

AFICS/NY GB# 475

Summary Minutes of the 475th Meeting of the Governing Board

Tuesday, 4 August 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

UNICEF House, 4th Floor

Present:

Nicholas Alipui, Renu Bhatia, Gail Bindley-Taylor, Alejandro Caruso, Andres Castellanos, Mac Chiulli, Robin DellaRocca, Furio DeTomassi, John Dietz, Jayant Karia, Judith Karl, Ingrid Kasper, Deborah Landey, Marita Legaspi, Andrew Nye, Edward Omotoso, Jay Pozenel, Christine Roth, Linda Saputelli, Darshak Shah, Gülden Turkoz-Cosslett, Elma Witherspoon, and Michael Zilberg.

Absent with Notice:

Suzanne Bishopric, Marianne Brzak-Metzler, Pilar Fuentes Conte, Nancy Hurtz-Soyka, Barbara Linardo, Sudershan Narula, Richard Nottidge, and Regina Pawlik.

1. Agenda:

The President declared the meeting open at 11am with the agenda presented as follows:

- Adoption of the agenda
- Approval of draft Minutes of 19 June 2026 GB Minutes
- President's Report and Debrief from the recently concluded FAFICS 56th Council Session
- Committee Reports
- Distinguished Service Award
- Other Business

2. Approval of Draft Minutes

The Board approved, with no further comments, the minutes of the Governing Board's meeting on 19 June 2026: AFICS/NY GB# 474.

3. A Special Memorial Tribute

The President, Darshak, called for a minute of silence for the passing of Andres Castellano's wife, Aurora, and conveyed the Governing Board's collective condolences to the family. Andres expressed his appreciation for all the expressions of sympathy and support he received. Debbie Landey attended the funeral services as the special representative of AFICS/NY.

4. President's Report

- **Debriefing on the FAFICS 56th Council**

- Altogether 45 Associations joined the meeting: 25 in-person, and 20 attended virtually.
- New member inducted in FAFICS: Honduras.
- Starting this year, FAFICS implemented new election procedures including an election support group to ensure compliant voting and approved a new Standing Committee on Succession Planning and the establishment of an automated expertise pool process.
- Darshak was elected President of FAFICS
- Nancy was re-elected as one of the five FAFICS Vice Presidents along with Aye Win of Myanmar and Maria Machicado of Bolivia. Nancy is also the interim chair of the new Standing Committee on Succession Planning.
- FAFICS Secretariat operations will now be centered in New York under the new presidency. The FAFICS Secretariat will use a New York address moving forward.
- Darshak presented the AFICS/NY comments on pension and ASHI, as well as on membership and communication issues.
- Debbie and Nancy had prepared the comments on succession planning which were presented to the Council by Debbie.
- Jay Pozenel presented the comments on election procedures.
- Jay Karia presented comments on the standing committee on After Service Health and Long-Term Care.
- FAFICS report relating to Communications and the AFICS/NY comments will be shared with Gail and the Communications Committee.

- **Pension Board**

- The final Pension Board report is still being finalized, and participants are advised against public commentary until that report is released.
- The Fund was reported to be in a very strong financial position. The Fund's Actuaries indicated that the Fund remains sustainable as long as it achieves its long-term real return target of 3.5%. The Fund's Actuaries do not currently view the trend of downsizing in the Fund's member organizations as a significant threat to the Fund's long-term sustainability. That said, the Actuaries will continue to closely monitor how staffing levels in member organizations may affect the Fund.

- The Board also focused on administrative and budgetary matters, including with lengthy discussions on potential cost-saving measures. A compromise was reached to allow the Fund's management, rather than the Board itself, to propose cost-cutting measures during next year's Board sessions.
- A working group of the Board has begun a holistic review of the Pension Fund in response to the General Assembly's request. The WG will prepare proposals for the Board's deliberations in the summer of 2028 for submission to the General Assembly thereafter. The WG is expected to report its programme of work and progress during the Board's 2027 sessions.
- Delegation roles were confirmed—Darshak will lead the FAFICS delegation to the Pension Board; Suzanne Bishopric will continue to serve as Chair of the Standing Committee on Pension Issues, and two members (Jay Pozenel and Theresa Panuccio) will continue as members of the delegation. One alternate should be named soon at least before the next meeting scheduled for February 2027.
- The New York group on Pension will meet on the 19th of August to begin substantive discussions about safeguarding beneficiary rights and the Fund's future.
- The next in-person session of the Pension Board is scheduled to be held in Geneva from 26–30 July 2027 following the FAFICS Council session, scheduled the week before that. The pattern of the Board sessions for each year was clarified as two virtual sessions annually in February and April and one in-person session in July.

- **Health Insurance & ASHI**

- AFICS New York actively participated in discussions on After-Service Health Insurance and Long-Term Care (ASHIL) and the Medical Insurance Plan (MIP), issues.
- Jay Karia as Chair of FAFICS Standing Committee on ASHIL described ongoing work in the Committee, especially as related to ASHI funding and coordination with FICSA, UNISERV, and CCISUA.
- He also reported on the results of the survey involving more than 2,400 participants from about 75% of AFICS associations which helped ASHIL in preparing some of its recommendations for future work. Council approved the seven recommendations as proposed by SC ASHIL with minor editorial changes.
- Continued advocacy for full representation of retirees on health insurance governance bodies in various UN system organizations was emphasized.
- Board Members reiterated the need for AFICS/New York to obtain full voting rights on the Health and Life Insurance Committee (HLIC).

5. Distinguished Service Award

- The Board unanimously approved, by acclamation, **the first AFICS New York Distinguished Service Award under the new rules**, to **Dr. Sudershan Narula** in recognition of her many years of coordinating membership and election activities, Co-Chair activities of the Health Insurance Committee, her leadership and mentorship to

members of the Governing Board, and her dedication and years of outstanding volunteer service to AFICS/NY.

- She will be honored at the next Annual Assembly.

6. Committee Reports

Communications

- Positive comments were received on the latest issue of the Bulletin which were also posted on Twitter and LinkedIn. Special thanks to the team, especially Mita Hosani, Andy, and Gail.
- The issue of the missing in-memoriam section in the Bulletin has been resolved.
- Website analytics showed very high interest in the deceased members list and bulletin content.
- Andy Nye reported that work continues on social media outreach, website improvements, and content management including the introduction of the Bulletin Articles section for individual story posting and member comments.
- A privacy policy paper is being drafted with procedural proposals such as directory-use confirmations, NDAs, and a cookie policy to better protect personal data.
- Exploratory work has been initiated to establish an AFICS presence in the Caribbean following open-house interest and outreach initiatives.

Events

- The walk on the promenade event was a success. Mac will provide more details about the event at a future update.

Pension Committee

- Monthly meetings continue; new members encouraged to join.

Membership

- AFICS/NY gained 29 new members so far in 2026. The Open House initiative was considered highly successful in attracting new retirees and increasing awareness of AFICS as an organization.
- Work is underway on the release of the next membership directory.

Finance

- Update on Financial Status – The additional UNFCU grant, the proceeds from the successful laptop auction and increase in new members following an open house

significantly boosted revenue for the second quarter. Administrative cost reductions, including lower election expenses, are helping to reduce annual deficits. However, limited revenue prospects are expected for the next half of the year and will require collection activity on accounts receivable from outstanding membership fees.

- Fundraising and Legacy Campaign • A proposed Legacy Campaign would encourage members to consider adding AFICS New York in their estate planning. The initiative would be accompanied by educational events on end-of-life planning and could provide both future financial support and member education.

After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI)

- The UN's Health and Life Insurance Committee (HLIC) will resume meetings in September and hold two meetings per month.
- Jay Karia referred to prior AFICS outreach efforts to senior UN officials, and he cited the JIU recommendation that Health Insurance Committees should include representation from staff, administration, field staff, *and retirees*. He further noted the December 2026 JIU deadline for its implementation. He urged AFICS/NY to press for full voting rights on the HLIC before the JIU deadline and mentioned re-engaging the UNHR network to address health-insurance issues more comprehensively to include ASHI concerns as recommended by the FAFICS Council.
- The representation issue should be linked to the ongoing MIP governance review that may prompt field participation and governance adjustments in the HLIC.
- Jay Pozenel will provide legal views in support of AFICS New York's participation in the HLIC if the UN Administration requests for them.
- Darshak will bring this to Catherine Pollard and other UN leaders' attention to reiterate the importance of the request for retiree representation.
- Andy Nye will resend the content management email to Darshak, Jay, and Gulden for review and direction.
- John Dietz suggested to raise the representation issue with Catherine Pollard and cite the related JIU recommendation and the December 2026 deadline established therein.
- Jay Karia and Deborah Landey will draft a strong non-legal follow-up letter to HLIC citing prior correspondence and the JIU recommendations to be sent on behalf of AFICS/NY, and coordinated with FAFICS, as appropriate.

Individual case — deceased member insurance claim

- A specific case of a deceased retiree whose family has received no settlement for a long time and is facing mounting medical debts was raised during the meeting. The members advised that the family should write to ASHI and copy Jay Karia and Dr.

Narula, after which UN-HLIS will open a case and respond within two weeks. Jay and colleagues offered to assist once contacted.

7. Any Other Business

- Future meeting agendas and attachments will be sent out to the GB members at least one week before each scheduled meeting.
- The AFICS/NY office will be closed from 17 August to 8 September 2026.
- The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 15 September 2026.