



February 22, 2024

Dear AFSCME DC 37 Retirees Association Members,

On February 22, AFSCME President Lee Saunders placed the Retirees Association of DC 37 under emergency administratorship. This means that the national union has assumed responsibility for the day-to-day affairs of the Association. To carry out these responsibilities, he has appointed me, Ann Widger, Director of AFSCME Retirees, to serve as the Association's administrator and Terri Brady, Retirees Field Coordinator, to serve as deputy administrator.

The decision to place an AFSCME affiliate under administratorship is never made lightly, and only when absolutely necessary to protect the interests of you, the membership. In this case, the International Union recently became aware that the DC 37 Retirees Association was not following AFSCME's Financial Standards Code or Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requirements, which jeopardized the Retirees Association's funds and assets.

Unfortunately, the IRS has revoked the Association's tax-exempt status for failure to file its annual tax return for the past six years. Again, this puts the Retirees Association's funds and assets at risk. The Retirees Association also has not conducted an outside audit since at least 2017. These are serious failings. In pursuing these matters with the Association, it became clear that there was no significant effort or progress being made to correct them. While there is no evidence of any individual financial wrongdoing, these matters cannot go unaddressed.

*Over, please.*

I realize that some will say this is about the current debate around retiree health care for New York City retirees. Make no mistake: It is not. It is about serious violations of AFSCME's Financial Standards Code and the International Constitution, which has resulted in the IRS revoking the Retirees Association of DC 37's tax-exempt status.

My goal as Administrator is to put the Retirees Association's affairs back in order. Retiree members are a vital part of our union. You have a right to an organization that lives up to the highest standards of fiscal accountability, responsibility, and transparency. I look forward to moving forward together. To stay up to date, sign up to receive email alerts at [www.actionnetwork.org/forms/dc37retirees](http://www.actionnetwork.org/forms/dc37retirees) or visit [www.dc37retireesassociation.org](http://www.dc37retireesassociation.org).

In solidarity,



Ann Widger

Retirees Association of DC 37

Director, AFSCME Retirees

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CC: Lee Saunders, AFSCME President

Henry Garrido, DC 37 Executive Director

Terri Brady, DC 37 Retirees Association Deputy Administrator