



ASSOCIATION OF FORMER PAHO/WHO STAFF MEMBERS

N E W S L E T T E R

VOLUME I NUMBER 2

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E D I T O R I A L

***re-tire'ment:** the state of having withdrawn from business or public life and living on one's income, savings, or pension.*

Despite the dictionary definition, retirement means very different things to different people. Before it occurs, some look forward to it with dread, fearing the day when they no longer have a regular job to come to each day, wondering if the money will stretch to cover their needs. Others look forward eagerly to the freedom of "doing their own thing" instead of being required to spend so many hours getting to work, working, and returning home.

After it occurs, some (and not just those who dread it) find their days are empty and boring, their circle of friends and acquaintances is reduced, and their pensions insufficient to support the lifestyle they desire. Others (and hopefully the majority) find they are so busy that they wonder how they ever had time to go to work!

No matter in which group you find yourself, we believe that

AFSM has something to offer you.

For those who need activities to fill their time, you need us and we need you. There are the general activities of the Association - luncheons, trips, and meetings; and there are the specific activities of its committees - write an article for the Newsletter, plan a social event for the group, volunteer to take of some humanitarian effort to help a member who might need your assistance.

For everyone, the Association offers information on pensions, insurance, money management and other areas of interest to retirees and other former members of PAHO or WHO. It also provides a voice to the official groups which make decisions that affect these areas. It is the link between your life before and after retirement.

We offer you this program, and we need you to offer your time and interest so we can see the program accomplished. Send your dues, volunteer for a committee, plan to attend a function - TODAY!

F O R Y O U R I N F O R M A T I O N

PAHO/WHO STAFF HEALTH INSURANCE

UPDATE

From NEWS, a Publication of the Association of Former WHO Staff (No. 5, Spring 1991. Geneva)

"Discussions held with officials responsible for the health insurance to urge reconsideration of the decision to calculate contributions on the basis of a minimum of 30 years' service have ended in failure."

"Applied to all pensioners, whatever their date of retirement, the decision fails to take into account acquired rights. It has resulted in a financial burden for those who have had short service and therefore received minimum pensions. Aware of the low level of some contributions, representatives of former staff put forward several sets of proposals, which were either rejected or not considered."

"The Association therefore has appeals, which had been pending the results of discussions. If need be, appeals will be taken to the ILO Administrative Tribunal but with reluctance, considering that WHO might be found at fault in a problem related to health and which with a little goodwill might have been solved."

Our Association (AFSM) will join the appeals at

whatever level and try to solve this matter which affects some of our associates.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

The WHO Administration has accepted recommendations by the Health Insurance Surveillance Committee for the following changes:

- Beginning 1992, premiums for the health insurance may be paid by monthly deductions from the pensions. By this time every retiree must have received and returned the authorization forms sent out early in the year.

- A phased-in implementation of the increase in contributions for staff who retired prior to 1 January 1990 with less than thirty years of service. This would mean that, for the retirees or survivors concerned, contributions would be based on a minimum of 25 years of service for the year 1990, 26 years for 1991 and so on until the required minimum of 30 years would be attained in 1995.

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TAX WOES:

I guess by now half of PAHO has endured my tax sob story for which, of course, I have only myself to blame. I thought that reading a few IRS publications had made me some sort of an expert on "dual

status" non-resident alien vs. resident alien, ex-G4 status, etc.

As a warning to retired colleagues who may be in a similar situation, and particularly to those about to retire, I will just list briefly the wrong assumptions I made, based both on the above-mentioned IRS publications and on the information of friends. I will also cite what the facts are to do it correctly.

I retired on 31 August 1989 and the next morning I presented myself at the Baltimore Immigration Office with all my forms duly filled, medical certificate, pictures, etc. and applied for residency under the Retired Employee of an International Organization Law. It was all very smooth: within the five promised months I got a summons for an interview on 15 March 1990, and that day I became officially a USA resident.

My assumptions were:

1. I was liable for taxes only as of that date, i.e., 15 March 1990.
FALSE.
2. Because I had not been liable for taxes during all 1989, I did not have to make advance quarterly payments during 1990.
FALSE.
3. The "dual status" provision applied only to 1990, i.e., G-4 and resident.
FALSE.

4. Non-residents do not pay taxes, therefore, the pension received before 15 March 1990 (including the lump sum) was exempt.
FALSE.

5. In view of all the above I could forget about taxes until early 1991.
Right ? WRONG!

The facts are:

a) The correct interpretation of the law, according to the H.R. Block people (and their computer) was that it is the intention that counts, and I was liable for taxes on the date I applied for residency: 1 September 1989.

b) Because I had been liable for taxes the last four months of 1989, I should have made advance quarterly payments in 1990.

c) The "dual status" year was 1990; that means you are allowed only itemized deductions and not a global one. (And, of course, I had not kept any receipts of donations or anything of the sort!)

d) Non-residents are liable for taxes and I got the impression they may even fare worse than others, so be very careful with your pension entitlement. Get well-informed, professional advice. The IRS took about one-third of my lump sum payment (which fortunately was very small).

e) After I paid about \$10,000 in Federal and Maryland taxes in January 1991,

penalties plus interest due amounts kept piling up for an additional \$3,000 for not filing and paying on time in Maryland in 1989 ditto in 1990; the same for federal taxes, etc., etc.

Now that hopefully the worst is over, I am truly thankful that I had the money to pay . I have thought that if I shared this experience with you, although it may be boring and not relevant for most of the friends who have already retired -- it might help somebody, particularly some of those who will join the 60+ group soon, and still have to make decisions.

GOOD LUCK!

Conchita Segura

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SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:

NEW ENGLAND COSTAL TRIP:

A recent week-long tour along the New England coastline showed us the diversity of this beautiful region.

At Mystic Seaport in Connecticut, we visited the 17-acre Museum where the entire history of the shipbuilding industry in America in the XIX century has been preserved. We saw demonstrations of how early craftsmen worked and lived and visited a few of the original tall ships and whaleboats, schools, shops.

At Newport, RI we traveled the "ten-mile drive" of summer

homes of the rich and famous, and visited the sumptuous Vanderbilt mansion -- The Breakers -- at the edge of the sea.

At Cape Cod we sailed to the island of Martha's Vineyard. There, a local guide took us on a walking tour that featured the famous "gingerbread-style" homes which are still inhabited, and the huge Methodist meeting hall, a work by the architect of the Eiffel Tower.

On the return cruise we went to Hyannis and continued on to Boston. There we visited the historic section and the beautiful Old North Church. After that, the fishing ports of Gloucester and Rockport, which were a sight to behold with their gorgeous beaches. The guide told us that this area is the most frequently painted in America. All along the way there were spectacular beaches and a profusion of flowers such as you do not often see inland: roses, hollyhocks, petunias, canterbury bells, digitalis, astilbes in endless variety to enchant the poor Washington gardener who tries in vain to achieve a similar beauty.

In Maine we toured historic Portsmouth and Freeport, where we went shopping at L.L. Bean and other well known discount stores. We enjoyed a harbor cruise in Boothbay, which was celebrating the visit of tall ships from many other countries. There were fireworks and lobster dinners to enjoy. In Portland we visited still another beautiful

resort area where we saw the unique "Wedding Cake House" (so named for its shape). We bade farewell to New England with a stop at Kennebunkport. There we made a short walking tour of the magnificent area with its ocean vistas and saw the summer house of the President of the U.S.

Our trip left us with many pleasant memories.

Hertha Aldama
Helena M. Irwin
Edith Quiñones
María Inés Tovar

LUNCHEON

On June 11, 1991, we held our first luncheon. We wish to thank our new Vice-President, Jean Surgi, for her outstanding effort in coordinating this activity. The luncheon, held at The Chinese House of Chicken Restaurant in Rockville, MD, was a success. We had a good turnout: 32 retirees and former staff members, all of whom seem to have enjoyed the food and the company. Our speaker for the luncheon, Mr. Stephan P. Malloy, gave us an interesting presentation on The Living Trust - The Estate Planning Tool of the 90's.

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NEWS FROM OUR COLLEAGUES:

WHO IS DOING WHAT AND WHERE

Luis J. Gonzales and his wife are in their MOTORHOME traveling the U.S.A. and loving it. They left Fairfax, VA in October 1990 and hoped to be in Washington D.C. around August. they plan to travel overseas in 1992. We wish them happy travels

Marina Orellana, our colleague from Chile, recently visited Washington. We hear she is preparing a second book. Will it be a translation or another dictionary? She will surely let us know.

Berta Chiari is in Italy for a couple of months. She is visiting her daughter, who is expecting her first baby soon. Congratulation to you, grandmother and all good wishes to your first grandchild!

Antonio Rios has been teaching English, since February, at the Huai Nan Mining Institute, Anhui Province, P.R. China. His wife, Lenoa, a nurse, accompanied him on this volunteer mission. Among his students were teachers, heads of departments, and other professionals.

For medical reasons the Rioses returned to their home in Beltsville in August. Tony had five by-passes and is doing fine, hoping to return to China as soon as the cardiologist gives his approval, about November. He will then teach at the Agricultural University of Hebei at Bao Jing, near Beijing.

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OBITUARIES

Since our last Newsletter, we learned of the death of three of our colleagues:

Mr. Eugene Setino (General Services) on 16 May 1991, in Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Maria Louise Passarelli
(Fellowships) on 30 May 1991,
in Rockville, MD

Ms. Laura Jimenez (Library)
on 2 August 1991, in La Paz,
Bolivia.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

Sept. 18 - 19

A trip to Lewes, Rehoboth, and Ocean City is in the planning stage. We will be visiting some former PAHO colleagues residing in that area. Jean Surgi is coordinating this trip and will be glad to provide you with details. Please answer the questionnaire mail to you on August 5, or call Jean at (301) 762-7490 if you have any questions.

October 6

FALL GET TOGETHER:

Our President, Hans Bruch, has kindly offered his house, in Bethesda MD for a cookout party. In charge of organizing this social event are:

Maria Mercedes Segarra-Hines (703) 243-803
Helena Mota Irwin
(703) 506-8077
Federico G. Varela
(703) 527-2080

We need to know the number of persons coming in order to start planning. A special bulletin will be sent out soon

November 21

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 1991 General Meeting of the Association will be held at 9:30 a.m. at PAHO headquarters, Romm C.

After the meeting join the Board of Directors for lunch. Please let us know in advance if you can come so we can make the proper reservations

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Board of Directors thanks those who have made possible this September issue, especially : Yolanda Hanson for her outstanding editorial work.

LIST OF OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:

Alemán, José	Mascolo, Joseph
Ayalde, Jaime	Moore, Helen
Bruch, Hans	Morcom, Elsie
Cárdenas, Hernando	McManus, William
Carrillo, Matilde	Norman, Genevieve
Chiari, Berta	Passarelli, Marie*
Coe, Minis	Price, Hoyt
Dávila, Carlos	Quinones, Edith
Dávila, Guillermo	Rios, Carlota
Deutschman, Raymonde	Russell, Allahina
Diez, Concepción	Rust, James
Gerald, Alfred	Sadique, Said
Gonzalez, Luis	Schettewi, Joseph
Handley, Iracy	Schneider, Dolores
Hanson, Yolanda	Segarra-Hines, Maria
Hasan, Syed	Segura, Concepción
Inman, Geny	Silva D'Herbil, Clara
Irwin, Helena	Surgi, Jean
Jaramillo, Ester	Suro, Piedad
Kent, Naim	Temoche, Abelardo
Landerer, Lucio	Tolson, Jerome
Liang, Kuang-Chi	Tovar, Maria
Liebrand, Gloria	Varela, Federico
López-Ceide, Lolita	Vildzius, Margaret
López-Molina, Dinorah	Walker, Johnnie
Lowe, Eugene	William, Charles
Lowenstein, Frank	Witt, Vicente
Malagón Helena	
Martinez Rafael	

* Since deceased