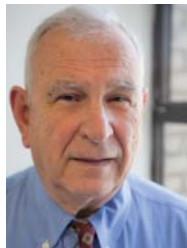


# retiree wrapup



Edward W. Hysyk

## President's Message

### Health Benefits for the Surviving Spouse/ Domestic Partner

The entitlement to New York City-provided health insurance and DC 37 Health & Security Plan Benefits change for the surviving spouse/ domestic partner upon the passing of the retiree.

Surviving spouses and partners do have certain rights and benefits and advanced planning is important.

The DC 37 Health & Security Plan extends without premium full coverage for the first year after a retiree's death. This means that the surviving spouse/ domestic partner receives continued optical, dental, and prescription drug coverage for 12 months.

Although city-provided health insurance ceases upon the death of the retiree, the surviving spouse/domestic partner is entitled to purchase continued coverage through the city under the federal COBRA act.

The rate chart for the COBRA NYC health insurance can be found at the city Office of Labor Relations (OLR) website at [www.nyc.gov/olr](http://www.nyc.gov/olr). Click on the "Health Benefits" link, the "Retiree" link, and then on the "COBRA" link. Although COBRA coverage is costly, it is probably less expensive than what is available on the open market except for lower-income surviving spouses and partners who might qualify for Medicaid.

Surviving spouses and partners are also entitled to purchase COBRA Health and Security Plan coverage for the second and third years after the retiree's death. For additional information, please contact the DC 37 Health & Security Plan at 212.815.1234.

Medicare eligible surviving spouse/domestic partners should select carefully the prescription drug coverage that is desired, if any at all. For both the surviving spouse/domestic partner, the DC 37 Health & Security Plan and the GHI Rider are Medicare Part D plans, but they may have different deductibles, copays, and premiums.

After the third year, the surviving spouse/domestic partner must purchase coverage on the open market at prevailing rates.



DC 37 Retirees Association Vice President Dominick Martino and AARP activists accompany New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio at a rally in support of private-sector workers who have low salaries and lack pensions.

## Retirees Association New York Meetings

- Housing Committee ..... Wed., Jan. 8 ..... 11:00 a.m.
- Jewish Heritage Committee ..... Mon., Jan. 13 ..... 11:00 a.m.
- Black History Committee ..... Tues., Jan. 14 ..... 9:00 a.m.
- General Membership ..... Tues., Jan. 14 ..... 10:00 a.m.
- Health/CBTU Committee ..... Tues., Jan. 14 ..... Noon
- Meet & Greet Committee ..... Tues., Jan. 14 ..... 1:00 p.m.
- Political Action Committee ..... Tues., Jan. 21 ..... 10:30 a.m.
- Executive Board ..... Tues., Jan. 28 ..... 11:00 a.m.
- Hispanic Committee ..... Tues., Feb. 4 ..... 10:30 a.m.
- Housing Committee ..... Wed., Feb. 5 ..... 11:00 a.m.
- Black History Committee ..... Tues., Feb. 11 ..... 9:00 a.m.
- General Membership ..... Tues., Feb. 11 ..... 10:00 a.m.
- Health/CBTU Committee ..... Tues., Feb. 11 ..... Noon
- Meet & Greet Committee ..... Tues., Feb. 11 ..... 1:00 p.m.
- Political Action Committee ..... Tues., Feb. 18 ..... 10:30 a.m.
- Executive Board ..... Tues., Feb. 25 ..... 11:00 a.m.
- Asian Committee ..... Wed., Feb. 26 ..... 1:00 p.m.
- Housing Committee ..... Wed., March 4 ..... 11:00 a.m.
- Black History Committee ..... Tues., March 10 ..... 9:00 a.m.
- General Membership ..... Tues., March 10 ..... 10:00 a.m.
- Health/CBTU Committee ..... Tues., March 10 ..... Noon
- Meet & Greet Committee ..... Tues., March 10 ..... 1:00 p.m.
- Political Action Committee ..... Tues., March 17 ..... 10:30 a.m.
- Executive Board ..... Tues., March 24 ..... 11:00 a.m.
- Housing Committee ..... Wed., April 1 ..... 11:00 a.m.
- Hispanic Committee ..... Tues., April 7 ..... 10:30 a.m.
- Black History Committee ..... Tues., April 14 ..... 9:00 a.m.
- General Membership ..... Tues., April 14 ..... 10:00 a.m.
- Health/CBTU Committee ..... Tues., April 14 ..... Noon
- Meet & Greet Committee ..... Tues., April 14 ..... 1:00 p.m.

For more updated information, please visit the PEP Talk Retiree link on the DC 37 website at [www.dc37.net](http://www.dc37.net), send an email to [retassn@dc37.net](mailto:retassn@dc37.net), or call 212.815.1781.



United Nations  
International Day  
of Older People in October 2019

Dominick Martino, Vice President of Social Security, Pensions and Medicare, for the DC 37 Retirees Association, recently spoke at the United Nations International Day of Older People.

*"As we get older, our rights must not change and we are no less human and should not become invisible. We get old because we stop growing. We do not grow old. Life does not change just because you retire. If you want anything, you still have to fight for it, and if you try, you can make a difference," he said.*