



FORMER FAO AND OTHER UN STAFF ASSOCIATION FFOA

c/o FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Room E-0005 * Office hours: 09:30 – 13:00
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Rome, 19 December 2019

Dear Members,

As we come to the end of the year, we want to thank you for the support you have given to FFOA and wish to remind annual members that their membership coverage is about to expire.

During the past year, your membership and participation has helped the Association to:

- Maintain our office that is open 5 days a week from 09:30 to 13:00 hours, with a “Duty Officer” from your Executive Committee in attendance from 10:00 to 12:00 hours;
- Protect your interests and follow up as a high priority all queries and concerns with the current medical insurance provider, Allianz Worldwide Care;
- Actively represent your interests by participating in the medical insurance tender process with FAO/IFAD and WFP, as well as keeping you informed of changes in the insurance provider to take effect January 2020;
- Deal assertively with the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF);
- Initiate a dialogue with the new FAO Director General;
- Secure office space at WFP to be available several times a month for consultation by future retirees;
- Prioritize communications on pressing, emerging issues, ensuring that you, the members, have the latest factual information, as quickly as possible; and,
- Offer a pre-retirement temporary membership to smooth the transition towards retirement.

In the coming year, key tasks will include:

- Our active participation on the FAO Joint Advisory Committee on Medical Coverage and monitoring of the performance of the medical insurance provider, to ensure that pensioners needs are fully met;
- Actively participate in overseeing the implementation and performance of the health insurance plans at WFP and IFAD through membership of their individual oversight committees;
- Meeting regularly with other staff associations and maintaining an open dialogue with the management of the Rome-based agencies;
- Continuing an active dialogue with the UNJSPF and raising individual member issues; and,
- Supporting an interesting and diverse social programme, including monthly Coffee Mornings at FAO and occasionally at WFP, that brings together members to share pleasant moments and stay informed;
- Promoting the Membership Defence Fund to call for additional voluntary contributions to be used in case legal actions would be required in defence of common membership interests; and,
- Using the Emergency Fund to assist those among us who are less fortunate.

Your continued membership support ensures a strong FFOA that can actively work for you, ensuring secured services and improvement for UN retirees. We appreciate very much the support of our life-members, who should skip the message hereunder. Renewing your membership is easy you can make your Euro 25 payment through several different ways:

- In cash at the FFOA Office; or,
- By cheque in the name of "FFOA" (mail the cheque to FFOA, c/o FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153, Rome, Italy); or,
- By bank transfer to the bank account of "FFOA" with the Intesa San Paolo at FAO Headquarters, IBAN: IT50 T030 6903 3560 0732 637 0137 (BIC: BCITITMM700); or,
- By transfer from your UNFCU account to the FFOA UNFCU account

You can even instruct your bank to make the payment annually, via a standing order – that way you won't forget to renew. Or you can take out life membership.

In this regard, as you know, we have adjusted last year our procedure for converting annual membership into life membership. Members during the first ten years of their membership could convert their annual membership by just paying for the missing years up to 15 years as it is present policy. Thereafter they could still convert their annual membership into life membership by paying an additional 5 years. Thus to get life membership from the 11th year up (until the 15th year and beyond), it would imply the payment of additional 5 years in all cases, i.e. € 125.

If you have any questions about your membership or benefits, or suggestions about how FFOA could better meet your requirements we would love to hear from you, either by email or letter. And, if you have the time and want to be more directly involved in the work of your Association, there are many opportunities to put your expertise at the service of FFOA.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to wish you and your families all the best for the coming Holidays' Season and a joyful and healthful 2020.



Edward Seidler
FFOA President