

# FDNYCRA NEWSLETTER

October, 2023



## IN MEMORY of OUR BROTHER LIEUTENANT AL JACCARD

I want to thank everyone who attended the 9-11 ceremonies. A special thank you goes out to Past President Bobby Gus for all his hard work in setting everything up. Also, a thank you for Assistant Chief Stan Dawe for speaking at a ceremony in Sunset Beach. Vice President Danny and members for attending the memorial at Warbird Park.

I want to thank all those who attended Al Jaccard Funeral

### Medical Update

A bipartisan legislative push is afoot on Capitol Hill to prohibit all U.S. employers from forcing their retired workers into Medicare Advantage coverage — a proposal that could spell trouble for Mayor Adams, who's trying to mandate the privatized health insurance program for New York City's 250,000 municipal retirees.

The anti-Advantage effort formally got underway Thursday, when Reps. Nicole Malliotakis and Ritchie Torres, both of whom represent parts of New York City, co-introduced a bill that would amend U.S. Social Security law so that it'd become illegal for "public and private employers" to "involuntarily" shift Medicare-aged retirees into Advantage plans.

Under the legislation, a copy of which was exclusively shared with the Daily News ahead of its introduction, the only way an employer could legally enroll a senior in an Advantage plan is if it secures consent from the person to do so.

### Medicare Update

NYC Retirees Win Decisive Court Case- Again Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Frank Lyle issued a ruling "permanently" prohibiting New York City from switching its 250,000 retired employees and their dependents to a privatized Medicare Advantage plan managed by Aetna. The city planned to save \$600 million annually. In his decision, Frank ordered the city "permanently enjoined from requiring any City retirees, and their dependents from being removed from their current health insurance plan(s), and from being required to either enroll in an Aetna Medicare Advantage Plan or seek their own health coverage." Although the decision uses the word "permanently",

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the City plans to appeal the decision before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. The decision follows up on the July 7 temporary restraining order which halted implementation of the plan pending a trial on the merits. Once again, the retirees were able to fall back upon specific language in the City Administrative Code which protects their benefits (note article below about new legislation). Marianne Pizzitola, President of the NYC Organization of Public Service Retirees, is to be commended for her efforts in organizing the retirees, and raising money to pursue this legal challenge. Working together, retirees can accomplish great things, as shown here.

New Bills Introduced After Legislature Adjourned in July, after the Legislature left town, two bills were printed which affect retirees. One is something we have vehemently opposed, while the other is something we like. New York Health Act-Single e Payer (S.7590-Rivera, A.7897-Paulin) has been amended, but still contains the same fatal flaw regarding public sector retirees. All private insurance providers in New York (including NYSHIP) would be

abolished, and health care would be administered by a new state-run New York Health Program. This bill contains contradictory language regarding our health benefits:

1. Benefits will not be diminished
2. If benefits ARE diminished, retirees would get them from their previous provider (which no longer exists)

For retirees who are out of state, and therefore, not residents and not covered by the New York Health Act, they would get benefits from their prior health benefit provider (i.e. NYSHIP or other carriers which would no longer exist). No benefits would be available. Needless to say, when the Legislature reconvenes in January, RPEA will continue to vigorously oppose this bill. We've been successful thus far, and will keep up the fight. RPEA remains part of the Realities of Single Payer Coalition, and we've already reached out to our partners about the new bill. As a matter of fact, Executive Director Ed Farrell will be participating in the New York Health Plan Association's Annual Conference in November, to reinforce RPEA's opposition to the New York Health Act. Protecting Retiree Health Benefits (A.7866-Zebrowski, Gunther, Burdick) creates the Health Equity for Retirees Act. The Act prevents any public employer from diminishing any health insurance provided to retirees, and their dependents, below the level of benefits available as of November 1, 2022. All these legislators are from the lower Hudson Valley. A good number of New York City retirees live in this area, and this bill would further thwart attempts by the City and the unions to move them from traditional Medicare into a Medicare Advantage Plan. Furthermore, the bill protects ALL public sector retirees. There is no Senate companion at this time. RPEA has kept a close eye on the attempt by New York City to move its retirees into a Medicare Advantage Plan, and if a familiar attempt could be contemplated by the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP). While there has been no such attempt to date, we have been contemplating legislation which would prohibit such action. This bill would protect NYSHIP and other retirees by prohibiting any diminution of benefits. RPEA will strongly support this bill.

Please be aware the City may look to appeal this ruling at a later date.

### **Organization of Public Service Retirees**

Donations are Needed! If the Mayor pulls the "nuclear option" we will have 4 lawsuits going on at the same time! **He did**

### **TO DONATE, HERE ARE 4 SIMPLE WAYS!**

**1.** Zelle using email NYCOrgofpublicserviceretirees@gmail.com YOU CANNOT USE THE ZELLE APP! You must use Zelle via your online banking. In some cases you cannot use the Zelle via the bank app either. So if you're finding trouble, use the computer and make the payment via Zelle from your online banking.

**2. Make your check out to:**

NYC Organization of Public Service Retirees

c/o JSH Accounting Services LLC

PO Box 143538

Fayetteville, GA 30214 (this is the organization's accounting professional)

**3. Or click on this Paypal link:**

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=Q4VWJEYVJ9HTW&Z3&fbclid=IwAR0pEOc51x9xhcCBb8vqAlkX97Bgg1Z02f1r9gQh9S3dOsVmAdob5jBbw8](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=Q4VWJEYVJ9HTW&Z3&fbclid=IwAR0pEOc51x9xhcCBb8vqAlkX97Bgg1Z02f1r9gQh9S3dOsVmAdob5jBbw8)

**4. VENMO OUR Venmo Name changed! Please take note!**

VENMO is a Phone App or can be used on a PC or Tablet

You can download and install the Phone App from the Android Play Store or

Apple App Store. There may be fees involved using this method.

Our NEW ID is: @NYCRetirees2

Currently, we have a FACEBOOK page located here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/888622578669131>

**A little Humor**

This is a true account recorded in the Police Log of Sarasota, Florida:

An elderly Florida lady did her shopping and, upon returning to her car, found four males in the act of leaving with her vehicle. She dropped her shopping bags and drew her handgun, proceeding to scream at the top of her lungs, "I have a gun, and I know how to use it! GET OUT OF THE CAR!"

The four men didn't wait for a second threat. They got out and ran like mad.

The lady, somewhat shaken, then proceeded to load her shopping bags into the back of the car and got into the driver's seat. She was so shaken that she could not get her key into the ignition. She tried and tried, and then she realized why. It was for the same reason she had wondered why there was a football, a Frisbee, and two 12-packs of beer in the front seat.

A few minutes later, she found her own car parked four or five spaces farther down. She loaded her bags into the car and drove to the police station to report her mistake. The sergeant to whom she told the story couldn't stop laughing. He pointed to the other end of the counter, where four pale men were reporting a carjacking by a mad, elderly woman described as white, less than five feet tall, glasses, curly white hair, and carrying a large handgun.

No charges were filed.

Moral of the story?

If you're going to have a senior moment...make it memorable!

***OUR NEXT MEETING IS***

***October 19, 2023***

***Moose Lodge***

***9763 Moose Road, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576***