

Former FAO and Other UN Staff Association

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



Newsbrief 117
June 2022

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A Word from the President on Behalf of Your Executive Committee

Summer is rapidly approaching in the Northern hemisphere and temperatures, especially in Italy, increasing markedly. The Covid-19 pandemic is ebbing and freedoms are returning with inland and overseas travel increasing; however, care is still needed as the virus is still circulating and basic precautions are still recommended.

FFOA continues to operate remotely, servicing our members and addressing issues related to medical coverage, pensions and other issues raised by members. Plans to hold our Annual General Assembly (GA) on 26th October at WFP are being firmed up. The GA will be a combined Zoom and in person event but in person numbers will be limited due to Covid-19 prevention measures adopted by WFP. Your Executive Committee has also been planning the holding of delayed FFOA elections and details are provided in this Newsbrief and attachments. FFOA will be attending the FAFICS Council meeting in Vienna in July to discuss key issues of concern to UN retirees.

I wish you all a healthy and pleasant summer which will see many having the opportunity to see family and friends after a long period of time, which is very welcoming and exciting.

Edward Seidler
FFOA President

FFOA Election of the Executive Committee, November 2022

Angelika Wolf

As mentioned in the last Newsbrief, the three-year term of the present Executive Committee ended in December 2021. It was decided to postpone the elections to a later date, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and with the approval of the General Assembly. We are happy to announce that it will now be possible to proceed with the election of the new Executive Committee - composed of 11 members - for the period 2023-2025. The attached document "ELECTION FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2023 - 2025" describes the process in detail.

As voting will once again be electronic, please ensure that you provide your correct email address (if you have not already done so) to the FFOA (ffoa@fao.org).

Please do think seriously about standing for election this year.

A strong Executive Committee with members from all Rome-based Agencies - FAO, IFAD, ICCROM, and WFP - is needed to help advance the interests of pensioners from the Rome-based Agencies, and to give effective support to the President as he/she carries out his/her duties. Fresh ideas and approaches are welcome. Your opinions can make a difference!

The qualifications of the FFOA members who are considering standing for election as members of the forthcoming Executive Committee are set out in the attached nomination form for candidates (ELECTION/2023-2025). Please note that one of the requirements for candidates is that they live in the Rome area. The form should be sent by email to FFOA-2022-Elections@fao.org or mailed by post addressed to the Election Sub-Committee, FFOA, Room E-005, FAO, where it should arrive not later than Monday 5 September 2022 at 12:00 hrs.

52nd FFOA General Assembly

The 52nd Session of the General Assembly will take place this year on Wednesday, 26th October in WFP. Mark this date in your calendars!

News from FFOA Advisory Committees

Medical Insurance

Edward Seidler

FFOA continues to monitor the performance of Cigna, which is the insurer and claims processor for the three Rome-based Agencies. As announced in the last Newsbrief, premiums for BMIP/MMBP coverage for 2022 have been increased in FAO and IFAD but remain the same for WFP participants. All Agencies have used past profit-sharing funds to partially offset premium increases, which have been kept below 5 per cent.

Cigna has held briefing/information zoom sessions for IFAD, FAO and WFP to explain claims processing, use of the Cigna Apps, coverage issues and use of tele-medicine. Hopefully, many members were able to 'zoom in' to be updated. Recordings and slides of the sessions will be made available to participants and FFOA will consider whether it would be useful for it to circulate the slides or place them on the FFOA website to facilitate member access to the information.

Pension Matters

Alan Prien

Several members of your Executive Committee had the pleasure of meeting in person with the Chief Executive for Pension Administration when she was in Rome on 23 May.

Because of the pandemic, Ms Rosemarie McClean had not been able to travel earlier. She also held meetings with the Staff Pension Committees of all the Rome-based Agencies.

She brought us up to date on the status of the Fund, and how many members are now using the electronic version of the Certificates of Entitlement.

For those of you who wish to follow the workings of the Fund more carefully, if you ensure they have your email address, they will send you their monthly bulletin.

The first in person session of the Pension Board since Covid-19 started will be held in Vienna between 25-29 July. The major item on the agenda will be the Actuarial Evaluation.

Social Support and Recreational Activities

Joan Smidt, Marius de Gaay Fortman, Bruno Pisani, Mohamed Saleheen, Sabatino Salvi, Alex Van Arkadie

Previous Activities

March 2022

Spain
Ville Tuscolane
Castel Sant'Angelo
Borghi d'Italia and Amelia
San Gimignano
Pisa and the Museo of Antique Ships

April 2022

Lucca and Volterra
Gardens of Ninfa
Easter: Lago Maggiore and Borromee Islands
The Colours of Puglia

Theater in English: "3 Women and a Piano Tuner"
Theater in Ariccia: "Vita da Principi"

May 2022

Pompei
Matera

Concert by Maestro Camerini

Upcoming Activities

June 2022

Trip to Cyprus
Tour to Scotland and the Orkney Islands
Eastern Sicily – Catania, Siracusa, Ortigia, Etna and Taormina

Theater in English: "ART"

September 2022

Tour to Calabria

Membership Advisory Committee (MAC)

Marius de Gaay Fortman (convenor), Alessandro Bertini, Roberta Fenix, Gianni Monciotti, Pino Pace, Georgia Shaver, Angelika Wolf

We have recently welcomed 13 new members: 6 from FAO, 5 from WFP, one from IFAD and one from ICTP. The good news is that almost half of the new members are ex-WFP staff. As you may be aware, WFP is severely underrepresented in our Association with approximately 200 members, while the FAO membership is 1700+, IFAD 100+, and the rest from other UN organisations. The bad news however is that a year ago in this same period, the Association had 36 new members, three times more members during the same period. Membership was attractive during the pandemic as FFOA was very active in circulating information to members on how to receive vaccinations against COVID-19; however, prior to the pandemic, there would be an average of 30/40 new members included in each Newsbrief and not only 13.

There are a number of ways of promoting our Association through Retirement Seminars at FAO and recently at WFP and through the Pre-Retirement Service Programme (PRSP), which gives future pensioners access to all FFOA services and the website, free of charge 18 months prior to retirement as well as a free trial of the Newsbrief. A number of participants at the Retirement Seminars and the PRSP eventually join, but many do not join our Association. A more direct approach is needed which is why the Membership Advisory Committee strongly appeals to our regular members to contact former colleagues who are preparing for retirement and illustrate why it is important for us as pensioners to be organised in order to better defend our interests in the Pension Fund, as well as for After Service Health Insurance. It is only through the commitment and actions of our members that the

Association can be strengthened and that it will be able to defend the rights and interests of all the pensioners and their spouses. Kindly make that effort by contacting your former colleagues, telling them about the benefits of being a member and let us know how we can further assist you with this task.

Renew Your Annual Membership

Renew your Annual Membership by paying €25 in the following ways:

- By bank transfer to the account of FFOA with Banca Intesa San Paolo at the FAO headquarters, IBAN: IT50 T030 6903 3560 0732 637 0137 (BIC: BCITITMM700)
- By bank transfer from your UNFCU account to the UNFCU account of FFOA N0. 10-17710700001 Routing Number 226078609
- Instructing your bank to make the payment annually, through a standing order

* Please clearly indicate Member's ID/Surname/ First name and year

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

The Secretariat

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.

Mr Paolo ISRAEL, FAO

04/05/2022

Ms Adriana MANONI, FAO

22/03/2022

Mr Vincenzo MARCIANO, FAO

06/04/2022

Mr Romualdo NUNZI, FAO

21/05/2022

Ms Kathleen O'FARRELL ROCCHI, FAO

22/11/2021

Mr Danilo REYNA, FAO

26/04/2022

Ms Zenab KADRY, FAO

24/09/2019

New Members

The Secretariat

A hearty welcome to our members who have recently joined the FFOA:

Mr Abdolreza ABBASSIAN, FAO

Ms Roberta BELLOSI VIETRI, FAO

Ms Sally BERMAN, FAO

Ms Magdalena BLUM, FAO

Mr Giuseppe CODAMO, WFP

Ms Rimma DANKOVA, FAO

Mr Paolo GRILLO, WFP

Ms Caroline HEIDER, WFP

Mr Edouard NIZEYIMANA, WFP

Ms Mitzi O'BRIEN, IFAD

Ms Marisa Lee PALERMO, FAO

Ms Manuela VASCOTTO, UNESCO/ICTP

Mr Frederic VERJUS, WFP

OBITUARY - Monique Forestier

(1928-2022)

Her friends - now very few - will be sad to learn that on 13 February 2022 Monique passed away, having caught Coronavirus at 94 years of age.

Monique joined FAO in 1956, just 5 years after the Organisation had moved from Washington to Rome (1951). She started working in the Trade and Commodity Division at P-1 level. She liked her work and was competent. When WFP started operations in 1964, she transferred to its Project Management Division in Building F, for a promotion to P-2. When I first met her in 1969, she had been promoted to P-3.

Born on 24 March 1928, Monique retired on 31 December 1984, after 28 years' service, at the age of 56. Her friends regretted to see her leave - she had always impressed us with her severe standard

of honest work (including her willingness to disagree with superiors), and that special mix of a shrewd understanding of governments and sincere empathy towards WFP's ultimate beneficiaries. She was not easily taken advantage of.

During her last years in the Asia & Pacific Branch, Monique had a lead role in the buildup of the WFP post-war Programme in Vietnam - the developing country closest to her heart. However, for her retirement, she had other plans.

Jens Schulthes

OBITUARY - Danilo Reyna (1953-2022)

Danilo Reyna passed away during the night between 25 and 26 April.

In the days following his demise, all his colleagues and friends reacted to the news in bewilderment as Danilo left an important impression in all of us: his human, social, political, artistic and spiritual depths touched everyone who knew him.

In the 1990s at FAO, he founded the group of hispanoablantes "Ñ" where colleagues watched films together, read poetry, exchanged books and above all, exchanged ideas.

Sometime later, together with another group of colleagues, he founded "Fasting for Food", an association that has since supported 50 solidarity projects around the world.

As regards his career, Danilo was one of the most important figures among the interpreters in FAO. But what was most impressive was his smile, and for the lucky ones, his hug, even in the most difficult moments.

Danilo had a passion for Ginko trees. He sought them in all the gardens of Rome and planted and replanted them in his house in Sabina to give them to friends.

For all of us who had the good fortune to be able to share moments of our lives with him, Danilo was a very dear colleague and friend, for whom we are infinitely grateful.

Livia Cellini

News from UN Organizations

FAO

Edward Seidler

With the declining impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, FAO has proceeded to gradually open up to staff, visitors and retirees. FAO is hoping to achieve 50% office occupancy. Access to FAO Headquarters for retirees is still restricted and subject to clearance by FAO security; retirees should email FAO Security Services (cls-security-registration@fao.org) indicating the desired date of entry. Access will only be allowed to the ground floor (Bank, Insurance offices etc. and catering facilities). FFP2 masks are required to be worn and visitors will need to show their 'green vaccination certificate'; temperature checks will also be made at the entrances. We are still waiting to be informed if and when expired FAO building passes will be reactivated.

The 170th Session of the FAO Council was held from 13-17 June, preceded by meetings of the FAO Programme and Finance Committees. FAO has been monitoring the global food security situation in view of the adverse price developments (inflation and the war in Ukraine) which has seen increased prices and reduced availability of key food crops, especially for food insecure developing countries. FAO presented a proposal for a Global Food Import Financing Facility to the G20 Finance ministers and to the IMF (International Monetary Fund).

IFAD

Alan Prien

As many of you may have heard, the President of IFAD, Mr Gilbert F. Hounbo, has won election to the post of Director General of ILO (International Labour Organization).

Thus, nominations are now underway for his replacement at IFAD, which will necessitate a special session of its Governing Council on 7 July 2022. The elected President will take office on 1 October 2022.

WFP

Mohamed Saleheen

The Executive Director's term has been extended by 1 year, up to April 2023. His relentless travel, highlighting the needs for the increased numbers of food insecure people across all continents, is focused on mobilizing resources for WFP operations and averting a serious food crisis. Mr David Beasley has been making passionate pleas to the world's billionaires by drawing attention to increasing hunger, food shortages, rising prices, and urging them to address the global food needs.

The Annual Session of the WFP Executive Board is scheduled to take place from 20 to 24 June.

The WFP Global Meeting will be held in Munich in early June from 7 to 10th. Senior managers from headquarters, regional bureaux, country offices and liaison offices are expected to attend.

The FFOA General Assembly is slotted on Wednesday 26 October at the WFP auditorium from 11am to 5pm.

In response to an official request from the government of Ukraine, WFP is providing emergency assistance to millions of people affected by the on-going conflict. Through cash-based transfers and in-kind food distribution, help is extended both within Ukraine and in neighbouring host countries. WFP's assistance in Ukraine is geared to support markets and promote the resilience of the food system from production to processing, storage, transportation and consumption. WFP offices in the area are augmented with experienced staff.

WFP Deputy Executive Director, Mr Amir Abdulla, is retiring at the end of June upon completing 15 years in that position and a very distinguished career.

FAFICS

Marco Breschi

The first part of 2022 was devoted to the finalization of the new set of Rules of Procedure which will usher FAFICS into a new era of

a clear, transparent and effective approach of promoting the interests of some 80,000 UN retirees around the world. The special session of the FAFICS Council in February 2022 unanimously ratified the new Rules formulated by the Working Group. A clear message of unity and common intents came out of the special session.

The Federation is now ready to implement the new Rules and the first event will be the regular session of the Council in Vienna in July. The Council will elect the new President, as the term of the current President, Mr Marco Breschi from FFOA, is coming to its natural end. As per normal procedures, officers such as Vice-Presidents as well as the Treasurer and Secretary will be elected.

A key feature of the new Rules is that the newly elected President will choose the members of the FAFICS delegation to the Pension Board, in consultation with the Bureau, for endorsement by the Council. Candidates for these positions will be selected from the Pool of Experts which was created by the Council and filled on the basis of proposals from Member Associations.

The Council session in Vienna will be the first hybrid event combining the first in person gathering after more than two years of the pandemic, with participation by a number of members from remote. This will facilitate full engagement by those associations who are not able to travel to Vienna for various reasons, including cost. FAFICS looks forward to a successful Council session in July.

UNFCU

Theresa Panuccio

It's Never Too Late to Join the United Nations Federal Credit Union (UNFCU)

Did you know that UNFCU membership is not only open to UN employees and consultants, but also to UN retirees? It's never too late to join the UNFCU family, which today includes 180,000 members of the UN community. The cooperative offers financial solutions for every

life stage. Your account at UNFCU goes with you no matter where you retire.

Another key benefit of UNFCU is that membership is open to the immediate family of a UNFCU member. This includes a member's spouse, parents, children, grandchildren, grandparents, and siblings. Having all family members bank with UNFCU facilitates the transfer of assets. You can quickly and securely send and receive money at no charge. If you have family in different regions, UNFCU membership offers global access to US dollar-based solutions. These range from credit and debit cards to loans and savings accounts. UNFCU even offers US-dollar mortgages in Uganda and Kenya. UNFCU also allows direct deposit of your pension with no service fee. A direct deposit not only makes it easier to qualify for a loan, it also makes it easier to qualify for UNFCU's Member Loyalty Rewards Program. The program has multiple tiers. It requires that you be enrolled in UNFCU's Digital Banking, and that you have a minimum deposit balance of \$2,500. Once you qualify, you will automatically receive rebates of select fees each month. The rebate amount depends on the tier for which you qualify. At the Gold and Platinum levels, you can also earn more on your share certificates with Member Loyalty Dividends.

Teach your grandchildren about money management with a Start Smart account. UNFCU offers a couple of options for youth under the age of 18. You can choose to give your grandchildren full access to this account or you can manage the money on their behalf. With a Start Smart account, your grandchildren between the ages of 12-17 may also qualify for a debit card. They will have a purchase limit of \$140.00 per day and an ATM withdrawal limit of \$60.00 per day.

UNFCU recently enriched its Visa® Elite and Azure credit cards. You can earn even more points now on select transactions, which you can redeem for cash, airfare, and hotels. Elite is a great travel card. There is no foreign transaction fee so you can shop in any currency. It also includes five free passes to airport lounges each year. Azure offers more points and protection for everyday purchases. Both cards offer compelling

introductory offers. New cardholders will currently receive 10,000 bonus points (worth \$100) once they spend \$2,000 on the card in the first four months.

Finally, UNFCU offers peace of mind. Know that your savings are insured up to \$250,000 by the US government and that the UNFCU family is here to support you around the clock. You also have input regarding the management of UNFCU through your Board of Directors, who serve as your representatives.

For more information about UNFCU membership, products, and services, visit www.unfcu.org. Schedule virtual or in person appointments at www.unfcu.org/contact. UNFCU has representative offices in Rome, Geneva, Vienna, Nairobi, Entebbe, and Kampala, as well as branch locations in New York and Washington, DC.

Federally insured by NCUA (National Credit Union Administration). Your savings are federally insured to at least \$250,000 and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government & National Credit Union Administration, a US Government Agency. UNFCU is an Equal Housing Lender.

Your Good Health

Sabatino Salvi



Alzheimer's Disease: Does Chess Fill the Gap?

Researchers have found a link between playing chess and reducing the possibility of developing dementia, Alzheimer's and other debilitating mental illnesses.

The New England Journal of Medicine in the article "Use it or Lose it", reported on a study where officials found that individuals older than 75, engaged in leisure activities including chess, were apt to forestall developing signs of dementia compared to people who didn't play.

Games such as chess exercise or stimulate the parts of the brain that typically atrophy as we age. The aging process is also slowed by activities such as watching television.

The study which lasted five years and included approximately 500 participants indicated that involvement in at least ten mind-exercising activities per group delayed early onset of Alzheimer's by nearly 1.5 years, according to NYC physician Dr Gafanovich.

People like Napoleon and Karl Marx are only two of the intellectuals who were captured by the engagement between two people on a chess board.

As exercising the body strengthens the muscles, exercising the brain stimulates the mind in ways in which it ordinarily doesn't experience.

The study shows that people who don't exercise their grey matter stand to lose cognitive skills.

Extracted from Dr Gafanovich's article on Article Diseases

News from the Membership

(Collected pieces for you)

Mohamed Saleheen



Man: do you drink beer?

Woman: yes.

Man: how many per day?

Woman: 3.

Man: how much do you pay per beer?

Woman: \$5 each including tip.

Man: how long have you been drinking?

Woman: about 20 years.

Man: 3 beers a day equates to \$450 per month or \$5,400 per year. In 20 years, that's \$108,000.

Woman: sounds correct.

Man: did you know that if you put that money in a savings account, that after interest, you would have enough money to buy a plane?

Woman: do you drink beer?

Man: no.

Woman: where's your fucking plane?



British Army Humour

An innocent typo was made and all parties involved have gotten as much enjoyment as they could out of it!

Lt. Colonel Robert Maclaren retired from the British Army in 2001 after a long fulfilling career.

On the day that he retired he received a letter from the Personnel Department of the Ministry of Defence setting out details of his pension and,

in particular, the tax-free ‘lump sum’ award, (based upon completed years of service), that he would receive in addition to his monthly pension.

The letter read:

"Dear Lt. Colonel Maclaren,
We write to confirm that you retired from the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards on 1st March 2001 at the rank of Lt Colonel, having been commissioned into the British Army at Edinburgh Castle as a 2nd Lieutenant on 1st February 1366.
Accordingly, your lump sum payment, based on years served, has been calculated as £68,500. You will receive a cheque for this amount in due course.
Yours sincerely
Army Paymaster"

Colonel Maclaren replied:

"Dear Paymaster,
Thank you for your recent letter confirming that I served as an officer in the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards between 1st February 1366 and 1st March 2001 – a total period of 635 years and 1 month.
I note however that you have calculated my lump sum to be £68, 500, which seems to be considerably less than it should be bearing in mind my length of service since I received my commission from King Edward III.
By my calculation, allowing for interest payments and currency fluctuations, my lump sum should actually be £6, 427, 586, 619. 47p.
I look forward to receiving a cheque for this amount in due course.
Yours sincerely,
Robert Maclaren (Lt Col Retd)"

A month passed by and then in early April, a stout manilla envelope from the Ministry of Defence in Edinburgh dropped through Col. Maclaren's letter box, it read:

"Dear Lt Colonel Maclaren,
We have reviewed the circumstances of your case as outlined in your recent letter to us dated 8th March inst. We do indeed confirm that you were

commissioned into the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards by King Edward III at Edinburgh Castle on 1st February 1366, and that you served continuously for the following 635 years and 1 month.

We have re-calculated your pension and have pleasure in confirming that the lump sum payment due to you is indeed £6, 427, 586, 619. 47p.

However, we also note that according to our records you are the only surviving officer who had command responsibility during the following campaigns and battles:

The Wars of the Roses 1455 -1485 (Including the battles of Bosworth Field, Barnet and Towton)
The Civil War 1642 -1651 (Including the battles Edge Hill, Naseby and the conquest of Ireland)
The Napoleonic War 1803 – 1815 (including the battle of Waterloo and the Peninsular War)
The Crimean War (1853 – 1856) (including the battle of Sevastopol and the Charge of the Light Brigade)

The Boer War (1899 -1902)

World War One (1914-1918).

We would therefore wish to know what happened to the following, which do not appear to have been returned to Stores by you on completion of operations:

9765 Cannons

26,785 Swords

12,889 Pikes

127,345 Rifles (with bayonets)

28,987 horses (fully kitted)

Plus, three complete marching bands with instruments and banners.

We have calculated the total cost of these items and they amount to £6,427,518.119.47p. We have therefore subtracted this sum from your lump sum, leaving a residual amount of £68,500, for which you will receive a cheque in due course.

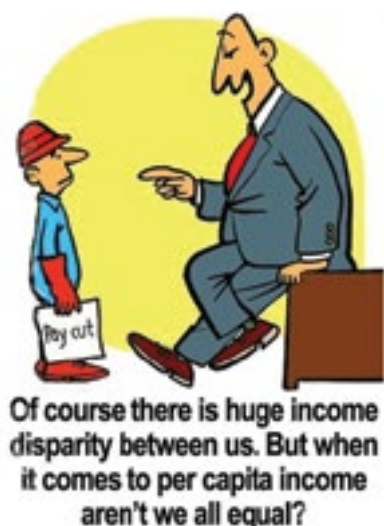
Yours sincerely . . .

Patient: Oh Doctor, I'm starting to forget things.

- Doctor: Since when have you had this condition?

- Patient: What condition?

A wife complains to her husband: “Just look at that couple down the road, how lovely they are. He keeps holding her hand, kissing her, holding the door for her, why can’t you do the same?”
The husband: “Are you mad? I barely know the woman!”



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

Summer Closure of the FFOA Office

The Secretariat

The FFOA office and services will be closed from 29 July through 31 August. It will reopen on 1 September. Please note that messages will not be read on a regular basis during this time and responses may be delayed!

We wish a good summer to our members living in the Nord hemisphere.



NEWSBRIEF 117

June 2022

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. The cost of printing Newsbrief, as well as other FFOA documents is borne by the WFP. Costs associated with documentation for the General Assembly are borne by IFAD. FFOA is grateful for these contributions.

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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.

Establishment of a Membership Defence Fund (MDF-FFOA)

1. Purpose

The FFOA Executive Committee has decided to create a fund to be established through voluntary contributions from its membership. As UN agencies endeavour to reduce costs, the possibilities of their infringing on the acquired rights of staff and former staff members is a real possibility. Retired staff could especially be targeted in cost cutting exercises. Potential issues that might affect members in the future could be the adequacy of Social Security provisions (health, life insurance) by their former employing Agencies.

In order for FFOA to be in a position to obtain professional legal advice on matters materially affecting its membership, the FFOA seeks to establish a Membership Defence Fund (MDF) to provide the necessary resources to access specialist professional services when required. The Funds would be used:

- i. To obtain legal opinions and advice on specific issues and
- ii. To advise on appropriate courses of action such as legal appeals through various bodies e.g. ILO Administrative Tribunal (ILOAT) and possibly the FAO Appeals Committee.

The FFOA would also consider joining cases with FICSA or the FAO/WFP/IFAD staff bodies which seek to challenge adverse developments/administrative decisions that affect or might affect FFOA members.

The MDF would not be used to finance individual, personal cases per se but only those cases/issues that have a direct bearing on the FFOA membership as a whole (Class actions).

2. Funding

It is proposed that funding of the MDF would be on a voluntary basis with variable contributions (suggested to be from Euro/USD 50 -200) depending on what members are able to contribute. The Funds would be accounted for separately within the FFOA accounts.

3. Fund utilization

The FFOA Executive Committee would agree by majority vote on what cases/issues would receive funding under the MDF and agree on the amounts to be provided and for what purpose, taking account of the funds available.

4. Payment possibilities – Indicate Purpose (MDF – FFOA)

- i. Bank transfer to the account of the FFOA with the Banca Intesa at FAO HQ No. 732637/01/37 (Euro):
CAB: 03356, ABI: 03069, BIC: BCITITMM700
IBAN: IT50T0306903356007326370137.
- ii. Transfer from UNFCU account to the FFOA UNFCU USD account
No. 10-17710700001.
- iii. In cash or by cheque in the name of “FFOA” at the FFOA office.