

A general meeting of the Hearing Officers (per session) Chapter was held on Monday, Feb. 3, 2020. The following topics were discussed:

1. History of the hearing officers as a functional chapter within the UFT— Salary and bargaining history, as well as past and pending litigation, was reviewed.
2. Health care rebate
 - 124 members of the chapter participated.
 - Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.
 - Rebate will be offered again in 2020 using the same criteria, application process and timelines as were used this past year.
 - Application forms will be available after July 1, 2020.
3. Political action— UFT will endorse candidates for 2021 City Council races. Anyone considering running for a seat should let us know.
4. Special chapter election— The union is considering a proposal to alter the governance structure of the chapter by creating five new borough coordinator positions (one per each OATH borough office.) The borough coordinators would serve as liaisons between the members and the union, toward the goal of improving communication and mobilizing the membership. The first step is a ballot seeking consent from the members to create the positions. If approved, information will follow about the nomination process and responsibilities.
5. Paid Parental Leave— Is available to hearing officers who have worked at least 960 hours in the 12 months immediately preceding the event.
6. Question period— Members asked and received answers to questions on the following topics:
 - Safety issues— Send anecdotal information to iweinerman@uft.org or sofia.balile@gmail.com.
 - Jury duty/blood donation policy— Refer to side letter in the back of the CBA.