



# NEW YORK CITY MANAGERIAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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## RETIREES CHAPTER MEETING

**MAY 20, 2019**

### MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 11 am.

The Minutes from the meeting of October 9, 2018 were accepted as presented without any changes.

The Chapter Director Adrienne Leaf introduced Guest Speaker Leslie Sierra, Outreach Coordinator at State Wide Senior Action Council. Leslie has been with State Wide since 2012 but already had over 20 years' experience working with the senior population.

State Wide is an organization which lobbies for senior issues with State legislators. Currently there are three major initiatives:

- 1) Safe Staffing – The Council is very concerned that residential facilities providing care to seniors are adequately staffed. We have all read about abuse and neglect of residents at these facilities. Quality of staff contributes to these situations, but government has a responsibility to ensure facilities are regulated and monitored to ensure patient safety. This is a continuing major initiative of the Senior Action Council.
- 2) Insurance coverage – Another major initiative is ensuring there is no encroachment on Medicare/Medicaid coverage for seniors in NY State. This also includes drug prices. Seniors are the largest voting block in the state.
- 3) Affordable health care – the Council lobbies State government in Albany on legislative initiatives involving affordable health care for seniors.

Other issues Leslie discussed with members were new Medicare cards. By now, all seniors should have received their new card and should call Medicare's 800 number if they have not. She also discussed senior scams. She indicated the IRS and Medicare only contact people by letter. Any phone calls are scams, and seniors should hang up on those callers immediately. The Senior Action Council has a contract to help prevent senior fraud. Their Senior Medicare Patrol program is actively involved in providing assistance to seniors in preventing fraud. She urged members to read their EOB (Explanation of Benefits) reports to ensure providers are billing Medicare for services they actually provided.

Leslie spent time responding to questions from members and provided brochures, so members could join the State Wide Senior Action Council. Individual memberships are only \$20/year.

### **Chapter Chair Report, Adrienne Leaf**

Adrienne welcomed everyone to brunch at Junior's in downtown Brooklyn.

Membership continues to grow. As of April 30<sup>th</sup>, we have 570 members and the Retirees Chapter is now the second largest chapter in the MEA.

Applications for IRMMA supplemental Medicare Part B reimbursement are now available on OLR's website. Members who were charged additional Part B premiums by Medicare should apply for this reimbursement which is paid for by the City. In order to apply for reimbursement, download the application from the OLR website and complete the form; attach the SSA-1099 2018 award letter and mail all information to OLR. Funds will be sent in October.

The Chapter received \$775 for the 2018 Incentive Award. We earn incentive dollars by increasing our membership and participating in MEA projects through the Volunteer Corps. Our Incentive Award dollars are used to pay for our annual brunch/lunch at other venues.

The new website will contain a much more interactive Retirees page. We are hoping it will launch in July or August. Anyone interested in working with Adrienne, Evelyn and Sam to put articles of interest to members on the website should let one of us know.

### **President's Report – Shelly Shulman**

Shelly welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed how much he enjoys our Chapter meetings. He thanked Adrienne, Sam and Evelyn for arranging the brunch at Junior's.

Shelly indicated MEA is still trying to reverse the loss of annual leave days for members by the Mayor's initiative for Paid Parental Leave (PPL). Our attorney appealed the State Court decision that supported the City, and we are awaiting a decision on our appeal.

Unionization continues to effect MEA members and we expect to have additional layoffs and cutbacks of managers at Health and Hospitals this year.

### **Toastmasters – Gail Proto**

Gail came to speak to members about Toastmasters. It is an international organization which helps members improve their public speaking skills. MEA supports its members who join Toastmasters by paying their membership dues for the first 6 months. They meet twice a month at MEA Headquarters. All chapter members are eligible to join.

There being no additional business, Motion to adjourn was proposed and seconded with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne Leaf