

## **AFICS/NY President's Annual Report**

[At AFICS/NY Annual Assembly, 18 May 2023](#)

We now turn to the Annual Report on the activities of AFICS/NY.

Jay Karia, Co-Chair of the AFICS/NY Health Insurance Committee, Jay Pozenel, Co-Chair of the AFICS/NY Pension Committee, and I will provide a few highlights of the work accomplished this year.

First and foremost, I would like to recognize the presence in person or remotely of former AFICS/NY Presidents, George Saddler, Richard Nottidge, Andres Castellanos, Ed Omotoso, Linda Saputelli and John Dietz. Some 28 years of dedicated, committed service as Presidents between them! They brought and still bring, in their capacity as members and Honorary members, a wealth of knowledge and experience to the all-important task of serving the retiree community. We here today stand on their shoulders.

I want to note that this is the first time in a long time that we are holding the Annual Assembly on the third Thursday of May as required under the AFICS/NY by-laws.

The leadership of AFICS/NY has continued to call on senior officials at the UN on issues of concern to retirees. We thank them for their accessibility and for always trying to find solutions for us.

The AFICS/NY Elections Committee, under the leadership of Dr Sudershan Narula and Marianne Brzak-Metzler, has once again run an extraordinary election process for the AFICS/NY Governing Board. The results will be announced later this afternoon.

On the all-important issue of increasing our membership, the Membership Committee, under the leadership of Dr Sudershan Narula and Nancy Raphael, has sought to increase the Association's membership as well as retain existing members. They have updated the AFICS/NY information material now being included in pre-retirement information packages.

A presentation was made at an online pre-retirement seminar organized by the UN Staff Union in January of this year, attended by over 200 UN system staff, on the value of joining AFICS/NY and on the issues facing staff as they prepare to transition into the next phase of their lives. We were very pleased by the number of people who enrolled with AFICS/NY as a result of our information session with many also expressing interest in running for a seat on the AFICS/NY Governing Board.

The Membership Committee also plans to arrange for some mix and mingle get togethers in our new premises. Please look out for the invitations.

On improving how we communicate, the AFICS/NY Communications Committee, under the leadership of Gail Bindley-Taylor, has undertaken a thorough review of the current communication tools used by AFICS/NY including the website, the Bulletin, our content

management arrangements, mailing and the way we receive and send messages to our membership. Changes are being introduced.

The Committee undertook a successful series of Focus Groups to seek your input on how we can communicate better. Many of you participated. Your views were deeply appreciated and are shaping our efforts to better communicate. Thank you all so much for your participation.

The Committee is also planning a survey which it hopes to launch in the fall on the future of the AFICS/NY Bulletin.

On support for smart ageing, the Ageing Smart Committee, under the leadership of Mac Chiulli, organized seven interactive yoga sessions led by AFICS/NY member Paula Saddler. These were followed with an online Wellness Program. A recorded webinar was recently posted on our website given by Senator Liz Krueger of NY, about making/keeping your home safe as we age. Please also note that all the sessions we have held – on joint and brain health, estate planning and financial organizing - are all on the website and available for your viewing at any time.

The Social Committee has two streams of work. Under the leadership of Barbara Linardo, AFICS/NY signature events such as the reception today are organized under her expert direction. I hope many of you signed up for it. Under the leadership of Susan De Souza outings to New York venues, out of town excursions and an AFICS/NY Book Club have been organized.

You will hear shortly from the President and CEO of the UNFCU. We have worked in collaboration with the UNFCU for many years. We provide them with our thoughts as to how they can enhance their services in service of the retiree community. They listen and they act. UNFCU will be holding its next webinar for retirees on June 14<sup>th</sup> on ways to better use the digital banking products offered by UNFCU. UNFCU is a generous supporter of the activities of AFICS/NY, increasing their funding to us by over 50% this year. We cannot thank them enough.

Last but not least, AFICS/NY has moved! The AFICS/NY Governing Board **Move Task Force** under the leadership of Darshak Shah, was made up of Nancy Hurtz-Soyka, Velimir Kovacevic, Andres Castellanos, Mac Chiulli, and had the help of the Chairs of the various AFICS/NY Committees, and volunteers Linda Saputelli, Lydia Ontal, Sissi Marini and AFICS/NY Librarian Dawne Gautier. Huge thanks to them for their herculean efforts.

Let me now ask [Jay Karia \(statement\)](#) and [Jay Pozenel \(statement\)](#) respectively to talk about the work of AFICS/NY on health insurance and pension issues.

In closing this Annual Report, I would like to express my profound thanks to the AFICS/NY Officers, and they are Vice-Presidents Darshak Shah and Nancy Hurtz-Soyka, Treasurer Mac Chiulli, Secretary Susan de Souza and Deputy Secretary, Marianne Brzak-Metzler, our Librarian Dawne Gauthier, and to our IT support person Elba Lages and especially Velimir Kovacevic who does such an extraordinary job supporting us all and supporting the running of the AFICS/NY office. I would like to thank the Governing Board and the Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs and their teams. And special thanks to all of you who volunteer your time to get the work of AFICS/NY done in service of us all. We are so grateful. They say it takes a village to raise a child. Well, it certainly takes a village to run AFICS/NY!!