



**RETIREES CHAPTER MEETING
OCTOBER 13, 2020
MINUTES (VIA ZOOM)**

The meeting commenced at 2:00 PM. The thirty-two (32) ZOOM participants were invited to briefly introduce themselves. The Minutes of the May 20, 2019 Meeting were adopted as presented without any changes.

Election of Chapter Officers

Stu Eber, chapter member and former president of the MEA, conducted the election. The current officers were nominated unopposed and elected.

Chapter Director - Adrienne Leaf

Assistant Chapter Director for Membership and Recruitment - Sam Borkow

Assistant Chapter Director for Programs - Candi Carcana

Recording Secretary - Lisa Yee

MEA Legal Services Benefit Program - Stuart Salles, Counsel

Stu Salles explained the benefits of the MEA's Legal Services Benefit Program, available to active and retired MEA members, their spouses and domestic partners, their parents and their dependent children. The program, created through the efforts of late MEA Retirees member, Joel Fishelson, offers a free ½ hour consultation (conducted virtually during the pandemic) on non-job related legal matters. Among the areas covered are landlord-tenant and other real estate matters, estate planning, matrimonial and custody issues, and consumer disputes. Charges for additional legal work are adjusted for MEA members. Only dues paying members are eligible for this benefit and should contact the MEA office to schedule an appointment with legal counsel. Although the program does not cover out of state matters, counsel can refer the member to an out of state attorney, usually at no charge for the initial consultation.

President's Report - Shelly Shulman

Shelly reported on the MEA's statement objecting to Mayor DeBlasio's five day furlough of managers and non-unionized employees. <https://nycmea.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Managerial-Furloughs-NYCMEA-10.01.2020-WEB.pdf>

The MEA's position was supported in an editorial in The Chief. Shelly pointed out that many of these managers work as first responders during the coronavirus pandemic, citing as an example the Health and Hospitals Corporation managers at Elmhurst Hospital. Instead, the MEA supports early retirement incentives and, if fiscal necessity demands, across the board layoffs.

The MEA is still working to try to restore the two (2) days of annual leave taken from managers to fund the Mayor's initiative for Paid Parental Leave, following the loss of our appeal in the courts. The PPL was imposed by the Mayor unilaterally over City Council opposition, and equity raises for managers were also deferred to pay for the program.

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There are two (2) pension bills pending in the State legislature. The MEA is monitoring them.

Linda Barnes, the MEA Executive Director, will be retiring in December. Shelly congratulated her and thanked her for her dedication to and advocacy on behalf of City managers.

The strength of the MEA lies with its members. Recruitment is essential, as managerial positions are converted to civil service positions, resulting in a loss of MEA members. Warren Lewis, the MEA representative to the Council of Municipal Retiree Organizations, commented that among the COMRO members, the MEA's membership is smaller than DC37 and UFT, which have the most members.

Chapter Director's Report - Adrienne Leaf

Adrienne reported that the Chapter's membership increased from 538 in 2018 to 559 currently, due in large part to the efforts of Sam Borkow, our Assistant Chapter Director for Membership. The MEA Retirees page on the website is being updated. Medicare Part B IRMAA applications for 2019 are available on the OLR website, and IRMAA reimbursements will start to be issued in October. Applications must be uploaded on the website. The animated video on the website is helpful in explaining the process.

Council of Municipal Retiree Organizations (COMRO) Report - Warren Lewis

Warren reported that the guest speaker at COMRO's September meeting spoke on climate change and the environment, and about the state coalition, of which COMRO is a member. COMRO's October meeting will be held tomorrow and will feature Vinnie Alvarez of the Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

Toastmasters - Gail Proto, TIP Club Chair

Gail invited everyone to the next Toastmasters Open House on October 27 at 7:00 PM on ZOOM. Information is available at <https://tipclub.toastmastersclubs.org/>. MEA pays for the first six (6) months of membership for any MEA member wishing to join the club.

Misc.

A suggestion was made that our chapter conduct small group ZOOMs to get to know each other, foster participation, and explore interests. It was also suggested that we might record our chapter ZOOM meetings and make them available on our webpage.

There being no additional business, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Yee
Chapter Recording Secretary