

Former FAO and Other UN Staff Association

Associazione dei Pensionati della FAO e di altre Organizzazioni delle Nazioni Unite



Newsbrief 93
September 2014

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FFOA Hosts FAFICS Council in Rome

FFOA hosted the 43rd session of the Council of the Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS) from 7 to 9 July 2014 at FAO headquarters in Rome.

FAFICS is the umbrella federation joining 53 retiree associations worldwide. FAFICS promotes and defends the interests of former civil servants, most notably in pension and health insurance issues, and formally represents them at relevant UN entities, including the Pension Board.

The meeting was opened with a special tribute to three stalwart members of the Federation who had passed away: Anders Tholle, Honorary FAFICS Secretary, Anton Doeve, President of FFOA, and Arthur de Smit, President of the Canadian AFICS.

Outgoing FAFICS President Roger Eggleston could not attend the session due to health issues, and Linda Saputelli, President of AFICS New York was designated Acting President. Later in the session, she was elected FAFICS President for the following year. FFOA President Alan Prien was delegated to join the FAFICS delegation to the Pension Board meeting to be held the following week in Rome, to fill the gap left by Mr Eggleston.



At the FAFICS Council:
Linda Saputelli and Alan Prien

A Word from the President on Behalf of Your Executive Committee

Welcome back. Back from what, you may ask? As pensioners, are we not on permanent vacation? And yet, strange as it may seem, we seem to follow the ebbs and flows of activity that were once determined by our professional responsibilities. And, of course, so many of our key interlocutors are still serving members of the UN family.

Based on the feedback received at the annual General Assembly in May, I think we can confirm that the Executive Committee has the support of the rank and file, and we thank you for that vote of confidence as we enter the third year of our mandate.

Revitalized, we return to our “work” of implementing the responsibilities with which you, the membership, have tasked us. But there’s the rub. Notwithstanding the exemplary commitment exhibited by the members of your Executive Committee, the workload far exceeds capacity.

If we are to continue to be an effective and forward-looking Association, we require a broader level of participation from you, the members. And only this broader participation can ensure that we are truly a member organization and are qualified to negotiate on your behalf.

Participate at any level that is appropriate for you. Write an article for the Newsbrief describing your experience since retirement. Join one of our 11 sub-committees, focusing on areas as diverse as pensions; internal policy and governance; membership; technology support, including the web site; etc. Even just write in and tell us your ideas, concerns and priorities. You can participate regardless of whether you are based in Rome, or anywhere else around the globe.

Even on “permanent” vacation, I know that we are all busy with the things on our “to do” lists. But dedicating just a few hours of your time to FFOA can help you keep sharp in an area of expertise, or let you explore new ground; it will help you keep abreast of what is going on in your former organization; it will put you in the company of a pretty sharp group of like-minded women and men; and it just might give FFOA the critical mass to act even more effectively to protect the rights and interest of UN pensioners.

So let me throw down a gauntlet. I challenge you to consider how you can make FFOA more attractive and, above all, more effective. And then, as the Nike people say, “Just Do it”.

Alan Prien
President

Newsbrief 93

September 2014

Newsbrief, the FFOA official quarterly newsletter, is produced in English and Italian and is distributed free to all members, electronically to those who have internet access, and in print to those who do not. Newsbrief (current and back issues) is also available on the FFOA website: www.fao.org/FFOA. Suggestions or contributions from members are welcome.

Editors: **S. Dembner, M.F. Purnell**
Designer: **O. Bolbol**

The cost of printing Newsbrief, as well as the FFOA General Assembly documents is borne by the World Food Programme, for which the Association is grateful.

Pension Matters

(Responsible: M. Breschi, A. Prien, G. Eberle, A. Fusco Femiano, M. F. Purnell)

FFOA Hosts FAFICS Council in Rome

(continued from page 1)

The Council session focused primarily on pensions (particularly preparations for the upcoming Pension Board meeting), and health matters.

Pension Issues

The Council directed the FAFICS representatives at the Pension Board meeting to focus on the following set of priorities (not in ranking order):

- Defending the two-track system
- Eliminating the 0.5 per cent reduction in the first pension adjustment due after retirement
- Improving the Pension Adjustment System:

- Allowing a return to the dollar track subject to certain conditions
 - Eliminating negative CPI adjustments
 - Improving data acquisition for CPI adjustments
 - Improving the application of paragraph 26
- Reform of the UNJSPF appeals procedures
- Absorbing bank charges
- Reviewing entitlements of family members
- Defending the claim to voting rights

The FICSA Council also tasked its Pension Board delegation to insist on the full observance of paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 68/247A requesting the Board, “in consultation with the Office of Human Resources Management, to complete its review of the policies governing the recruitment, promotion and retention of the staff of the Fund and to report to the General Assembly, no later than at the main



FAFICS Council, Rome, July 2014

part of its seventieth session, on the outcome of the review and any measures proposed.”

Pension Fund Emergency Fund

The FAFICS Council supported the proposal to increase the annual allocation to the Emergency Fund to US\$ 225,000 (from the US\$ 200,000 level since 1974), and regular indexed increases thereafter.

Health issues

The Council addressed concerns that had arisen over the General Assembly resolutions pertaining to: (a) increasing the efficiency and containing the costs of health-care plans for active and retired staff; and (b) the long-term sustainability of the after-service health insurance schemes within the United Nations system. An update was given of the issues surrounding the application of the United States government plan Medicare B for beneficiaries who reside in the USA. Participants discussed progress made by the working group of associations linked to self-insurance schemes.

Participants discussed procedures for the regular updating of the ASHI database, and also problems associated with the lack of adequate medical facilities in certain countries; non-recognition of health insurance coverage; and health insurance coverage for divorced spouses. The Council also considered recent developments relating to new human resources policies pertaining to non-traditional marriages.

The FAFICS Council approved a 2015 budget of US\$ 27,450 with no increases in fees. It was tentatively agreed that the 2015 FICSA Council would be held in Geneva, as the UN Geneva had offered to host the next session of the Pension Board.

The smooth operation of the FAFICS Council session was due, in large part, to the dedicated work of an FFOA team led by Gianni Monciotti, including key contributions by Giorgio Eberle, Sabatino Salvi, Joan Smidt, Javier Perez de Vega, and Alan Prien.

The full report of the FAFICS Council may be downloaded from the FAFICS website (www.fafics.org).

FAO Hosts UN Joint Staff Pension Board Annual Meeting in Rome

The annual meeting of the UN Joint Staff Pension Board was hosted by FAO from 10-18 July 2014. FAFICS was represented by Linda Saputelli (newly-elected President), Gerhard Schramek, Katia Chestopalov, and FFOA President, Alan Prien (replacing outgoing President Roger Eggleston), with Marashetty Seenappa and Louis Dominique Ouedraogo as alternates.

The most welcome outcome of the meeting was the news that the actuarial deficit of the Pension Fund has been reduced to 0.72% of pensionable remuneration, with hope for even more improvement in the current year. In times of economic stress, it is good to know that our pensions are on firm footing.

Based on a study undertaken by the Consulting Actuary and the Committee of Actuaries, the Board considered and rejected a request from the UN General Assembly to consider moving into After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI). “It would not be advisable to broaden the mandate of the Pension Fund to include the administration of ASHI benefits . . . this option could jeopardize the Fund’s operational viability and could also negatively effect the long-term sustainability of the Fund . . .”

The Board considered reports on the two-track system, and concluded that performance was adequate and within the parameters originally foreseen.

The Board agreed with the CEO’s proposal to increase the authorization to the Emergency Fund to \$225,000.

The Secretariat tabled a paper committing to increase the quality and quantity of services to participants in the Fund, with adequate funding to be provided in the next annual budget.

During this year, many FFOA members had voiced concerns about the rights and conditions for Fund employees. The Board decided, “that the Fund should continue using the UN machinery,” and that the CEO should conclude an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) including, inter alia, a clear definition of the scope of delegation of authority.

Finally, the Board agreed to a flat, one-time 10 percent increase to the table of small pension threshold amounts, effective 01 April 2016.

FAO WFP Staff Pension Committee (SPC)

A number of complex matters were reviewed by the FAO/WFP Staff Pension Committee during a series of their meetings held in the weeks preceding the Pension Board. These included a number of issues of concern to the UN retirees which were debated by the FAFICS Council also held in Rome in the week immediately preceding the Pension Board. A full report of these issues is provided under the FAFICS section of this NewsBrief.

Other matters of specific interest for the SPC included, *inter-alia*, the membership of the Audit Committee of the Board as well as an in-depth review of a series of PB documents including the UNJSPF Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2013; the Status Report on Emergency Fund; and the Status Report on the implementation of the Integrated Pension Administration System (IPAS). As part of the Governance debate, the SPC reviewed the 2016-2017 Strategic Framework, Updated Internal Control Policy and the Staff Pension Committees Terms of Reference. The latter were agreed by the SPC for further review and approval by the Fund and the PB.

FFOA will continue to closely follow the debate in the Staff Pension Committee of the numerous matters reviewed by the PB and will keep members informed on developments.

Appointment of RSG

It is with pleasure that we are now able to report the filling of a crucial position in the UNJSPF that oversees the investments of the Fund. On 10 September 2014 the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the appointment of Ms. Carol Boykin as the Representative of the Secretary-General for the investment of the assets of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (RSG).

The position of full-time RSG, established by the General Assembly in March 2014 following the recommendation of the Pension Board, will assist the Secretary-General in carrying out the

fiduciary responsibilities for the investment of the assets of the Fund. In her new role, Ms. Boykin will work closely with the Chief Executive Officer and the Pension Board and will be responsible for the overall investment policy, and oversight and management of the investments of the Fund. Ms. Boykin is currently President of the Bolton Partners Investment Consulting Group, Inc., in Maryland. Prior to that appointment, she held senior positions with several large pension plans. Ms. Boykin is scheduled to take up her post in early October 2014.

Medical insurance

(Responsible: E. Seidler, G. Eberle, A. Prien, M. Breschi)

Decision on medical insurer/ claims processor imminent

As Newsbrief goes to press, we await a decision by the FAO Director-General on the issuance of a new contract for medical insurance and claims processing, covering current and former staff of the Rome-based organizations. FFOA has participated actively throughout the tender process and will inform members as soon as a decision is announced. The new contract will start on 1 January 2015. Regardless of the choice of provider, the time available for transition will be very short, and FFOA will be vigilant to ensure that there will be no negative impacts on pensioner participants.

News from the UN Organizations

FAO

FAO and the World Health Organization will host the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), at FAO Headquarters, in Rome, 19-21 November 2014. The meeting, an inclusive inter-governmental meeting, will be a high-level ministerial conference which will propose a flexible policy framework to address today's major nutrition challenges and identify priorities for enhanced international cooperation on nutrition.

ICN2 will bring together senior national policymakers from agriculture, health and other relevant ministries and agencies, with leaders of United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, researchers, the private sector and consumers.

The conference will review progress made towards improving nutrition since 1992, reflect on nutrition problems that remain, as well as on the new challenges and opportunities for improving nutrition presented by changes in the global economy, in food systems, by advances in science and technology, and identify policy options for improving nutrition. The key objectives of the ICN2 will be to:

- review progress made since the 1992 ICN including country-level achievements in scaling up nutrition through direct nutrition interventions and nutrition-enhancing policies and programmes;
- review relevant policies and institutions on agriculture, fisheries, health, trade, consumption and social protection to improve nutrition;
- strengthen institutional policy coherence and coordination to improve nutrition, and mobilize resources needed to improve nutrition;
- strengthen international, including inter-governmental cooperation, to enhance nutrition everywhere, especially in developing countries.

World Food Day 2014

The theme for World Food Day 2014 (16 October) - Family Farming: “Feeding the world, caring for the earth” - has been chosen to raise the profile of family farming and smallholder farmers. It focuses world attention on the significant role of family farming in eradicating hunger and poverty, providing food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, managing natural resources, protecting the environment, and achieving sustainable development, in

particular in rural areas. The UN General Assembly has designated 2014 “International Year of Family Farming.” This is a strong signal that the international community recognizes the important contribution of family farmers to world food security.

SOFI 2014

The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2014 (SOFI), issued on 16 September, confirmed a positive trend which has seen the number of hungry people decline globally by more than 100 million over the last decade and by more than 200 million since 1990-92. The overall trend in hunger reduction in developing countries means that the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of halving the proportion of undernourished people by 2015 is within reach, “if appropriate and immediate efforts are stepped up,” the report said. To date, 63 developing countries have reached the MDG target, and six more are on track to reach it by 2015. Nonetheless, according to the report, published annually by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP), about 805 million people in the world, or one in nine, still suffer from hunger.

WFP

WFP has successfully organised a humanitarian response to the Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa by providing food assistance to more than 1 million people. In Liberia, WFP is delivering family ration packs to a neighbourhood of Monrovia where the residents are effectively trapped after the authorities cordoned it off in a bid to halt the spread of the virus. In Gaza, for the first time since 2007, a WFP convoy crossed from Egypt into the Gaza strip with enough food to feed 150,000 displaced for five days.

The Secretary General’s Zero Hunger challenge has been actively taken on board. Work is under way to put forward an action plan to meet this challenge using WFP’s experience, field presence and lessons learned to inform this plan.

Several important policies and the 2015-2017 Management Plan are under discussion with Executive Board members over the coming months. For example, the WFP People Strategy is a “blueprint for how WFP intends to reinforce, build, retain and recruit its workforce, creating a more people-centred organization that focuses on the development and welfare of its employees so they can better serve its beneficiaries.” It is proposed to achieve impact through four tactics: reinforce a performance mind-set; build WFP’s talent; shift the focus; and equip high-impact leaders. The full document is available for download on the wfp.org website (www.wfp.org/government-donors then click on Executive Board website).

An Alumni Network Annual meeting is proposed for 24 and 25 November 2014 in Rome. The meeting will provide the opportunity for members to be updated on the dialogue with has taken place over the past year with WFP, select a “Consultative Body” to continue the engagement with WFP and decide on an action plan for the year to come.

IFAD

Learning event on South-South cooperation

As part of annual activities commemorating the UN Day for South-South Cooperation (14 September), this year, IFAD hosted a learning event bringing together more than 40 participants to share experiences in South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) as an entry point for improved efficiency and impact in agriculture and rural development.

First South-South cooperation workshop in Africa

An IFAD-Chinese collaboration on South-South cooperation has facilitated the first SSTC workshop in Africa. From 4-8 August, more than 100 participants from 14 countries across Africa, Asia and the Middle East met in Maputo, Mozambique. The workshop focused on subjects relating to pro-poor

agricultural policies; agricultural research and development; extension and agribusiness development for modernization of agriculture; and South-South cooperation on family farming.

News of the Staff Associations

(Responsible: A. Van Arkadie)

Since the release of the previous Newsbrief, FFOA is pleased to note that successful elections have been held both by the AP-in-FAO and the WFP-PSA. Congratulations and good wishes for success to both of the new teams led by:

Ms. Janice Albert, President, AP-in-FAO (Executive Secretariat); and Ms. Marianne Ward, President, WFP-PSA.

Under their able leadership, FFOA looks forward to the strengthened collaboration between the staff associations and “FFOA whose time and expertise . . . can be very useful to the Staff Representative Bodies and to the Organizations . . . to work together for a better future”, urged by IFAD-Ecsa President Fabio Bencivenga at the recent FFOA General Assembly.

We would also take this opportunity to recognize the contributions made by the recently-retired AP-in-FAO President Wolfgang Prante, and WFP-PSA President George Aelion. We look forward to welcoming them among the ranks of active FFOA members.

The past months for IFAD-Ecsa and UGSS have been relatively calm (as is generally the case in the summer in Rome), dominated by a climate of “resigned tranquility”. However, with the return to full activity, both of the parent organizations and of the staff associations, the need for improved transparency, communication, and dialogue in staff-management relations is bound to re-emerge.

Social Activities

(Responsible: J. Smidt, G. Monciotti, I. Novelli, A. Van Arkadie, A. Fusco Femiano)

Previous activities

The following social events, enjoyed by some of our members, took place during the summer:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| June 2014 | Our Spring lunch took place, as usual, at Ristorante Babette in the center of Rome. 16 of our members attended and enjoyed the lunch in a very pleasant and relaxing atmosphere. |
| July 2014 | Boat trip on Lake Trasimeno including a guided tour of Island Maggiore, including a walk in the tiny town on the island with only a few houses and inhabitants. |

A three-day boat trip to Ponza, Palmarola and Zannone was again organized this summer. One of the best hotels on the Island of Ponza was booked for this trip. The feedback received from members who participated was very positive (see the reflection below from Babara Apostal).

The two-day trip to Ventotene and S. Stefano had to be cancelled due to bad weather.

On 3 September our monthly coffee mornings started again after the August break, but we noted that all our pensioners were still on vacation. We hope for a more numerous turnout on Wednesday, 1 October.

Upcoming Activities

Our Cultural Guide Valentina will send her programme to FFOA shortly. The Autumn visits will be announced by e-mail.

Ponza – Pontius Pilate’s Hideaway?

By Barbara Apostal

On a sparkling morning in July, after a number of stops at collection points around Rome, our bus set off for Terracina where we collected our guide, and boarded the fast ferry (aliscafo) for Ponza. One hour later we disembarked on this delightful island (with no-one left behind in error) and transferred into the beautiful hotel where lodgings had been booked for us.

Legend has it that Ponza was named after Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor who presided over the trial of Jesus Christ (it seems that his family owned some grottoes on the island). More recent research seems to show that the island was already identified as Pontia in a text published before Pilate was born. Pontia means land of bridges and Ponza certainly has its share of natural arches and bridges.

In the many visits I have made to Ponza since arriving in Rome it has never failed to please me, and it has always offered different corners to discover. This time, our three-day sojourn gave us the view from the water, as we daily boated around the whole island stopping often for swims in the transparent waters, and welcome sun baths on beaches that otherwise would have been inaccessible. We got an early start each day and therefore were able to visit the islands of Palmarola and Zannone as well, (where the more energetic participants made the trek up to the ruins under a burning sun). The less intrepid relaxed after the delicious lunches that were served on board.

Back to Ponza in the late afternoon and, after an appetizing dinner, we had plenty of time to wander down into the main street of the island with its many tempting boutiques.

On the last day, as we gathered at the port for our return to the mainland, I wished once again that our stay on Ponza could have been longer.

News from the Executive Committee

New Internet Address (URL) for FFOA

FFOA now has its own web domain, and a new Internet address - www.ffoa-web.org.

We expect to continue to benefit from technical assistance from our friends in communication and IT at FAO, but moving out from under the FAO web domain will further reinforce the independent status of FFOA.

So be sure to update your bookmarks/favorites to the new address. In the short-term, however, we have arranged for an

automatic transfer from the old address, to be sure everyone can still access the FFOA website and all the valuable information it contains.

Renewed your FFOA annual membership yet?

If you haven't renewed your FFOA annual membership yet, don't delay and risk losing all the benefits of Association membership – including this Newsbrief. Renewal is easy. You can make your Euro 25 payment:

- in cash at the FFOA Office, by cheque in the name of “FFOA” (mail the cheque to FFOA, c/o FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153, Rome, Italy;
- by bank transfer to the bank accounts of “FFOA” with the Intesa San Paolo at FAO Headquarters, IBAN Euro Account: IT50T0306903356007326370137
- by transfer from your UNFCU account to the FFOA UNFCU account No. 1771070.

To be sure you don't forget, you can even instruct your bank to make the payment annually, via a standing order; or better yet, become a life member, with a one-time Euro 375 payment.

Banca Intesa – agreement on conditions of service, but . . .

The Banca Intesa and the staff and pensioners associations of the Rome-based agencies have reached agreement on conditions of service to be applied to account holders for the coming year. Generally speaking, the conditions are in line with previous agreements, providing significantly better terms than on standard accounts. However, all account holders are reminded that, to benefit from the terms of the new agreement, you **MUST** contact the bank and request, in writing, that the new conditions are applied to your account. This process is **NOT** automatic.

Share your experiences

Would you like to know what ex-colleagues are doing in their retirement? How about sharing your own experiences?

Well, here's your chance. Announcing the “Members Experiences” section of the FFOA website. Just log onto the members section of the website and navigate to “Members Experiences” to read what others have posted.

If you have something to share, put it in a Word file and send it to ffoa-webmaster@fao.org, and we'll put it on line. Just about anything you want to share is legitimate – accounts of travel or other interesting experiences past or present, philosophical considerations, biographical notes, etc.

Submissions will be published in the language in which they are received. Selected experiences will also be included in Newsbrief.

News from the Electronic World

(Responsible: Pino Pace)

Apps

Today let's talk about Apps. Apps? For anyone who owns a so-called smartphone, apps are mini-programs (some already installed when you purchase your phone, and a myriad of others available for free or paid download) that can help do or manage almost anything directly from your mobile phone.

There are apps to manage your relationships (social or business) with others; magazines and newspapers; radio and even television; storage and management of photos; finding addresses and getting directions; tourist information; direct purchase of train tickets and plane or hotels booking; recipes and courses of various kinds to follow; sharing and exchanging information, etc.

Apps and Elderly People

Although use of smartphones and tablets and tablets is still lagging among older people, it is growing - so why not make use of the available (and cheap, did I say cheap) technology

to improve quality of life? Here are some recommended apps:

- Skype: We talked about the advantages of Skype on your desktop computer in Newsbrief 91 - why not have free video phone calls and messaging directly from your mobile phone too? And Skype is just one of many apps that allow you to exchange video, voice or text messages for free.
- Pillboxie (for Apple) and MediSafe Meds & Pill Reminder (for Android): Thanks to these applications, you will never forget to take your pills again.
- My Pain Diary for Apple or Android: The app, which has won numerous awards, helps older people to track their day-to-day physical condition and symptoms; so they can then refer them to the doctor, who will have a more complete picture of the situation.
- Lumosity (for Apple) or Coach Memory Brain Trainer (for Android): These applications propose fun games that train and keep young the various mental faculties, memory and speed of cognitive processing.
- Find My Iphone (for Apple) or Find My Phone (for Android): it happens to everyone, the elderly and non, losing objects. This application allows users to find their own devices in the hope that in fact they are just "hidden" between the couch cushions. In case you have lost them for real, with Find My iPhone, you can remotely lock the device data.
- Voice reader (for Apple) and @ Voice Aloud Reader-Read Aloud (for Android): Thanks to these applications, any text (regardless how small) can be read out loud.

In the next Newsbrief, we will cover settings available on your mobile phone (whether smart

or not) to make it more user-friendly for older eyes and ears.

Your Good Health

(FFOA publishes health suggestions for pensioners but does not guarantee their accuracy or efficacy.)

Immortality only 20 years away says scientist

In 2009, Google Chief Scientist Ray Kurzweil predicted that, within 20 years humans could become immortal through nanotechnology and an increased understanding of how the body works. Now, he is foreseeing that not only will we be able to maintain or substitute body parts forever, but that we will be able to upload, store and retrieve at will our entire brain.

Speaking at the 2013 Global Futures 2045 International Congress in New York (which grouped visionary scientists from around the globe), Kurzweil forecast that by the end of the century it will be possible to repair or replace body parts forever. And we will be able to digitally store and retrieve at will our intellect – a concept known as “singularity”, that was constrained to the realm of science fiction until only recently.

Moreover, Kurzweil predicts that science will find ways to stimulate humans to increase dramatically the relatively small percentage that we currently use, enabling us to become vastly more intelligent, “Based on conservative estimates of the amount of computation you need to functionally simulate a human brain, we’ll be able to expand the scope of our intelligence a billion-fold, says Kurzweil.”

And finally, he even foresees the possibility of transferring our intellect from one body (whether natural or artificially produced) to another, comparable to the way we might change clothes for different tasks today.

An exciting perspective, but is it really what we want? What is your opinion on the possibility of mechanical and intellectual immortality?

Drawn from material originally published in the Daily Telegraph and the Daily Mail, and compiled by Sabatino Salvi

News from the membership

On the lighter side

Languages

A very old Irishman in hospital in Dublin, spent all his time learning Gaelic. The nurses asked him what an old fellow like him would want with learning Gaelic. He explained that when in heaven he would like to be able to talk to the holy Irish saints in their own language. The nurses agreed that this was a good motive but one saucy young nurse said “But aren't you the bold old man to be talking about heaven, how do you know you won't go down to the other place?”

“Ah well” said the old fellow, “I'll be all right down there, I already have a grand knowledge of English”.

Choice

An old man decided to go fishing, but as he waded into the lake he heard a voice. Looking round he saw a frog sitting on a lily pad so he asked if it was speaking to him. The frog said, “Yes, and I want to tell you that if you pick me up and kiss me I will turn into a beautiful girl, and I will marry you”. The old fisherman picked up the frog and dropped it into his wide fisherman's pocket. “No, didn't you understand me,” cried the frog, “you have to kiss me and I will turn into a beautiful girl”. “Nah”, said the old man, “at my age I would rather have a talking frog”.

New Members

A hearty welcome to all our new members.

Abraham, Ms Ana Irene
Aelion, Mr George
Bishay, Ms Mona
Burlingame, Ms Barbara
Carle, Mr James Barrack
Cerri, Ms Cinzia
Cordeil, Mr Alain
De Domenico, Mr Michele
Del Hierro, Ms Margarita
Di Giacomo, Ms Maria Augusta
Farina, Ms Lucia
Gavotti, Mr Stefano
Kharas, Ms Purveen
Marini, Ms Marta
Mastrantonio, Mr Maurizio Maria
Melidis, Mr Constantin
Mustaers, Ms Barbara
Niggemann-Pucella, Ms Hildegard
Polla, Ms Maria Amalia
Possolo, Mr Rui
Prante, Mr Wolfgang
Raïs, Ms Marina
Reichert, Mr Paul
Vici, Mr Crissis

All retirees ought to join the Association to support its work representing the pensioners, and for their own interest, and should encourage their ex-colleagues to join!

