

**Local 154, DC37, AFSCME
General Membership Meeting at 6 P.M.
March 31, 2021**

AGENDA

**Minutes
Financial Report – Audit Report
President’s Report
Old/New Business
Good and Welfare**

Meeting called to order at 6:11 PM, meeting was delayed due to technical computer issues via Ring. Quorum available.

Teleconference meeting due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Thanks to Lewis Hobgood for technical assistance in setting up the Ring Central Minute application for tonight’s General Membership Meeting.

Roll Call taken by Secretary Sheera Glass:

The following members are present at tonight’s General Membership meeting of March 31, 2021:

Juan Fernandez, Juliet White, Tom Orawiec, Sheera Glass, James Whooley, Gina Cooper, Connie Francis- McNee, Albert Serrano, Mark Heron, Raquel Vega, Sanvi Sobj, Lewis Hobgood, Diana Thillet, Sonia Belgrave, Carol Baez, Veronica Lues, Francisca Leopold, Johana Bonny, Stacey Starke, Christina, Maria Giordano, Patricia Glowinski,

Minutes of General Membership Meeting from November 4, 2020 Motion was made to accept past minutes by Veronica Lues and seconded by Diana Thillet. Corrections/Changes: None. The motion passes and November 4, 2020 minutes for the General Membership meeting are entered into the record.

All materials for tonight’s meeting are on our Local 154 Website.

Financial Report dated March 31, 2021 for months of November 2020, December 2020, January 2021 and February 2021.

For detailed information see Financial Report

Motion was made by James Whooley and seconded by Stacey Starke. and seconded by Albert Serrano to accept the financial report. Comments/ Changes: Pres Fernandez comments on the excellent job that Treasurer Orawiec is doing at keeping our Local 154 in good financial shape. Motion passes and the Financial Report is entered into the record.

	11/30/2020	12/31/2020	1/31/2021	2/28/2021
Checking	19,671.89	14,993.00	12,542.87	10,462.27
General Account	172,132.86	192,192.05	192,262.70	196,838.33
PAC	1,412.00	1,412.00	1,412.00	1,412.00
Total	193,216.75	208,597.05	206,217.57	208,712.60

Audit Report

Treasurer Orawiec presents the Audit Report dated March 30, 2021 from Peter DeCarlo, Certified Public Accountant. According to Mr. DeCarlo, Our Local 154 is in good standing as well as sufficient and appropriate for December 31, 2019 & 2018.

Motion to accept Audit Report made by Albert Serrano and seconded by Diana Thillet.

Motion passes. The Audit Report is entered into the record.

Presidents Report (for more information please see report on our website)

Pres. Fernandez reports on issues that are highlighted and most urgent at present time such as Reopening the City during COVID; Federal Funds to City and State; Union's stance on vaccinations; Early Retirement Bills, and Upcoming Civil Service Exams

According to Pres. Fernandez, Mayor DeBlasio wants City workers to return to their offices on May 3, 2021. The Unions are uneasy with the mayor's decision stating concerns about health and safety to our members. As you know over 200 DC-37 members have died because of COVID.

The Union strongly encourages all City workers to get vaccinated. The city is sponsoring a vaccination day in Queens at various locations. There are other locations listed on DC-37 or by calling 311.

If workers refuse to get vaccinated because of health issues, they can ask for reasonable accommodations through their EEO Office in their agency.

Union to inspect all work places, especially those old City buildings with old ventilation systems that greatly contribute to poor air quality and lack of circulation.

DC-37 is meeting with City, OLR and DCAS on Friday April 2, 2021 to pose questions and discuss items like health and safety and obtain written guidelines and protocols for this before reopening the city workplace.

May 3rd should be a target day, not an exact to reopen the City, while there are poor working conditions in the workplace. The members health and safety are key factors before we go back to the workplace.

DC-37 has updates on ongoing issues with the members and COVID. Please sign up if you haven't already done so.

Early Retirement Incentive Bill: Pres. Fernandez provides an overview of the 2 ERI bills that were included in the state budget. The bills include state workers and city workers. At first Governor Cuomo did not want to include state workers.

On April 1, the state legislature will vote on budget which will include the ERI bill for State and City workers. We believe that Governor Cuomo will block the bill.

The authors of these bills are Gounardes Bill # S04170 and Abinant from the Assembly Bill # A5807.

The benefits of Early Retirement Incentive are: Workers, 62 years of age and over get 1 month for each year of service, 3 years of increased Pension. Workers under 55-62 years of age can retire without penalty and receive pension. We believe that 3,000-4,000 workers will take the ERI and leave City government.

The cost to figure early retirement numbers are \$33, 000 dollars for each worker that decides to take the early retirement package.

DC-37 will offer workshops after ERI is passed

However, we believe the ERI is practical saving, as there will be no layoffs until June 2022.

Civil Service Exams: After much push from DC37 and Local 154, DCAS has made the decision to add 2 civil service exams, Administrative Claims Examiner and Associate Claims Examiner. Both titles require at least 2 years provisional in the respective titles. The deadline to apply for these exams is today March 31.

Mark Heron of DC-37 Negotiation and Research Department, discusses the use of sick leave, annual leave and terminal leave and how it will factor into the ERI. Questions ensued and were answered.

Good and Welfare: DC-37 has lost over 200 members due to COVID pandemic, including Robert Mobyed, a Claim Specialist at NY Transit; John Calder, a NYLS retiree passed away as consequence of the virus, and another member with SODEXO at Coney Hospital. Moybed's photograph could be seen in the subway in Transit workers' memorial.

Old Business/New Business: None

Motion to adjourn by James Whooley and seconded by Veronica Lues.

It is Important to stay in contact with the members especially at your respective workplace, especially during this COVID-19 health crisis.

Sheera S. Glass

Respectfully submitted by Sheera S. Glass, Secretary