This is why it is
35 critical to vote. It is the apathy of the voters that is allowing the politicians who do not support our
36 issues to get into office and to continuously do things that are not good for labor. He cited that
37 when we got the \$500 million dollars back, it didn't go back to the members. That money just
38 disappeared. That is why it is critical to vote. If anyone is not registered, please register. He
39 reminded the members about what happened to OTB, which not only ceased to exist, but all of
40 the employees who had retired, lost their pension. Voting for the right candidates makes a

41 difference. Jim Ryan (York College) made the motion to spend \$2000 to send a bus to
42 Washington to lobby for Puerto Rico. It was seconded. The motion passed.

43
44 The DOITT Job fair was very disappointing. The Local fought for this and about 100 members
45 came out to apply for jobs. The members need to show up for these job fairs so they keep giving
46 them.

47
48 President Ajaye reported on the upcoming Computer Associate and Computer Specialist Exams.
49 He informed the membership to read the posted notices since they have all of the information on
50 them. He and the Local had nothing to do with the creation of these exams, so the Local is
51 unable to recommend to the members what is on the exam and what they should know. He did
52 inform the members that it is possible that people may be disqualified after they take the exam. If
53 anyone gets disqualified the first thing to do is try to appeal the decision. That is when the Local
54 should be contacted. The Local will make sure there is an attorney from the General Counsel's
55 office at DC37 to represent you if you have to go in front of people. If anyone has questions
56 regarding the Promotional or Open Competitive definitions then call the Local.

57
58 President Ajaye reminded the members that it is important to have the correct information in order
59 to best service the members. Therefore, if a member has a question regarding their pension, or
60 other services/benefits, they should contact the direct person who is the expert in DC37, not the
61 HR person in the Agency.

62
63 When any member calls the office, it is imperative to leave your name and the contact phone
64 number. Speak clearly and repeat it 2x. The issues will not be addressed if there is no way to
65 understand and contact the caller. In addition, hanging up is not recommended. Every call is
66 returned to the member.

67
68 Brother Zudget Santo (NYPD) requested information on where to get materials to aide with the
69 test taking. President Ajaye recommended speaking to DCAS. President Ajaye stated that there
70 was a conflict on the Notice of Examination because on one page it said Education and
71 Experience and on another page it stated maybe a written exam. Since DCAS did not get back to
72 him, he did not feel it would be in the members' best interest to speculate. Once he hears back
73 from DCAS he will inform the membership.

74
75 Sister Julie Leibowitz reminded the membership that anyone who gets disqualified only has a 30
76 day window to appeal this decision. She also informed the membership that if anyone felt that
77 there were questions that were not valid, they can challenge any question. The question that is
78 challenged should be specific. There is a specific way to challenge the exam. The members
79 must challenge the correct way and not email the DCAS Commissioner.

80
81 Senior Council Rep Jon Ng addressed the membership while waiting for the Trustees to set up
82 the drawing for the Child Scholarship. He was discussing the member contact form. He strongly
83 advised all of the members to fill out the form. This will help the organizing department to
84 organize the members and get them mobilized when they are needed. One of the reasons there
85 is still an issue with the CUNY contract is the lack of the members to come out and protest. Jon
86 will be in the back of the room handing out green cards and member contact forms.

87

88 • **Special Order of Business – Drawing for the Child Scholarships**
89 President Ajaye turned over the meeting to Artie Kellam, the Senior Trustee and the Trustees
90 Frank Durham and Kalpesh Patel for the drawing of the Child Scholarship this year.

91
92 There were 18 applications, 14 were accepted and 4 were rejected. 2 transferred but no
93 applications were submitted. 1 application came in late. 1 accumulated was below the required
94 minimum GPA.

95
96 The drawing is for five scholarships valued at \$2,000 each. Volunteers pulled the following
97 recipients: Raquel Delerme; Joanna Kiperman; Jennie McMorrow; Brian Minevich; Vinay Shah.

98
99 **MIKE CAN I GET THE LIST OF THE NAMES> I COULDN'T HEAR ON THE TAPE**

100
101 President Ajaye reminded the membership that the Local funds these scholarships completely.

102
103 • **Old Business**

104 Brother Ralph Dibello (NYPD) has issues with the way they are being treated in NYPD. There is a
105 lot of intimidation and it's accelerating. He is going to put together a letter with what is actually
106 going on and he will submit it to the Local. President Ajaye relayed that this is being addressed.
107 It is a slow process, but it will be delt with. Executive Director Henry Garrido was at the PD and
108 he is working on it. He has only been in office 11months and changes are being made. There
109 was additional discussion concurring with what Brother Fidello said. There is a lot of frustration
110 in NYPD.

111 Jon Ng reported that we do well with the grievances because we keep them out of the Public
112 Employee Press (PEP).

113 • **New Business**

114 Sister Michelle Hodelin (HRA) and Lenore Green (Metro Plus) went to the AFSCME Woman's
115 Committee convention. Sister Hodelin reported back that the seminars were informative and it
116 was a wonderful opportunity.

117 There are 2 seminars on 11/21 and 11/23 regarding student loans and the possibility of getting
118 out of some of the debt. Members were encouraged to take advantage of these seminars.

119 President Ajaye reminded the membership of the services DC37 provides including the
120 Municipal Employee Legal Services (MELS). The MELS contact number is 212.815.1111.

121 Jon Ng spoke about the members from NYCHA who went upstate. There was a payment issue
122 because they were away and they weren't going to get paid for the entire time they were away.
123 He was able to get them the correct payment because they did call the union and it was able to
124 be resolved.

125 Sheyvonne Jones was able to get members from Metro Plus back pay that had been an issue for
126 almost 10 years.

127 Sister Barbara McCarthy is Da Harlem Spinna. If anyone needs a DJ please check out her website
128 – www.daharlemspinna.com

129 **Good and Welfare**

130 This list is long because it wasn't read at the last meeting and its covering a 3 month period.

Gary Leunis	DEP	He is recovering from surgery.
Lily Leader	DOC	Her Mother passed away.
Barbara Mc Carthy	DOC	Her mother is recovering from surgery.
Anthony Donato	DOF	His mother-in-law passed away.
Joseph Peltzman	DOH-MH	His Brother passed away.
Walter Klass	Doitt	His Brother passed away.
Mike Halcott	HRA	He is recovering from an injury.
Michele Shepard	HRA	Her mother passed away.
Diana Mirsky	HRA	She was in the hospital.
Tammy Jones	HRA	She was released from hospital.
Leonard Walker	NYCHA	His mother passed away.
David Eng	NYCHA	His father passed away.
Gary Andretta	NYCHA	His son passed away.
Tina Chan	DOF	Tina's mother passed away.
Kristen Lee	FDNY	She got hurt and is recovery.
Anthony Nunez	Dept Cons Affr	New baby Girl.
Sandy Lee	HRA	Her mother passed away.
Lenny Days	HRA	His father-in-law passed away.
Jose Diaz	HRA	His mother passed away.
Joyce Chester	Comptroller	Member Joyce Chester passed away.
Sharon Deese	Bus Integrity Unit	She was in an accident. She is recovering.
Alla Kenigsberg	DOF	She was injured.
Irina Semiglazova	DOC	Her husband passed away.
May Yuen-Dong	HRA	She had surgery.
Fred Danishefsky	DOF	Fred's mother-in-law passed away.

131

132 Brother Terrence Dunne made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded. The meeting ended at 7:18 PM.