

Greetings to one and all!

It is my very great honor and privilege to introduce myself and the current AFICS/NY Governing Board.

The AFICS/NY Governing Board is made up of honorary and elected members, Chairs/Co-Chairs of AFICS/NY Governing Board Committees, the Editor of the AFICS/NY Bulletin, and the President of the Charities Foundation.

Governing Board

- 1 Alipui, Nicholas
- 2 Avedon, Steven
- 3 Bindley-Taylor, Gail
- 4 Bishopric, Suzanne
- 5 Brzak-Metzler, Marianne
- 6 Castellanos, Andres
- 7 Chiulli, Mac
- 8 DellaRocca, Robin
- 9 DeSouza, Susan
- 10 DeTomassi, Furio
- 11 Dietz, John
- 12 Fouracre, Anthony
- 13 Habachy, Suzan
- 14 Haji-Ahmed, Sandra
- 15 Hanley, Mary Lynn
- 16 Hurtz-Soyka, Nancy
- 17 Karia, Jayant
- 18 Landey, Deborah
- 19 Linardo, Barbara
- 20 Narula, Sudershan
- 21 Nottidge, Richard
- 22 Omotoso, Edward
- 23 Rajic, Vera
- 24 Raphael, Nancy
- 25 Rockcliffe, Michelle
- 26 Saddler, George
- 27 Saputelli, Linda
- 28 Shah, Darshak

At the AFICS/NY Governing Board meeting on 13 September, the Governing Board elected the following Bureau:

Bureau

President: Deborah Landey. Deborah served in the UN system for 35 years, in UNDP, UNAIDS and UNDOCO, including as a United Nations Resident Coordinator, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Management of UNDP, Deputy Executive Director of UNAIDS and Director of UNDOCO. She has served as the First Vice-President of AFICS/NY Governing Board since 2014, and as a FAFICS Vice-President for the past couple of years. She was just re-elected to serve a further two years in that capacity.

First Vice-President: Darshak Shah. Darshak served as Senior Advisor to the Administrator, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Management Services and the Global Chief Finance Officer (CFO) of UNDP. For many years he Co-Chaired the HLCCM/Finance and Budgetary Network and chaired many UNDG Task Forces on a range of UN reform issues. He worked extensively with governing bodies such as the Fifth Committee, Executive Board of UNDP, Joint Boards and ACABQ. He has also worked with oversight and other committees like the HLCCM and Audit Committee of UNDP, JIU. He has extensive experience in working with member states. He has served as the Second Vice-President of the AFICS/NY Governing Board since September 2021.

Second Vice-President: Nancy Hertz-Soyka. Nancy worked in the UN for over 35 years in various management roles including the UN Budget Division, Chief of the Office of Under-Secretary-General for Management, Head of the Ethics Office, as well as Chief of the Accountability and Oversight Office. She has served on the AFICS/ NY Governing Board Committee on Health and Life Insurance since 2020 and was Co-Chair with Sudershan Narula of the Nominating Committee in 2021. She has served as the Rapporteur for the FAFICS Council since July 2021 and for the FAFICS Bureau since January 2022.

Treasurer: Mac Chiulli. Mac worked for the UN for 15 years after 25 years in the private sector, serving in the Accounts Division, and as Executive Officer of DGACM. She also served on the HQ Committee on Contracts (HLCC), the G-to-P and National Competitive Exam Boards (JPP), the Capital Master Plan project, and the Supervisory Committee of the UNFCU. She joined AFICS/NY in 2014 and has served as the AFICS/NY Treasurer since 2020, and has been the Chair or Co-Chair of the AFICS/NY Governing Board Ageing Smart and IT Committees for 4 years.

Secretary: Susan de Souza. Susan worked in the UN for over 35 years in multiple duty stations and Peacekeeping Missions. She has served as the AFICS/NY Governing Board Secretary since 2021. She has served as the Co-Chair of the AFICS/NY Governing Board Social and other Events Committee since 2017 and has also set up and runs an AFICS/ NY virtual Book Club.

Deputy Secretary: Marianne Brzak-Metzler. Marianne worked for the UN for 28 years in various management positions both in the Office of Financial Services and in the Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM). Marianne served as Chief, Conditions of Service Section and was responsible for managing the compensation programme of the United Nations and other conditions of service of locally recruited staff at some 160 duty stations as well as internationally recruited staff at Headquarters. She carried out surveys and prepared position

papers and reports on the conditions of service of officials such as the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General, the Administrator of UNDP, the two full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), the Members of the International Court of Justice, the Judges and Ad-Litem Judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). After serving as the Secretary of the AFICS/NY Governing Board for several years, since 2021 Marianne has been the Deputy Secretary. She was also a member of the AFICS/NY Governing Board Nominating Committee in 2022.

The day-to-day business of the AFICS/NY Office continues to be extremely ably run by Velimir Kovacevic, particularly throughout the COVID period during which Velimir ensured the setting up of a multitude of virtual meetings, ongoing service to AFICS/NY members and prospective members and contacts with various key partners in the UN system with whom AFICS/NY works. Dawn Gauthier has continued to provide excellent management of the AFICS/NY Library. In addition, AFICS/NY has received sterling support from Elba Lages on all of the work involved in maintaining the AFICS/NY website.

As you all know, the work of AFICS/ NY in support of retirees gets done in large measure through a number of Committees and their dedicated Chairs/Co-Chairs and members. They are:

AFICS/NY Governing Board Committees

Pension Committee: Co-Chairs, Suzanne Bishopric and John Dietz

Health Insurance Committee: Co-Chairs, Jay Karia and Sudershan Narula

IT Committee: Chair, Mac Chiulli

Ageing Smart Committee: Chair, Mac Chiulli

Membership Committee: Co-Chairs, Sudershan Narula and Nancy Raphael

Social and other events Committee: Co-Chairs, Barbara Linardo and Susan de Souza

Special ad hoc Communications Committee: Chair, Gail Bindley-Taylor

Nominating Committee: Co-Chairs for 2022, Sudershan Narula and Marianne Brzak-Metzler. Every year the President appoints Nominating Committee Co-Chairs to put together a team to run the process of seeking qualified candidates for election to serve on the AFICS/ NY Governing Board and then manage the entire annual election process.

In addition, the AFICS/NY Charities Foundation, set up in 1997, continues its excellent work and is led by its President Anthony Fouracre.

The AFICS/NY Governing Board, led by its Bureau and ably assisted by its various Committees, with dedicated members drawn from across AFICS/NY, collectively does its best to ensure that the subjects and areas of greatest concern to UN system retirees and their beneficiaries-especially pensions and health insurance- are carefully monitored and actions taken as needed.

In particular, we have always advocated for efficient and effective service by the Pension Fund Secretariat to all Fund participants, particularly the accurate and timely payment of all pension benefits; the maintenance of the Pension Fund's financial health through its investments; the management by the UN of ASHI (After-Service-Health Insurance) in a cost-effective manner while providing quality client servicing.

We have also always sought to ensure assistance to members and prospective members with special individual problems or concerns, particularly with regard to their pensions and ASHI coverage; to organize substantive programmes of special interest to retirees and to schedule social programmes where members can meet and interact with friends and colleagues.

We also thank the many who have served before us over so many years for their dedicated service. We particularly want to take this opportunity to thank John Dietz for his wonderful service as President of the AFICS/NY Governing Board over the past six years.

We also take this opportunity to thank the honorary members of the AFICS/NY Governing Board for all their guidance over many years.

We would also like to thank our partners including the UN for unwavering support of AFICS/NY and the UNFCU for its ongoing support.

We very much look forward to continuing to serve UN system retirees and their beneficiaries to the best of our ability. If you have any suggestions on how we can serve you better, please do not hesitate to contact any one of us.

Warm wishes to you all.

Deborah Landey