

FDIC News

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Employee Newsletter

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FDIC Alumni Association Holds First Official Meeting

By SALLY KEARNEY
Office of Communications

*Photos courtesy of
Kathy Riley and Peter Cutts*

Nearly 80 retirees, former employees, and their guests gathered on October 2 at the FDIC's L. William Seidman Center at Virginia Square for the first official meeting of the Association of FDIC Alumni (AFDICA). The association, established in 2016, has enrolled more than 300 members. Both retirees and former employees who have not retired from the FDIC are eligible to become members.

The daylong event featured remarks by FDIC and AFDICA officials, presentations on a variety of topics, and opportunities to mingle and socialize.

Acting President Nicholas Ketcha kicked off the day by noting that AFDICA is striving to maintain the spirit of camaraderie—and the “good feeling that we were contributing”—that many alumni enjoyed when they were working for the FDIC.

That spirit can continue as AFDICA hosts functions around the country and organizes educational and charitable activities, he said.



**Former Interim President Nick Ketcha
kicks off the meeting.**

Ketcha commented on the “tremendous amount of behind-the-scenes” work that has gone into launching AFDICA. He offered a special thanks to former General Counsel Bill Kroener (who was

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AFDICA

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present) and former Special Counsel Judith Friedman for their pro bono legal work to help set up AFDICA's by-laws and obtain the approvals for the 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

DOA Director Arleas Upton Kea delivered introductory remarks, starting with a rousing welcome, and remarking on how pleased she was to see so many familiar faces and to recall the work they had done together.

"Today marks an exciting milestone in the journey that you have traveled to create and stand up an official alumni organization for the FDIC," she said. "On behalf of Chairman Gruenberg and everyone at the FDIC, I want to congratulate you on this impressive achievement."

Kea recognized that starting an organization takes persistence and vision. "Ever since a few of you got together to brainstorm about starting an alumni organization, you have made tremendous progress," she said. "AFDICA is now a fully operating organization, with several committees, a website, and a growing membership."

She described what led to AFDICA's founding. "I think we can safely say that a major impetus for establishing AFDICA



"Today marks an exciting milestone in the journey that you have traveled to create and stand up an official alumni organization for the FDIC," said DOA Director Arleas Upton Kea.

is the strong connection that former employees feel to the FDIC and each other. The community spirit and collegiality that we experience while serving at the FDIC endures long after that service ends."

Evidence for this connection abounds, she noted. "For years, alumni have gathered informally for luncheons, golf outings, and weekend reunions, and have kept in touch with each other. Some of you have even retired in the same communities

and socialize regularly."

"This is no accident," she continued, adding that alumni have a shared history and shared memories. "For many of you, the FDIC has been a defining experience. Devotion to public service—a commitment that we see in our friends and colleagues at the FDIC—lives on."

Kea recalled the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by Chairman Gruenberg and Mitchell Glassman in December 2016 formalizing the relationship between the FDIC and AFDICA. "The MOU specifies how the FDIC and AFDICA can work together," she said.

Under the agreement, AFDICA provides opportunities for members to participate in FDIC financial literacy efforts, including the Money Smart curriculum. "This represents a tremendous opportunity," Kea said. "Volunteering, serving, and giving back are character traits that all our retirees hold in common."

The MOU also provides for AFDICA to create a central database of members willing to volunteer as part of a ready reserve, she said. "You helped us respond to the financial crisis," Kea said. "With this database, going forward, we will partner with you and draw on potential volunteers."

In closing, Kea said "AFDICA may spring from a past of shared experiences, but it also points to the future. I am very confident that in the months and years to come, your community will serve as a strong foundation and support for much of the work we do. Your organization will grow stronger, and our partnership will continue to develop."

Interim Executive Director Ron Bieker recounted a brief history of AFDICA's development to date. Highlights included a pivotal discussion with DRR Director Bret Edwards, a meeting with Deputy Director to the Chairman and Chief Operating Officer Barbara Ryan, the establishment of a steering committee, creation of a logo, and launching of a website, among others.

When talking with FDIC alumni, particularly retirees, Bieker observed a common theme. "They valued their relation-



AFDICA members gather at first official meeting.

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AFDICA

Alumni, from page 2

ship with the FDIC and appreciated their professional careers,” he said. “They were already volunteering in their communities and wanted to give back to the FDIC.”

AFDICA’s three “pillars”—fellowship, education, charity—reflect this spirit, he said, adding that he is confident that AFDICA will “make an impact” by acting on its motto.

A series of presentations followed: an in-depth discussion on the state of the banking industry and economy by Chief



Incoming AFDICA President Fred Selby, Vice President for Education Mindy West, and outgoing Interim AFDICA President Nick Ketcha get together during a break.

Economist and DIR Deputy Director Rich Brown; a talk on financial literacy activities by DCA Supervisory Community Affairs Specialist Bobbie Gray and AFDICA Volunteer Services Committee Chair Scott Taylor; and details on FDIC benefits by Senior Human Resources Specialist Gretchen Holmes.

In an afternoon session, the members of the first permanent Board of Directors were installed:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Fred Selby | President |
| Gregory Coyle | Executive Director |
| Karen Gassett | Secretary |
| Mitchell Glassman | Assistant Secretary |
| Sherry Whitaker | Treasurer |
| Otis Felton | Vice President |
| | Charitable Services |
| Blake Clemens | Vice President |
| | Fellowship |
| Mindy West | Vice President |
| | Education |
| Val Baker | Director At Large |
| David Bilker | Director At Large |
| Ed Butler | Director At Large |
| Les Crawford | Director At Large |
| Ned Goldberg | Director At Large |
| | - Web Master |
| Nick Ketcha | Director At Large |

Audience members also heard a report on AFDICA’s finances and a panel discussion by committee members. A reception in the foyer of the Sheila C. Bair Auditorium brought AFDICA members and FDIC employees together. Many alumni, guests, and employees continued socializing during a happy hour at a nearby restaurant, and many small groups continued the fun over dinner. 🍷