



## Association of Former International Civil Servants (New York)

### **Summary of the Minutes of 440th Meeting of the Governing Board Thursday, 18 April 2023, 10:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.**

#### **President's Report [3]**

- Deborah Landey provided an update on the AFICS/NY Annual Assembly scheduled for 18 May.
- She added that as the President of FAFICS, Jerry Barton, was delighted to address the Annual Assembly, either live or with a pre-recording considering the time difference between New York and Vienna.
- The President and CEO of the UNFCU would also be giving some brief remarks.
- A letter of thanks had been written to the President and CEO of UNFCU on behalf of the Governing Board for the significant increase in contribution to AFICS/ NY
- It was also noted that a webinar on digital banking would be organized by UNFCU to be held on 14 June at 11 am.
- A collaboration between AFICS/NY and the Pension Fund, who together had organized a pilot help session for enrolling in the Digital Certificate of Entitlement (DCE) programme, would continue over the year.

#### **Office Move [4]**

- The Chair, Darshak Shah, thanked Deborah Landey and the Move Taskforce, and all those involved in making the move a success, especially Velimir Kovacevic for carrying such a big load, and the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Committees for coming in at different points to reduce the number of files.
- There were still a few outstanding tasks which have been prioritized in order to see what could be done now and what could be done in phases.

#### **Reports by Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs [5]**

- Nominating Committee: Co-Chair Sudershan Narula advised that the vendor (ECS) had sent out the election ballots on 12 April, both electronically and by mail to those for whom we do not have email addresses. The ECS internet voting site line was going to stay live till 11:59 pm on 12 May.
- Membership Committee: Co-Chair Sudershan Narula advised that once all the information needed for a new flyer was received, it would be distributed to the various clubs of the UN Staff Recreational Council and to various UN organizations for the attention of prospective retirees.

- Health and Life Insurance Committee: Co-Chair Sudershan Narula informed that the UN Health and Life Insurance Committee (HLIC) had been meeting every week and had just finalized the plan renewals for all the health insurance plans administered by UN Headquarters for the next cycle, 1 July 2023 through 30 June 2024. She concluded that a lot of analysis and advocacy had been done by the all the AFICS/NY members on the HLIC and in particular by Jay Karia and herself to bring down the proposed increase in premiums.
- Co-Chair Jay Karia added that this time, the initial proposed increase for Empire was a double digit one which was largely due to usage of the services. Due to alternative suggestions made by AFICS/NY, the result was that the proposed increase was brought down to a single digit. On the Aetna Plan, the results were good, and the situation with the reserves was quite positive. Therefore, a minimal increase was proposed. As regards the CIGNA Dental Plan there was no particular issue or situation and as a result no increase was foreseen.
- It was also announced that the End-of-Life Guidance Documents reflecting revisions from comments made at the last Governing Board meeting as well as the suggested revisions, comments and additions received from the Pension Fund and the Chief of the Health and Life Insurance Section. Once the Bureau gave its final approval it would be sent for posting on the AFICS/NY website and also for sending to all AFICS/NY members.
- Aging Smart Committee, Treasury and IT Committee: Chair Mac Chiulli advised that she had reached out to the Ryan Group, which had helped in organizing seminars in the past. She informed that she had the idea of reactivating the topic of volunteerism for a presentation, which had originally been arranged for 2020 before the pandemic.
- Treasury: Treasurer Mac Chiulli said she was pleased to report that the auditors were in New York and a meeting had been scheduled for Friday, 21 April. Consequently, she reported that she was now on track to have four years of AFICS/NY and Charities Foundation books in order so that all financial reports would be ready for the Annual Assembly meeting.
- Pension Committee: Co-Chair, Jay Pozenel informed that the Committee was interested in a variety of topics and had some goals that have been agreed to in the Committee's workplan; one of them was effective and efficient governance of the Fund by the Pension Board and its committees for the benefit of the beneficiaries working through FAFICS. One of the issues that the Committee was considering was to look more closely at the pension adjustment system: how it works with respect to inflationary issues and with respect to the two-track system itself for different currencies, as well as the issue of small pensions. To that end, the Committee was looking to having some special sessions first with the Secretariat of the Fund to discuss the mechanics of these systems, as well as with the Consulting Actuary to discuss these points and then also with the administration of the UN to get the views of the UN system administration on pension reforms that are being considered in the FSALM and other venues.
- He further reported that some of these issues would be part of the Pension Review Group that would be reporting next year and not at this coming session of the Pension Board.

Therefore, as this gave more time, the consensus was emerging to accept the Fund's request to delay some of these discussions to June. Accordingly, the Pension Committee would work on scheduling these sessions.

- Another aspect that the Committee was interested in was effective client servicing and the Digital Certificate Of Entitlement (DCE) and helping retirees with any other issues that come up with respect to making sure that retirees and participants moving into the pension scheme have appropriate servicing for their needs.

#### **FAFICS Updates [6]**

- The 2023 annual FAFICS Council would be held in Vienna from 17 to 20 July 2023.

#### **Other business [7]**

- Bearing in mind that the AFICS/NY Annual Assembly was scheduled for Thursday, 18 May 2023 from 3:00 to 6:00 pm, the next Governing Board meeting would take place on Tuesday 13 June 2023 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm.
- Sudershan Narula informed of the passing on 31 March 2023 of Ventechelan Krishnan, aka Kris, who had been the Executive Officer in DM for many years.
- Mac Chiulli recalled the passing of Christine Lemarchand-Smith last October 2022 and that she had received a notice from a family friend informing of the planning of a memorial for her in the Hamptons sometime this summer.
- She also informed that the estate of Jane Weidlund left a very generous bequest which has been received by AFICS/NY. Linda Saputelli recalled that the burial for Jane Weidlund would be taking place in Arlington National Cemetery.
- Recalling the ongoing war in Sudan and bearing in mind the fact UN staff have lost their lives, there was concern about how to connect and help retirees. A suggestion was made as to whether or not some kind of statement of solidarity by AFICS/NY and perhaps other associations could be made. In the discussion that followed while there was an expression of solidarity with UN colleagues and their survivors in difficult situations, there was also an expression of concern regarding the mandate and limited capabilities of AFICS/NY in these kinds of situations. It was agreed that this suggestion be brought forward at the next FAFICS Bureau meeting.