

Volume 5 Issue 2  
SPRING 2022



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## CSA RETIREE CHAPTER QUEENS REGIONAL UNIT

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### FROM THE QUEENS REGIONAL UNIT LEADER

#### Regional Unit Leader

Leonard B. Sterman

#### Assistant Regional Leader

Andrea Dapolito

#### Treasurer

Arthur Isman

#### Assistant Treasurer

Kathleen M. Murphy

#### Corresponding Secretary

Florence Klein

#### Newsletter Editor

Kim Adams

#### Webmaster

Kathleen M. Murphy

#### Committees

##### Dining Club

Neddy McMills – c

#### Hospitality/Publicity

Rosa Smith-Norman-c

Kathleen Nocera

#### Legislative

Dee Dee Goidel - c

Mary Covington

Lilian Garelick

#### Membership

Andrea Dapolito - c

Judith Engel

William Isaacson

Jack Schwarz

#### Outreach

Irwin Shanes – c

Deborah King

Fannie Smiths

Colleagues,

It's hard to believe that it has been over two years since we met at one of our annual meetings. Fortunately, the COVID pandemic has receded to the point where we are able to resume our events and meetings in person.

I am pleased to announce that we will finally be holding our first in person annual **General Membership Meeting on Monday, April 25, 2022 - The Inn At New Hyde Park - 12 noon. There will be a complimentary buffet lunch for members. The guest speaker is Dr. Douglas Hathaway, Administrator, CSA Welfare Fund.** Doug will discuss the latest information about the Medicare Advantage Plus Plan that is currently on hold due to the recent court order. You received the meeting flier with all of the information a couple of weeks ago. If you can't locate it you can also find it on our website – [www.csaqueens.org](http://www.csaqueens.org). Remember to send in the tear-off in order to register.

The Queens Unit has begun to resume many of its activities. We are currently providing weekly virtual Yoga classes together with the Long Island Unit. Also, our Book Club meets monthly and we started to schedule in person Bridge Club classes. We have kept members informed about current matters via emails and updates are posted frequently on our website.

If you haven't renewed your membership in our Unit please do so immediately, especially if you wish to attend the meeting on April 25th. Members received emails about membership renewal on numerous occasions. The renewal form can be downloaded from our website.

I want to encourage you to continue to keep a positive attitude and make sure that you connect with family and friends safely in order to have some sense of normalcy as we emerge from the virus. The good news is that most of us are inoculated and have received the booster shot.

Fraternally,

*Len*

Leonard B. Sterman  
Queens Regional Unit Leader

**Activities**

Dee Dee Goidel - c  
Joseph D. Rosenberg

c = coordinator

**CSA****President**

Mark Cannizzaro

**Executive Vice President**

Henry Rubio

**First Vice President**

Rosemarie Sinclair

**CSA Retiree Chapter****Chairperson**

Gayle Lockett

**First Vice Chairperson**

Joseph D. Rosenberg

**Second Vice Chairperson**

John Oricchio

**Treasurer**

Stanley Wilson

**Secretary**

Janice Imundi

**Director**

Mark Brodsky

**Special Vice President**

Nancy Russo

**From our Membership Chairperson - Andrea Dapolito**

**BECOME A MEMBER OF THE  
CSA RETIREE CHAPTER – QUEENS REGIONAL UNIT**

**JOIN FORMER COLLEAGUES & MAKE NEW FRIENDS  
AT OUR MEMBER ONLY EVENTS:**

**BOOK CLUB      BRIDGE CLUB VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS  
HEALTH SEMINARS      SPECIAL LUNCHEONS  
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS      MOVIE CLUB      YOGA CLASSES**

**KEEP UP TO DATE ON LEGISLATIVE ISSUES AND INFORMATION**

**REGARDING YOUR PENSION, HEALTH BENEFITS AND WELFARE FUND**

**THE ANNUAL FEE OF \$15. ENTITLES YOU TO ALL OF THE ABOVE & MORE**

**CHECK OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.CSAQUEENS.ORG](http://WWW.CSAQUEENS.ORG) FOR ADDITIONAL**

**INFORMATION.**

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

### **Medicare Part B Deductibles**

As we start to visit doctors in 2022, we will have to pay the \$233.00 Medicare Part B deductible again because it resets as of January 1, 2022. The GHI Emblem Health Medicare Part B deductible remains at \$50.00.

### **Legal Service Plan**

CSA has negotiated a free legal service plan for all CSA Retirees. The Legal Services Plan provides Plan participants with access to attorneys in connection with real estate transactions, preparation of wills, providing legal advice, drafting letters and reviewing documents relating to personal legal matters as well as providing representation for other matters. There is no charge for the plan although discounted fees are charged for some more-complicated matters handled by plan attorneys.



In addition to the Retiree Plan participants, the Plan covers their spouses or domestic partners who are living with the Plan participant; Parents, Grandparents, unmarried, dependent children under the age of 19 (or under the age of 25 if the child is wholly dependent upon the Plan participant for support and maintenance and is enrolled as a full-time student.

The initial point of contact for every active participant is the toll-free number of the Legal Office of Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. (800) 832-5182. If necessary, the Legal Office will then make referrals to local participating attorneys. You can learn more about the Legal Service Plan Benefits on their website - [www.FKMLaw.com](http://www.FKMLaw.com).

## POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE UPDATE

BY – Dee-Dee Goidel

The Queens Regional Unit is planning to revitalize its legislative Political Activities on our local level. I am reaching out to our Queens members to volunteer a small portion of their time to meet with their elected officials in their Queens offices. Our current retiree medical benefits are being altered without regard to previous promises made and the hardships it will cause for older retirees. This is a warning that we must become more pro-active and not take our benefits for granted. We must re-establish our voting power as constituents. There are many young newly elected officials who do not know who and what CSA stands for. They are only aware of UFT. Many who know of us are retiring from both the Assembly and the Senate this year. Many were term limited in the City Council last year. Therefore, Queens has many new City Council members for us to educate.

I have discussed my plans with Mitra Lutchman, Retiree Chapter Legislative Liaison, so we in Queens will be able to coordinate our political agendas with the union's both for retirees, in-service colleagues and issues affecting public school students.

**IMPORTANT** - There will be a sign-up table for our members as they enter the banquet room on Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> – the date of our next Queens Regional Unit General Membership Meeting at *The Inn At New Hyde Park*. We need to volunteer to be vigilant! Retirees should not be complacent! Our benefits originate from legislation which makes retirees vulnerable.

### UNIT ELECTIONS

Every three years as required by the CSA Constitution, each Regional Unit of the CSA Retiree Chapter is required to conduct an election for the position of Regional Unit Leader and Treasurer. As such, below is the advertisement for those two positions.

#### **- ADVERTISEMENT -**

Queens Regional Unit members in good standing who are interested in applying for the position of Queens Regional Unit Leader or Treasurer may do so by making their intentions known to Ms. Andrea Dapolito, Assistant Regional Unit Leader/Election Committee Chairperson either by email or by phone: andap11001@gmail.com or (516) 220-7913. Interested members must apply on later than Thursday, April 14, 2022.

Please note that Len Sterman is again running for Unit Leader and Arthur Isman for Treasurer. The election results will be announced at our General Membership Meeting on Monday, April 25, 2022, at *The Inn At New Hyde Park*.

## What is IRMMA?

**medicare**

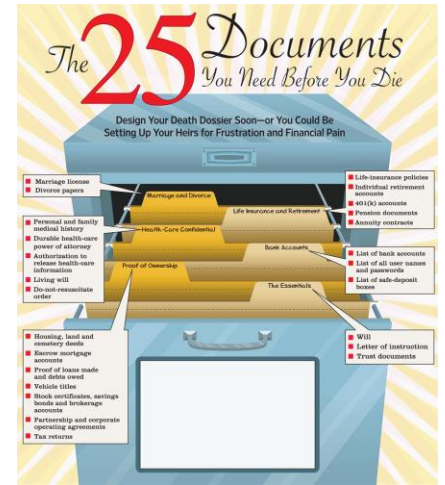
The City of New York Health Benefits Program reimburses Medicare eligible retirees and their Medicare eligible dependents for any Medicare Part B income-related monthly adjustment amount (IRMAA) premiums (excluding any penalties or surcharges) paid during the calendar year. If you and/or your eligible dependent paid a Medicare Part B IRMAA during the calendar year - ***which means more than the standard Medicare Part B monthly premium*** - you may be entitled to an additional reimbursement. Reimbursement will be distributed to you in the same manner in which you receive your pension payments; if you receive direct deposit of your pension payments, your reimbursement will also be made via direct deposit.

**Learn more here - <https://www.csawf.org/medicare-reimbursement>**

## Get Your Documents in Order Presentation

(Courtesy of the CSA Brooklyn Retirees Chapter)

Take Care of Your Health Care Proxy, Living Will, Power of Attorney, Will, Trust, Medicaid vs. Medicare, Aid & Attendance – Veterans  
Click here for the presentation - <https://tinyurl.com/2p8pj6m6>



## Updates from Norm Sherman

### **Informational Update Vol 13 #2 dated 3/4/2022**

#### **1. Medicare Part D Drug Costs**

The GHI enhanced Medicare Part D drug plan consists of 3 stages. If you noticed a change in your prescription costs in January it may be the result of starting again in Stage I on January 1, 2022, no matter what stage you ended in on December 31, 2021. In Stage I, you pay 25% of the drug cost while the plan (GHI enhanced Plan D) pays the other 75%.

If your total drug cost (what you and your plan both pay) exceeds \$4,430 (up \$300 from 2021) at some point in 2022, you enter Stage II, formally known as the donut hole. Fortunately, the donut hole has closed for both generic and non-generic drugs; you continue to pay the same 25% of the drug cost while your plan pays 75%

If your true-out-of-pocket expense – known as TROOP – for both Stages I & II exceed \$7,050 (up \$500 from 2021) you enter Stage III, or the Catastrophic Coverage. In this Stage your co-payment continues as it was in 2021: you pay 5% of the drug cost. Medicare pays 80% and the plan pays the remaining 15%.

The CSA Welfare Fund also offers an added benefit in this Stage by reimbursing you the 5% cost up to \$5,000. There is no deductible. Just send your Express Scripts statements to the CSA Welfare Fund for reimbursement. These statements should be sent at the end of the calendar year to help facilitate the CSA Retiree Fund's processing of your claim.

## 2. February Payment

If you are Medicare eligible and have the GHI Enhanced Plan D, you should have received your \$480. for 2021 toward the latter part of February, depending on your mail service. This is a CSA Welfare Fund benefit designed to help defray the cost of the High Option Rider that pays for the Enhanced Plan D. If you were eligible for reimbursement, but were not on Medicare for the full year, you should have received a pro-rated check. The pro-rata is \$40 a month for every month on Medicare.

If you have not yet received your check, wait a little longer before calling the Welfare Fund as there may have been a delay in the mail. Please note that only Medicare-eligible CSA retirees are entitled to the “Valentine’s” gift; non-CSA Medicare-eligible people are not. If both husband and wife are Medicare-eligible CSA retirees, then both are entitled to the \$480 providing EACH has their own NYC medical coverage. If one member is covering the other member, then only the member who is covering is entitled to the \$480.

For non-Medicare CSA retirees and non-Medicare dependent spouses, the CSA Welfare Fund and CSA Retiree Chapter will continue to cover copays, providing the member and spouse are under the GHI or City HMO plans. After a \$100 deductible, the reimbursement is 80% of the drug cost up to a maximum of \$10,000. In addition, the CSA Retiree Chapter automatically (no filing of a claim necessary) supplements this reimbursement with an additional 20% of the Fund payment.

## 3. COVID-19 at-Home Tests

Good news! You are now entitled to 4 free COVID-19 at-home tests shipped directly to your home. To get these tests, go on the website [www.COVIDtests.gov](http://www.COVIDtests.gov) and enter your profile information.

These are “self” tests that do not require a lab drop-off. The tests can be taken anywhere and will give results within 30 minutes. Be careful against scammers trying to steal your personal information or selling fake and unauthorized at-home COVID test kits in exchange for your personal information. Only order the “self” tests through the official government website mentioned above.

## UNIT ACTIVITIES

### Rescheduled Luncheon Meeting

The annual Queens Unit luncheon meeting at *Terrace On The Park* scheduled for Tuesday, October 12, 2021, was cancelled due to the COVID 19 - Delta Variant.

The luncheon meeting has been rescheduled to: Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2022, at 12:00 noon. Additional information will be forthcoming as the time drawn nearer.

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## **BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND**



**With Suzanne**

**Wednesdays 10:00 - 11:00 AM**

Through June 2022

Gentle Chair Yoga for Seniors

Please use the info below to access the Meeting ON ZOOM

CLICK HERE TO JOIN:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86056204860?pwd=bTFuSFVUjN4VFRSSGhwazd4OFBFdz09>

Meeting ID: 860 5620 4860

Passcode: 122191

## **MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLUS PLAN UPDATE**

You are no doubt aware that the Medicare Advantage Plus Plan will not be implemented on April 1<sup>st</sup> as originally announced. On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, there was a New York State Supreme Court ruling that says the City is permanently “enjoined” from passing along any of the cost of the New York City retirees’ current health plan. Retirees were required to pay \$191. monthly in order to keep their original Medicare plan starting April 1<sup>st</sup>.

The City has indicated that they will appeal this decision. As of this date, we are awaiting what will happen next. We will keep you informed of further developments either by email or on our website: [www.csaqueens.org](http://www.csaqueens.org). In addition, keep alert for email updates from the CSA Retiree Welfare Fund.

## BOOK CLUB

The Book Club meets monthly. For information please contact Andrea Dapolito  
at: [andap11001@gmail.com](mailto:andap11001@gmail.com)

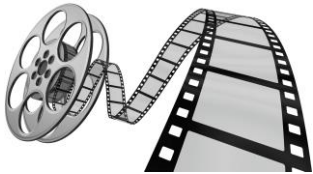
### UPDATED Book List and Schedule:

**March 28th      Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival & Hope in an American City  
by Andrea Elliott      Non-Fiction**

**April 25th      Harlem Shuffle by Colson Whitehead      Fiction**

**May 23rd      Beautiful Country by Qian Julie Wang      Memoir  
or May 30<sup>th</sup>**

**June 27th      The Frequent Troubles of Our Days      Rebecca Donner**



## **THE MOVIE CLUB WILL RETURN**

Look for details soon about our first event.  
Go to our website – [www.csaqueens.org](http://www.csaqueens.org)

## **LEGISLATIVE NEWS**

**State Executive Officers are up for election in New York in 2022:** Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, NY State Senators, NY State Assemblymen



## Courtesy of the CSA Long Island Unit

LONG ISLAND CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING, INC.

By: Ronald Berkenblit

Dear Colleagues,

We have a valuable resource on Long Island that you may have to use some day. The Long Island Center for Independent Living (LICIL) is that resource. They have an EQUIPMENT LOAN BANK. At no charge, just a refundable cash deposit fee of: \$25. for small items, and \$50. for large items. They lend out durable medical equipment. Their inventory includes:

- Wheel chairs
- Commode Seats
- Walkers
- Shower Chairs
- Canes
- Crutches, and more

You can pick up equipment, if it is available, at their office on Hempstead Turnpike in Levittown. If you are unable to pick up the equipment, you can arrange with LICIL for free delivery.

Medicare and other insurance pays for most of the items of durable medical equipment, with a doctor's prescription, after a deductible is met. Borrowing equipment from LICIL eliminates a storage problem once you no longer need the equipment. You simply return the equipment and your deposit is returned.

LICIL also accepts donations of equipment that is in excellent condition. They add it to their inventory for use as loaners to other consumers.

**IMPORTANT:** Call First! (516) 796-0144 and speak to Vanessa. Find out if they have the equipment you need and/or if they have room to store an item you wish to donate.

Please note – the Suffolk County Branch of LICIL does NOT have an Equipment Loan Bank.

Long Island Center for Independent Living, Inc. 3601 Hempstead Turnpike - Suite 208 Levittown, NY 11756

Web Address: <https://licilinc.org> Email: LICIL@aol.com Telephone: (516) 796-0144 Fax: (516) 520-1247

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