



NEWSLETTER

OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER
PAHO/WHO STAFF MEMBERS

VOLUME IV NO. 2

SPRING 1994

A NEW UNITED NATIONS BY 1995

Anniversary Seen as "Rebirthday"

The UN's 50th anniversary celebration will not just be the lifting of a glass of champagne, but rather a celebration by all Member States, and system-wide in the agencies, as well as in the Secretariat itself, according to Joseph V. Reed, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for the 50th anniversary. He particularly wants the staff to feel that they are a part of the celebration. His office is hoping staff will come up with ideas for the anniversary at all duty stations, including Geneva, Vienna and Headquarters, and become active participants in the celebration. Ms. Zuzu Tabatabai, who is working with Mr. Reed on the anniversary preparations, says some planning has already been completed. There will be public service announcements carried around the world, with music from the song "Imagine" by John Lennon in the background. There will also be world-wide concerts, with short TV and film pieces on the UN placed between acts. MTV will be involved, to reach out to the young. A particular emphasis will be placed on teaching children. Ms. Tabatabai says the hope is to "energize and excite the young."

"Reeducation" Opportunity

With the UN coming into its own, Ms. Tabatabai says people need to be "reeducated" about the Organization. She notes that with rising expectations "we are bound to have a big fall" unless the public is taught what the UN is. She hopes the anniversary will involve more people, particularly those from non-governmental organizations. Overall Ms. Tabatabai wants the anniversary to create "lasting symbols" that act as metaphors for what the Organization stands for.

Delegation Involved

Ambassador Richard Butler of Australia, Chairman of the UN Preparatory Committee for the 50th anniversary commemoration, says Member States want the birthday to be a "rebirthday" and a revitalization, to give the UN "what we need after the end of the Cold War and for the twenty-first century." The goal, he says, is a "recreation of the United Nations" by 1995.

From: Secretariat News, United Nations Headquarters, New York, January-February 1994.

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HEALTH INSURANCE

The Director-General of WHO has said *NO* to proposals made last October by the Association of Former WHO Staff (Geneva) to work out what was described as "new" and "fair" premiums to the health insurance fund that would have lowered payments for many former staff.

But he held the door slightly open for a review of rates that the Association had sought by replying, on 23 December, that after the next "actuarial study, it may prove necessary to review the contributions payable by all parties." The study is planned for 1994.

In deciding not to "take further action on the proposals at this time," the Director-General referred frequently to Judgment 1241 of the ILO Administrative Tribunal.

In that appeal, the Association challenged the administrative decision that had been taken in January 1990 to raise premiums by calculating them on a "notional," and hence imaginary, 30 years of service - irrespective of the actual length of employment. Although that decision resulted in contributions increasing by 600 per cent for some pensioners, the appeal was rejected.

The Association's request to the Director-General last October, however, centered on the inequality of treatment between former and serving staff, its letter pointing out that premiums for former staff are calculated on pre-tax income, while those for serving staff are based on after-tax income.

Referring to that "as one of the complainant's arguments put forward to the Tribunal," the Director-General's letter went

on to say that "the Tribunal did not support this argument."

The issue of premiums championed by the Association has implications for serving colleagues as well. On separation they too will pay on the basis of "notional" 30-year service and on income before tax as well.

(Re before and after tax premiums: Former staff who lodged the unsuccessful appeal say in their brief to the Tribunal that "they are not seeking, in the present proceedings, to challenge the legality of the difference." Thus, the issue of fairness of treatment between former and serving staff has not been ruled upon by the judges and continues as a violation of the principle of equality, which is an eminently appealable issue.

Judgment 1241 was limited only to a challenge of the "notional" premiums.)

From: Quarterly News of the Association of Former WHO Staff - Winter, No. 16 - 1993-1994, World Health Organization, Geneva.

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AFSM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board meets regularly at 10:00 a.m. on the last Tuesday of the month in the Chess Room just outside the cafeteria at PAHO. All members of AFSM are welcome to attend at any time.

Among topics discussed at recent meetings are:

- ▶ Liaison between AFSM and the Health Surveillance Committee to keep retirees current on items of interest to them
- ▶ Planning the program for 1994, including newsletters and events
- ▶ Establishing an editorial committee to produce the Newsletter
- ▶ Providing information on estate planning and inheritance taxes for non-citizens, through publications and a presentation
- ▶ Bringing the membership list and list of prospective members up-to-date and distributing membership cards to paid-up members.

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NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Looking back at our early attempts to publish a newsletter, we remember that the first number was published in September 1990 as a "pilot issue." It presented the idea of forming an association of PAHO/WHO former staff members and outlined its proposed objectives. It also explained the reasons which had inspired a small group of retirees to organize and form the Association.

Before February 1994, there was no official editorial committee. Members of the Board of Directors contributed to the Newsletter by writing articles, entering them into the computer, editing and readying the final draft for printing, and preparing labels and envelopes for mailing to all retirees. (PAHO graciously makes its facilities available for

printing and distribution of the Newsletter, at no cost to the Association.)

At the 22 February 1994 meeting of the Board of Directors, it was decided to create an editorial committee for the preparation of the AFSM Newsletter. The following members were named to the committee: Martha Bailey, Hans Bruch, Danelia Dashiell, Carlos Daza and Jean Surgi. Yolanda Hanson, although not an official member of the committee, will help edit the final draft as she has done in the past.

After the first issue in 1990, three more were published in 1991, two in 1992 and two in 1993. This is the second 1994 issue. Our goal is to publish three or four issues per year.

We welcome and encourage the participation of all our colleagues, wherever they may be, in sending us contributions for the Newsletter. Without this valuable source, we would not be able to fulfill its objectives. Now more than ever, we want to invite retirees to participate in this pursuit and to let us know about such things as activities, travels, experiences and new careers - anything that reinforces and sustains the friendship and camaraderie forged over years of sharing responsibilities and obligations, failures and successes.

We are waiting to hear from you! Let us know what are you doing!

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AFICS AND AFSM

The Association of Former International Civil Servants (AFICS) and the Association

of Former PAHO/WHO Staff Members (AFSM) are two separate and distinct organizations.

AFICS is a world-wide organization that includes a New York chapter, of which Washington is a part. It has been in existence for a number of years, and its members are former staff from various international organizations, including PAHO and WHO. The annual membership fee is \$12.00 and the lifetime membership is \$150.00.

Address: AFICS (New York), Room DC2-837, United Nations, New York NY 10017.

AFSM is a relatively new organization, based in Washington, and its membership consists of former staff from PAHO and WHO throughout the Region of the Americas. The annual dues are \$10.00 and as yet there is no provision for lifetime membership, although that is under consideration by its Board of Directors.

Address: Association of Former PAHO/WHO Staff Members, c/o Pan American Health Organization, Room 316, 525 23rd Street NW, Washington DC 20037.

Many former staff members of PAHO and WHO are members of both of these organizations, so as to receive information supplied by both.

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AFSM ANNUAL LUNCHEON

27 April was a lovely, sunny, spring Wednesday. The luncheon was attended by 39 colleagues, including several new retirees as well as others we had not seen in years. Some members brought their spouses.

Everyone enjoyed the company, and the food was delicious.

The table, shaped like an inverted "U," looked like the banquet tables of royalty seen in old paintings. We hope next year's attendance will require a banquet hall!

The cost of the luncheon was paid by the attendees and provided a small surplus for the AFSM treasury. We thank Guillermo Dávila and Carlos Daza for organizing this enjoyable event.

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ART SHOWS

Two art exhibits of interest to AFSM members were held in April - a showing of miniature paintings sponsored in part by former staff member **Bertha de Sera**, and an open house display of ceramic figurines, flowers and decorations by **Gloria Daza**, wife of former staff member Carlos Daza.

The Miniature Artists of America Traveling Exhibit was on display at the Delaplaine Visual Arts Center in Frederick MD during most of the month of April (a flyer was sent to all AFSM members in the metropolitan area.) Bertha de Sera is a member of that group and was curator for the exhibit, which opened with a reception and a slide presentation by Joan Willies of the Royal Miniature Society of Painters, Sculptors and Engravers of the United Kingdom. Bertha presented a three-day workshop at her South Mountain Studio, also featuring Ms. Willies.

In addition to the MAA Traveling Exhibit, the show presented works from other miniature art societies and private collections, including paintings, watercolors, oils, acrylics, etchings, and pencil sketches, as well as

sculptures and pieces of jewelry. There were nearly 200 beautiful works which showed the range of mediums and subjects available to miniaturists.

Bertha and her husband, Carlos, selected and collected the items for display, prepared cases for their exhibit, and mounted the show. Bertha, an artist for many years, had several works in the exhibit, mostly miniatures of her grandchildren. The show was well presented and well attended, and we congratulate Bertha and Carlos for their successful endeavor.

Gloria Daza, who has frequently shown and sold her ceramic work at PAHO, held a two-day open house at her home in Potomac. She had figurines, ceramic boxes, and other decorations, as well as handmade ceramic baskets, some of which held dried flower arrangements. Gloria has her workshop and kiln in her home, and she produces a wealth of colorful and imaginative pieces there.

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NEW HEADQUARTERS FOR PAHO

In September 1990 the Pan American Sanitary Conference authorized PAHO's Executive Committee to find and approve a new Headquarters. The Conference indicated such a Headquarters should be located near institutions with which PAHO works, close to public transportation, especially the Metro and in an area with convenient restaurants and hotels.

After looking for nearly two years, particularly in the District of Columbia, the Organization found a number of possible sites that met the criteria in Montgomery County, Maryland. Although the sites were zoned

residential, Maryland and Montgomery County laws both permitted "publicly owned and publicly operated" facilities as a matter of right in residential areas. Before taking any further action, the Organization wrote to the County Executive in Montgomery County asking for confirmation in writing that the Organization was publicly owned within the meaning of local law. Upon receiving written confirmation of this interpretation, the Organization entered a sales contract to purchase approximately 19 acres of land at the corner of Jones Bridge Road and Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase.

Because of opposition from some of the neighbors, the Montgomery County Council, on a 5-4 vote, amended County law to exclude international organizations and chanceries (embassy office buildings) from all residential zones in Montgomery County. This legislation in effect declares international organizations and chanceries to be commercial and requires, among other things, that they locate in commercial zones or, by special exception, in light industrial zones. Upon passage of this legislation, the Pan American Health Organization filed suit against the County in Federal District Court in Baltimore on 3 December 1993. In March 1994 the Federal District Court upheld Montgomery County's change in the law as constitutional. Subsequently the Organization has filed an appeal to the Fourth Circuit Court in Richmond, Virginia. That Court has approved an accelerated briefing schedule, and hearings will likely be held during the end of June, with a decision presumably some time during the summer.

Thomas M. Tracy, Chief of Administration, PAHO.

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NEWS BRIEFS FROM PAHO

New Retirees

Alicia Amate, Alberto Flórez Muñoz, Flora García Early, Clark Glenn, Jong Nak Ho, Olga Mercado, Carlos Serrano, and Mirtha Valdivia-Delgado have now retired. We would like to welcome them to our group!

PASB/WHO Federal Credit Union

The 44th Annual Meeting of the PASB/WHO Federal Credit Union was held on March 23. New officials were elected, cash prizes and refreshments were provided, and those attending had the opportunity to see old acquaintances and friends.

PAHO Awards

April 6 was the date for a very special occasion: the presentation of PAHO awards to honor recent retirees and longevity of service. Special mention was given to Flora García Early and Beatriz Midence, who were each celebrating 40 years of service.

Chats with Old Friends

Retirees are busy people and are certainly enjoying retirement:

Ella Ayala is a proud new grandmother. When she talks about Cely Elena her eyes shine with a special glow.

Bertha Chiari is still working as a realtor, and she is also manager of the Colombian Folklore Ballet.

Esther Jaramillo relates her travel experiences, the last one to Guatemala and Costa Rica after scuba diving and eating coconuts right from the palms in Tahiti. She is polishing her French and volunteering at the Red Cross.

Lolita López-Ceide is not worrying about the Budget Book anymore - just enjoying

life between her volunteer work at church and hosting friends and family in her home.

Elsie Morcom is trying to catch up with her reading in between trips, twice a year, to Louisville and Ireland.

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LETTERS FROM OUR COLLEAGUES

Rexford D. Lord (Indiana, PA): The September 1993 issue of "Wildlife Conservation," the magazine of the New York Zoological Society has my article, "*A taste for Blood*," on the ecology and behavior of vampire bats. My book, "*The Fauna of Hato El Cedral*", was published in Spanish and English in January 1994 by Armitano Editores C.A., Caracas. It is a book of photographs with captions. In March 1994 my article, "*Cavorting with the Capibaras*," on the ecology and behavior of capibaras, will be published in "Lore," the magazine of the Milwaukee Wisconsin Museum.

Robert E. Novick (Potomac, MD): We have sold our home in Potomac, Maryland, and in March will be leaving for Cheyenne, Wyoming. There we plan to build a home which we have designed. In due course I will provide a permanent address.

Ruth R. Puffer (McMinnville, OR): My interests continue to include the study and analysis of data regarding health problems. A paper titled, "*Family Planning Issues Relating to Maternal and Infant Mortality in the United States*," was published in English in the November 1993 Bulletin and in Spanish in El Boletín. The extension of contraceptive programs in the United States, especially to teenagers and young adults, is essential for reducing unwanted births,

abortions, low birthweight births, and infant mortality. In Sweden, where rates are much lower than in the United States, better contraceptive services are made available free or are very inexpensive.

Donald J. Schliessmann (Atlanta, GA): Congratulations and best wishes to officers and Washington staff of the Association. I am most appreciative of their efforts to keep former staff members advised of pertinent and current activities via the "Newsletter." The news and suggestions of members is very interesting and indicative of their continued support of the objectives of WHO/PAHO. The Directory of Members is most helpful.

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IN MEMORIAM

Lynn Hayward passed away in Southern Shores, NC, on 23 April 1994. Many will remember that, in addition to his work as a computer scientist, Lynn also took great interest, for many years, in the PAHO/WHO Federal Credit Union, serving for a time as its president, and that he also was a member of the Health Insurance Surveillance Committee.

Dr. Enrique Nájera on 14 January 1994. At the time of his death, Dr. Nájera was the PAHO/WHO Representative in Argentina.

The following deaths of PAHO or WHO staff were reported in the AFICS Quarterly Bulletin, Vol. XXV, No. 1, United Nations, New York:

Robert William Babione	08/14/92
Ulpiano Blanco	11/29/93
Janet L. Erickson	03/29/93
Barbara G. Ferguson	11/11/93

José Manuel Fernández	
Vladimir V. Guzov	10/15/93
Mohamed Hossei Hafezi	11/21/93
W. H. Huehne	01/13/94
Consuelo Reyes Calderón	11/25/92
Mariano Rosario	12/23/93
Mahmoud A. K. Saleh	08/28/93
Luis C. Santiago	11/23/93
Erik B. Sulstad	06/16/93
John Oliver Williams	09/30/93
J. W. Weight	12/09/93

Our sincere condolences to all their families.

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DIRECTORY OF AFSM MEMBERS

A special effort is being made to bring the mailing list up-to-date and to keep it current. Our principal source of information is PAHO's Health Insurance mailing list and the registration forms that we receive from colleagues when they join the Association or send their dues. At the beginning of this year, we lost part of our mailing list due to a computer failure and the lack of a good back-up. We still have some correspondence returned by the Post Office for lack of a current address. We apologize to our members for sending the Newsletter or other correspondence to old addresses.

The following list shows the names of former staff members for whom we cannot find addresses in any of our information sources. If anyone knows how to contact any of these persons, please ask them to send AFSM their current address:

- ▶ Simome Ben Simon
263 Congressional Lane # 413
Rockville, MD 20855

- ▶ Rene Charbin
3106-1255 Bidwell Street
Vancouver, BC V6G 2K8
Canada
- ▶ Emilio Garcia Ruiz
9403 Elsmere Ct.
Bethesda, MD 20814
- ▶ Richard Henry
5312 8th Road S., # 5
Arlington, VA
- ▶ Eleonor Kunderman
RR4 Chaster Road
Gibson, BC V0N 1V0
Canada
- ▶ Chen Kuo
45 Silver Spring Blv., # 1911
Scarborough, Ontario M1V 1R2
Canada
- ▶ Margarita Rida Luelsdorff
111 Poplar Hill Lane
Clinton, MD 20735
- ▶ Alice Mackay
383 Boulevard des Marchais
Verdun, PQ H4H 1S5
Canada
- ▶ Edith Matte
475 Rue Notre Dame
Saint-Tite, PQ G0X 3H0
Canada
- ▶ Mary T. Meagher
1835 Morton Ave., Apt. # 404
Vancouver, BC V6G 1V3
Canada
- ▶ Gururaj Mutalik
226 Brewer Street
Larchmont, NY 10538

- ▶ Parwin Nushin
13014 Tamarack Road
Silver Spring, MD 20904
- ▶ Ramona Ramillano
8591 Acacia Avenue
Garden Grove, CA 92641
- ▶ Armando Ramos
4206 Lakeview Drive
Temple Hills, MD 20748
- ▶ Mary X. Rogan
6196 Chatham Drive, Apt. 153
New Orleans, LA 70122
- ▶ Ehsan Shafa
1906 S. Beverly Glen Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 9002

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Membership cards for AFSM have been printed and distributed to all members who are paid up through **1994** and beyond. If you have not received a card and believe you are up-to-date on your dues, please contact Hans A. Bruch, 9850 Singleton Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817. Tel (301) 530-5450.

We have finally said good-bye to a long, icy, Washington winter. **WELCOME WARM WEATHER!!!**