

Former FAO and Other UN Staff Association

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



Newsbrief 109
November 2019

A Word from the President on Behalf of Your Executive Committee

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- A Word from the President
- Medical Insurance
- Pension Matters
- News from the UN Organizations
- News from the Executive Committee
- News from the FFOA Advisory Committees
- New Members
- In Memoriam
- Social Support and Recreational Activities
- Your Good Health
- News from the Membership

I hope that you all had an enjoyable and relaxing summer period and are now reinvigorated for the rest of the year.

Your Executive Committee returned to duty at the beginning of September and was immediately involved in overseeing and contributing to the tender preparations for the medical insurance coverage from 2020 to 2024. Tenders were called in two tranches - one separate tender for WFP staff and retirees and one tender for FAO, IFAD and ICCROM staff and retirees. Discussions were held on coverage and the possibility of enhanced coverage under the Plans and FFOA insisted that existing coverage and benefits should at least be maintained.

Tenders have now closed and last and final offers have been discussed with the successful company which will be CIGNA, which will handle the BMIP/MMBP contracts for all Agencies for the next 4 years. Contracts should be signed by the end of October and transition measures will be undertaken. ALLIANZ will continue to provide cover for all Agencies until the end of December 2019 with a claim run out period to two years.

The Bureau of the Executive Committee met the new Director General of FAO on 4th October and had a very interesting and productive meeting; the DG was open and forthcoming in listening to the concerns FFOA expressed on behalf of retirees - apportionment of medical premiums and reintroduction of caps and the need for "front office" services dealing with social security (medical and pension issues) remain in Rome and not be moved to Budapest.

Your Association will arrange full briefing sessions for retirees regarding the new Medical Insurance arrangements in WFP, FAO and IFAD around the end of November together with the three Agencies and CIGNA.

Before ending, I would like to announce a generous anonymous donation from one of our members to the FFOA Emergency Fund. The Member Defence Fund established 2 years ago also requires additional funds and members are invited to contribute to this Fund.

We hope to see all members at our year end gathering on Wednesday 11th December at 4 pm. Further information on this will be sent to members.

Edward Seidler
President

Medical Insurance

(E. Seidler, A. Prien)

Tenders for medical insurance at the Rome-based Agencies (FAO, WFP, IFAD and ICCROM) were launched in July 2019 to cover the period 2020-2024.

WFP decided to tender separately from the other Agencies and this was very much regretted by FAO and IFAD (and FFOA, of course) as mentioned at the FFOA General Assembly. FAO, IFAD and ICCROM tendered their plans as one. Tendering was completed in late August with evaluations and final discussions on the bids taking place between late August until October. Whilst final details are still to be announced, we can report that ALLIANZ will be replaced in all Rome-based Agencies by CIGNA as of January 2020. ALLIANZ will be settling claims incurred in 2019 for a further period of 2 years. Members should submit claims to ALLIANZ as soon as possible.

WFP will have a separate though similar plan to FAO and IFAD with some enhanced benefits and will have different and somewhat lower premiums (most probably the same as in force presently). FFOA will arrange a briefing session for WFP retirees in late November together with WFP and CIGNA staff and will inform members accordingly.

FFOA will also arrange meetings for retirees from FAO and IFAD on the new medical insurance arrangements in these Agencies also in late November; details have still to be finalized at FAO and IFAD at the time of writing but once cleared we will issue a News Flash to members. Premiums are likely to be higher in FAO and IFAD than at present following the withdrawal of WFP from the joint tender.

We will also inform members on the possible re-apportionment of premiums between FAO participants and FAO and the reintroduction of caps so that FAO is in alignment with the other agencies (WFP, IFAD and ICCROM), which is the intention stated by the new FAO DG.

FFOA has endeavored throughout to ensure that current coverage and benefits will

be maintained and possibly improved whilst ensuring that premiums are kept at reasonable levels. Cost containment will be emphasized under the new contracts with emphasis to be placed on participants using in-network facilities (doctors, clinics, laboratories, etc.) rather than out of network facilities when feasible.

As of January 2020, contact and servicing of retirees will change with the Agencies most probably servicing their own retirees rather than FAO doing so as at present and for the past 40 years. FFOA will keep members informed of any new servicing arrangements that may be concluded.

We shall let you know when new cards are available from CIGNA, and for this reason, you should send us any new email addresses as soon as possible, so that we can contact you efficiently.

Pension Matters

(A. Prien, M. Breschi, A. Fusco Femiano)

Certificate of Entitlement (CE)

Did you submit your Pension Fund Annual Certificate of Entitlement yet? To ensure receiving your pension without interruption, please complete and send the CE before 31 December 2019 to the Social Security Office at FAO, Building D, 3rd floor, Room 339/341 or to UNJSPF as applicable.

The UNJSPF is now issuing a monthly Newsletter which replaces the quarterly version and that you should have received it recently via email.

The following is a report on the most recent Pension Board, held in Nairobi. It is submitted by Marco Breschi, currently President of FAFICS, who was FFOA General Secretary. He is now in New York defending our pension rights. The main highlights of his report are summarized below.

The 66th UN Pension Board Session - Nairobi Kenya, 25-26 July 2019

The Pension Board report is at the center of FAFICS/FFOA follow-up action with its key recommendations and its related governance process entailing the critical review by the Advisory Committee on Accounting and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and later by the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly for its final resolution.

It is very important that retirees, through the Federation, remain alert and active in influencing in all ways possible this complex and articulated decision process. Like last year, and with your support, we will continue our work in this regard.

Overall Pension Board Outcome

This Board session went very well with clear indications of harmonious intents and common goals among the large majority of the members from the three constituents groups flanked by the FAFICS Representatives. Many conclusions were reached as a result of honest and comprehensive exchange of opinions and views. The outcome of voting was unanimous with declared, non-voting support by FAFICS. The full-fledged participation of FAFICS in the debate at Plenary and in the various committees and working groups was never challenged by Board members and by the Fund Secretariat consistently with long-standing practices.

Separation of the CEO and Secretary of the Pension Board roles

Following the GA resolution, the Fund Secretariat is proposing a restructuring of the CEO functions based on the separation of its current role of Pension Benefit Administrator from that of Secretary of the Pension Board to take effect from 1 January 2020. Appropriate steps are being taken by the Secretariat to this effect and relevant budgetary proposals were made as briefly mentioned below.

Selection of the CEO/Pension Benefits Administrator of the Pension Board

The first critically important task for the Board was the selection of the CEO/Pension Benefit Administrator following the GA resolution reflecting the separation of the CEO role from that of Secretary of the Pension Board.

Unanimous consensus was reached on the most qualified, female candidate, enabling the Board to make its recommendation for the Secretary-General appointment. Ms Rosemarie McClean of Canada was appointed as Pension Benefits Administrator of the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund and that she accepted the offer. This as a major accomplishment.

The Fund's Annual Budget

For the first time, following a determination by the Board last year, the Secretariat presented an annual budget to replace biennial budgets. The Budget Working Group (BWG) considered this change in its review of the proposal. FAFICS was represented by Marashetty Seenappa and Marco Breschi.

Budget for the Office of Investment Management (OIM)

The BWG recognized the vital importance of the work of the Office of Investment Management (OIM) headed by the Representative of the Secretary-General (RSG) Mr Sudhir Rajkumar. In particular the Group was aware of the fact that the assets of the Fund are its stakeholders' money (participants and retirees) and as such are of crucial importance for the protection of current and future pension and benefits payments. More and more such payments will be dependent on investment yields as opposed to contributions. OIM apprised the Group of the inherent risks of any investment transaction and of its related legal implications. In view of the above, the Group was convinced of the importance to provide adequate resources to this important function and unanimously approved the establishment of 25 of the 26 positions

requested by OIM through either the creation of new posts or conversion of temporary posts into permanent ones.

Budget for the Office of the CEO/ Secretary of the Pension Board

The Budget Working Group examined with due care the proposal by the Acting CEO Ms Janice Dunn Lee for the Secretariat of the Fund. Great attention was paid to the establishment of the so-called functional reporting to be focused in the New York office, whereby all operational processes would be under the overall guidance of that office while operations and client service currently under the Geneva office will remain located in that office. The main structural change would be centered on the creation of the D-1 Secretary to the PB position working independently under the close supervision of the CEO/Pension Benefits Administrator and in close consultation with the Chair of the Board (formulation still to be approved by the Board). This change is proposed at zero additional costs as decided by the UNGA. Initially, a temporary D-1 position would be established in Geneva to oversee the smooth implementation of the new functional reporting.

The Working Group supported this structural change which was endorsed by the Plenary. As is normal, it only looked at structural changes and related budget proposals. It did not pay attention to any staffing implications such as transfers of incumbents as these are managerial issues outside the scope of its mandate.

The Governance Working Group

The Governance Working Group conducted extensive study and review on a number of issues as guided by the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/73/274 of last December. The outcome of its work is reflected in 18 recommendations contained in document R22 GWG Rev2 recently published in the Fund's documents web-site covering issues of participation, rotation and equitable representation on the Board. Some of the recommendations were adopted by the Board, while on others the Board could not reach

consensus and were remanded to further review and debate.

While a further detailed analysis of the decisions by the Board is left for a later stage, attention is drawn here on some of the salient matters. Recommendation 1 on the separation of roles of CEO and Secretary of the Board, largely approved except for added clarification needed on reporting lines, and Recommendation 2 on the six principles underlining the representation of participants and member organizations and relevant allocation of seats, Recommendation 3 is key as it contains the three options regarding the number of seats with voting rights and their suggested allocation. Option 1 was adopted maintaining the number of seats at 33. This option was not the preferred one by the Participants Group who was more in favor of option 2 (increase the number of seats to 36) and also not liked by the UN Executive Heads who were more in favor of option 3 (decreasing the total number of seats to 30). This matter will certainly draw the attention of the GA and it will become a primary subject of debate during the fall.

It is noteworthy that Recommendation 9 regarding the roles and modalities for election of retirees' representatives was not adopted as it requires further debate. Given its importance, FAFICS will continue to closely follow developments on this subject. Recommendation 13 on the Standing Committee continuing to focus on appeals cases only while maintaining the frequency of its meeting still requires further study. Recommendation 14 proposing the retention of the ALMC was adopted.

Investments and Financial and Actuarial Status

The Pension Board reviewed extensive reports highlighting the (not so positive) performance of investments in 2018 due to negative market trends and the prompt recovery in the initial months of 2019 due to effective action by the Office of Investment Management. The Financial and actuarial status of the Fund remain very solid and positive.

News from the UN Organizations

IFAD

(A. Prien)

Sandro Luzziatti of IFAD led the negotiations for FAO and IFAD in the procurement for renewal of our health insurance protection, which will begin, from 1 January 2020. (As explained elsewhere, WFP, as discussed at our General Assembly, went on its own).

The end result is that all 3 major Organizations have selected CIGNA. There will now be 3 separate contracts, and it seems different premiums. For IFAD retirees and their beneficiaries we understand the increase will be in the range of 4-6% for the first 2 years. For the life of the contract, there will be a maximum cap of 6%. BMIP premiums will continue to be split on a 50-50 basis. We expect there will be briefing sessions with the new claims processor c. 25/26 November. We shall all receive new cards.

As soon as further concrete information becomes available, we shall issue electronic messages, so make sure we have your email addresses.

WFP

(G. Shaver)

Enrica Porcari, WFP's Chief Information Officer and Director Technology Division won the "best IT team of the year led by a woman" award in October 2019. It is a recognition by the Women in IT Global Awards Series launched in 2015 by the business technology site Information Age. This awards series acts as a flagship and high profile platform to support the industry in its mission to move the dial on gender.

WFP has launched a second cinema ad campaign entitled "Feed our Future" that has generated a 40% increase in brand awareness in North America. The advert highlights WFP's life-saving work on the frontlines of world hunger by showing the potential lost to the world when children's voices are silenced due to

hunger. 3 million children around the world lose their lives to hunger or malnutrition.

FFOA and WFP have agreed that a WFP retiree Executive Committee member will visit WFP HQs periodically to welcome prospective members, introduce the Pre-retirement Service Programme, as well as to share information and answer questions on pensions, after-service health insurance, social and legal assistance.

FAFICS 48th Council 2019, Vienna, 15-17 July 2019

(M. Breschi)

While the FAFICS President's report on pension has been included under Pension Matters, on page 2 above, the key highlights of the FAFICS Council meeting are mentioned below.

- The 2019 FAFICS Council meeting was held in Vienna on 15-17 July at the invitation of ARICSA (Association of Retired International Civil Servants in Austria).
- FFOA was represented at the meeting by President Edward Seidler together with Alan Prien who was elected as the Presiding Officer for the meeting.
- FAFICS is supportive of continuing the existing structure for the After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI) in various UN organization, as well as, for the establishment of appropriate reserves to enable the UN to meet its future obligations regarding health insurance for retirees.
- Other subjects debated by the Council included the status on the management of the Emergency Fund and the overview of the Federation activities regarding the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) matters where the Council recognized the need to further improve its engagement on these important UN themes.
- The Council agreed that the FAFICS membership dues will be increased to

\$2 per member, per annum, payable by all 63 member Associations.

- Council elected Marco Breschi President for another year and elected five vice-Presidents as follows: Ms Mariam Coulibaly from Mali, Ms Odette Foudral from Geneva, Mr Jerry Barton from Vienna, Mr Warren Sach from New York and Mr Masood Ahmed from Bangladesh.

News from the Executive Committee

FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu meets with FFOA Executive Committee members

On 4 October 2019, a representative group of the Executive Committee members met for over one hour with the newly elected FAO Director General Mr Qu Dongyu. Those in attendance were President Ed Seidler, Vice President

Georgia Shaver, Vice President Giuliano Pucci, Vice General Secretary Mariam Ahmed, Treasurer Gianni Monciotti and President Emeritus Alan Prien and the FAO HR Director *ad interim* Mr Basharat Ali. The DG shared his thoughts about the importance he places on, and his respect and appreciation for the contributions made by retired staff. He highlighted a few initiatives he has made to strengthen the role of youth and women in the organization, and stressed the importance of a rules-based organization that is staff-centered.

FFOA President made a brief presentation on the history of FFOA, its mandate, membership and priorities. Mr Seidler raised the following issues with the DG: the need to realign the apportionment of medical premiums between FAO and retirees to 50/50 in conformity with other UN agencies; the importance to keep in Rome the servicing of retirees and staff regarding social security issues, as well as the need for FAO's continuing support for FFOA including upgrading computer equipment. These issues were positively received by the DG who has been



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from left: Basharat Ali, Gianni Monciotti, Alan Prien, Mariam Ahmed, DG Qu Dongyu, Georgia Shaver, Ed Seidler and Giuliano Pucci

invited to attend the May 2020 FFOA General Assembly. FFOA also offered its support and services for FAO's 75th anniversary in 2020.

The EXCOM extends its thanks to Peggy Nelson (WFP retiree and FFOA member) for her excellent work as the Editor of the Newsbrief for the past 4 years and welcomes Isabella Pontecorvo, FAO retiree and FFOA member, who will take on the role as the NB Editor effective 1 January 2020.

FFOA has agreed to list a third law firm, "Studio Legale Centonze" which has expressed interest in offering its services to members. Details of their areas of expertise are detailed in the leaflet enclosed and the forthcoming visits to our offices are scheduled for the 20th of November and 4th of December.

Finally, a reminder to all members that the FFOA duty officer scheme is operational daily from 10:00 to 12:00 hours (Monday-Friday). The front office opens at 09:00. Members of the Executive Committee and Office Assistants are available to answer questions and provide support as needed.

News from the FFOA

Advisory Committees

Membership

(M. De Gaay Fortman, R.Fenix, G. Monciotti)

It is understood, that an association of pensioners has a rather big challenge in keeping its membership stable, as the average time of a membership has been calculated to be 15 years. New members are encouraged to join with a one-time life membership fee of € 375. Over the last years the membership numbers have been stable at having each year about 120 new members, 60 members suspended for not paying the annual fees for two consecutive years and 60 members deceased. Of course, there are some variations every year, having had lately less members suspended, resulting in a marginal net increase in the membership. In addition, the number of Italians versus other nationalities has increased in favour of the former, which is a healthy

development, as the Italians are more punctual in paying their dues.

In view of the privacy legislation, it is not so easy for us to identify and approach potential members of the Association, as there is no information available on staff members planning to retire. By writing articles in the newsletters of the various staff associations, we may hope that people are becoming aware of the various activities of FFOA and plan to join. By including information on FFOA in debriefing material from the various agencies for staff members, when they retire, we make another effort to draw the attention to the existence and services of FFOA.

There exist however a more fertile fishing pond to catch members in the form of the Retirement Seminar, which FAO organizes twice a year for about 160 participants. The Retirement Seminar is meant for all staff members between the age of 55 and 62 (65). Participants include staff members from the three Rome-based agencies, from ICCROM and other UN Agencies, but 80% are from FAO. The learning objective is to provide practical information on retirement with particular emphasis on retirement in Italy.

There are also sessions on health and on the UN pension fund. For the out posted FAO staff there is a package on line with all the video presentations. FFOA has a slot at the Seminar of one hour where we present our Association in four parts by way of a Power Point Presentation. After the presentations there is a Q&A. We invite all the participants to provide us with their email addresses, preferably the private one in order to keep in touch with them during the period leading up to retirement. About 20% of the participants do so. In the next issue of our Newsbrief, we will elaborate more on the FFOA presentation at the Retirement Seminar.

New Members

(A.M. Certelli)

We heartly welcome our 27 new members:
Alder, Ms Jacqueline

Alvarez, Ms Melba
 Barka, Ms Yasmina
 Bashir, Mr Mohamed
 Bunning, Ms Sally
 Crotta, Ms Eleonora Ervina
 Dale Broux, Mr Raymond
 Diethelm, Ms Yvonne
 Ecu, Ms Lucy
 Galway, Ms Tora
 Getachew, Ms Rahel
 Guillocheau-Archer, Ms Janine
 Hassanpour Seydani, Mr Mahmoud
 Hurford, Ms Rosemary Caroline
 Jatta, Mr Sana
 Kennedy, Ms Elinor
 Magnat, Mr François
 Marra-Ughetto, Ms Elda
 Misiti, Ms Françoise
 Nichterlein, Ms Karin
 Nilsson, Ms Carina
 Parisello, Ms Maria
 Poropat, Ms Ana Milena
 Romeo, Ms Antonia
 Salvini, Mr Daniele
 Signorelli, Ms Paola Olga
 Ventimiglia, Mr Stefano

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!

In Memoriam

(A.M. Certelli)

On behalf of all the members of the FFOA, we express heartfelt sympathy to the families and friends of all those members who have left us.

Wilkins, Ms Margaret
 16 June 2018
 Nesmeyan, Ms Roma
 30 December 2018
 Ricerra, Ms Emilie
 31 January 2019
 Johnston, Mr Lawrence
 27 February 2019

Foglino, Ms Tülin
 03 June 2019
 Doron, Mr Nathaniel
 16 July 2019
 Pasamontes, Ms Lourdes
 11 August 2019
 Cebron, Mr Jean-Pierre
 14 August 2019
 Mechitarian-De Marco,
 Ms Ignazia Maria Lucia (Marilù)
 16 September 2019
 Bensoussan, Mr Nessim
 26 September 2019
 Witham, Mr Peter
 19 October 2019

Social Support and Recreational Activities

(J. Smidt, B. Pisani, A. Van Arkadie, M. De Gaay Fortman, M. Saleheen, S. Salvi)

Previous activities

June	Antica Città di Cuma, Pozzuoli e Isola di Procida Ventotene, Isola di S. Stefano Ponza, Palmarola, Zannone
July	Giglio, Giannutri
August	New York, Philadelphia, Lancaster, Washington
September	Georgia
October	Montecalvello: Castello di Balthus Marocco Concert by Maestro Camerini Exhibition by Edith Yeung: The East meets The West Charity Concert for WFD organized by WFP Rome Art Week 2019
November	Deserto di Galilea e Gerusalemme Subiaco: la Culla del Monachesimo Benedettino New York Napoli: La Via dei Presepi Pompei: le Domus e le Nuovissime Scoperte Concert by Maestro Camerini

Upcoming Activities

December Beijing
Firenze

Should you be interested in these upcoming trips please contact the FFOA Office for further information.

Monthly Coffee Mornings

(A. Van Arkadie, J. Smidt)

Following the election process last June for a new FAO Director-General coupled with the annual office closures between end-July to end-August, this summary report focuses on the following social activities.

The 11 September gathering was delighted to receive an unexpected visit by the new Director-General of FAO during his round of the cafeteria. Accompanied by his Personal Secretary and a Member of FAO's Security Service (un-uniformed) – he quietly stepped into the Aventino Room from the terrace through the glass doorway behind us. In a friendly tone he introduced himself – “I am the New DG”. We introduced ourselves as members of the FFOA gathered at our monthly “Coffee Morning” to socialize and share welfare information. He referred to the large group of UN Retirees in China with whom he has had previous contact and apprised us of some additional services they offered retiree families in China, where respect for elders is part of the tradition and

Dr. Qu Dongyu concluded that he regarded “all experienced UN retiree’s precious to the Organization”. He left amidst a spontaneous round of thankful applause.

The participants were informed of the FFOA President’s Letter of Congratulations to Dr. Dongyu on his appointment. Expectations are “of good times ahead”, especially regarding FFOA’s repeated calls for the re-instatement of regular meetings of the Joint Advisory Committee on Medical Coverage (JAC/MC). The other two members of the EXCOM in attendance, Ms Joan Smidt and Mr Sino Mariano, elaborated on this specific point underlining positive hope on the new dawn for FAO and FFOA.

On Wednesday 2 October President Ed Seidler informally provided a brief overview on the ongoing medical insurance tender process and responded to some questions. Since then, things have advanced and the latest status is provided under the Medical Insurance section above.

Your voluntary contributions are required for the following funds.

Emergency Fund. We announce with pleasure and gratitude that one of our members (former ICCROM) has donated to the FFOA Emergency Fund. Thanks to members for donations, which will allow us to assist our membership, even more when needed. Last year the EXCOM approved a loan request of a member, which has been fully paid back. Send a request during your difficult time to Chairperson of Fund, Ms Joan Smidt (joan_smidt@libero.it).

Membership Defence Fund was created to support legal costs if FFOA was to appeal any decisions that might affect members. The fund balance is low and needs to be increased. Please contact the Chairperson of Fund, Mr Gianni Monciotti (gmonciotti@alice.it).



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Your Good Health

(S. Salvi)

The Fourth Age: Note to the Readers.

Dear Readers,

In the last NewsBrief at the end of the article regarding the Third Age, I promised to write about the Fourth Age in the next issue.

Well, having made an extensive research on the matter, I decided not to write anything on the subject. As specified on Laslett's theory (see last issue), it is much better and more interesting to try to prolong the Third Age – as much as possible – and in GOOD HEALTH.

News from the Membership

(Mr Dominique Alheritiere,
FAO retiree, Administration Division)

It is doubtful that my enthusiasm over a retirement, which for me certainly was a "rebirth", can be useful to my fellow retirees; simply because each one of us has her/his own priorities and personality that influence greatly her/his approach and reaction to retirement.

Personally, I knew from the start that retirement, health permitting would be a golden age for me, having always cherished my Independence and having a zillion of different interests in life. I was always conscious that no one, although unique, is irreplaceable, and of the fact that no work, no position was such that it could not be done or fulfilled by someone else. If I were born rich, I would never have worked; however, having to work for my living I dedicated myself to my work in order to avoid "double punishment"! Italians have an exemplary way to describe a person who works; he/she is called a "dipendente", and this is precisely what I did not want, i.e. to be "dependent". To me, the supreme value has always been freedom.

It is probably quite easy for an active staff member to know whether retirement will be paradise or hell. Those who call their office while away on holidays, or even more, those who do

not take their holidays, will probably have an unhappy retirement. Obviously, there are other parameters, which may influence one's attitude, chief among them, the quality of one's family relations or the very existence of a family.

I have no recipe to offer. Whoever loves his Independence and has high quality family relationship should really consider early retirement. For the others they should work until the mandatory age and seek consultancy work afterward. I certainly do not judge the latter badly. It is just a question of attitude and character, although we should always consider the need for the younger people to have opportunities and we should let them take over.

Please share your personal experience or advice on retirement. Everyone would love it. You may write in English or Italian, addressed to FFOA, attention to Newsbrief Coordinator.

On Wednesday 11 December 2019

(Venue/Time will follow)



Please note that the office will be closed from 23 December 2019 through 06 January 2020.

The FFOA activities are supported by a number of Advisory Committees (table below) through which Executive Committee members contribute to the development and implementation of FFOA plans in different areas.

FFOA ADVISORY COMMITTEES

MEMBERS	Governance/ Policy	Internal Matters	External Relations: 3a WFP; 3b IFAD; 3c FAO & Others	Pensions	Health Insurance	Financial Matters	Communications	Social Support & Recr. Activities	Technology Support & Training	Membership Matters
SEIDLER Edward	CCC	MMM	3c CCC	MMM	CCC	MMM				
SHAVER Georgia	MMM		3a CCC	MMM			MMM			MMM
PUCCI Giuliano	MMM	MMM	3c MMM	MMM	MMM	MMM				
MONCIOTTI Gianni	MMM	MMM				CCC				MMM
WOLF Angelika	MMM	MMM	3c MMM							MMM
AHMED Mariam	MMM		3c MMM							
SMIDT Joan		MMM	MMM					CCC		
FUSCO-FEMIANO Annibale		MMM		MMM		MMM				
PISANI Bruno	MMM	MMM				MMM		MMM	MMM	
VAN ARKADIE Alex			MMM 3a,b,c				MMM	MMM		
DECRAENE Jean Philippe					MMM				MMM	
BERTINI Alessandro							MMM		CCC	MMM
PALMISANO Maurizio									AAA	
DE GAAY FORTMAN Marius	MMM	MMM				MMM			MMM	CCC
DI GIACOMO Maria Augusta	MMM				MMM			MMM		
EBERLE Giorgio		MMM		MMM	MMM					
FENIX Roberta							MMM			MMM
PACE Pino	MMM	MMM				MMM			MMM	MMM
PRIEN Alan	MMM		3b CCC	CCC	AAA					
SALEHEEN Mohamed	MMM		3a MMM				CCC	MMM		
SALVI Sabatino	MMM	CCC					MMM	MMM	MMM	
TESFAMARIAM Sino			3b MMM	MMM	MMM	MMM				
WICKENS Jamie	MMM		3a MMM			MMM				
BOLBOL Omar							MMM			
GATTONE Maria							MMM			
PAGANELLI Gianna							MMM			
PONTECORVO Isabella							MMM			

CCC: Convener
 AAA: Alternate Convener
 MMM: Member

Newsbrief 109

November 2019

Newsbrief, the FFOA official edition, is produced in English and Italian three times a year and is distributed 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.ffoa-web.org. Suggestions or contributions from members are welcome.

Editor: M. Saleheen, G. Pucci
 Newsbrief coordinator: G. Paganelli
 Designer: O. Bolbol
 Translator: M. Gattone

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FFOA, c/o FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Roma, Italy
 Internet: www.ffoa-web.org Tel. (+39) 06-5705 5623/5705 6016

Room: E-005
 Email: ffoa@fao.org

About FFOA

Since 1971, FFOA has worked to advance the interests of pensioners from United Nations Agencies based in Italy, regardless of where they spend their retirement. FFOA is based at FAO Headquarters in Rome and has a growing global membership numbering more than 2,300 pensioners from FAO, IFAD, WFP, ICCROM, etc. from all staff categories.

Representation

FFOA officially represents retiree interests in formal relations with management of FAO, IFAD and WFP. We have a place at the table in all retiree-relevant discussions. FFOA is also active in the Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS), which joins 63 associations like ours to represent pensioners at the UN System level.

Support

FFOA works to improve retirement benefits – particularly pensions and medical insurance – and to protect the interests of the membership as a whole. We also respond to individual requests from members for assistance, guidance or referral on issues associated with retirement and ageing in general (all services are provided by members on a voluntary basis). Members are informed of developments in areas of concern by our Newsbrief, by our website and direct contact by post (including e-mail).

Camaraderie

FFOA promotes contact and social and intellectual exchange among its members, through a web-based discussion forum, and a wide range of cultural and social activities. Colleagues and friends in the Rome area gather at FAO on the first Wednesday of each month for “Coffee Morning” – drop in if you’re in the neighbourhood!

Helping those in need

Being a pensioner can be difficult and lonely. Volunteers from FFOA are available to support members in distress over the phone, or to organize home visits. FFOA also offers small no-interest loans (maximum 1,500 Euro) to meet short-term emergency requirements.

Service

Even after a career of service, UN pensioners remain interested in and committed to development issues, and continue to support the objectives of their former employer. FFOA attends key meetings and events at Rome headquarters, shares updates with members on key activities and achievements in the UN System, and provides direct support as well.

Keep up with FFOA and retiree colleagues

Stay informed on the latest developments on important issues for retirees via the FFOA website: www.ffoa-web.org. Register on the website to ensure you always receive the latest information, and stay in touch with distant friends and former colleagues.

Join FFOA!

Adding your voice helps make the Association stronger and more impactful. Annual FFOA membership is 25 Euro; a life membership is 375 Euro. There is one-time registration fee of 10 Euro. Follow the link to download a membership application: www.ffoa-web.org/eligibility-for-membership, write to ffoa@fao.org, or phone the FFOA desk at (+39) 06-5705 5623 / 5705 6016.