



CWA LOCAL 1180 RETIREE DIVISION

NEWS

Addressing the needs of CWA Local 1180 Retirees and empowering them with information & an active lifestyle



Suzanne E. Beatty, LMSW
Retiree Division Director

Director's Column

Hello 1180 Retirees. Can you believe it's already March? After such a long time away due to COVID, we were excited to finish 2021 on a high with a return to in-person events. Retirees got together at our open events at the Jay Conference Center and at borough meetings at Dallas BBQ and TGIFridays. We even got tickets to see the Radio City Christmas Spectacular! It was fun to see everyone.

We have never lost sight of our ultimate goal, which is to continue providing 1180 retirees with the most direct access to information, education, and support surrounding health benefits. This year, we are holding Monday Morning Medicare Meetings (that's a mouthful!) for our retirees. This virtual meeting is the place that all 1180 retirees can meet to check in on any updates to the Medicare Advantage Plus Plan, as well as hear the questions that other retirees have regarding the plan. Retirees who tune in to our virtual meetings can join on any device, including a regular landline telephone. See the login information on the following page or call the office for more information.

Our Friday supplemental benefit meetings offer a clear understanding on the paperwork necessary to file for your reimbursement. You have until June 30, 2022, to submit your papers, so join in to listen and learn. Thank you to those who participated in our online survey for virtual events. Your answers will help us to implement a new program sometime later this year.

The Retiree Division will continue taking safe opportunities to reach out to retirees with meaningful events and helpful benefit meetings. Watch your email or call the office for more information about upcoming in-person and virtual events.

It is my hope that the worst of the pandemic is finally behind us, but I couldn't resist a little pandemic humor.

At 7:45 a.m., there was a long line at a grocery store that opened at 8:00 for seniors only. Some of the seniors had gotten in line as early as 7 a.m. in order to shop safely.

A young man came from the parking lot and tried to cut in at the front of the line, but an old lady yelled at him and told him to go back! She shook her cane at him. "Wait your turn," she said. "Seniors only!" The young man came around the other side and tried to cut in again, but an old man elbowed him, pushed and blocked his way that made him have to go to the back again. The man yelled, "you young people have no respect!" As the young man approached the line for the third time, he said, "Look, if you don't let me unlock the door, you're never going to get in there!"

So, while the Retiree Division cannot change the state of the world, we can give you some tools to make the best of life regarding your benefits and can remind you that it's OK to laugh. That's the good news!

Prescription Reimbursement Short-cut

If you are applying for reimbursement for yourself and your spouse or dependent, save some time and just collect your four quarterly pension statements. That's it!

Since the total payment for two people exceeds the total allowance of \$2,700, there is no need to collect receipts and prescription statements. You have already reached the maximum allowance with the pension statements. Save your time, paper, and headache!

Prescription Mail-Order

Please contact Capital Rx for all matters surrounding Prescription Mail-Order management with Genius Rx at 844.227.7962

Important Note Regarding Meeting Links

Please note that all links listed throughout this newsletter are subject to change without notice. The most up-to-date links will be in the weekly email sent to retirees. If you have problems connecting to any event, call the Retiree Division office at 212.226.5800 for assistance.



MEDICARE MONDAYS @ 10:30 a.m.

NYC Office of Labor Relations Health Benefits Program is moving all retirees to the new **Medicare Advantage Plus Plan**. To keep 1180 retirees informed, the Retiree Division has been hosting Medicare Education meetings on **Mondays at 10:30 a.m.** All members are encouraged to attend. We cover Medicare Advantage Plus, what to do when you turn 65 and become Medicare eligible, and answer frequently asked questions. Don't take the word of friends and fellow retirees; come to the meetings yourself, listen, and learn. **For more information, call 212.226.5800.**

March 14 - Medicare Advantage Plus Highlight on Prescription Drug Rider with Plan Representatives

March 21 - Medicare Advantage Plus Review and Q&A with Retiree Division staff

March 28 - Turning 65 and Becoming Medicare Eligible with a representative from NYC Dept. of Aging HICAP (Health Insurance Information Counseling and Assistance Program)

April 4 - Medicare Advantage Q & A with the Retiree Division - We've been with you through the entire process and now that the plan has officially started only a few days ago, we want to know how it is going and how we can help.

BENEFIT FRIDAYS @ 1:30 p.m.

Local 1180 leads the way with excellent supplemental benefits — legal, optical, and dental — for retirees, as well as reimbursements for hearing aids, prescription drugs, podiatry, and a general medical reimbursement. Fridays at 1:30 p.m. are our online workshops to discuss all things related to supplemental benefits.

March 11 - Legal Benefits Overview

March 18 - No Workshop

March 25 - New and Recent Retiree Seminar

April 1 - Benefit Q & A with Retiree Division Staff - Bring all of your questions about Local 1180 supplemental benefits and your NYC retiree health benefits to this session and get your answers!

April 8 - The Six Legal Documents every Retiree Should Have - Local 1180 retirees have legal benefits through the law firm of Mirkin and Gordon. Come to this informative session to find out what documents that you should have that are offered free as a benefit to retirees.

April 15 - No Event

Join Medicare Information Meetings

Please check the website at www.cwa1180.org/retiree/retiree-event-calendar for the most up-to-date information and links

Join from PC, Mac, iOS or Android

Meeting URL: <https://ringcentr.al/3gp9ba0>

Password: Ss5RTdFqVV

For the best experience, please use computer audio.

iPhone One-Tap:

1.470.869.2200,,1481479572# **OR**

1.646.357.3664,,1481479572#

Telephone: 1.470.869.2200 **OR** 1.646.357.3664

Meeting ID: 148 147 9572

April 11 - Medicare Advantage Plus with the Plan Representatives - The plan reps will be available to answer any questions that retirees have regarding the plan.

April 18 - No Event

April 25 - Medicare with Dept. for the Aging HICAP representative - This informative session will review the Medicare, Turning 65, and give a review NYC Medicare Advantage Plan during this first phase of initiation.

Join Benefit Information Meetings

Please check the website at www.cwa1180.org/retiree/retiree-event-calendar for the most up-to-date information and links

Join from PC, Mac, iOS or Android

Meeting URL: <https://ringcentr.al/34s09XX>

For the best experience, please use computer audio.

iPhone One-Tap:

1.312.263.0281,,1476574308# **OR**

1.470.869.2200,,1476574308

Telephone: 1.312.263.0281 **OR** 1.470.869.2200

Meeting ID: 147 657 4308

April 22 - Supplemental Benefit & Reimbursements - Overview of your 1180 supplemental benefits.

April 29 - Getting your paperwork in order for reimbursement - Learn how to organize all the insurance and health documents to submit quickly and easily.



FITNESS CLASSES

Stay home and stay fit with weekly live yoga and dance classes from the comfort of your home!

Yoga — Tuesdays at 11 a.m.

Dance — Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1489447922

Deadline to Purchase High Option Prescription Drug Rider

If you typically use all of your prescription benefits, you might want to consider purchasing the high option prescription drug rider. **The deadline to do so is March 30, 2022. Members will also have an opportunity to switch out of the rider by June 30, 2022, if you change your mind.** To better understand what this is all about, call the concierge at 1.833.325.1190 or come to the Retiree Division workshop on **Monday, March 14 at 10:30 a.m.** where Medicare Advantage Plus Plan representatives will discuss the drug rider and answer all your questions. Watch your emails for the log-in information or check our website for all the latest news.

Great News About Your Legal Benefits

In-person legal consultations will resume at Local 1180's headquarters beginning March 1. Virtual consultations that have become standard during the pandemic will continue to be an option for retirees as well. Please contact our Benefits office at 212.966.5353 to confirm start date of in-person consultations and schedule your appointment.

A NOTE ABOUT UNION PLUS & OTHER CIRCULARS

From time to time, a number of insurance companies and member service organizations may reach out to Local 1180 retirees and may even bear our logo or that of the CWA national. These companies have met with the National Unions and sometimes specifically Local 1180 to offer special prices for some benefits, services and policies that members can purchase on your own through their company.

Please note that these companies **ARE NOT** Local 1180 and have **nothing** to do with the Supplemental Benefits that all Local 1180 retirees are entitled to or with the benefits offered through NYC-OLR Health Benefits Program. This is something separate that is offered apart from your benefits.

Understand that if you use the circulars to sign up for **ANY HEALTH BENEFITS or HEALTH INSURANCE** offered through a circular or any group other than NYC-OLR it will boot you out of ALL of the BENEFITS from CWA Local 1180 and the City of NY. (I'm so serious!) Don't call anyone other than OLR or Local 1180 for your benefits.

Don't get confused. Another company might even 'uh huh' you and 'no, problem' you while you sign up. Even a 'yes, we cover retirees who are from the City of NY'. That is not the same!

Choose to use it instead for possible discounts in car rentals or cell phone plans. Pet insurance is ok but stay away from anyone selling you a health insurance plans or prescription policies regardless of how great the deal may seem to be. If you have any questions, please call the Retiree Division at 212.226.5800.

Do you have the LOCAL 1180 UNION STRONG MOBILE APP installed on your smart phone yet?



If not, join the hundreds of Local 1180 retirees who have already installed Union Strong and are the first to know about all the upcoming Retiree Division events and all the important union news.

COMING SOON: You will be able to contact the Retiree and Benefits divisions right from the mobile app.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MOBILE APP & GET HELP INSTALLING IT ON YOUR PHONE?

Join us for a **SPECIAL VIRTUAL WORKSHOP** on **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27** at **3 P.M.** where you will learn how to easily install the app on your smartphone, the features of the app and how to use them, the benefits of having it, and maybe even a surprise or two ;). Watch your email for the registration and sign up right away as space is limited.



RETIRED MEMBERS CHAPTER MEETING

The Retired Members Chapter is a National Organization of CWA retirees and brings in information and speakers to support its membership. It meets the third Thursday of the month at 12:30 p.m. For questions about the Chapter, you can call **212.331.0934**.

Thursday, March 17 & Thursday, April 21

Join from PC, Mac, iOS or Android:

meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1463239514

For best experience, use computer audio.

iPhone one-tap:

1.646.357.3664,,1463239514#

1.773.231.9226,,1463239514#

Telephone:

1.646.357.3664 or 1.773.231.9226

Meeting ID: 146 323 9514

FILING YOUR MEDICAL REIMBURSEMENT

Local 1180 reimburses retirees for copayments, deductibles, and covered expenses related to health care. The best way to find out more about this is to join one of our weekly Friday calls when you can get step-by-step directions on how to collect the necessary documents needed to file for your reimbursement. In addition, you can also call the office at 212.226.5800 and speak to one of our trained representatives who can assist you.

Deadline for reimbursement for this year is June 30, 2022.

Ways to file for your reimbursement:

1. Collect receipts and documentation, sign forms, and mail to the office.
2. Compile receipts and documentation, sign forms, and bring to 6 Harrison Street to the DROP-BOX in the lobby.
3. Collect receipts and paperwork, sign forms. Save all documents to a PDF (not a digital picture that you take with a camera) and email to the office at benefits@cwa1180.org

Individual assistance is available to retirees who need additional help filing for reimbursement. Call 212.226.2800 to make an appointment.

RETIRED MEMBERS CHAPTER ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Thursday, May 19 | Noon - 4 p.m.

Antun's | 96-43 Springfield Blvd., Queens Village, NY 11429

PROOF OF VACCINATION & MASK REQUIREMENT Based on Current Law

[CLICK HERE](#) to register for luncheon | [CLICK HERE](#) for detailed information

WORKING THEATER PLAYS AVAILABLE FOR RETIREES



7 Minutes

Wed., March 30 | 1:30 p.m.

New Ohio Theatre
154 Christopher St. | New York

Tickets: \$15/person

Based on actual events, 7 Minutes depicts an urgent meeting of the 11 women elected to the union council of their rural Connecticut textile factory. Changes at the factory seem inevitable when new owners take over, giving the council only 90 minutes to vote on a decision with serious consequences for everyone at the factory.



Songs About Trains

Wed., April 20 | 3 p.m.

New Ohio Theatre
154 Christopher St. | New York

Tickets: \$15/person

Theatrical concert celebrating workers from a pivotal moment in history, the building of the U.S. rail system, and how their labor had a lasting impact on the world we live in today. Using music as storytelling, the play highlights the untold stories of this multicultural workforce.

For tickets to either play, contact the Retiree Division at 212.226.2800