



AFICS/NY GB 471

**Minutes from the 471st meeting of the Governing Board
on Tuesday, 24 March 2026 at 11 am.**

Present: Nicholas Alipui, Steve Avedon, Gail Bindley-Taylor, Suzanne Bishopric, Marianne Btzak-Metzler, Alejandro Caruso, Mac Chiulli, Robine DellaRocca, Furio DeTomassi, Pilar Fuentes Conte, Nancy Hertz-Soyka, Jayant Karia, Sudershan Narula, Andrew Nye, Edward Omotoso, Jay Pozenel, Linda Saputelli, Darshak Shah, Michael Zilberg

Absent with notice: Andres Castellanos, John Dietz, Judith Karl, Deborah Landey, Michelle Rockcliffe, Gulden Turkoz-Cosslett

Agenda:

1. The President declared the meeting open at 11 am. The agenda was presented as follows:
 - Adoption of the agenda
 - Approval of the Minutes of the Governing Board meeting held on 17 February 2026
 - President's Report
 - FAFICS update
 - Reports by Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs
 - Any other business

2. The Governing Board adopted the Agenda and approved the Minutes of 17 February, with noted minor editorial suggestions.

President's Report [3]

3. The President provided the following updates:

Website Prototype

- First version was completed thanks to Gail, Andy, and the team.
- Next phase: **data cleanup and restructuring**, as *"the value of the new website will not be felt if the quality and structure of the data continue to be the same."* The Communications Committee was requested to present the guidelines for the Board's consideration at the April Board meeting.

Mail address: United Nations, AFICS/NY; 405 E 42nd St., Room U-400, NY, NY 10017

Phone: +1(212) 963-2943; Email: afics@un.org; URL: www.un.org/other/afics



Office Temporary Move

- Limited relocation options; UNICEF premises being explored.
- **Move Task Force:** Jay & Andy (Co-Chairs), with Mac and Velimir.
- UN will store AFICS/NY furniture; decorative items and files must be packed.

Events & Membership Engagement

- Successful inaugural social event; next event scheduled for **14 April**.
- Members are showing strong interest in social activities.

Annual Assembly

- Scheduled for **29 May**, in **Conference Room 1**.
- FAFICS President Jerry Barton will attend.
- Invitations sent out to senior officials for AFICS/NY's Annual Assembly
- SG invited to Assembly but declined; Catherine Pollard designated to represent him.

Computer Donation Project

- **66 computers distributed, \$6,700 collected.**
- Appreciation expressed to OICT's Mac Chiulli, Maria Radu, Velimir Kovacevic and AFICS/NY volunteers.

Other Notes

- Memorial service for **George Saddler** to be held on 18 April in Riverdale NY.

FAFICS Update [4]

4. Nancy reported:

- FAFICS preparing for July Council session in Vienna.
- Office consolidation in Geneva with sharing of space with FICSA; significant file reorganization underway.
- Financial constraints prevent in-person Bureau meetings.



Committee Reports [5]

Membership Committee

5. Dr. Narula reported on three initiatives underway:
 - **An Open House** is being planned for after the May pre-retirement seminar.
 - Outreach is being made to retiree groups in UNDP/UNICEF.
 - Video project with Jay Pozenel is being planned

Nominating Committee

6. Dr. Narula reported on the 2026 elections.
 - She stated that there were **17 confirmed candidates**, but she stated that they were aiming for 18–20.
 - In response to a question, Dr. Narula reported that the elections would go live on 14 April.

Events Committee

7. Pilar Fuentes Conte reported on the monthly events being planned (talks, workshops, cultural outings) but noted that the venue was uncertain due to the office move.
8. There would be a special event to be held on 14 April in honour of International Women’s Day 2026 which was a special curator-led presentation at the Center for Jewish History in Greenwich Village. The presentation is an exhibit which explores the life and work of Lore Segal – a Kindertransport survivor who went on to become a Pulitzer Prize-nominated author.
9. She added that there was strong member participation with three new members of the Events Committee which included Eizabeth Grant, Dr. Krishna and Maria Radu.

Communications

10. Gail Bindley-Taylor reported on the following:
 - The next AFICS/NY Bulletin was in production; theme: **Volunteerism** and the 250th anniversary of the Host Country.
 - This edition would be organized by Mita Hosali, who just joined the Communications Committee. She is a former Director in Global Communications.



- There would be a special contribution from **Shashi Tharoor**, former USG for the Department of Public Information.
11. Andy Nye reported and showed that the new website demonstrated major improvements, including:
- A mobile-friendly design
 - An Online membership form
 - Events module
 - A resource library
 - And a members-only content capability
12. It was noted that if there were to be a demonstration of the website at the Annual Assembly then it would be necessary to know about timing. Due to the number of speakers and the tight time schedule of the Assembly, mention was made that the time limits must be followed in order not to have a recurrence of last year's overscheduling which meant some participants were unable to speak at the Assembly.

Pension Committee

13. Suzanne Bishopric and Jay Pozenel highlighted the following:
- The ALM study was underway; demographic shifts and below-benchmark returns are concerns
 - The holistic Pension Fund review was driven largely by European Member States.
 - There was a need for strong FAFICS representation to protect retirees' rights.
 - The U.S. Permanent Representative's comments on pension costs were noted; but data clarification was needed.

Health Insurance Committee

14. Jay Karia reported the following:
- The HLIC was in the midst of the renewal process of the Health Insurance Plans.
 - Rising medical inflation was affecting all Plans.
 - Anthem is proposing a change in the network of providers.
 - Mount Sinai–Anthem contract was still unresolved.
 - Reserves are declining; premium adjustments are expected.
 - MIP administration will be administered by UNHLIS and the governance oversight will be under the HLIC. For the next renewal, HLIC is reviewing proposals for MIP along with other renewals.



Fundraising & Aging Smart

15. Mac Chiulli reported the following:

- That the Fund-raising Committee was exploring a **legacy giving campaign**.
- That the Events Committee would charge for in-person events while the Aging Smart events would remain free.
- Some ideas that had been raised included: discounted life membership month, raffles, advertising on website/bulletin.

Other Business [6]

- Staffing challenges in the AFICS/NY Office; need for a trained volunteer for one day/week.
- Denmark High Court ruling favorable to UN retirees on taxation of employer contributions.
- The idea of holding a raffle at the Annual Assembly was suggested.
- Next meeting (14 April) may be the **last in current conference room**; members encouraged to attend in person in order to take photographs.