

Dear members of the AFICS/NY,

I am Sudershan Narula, a Co-Chair of the AFICS/NY 2020 Nominating Committee.

You may have heard me as the last speaker at the previous Annual Assemblies when I announced the results of that year's governing board elections, but as you all know this has been an unprecedented year.

Given the unique and challenging times we all face as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governing Board has decided to postpone the AFICS/NY 2020 Governing Board election for six open positions.

AFICS/NY conducts the Governing Board elections through its Nominating Committee by mail and switching to an electronic process using email would entirely disenfranchise a very significant portion, about 1/3, of our members for whom we do not have email addresses.

At its first virtual meeting on 8 April 2020, and following a proposal made by the Nominating Committee, the Governing Board decided to postpone this year's election until it can be conducted in the usual manner by mail. Consequently, the Governing Board also decided to extend the terms of the six Governing Board members whose terms would expire this Summer until circumstances permit the proper election of their successors.

At that time, the Nominating Committee will restart the election process and all those members who have already expressed their interest or have accepted our invitation to participate in this election will also be considered by the Committee.

When we resend the call for candidates, please do respond to that.

Finally, I wish to inform you that the Nominating Committee works independently of the Association's Governing Board and the Bureau even though the Committee is designated by the President of the Association as per its By-Laws and the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Board.

And I would like to thank Ms. Marianne Brzak-Metzler, the other Co-Chair of the Committee, and Ms. Joan McDonald and Ms. Nancy Hurtz-Soyka, the other two members of this committee, for their hard work.

We hope that you and your families will remain safe and healthy during these unprecedented times.

Sudershan Narula