

Staying Connected through AFDICA

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By LAJUAN WILLIAMS-YOUNG
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The Association of FDIC Alumni Inc., (AFDICA) convened for its first annual meeting in October 2017 to elect the initial Board of Directors. At that time nearly 80 retirees, former employees, and their guests gathered at the FDIC's L. William Seidman Center at Virginia Square to mark the occasion. One of the first orders of business was to grow the organization, adding to the 335 members already on their rolls. Continuing to increase membership remains a primary agenda item for AFDICA.

AFDICA believes that its mission of 'Fellowship, Education and Charity' is an easy lure for anyone who would like to support the community alongside former colleagues. Both retirees and former employees, including anyone who was an employee of the FDIC or RTC, are eligible for membership.

I recently caught up with Fred Selby, AFDICA's President, and former Division of Finance (DOF) Director with 18 years' experience at the FDIC and RTC — in DOF, the former Division of Resolutions, and the RTC — who provided more information about the AFDICA. Fred discussed a recent video posted to Facebook featuring Leslie Crawford, former Deputy Director, Office of Diversity and Economic Opportunity, Deputy Ombudsman, and Senior Counsel, talking about his experiences at the FDIC and as a member of AFDICA. Fred was hopeful that others would view the video. Fred told me that one of AFDICA's primary goals is to increase membership. "AFDICA has three mission areas of focus: Fellowship, Education and Charity. Our hope is that all FDIC or RTC alumni can find value in participating in one or even all of these activities," he said.

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I had lots of questions about this organization. So, I went to AFDICA's webpage for answers. Here's a snippet of what I found:

What's in it for me if I decide to become a member of the AFDICA?

For some, the opportunity to reconnect with former FDIC colleagues that you've worked with is the most important, and for others it may be to network and establish communications with people who may be helpful to you in your career. The basic principles of Fellowship, Education and Charity should provide everyone with something they will cherish and enjoy.

Membership Eligibility

You are eligible to become a member of AFDICA if you formerly worked as an employee for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or the Resolution Trust Corporation (RTC), regardless of your length of service. This encompasses all former civil service employees, political appointees, term, liquidation graded (LG), professional, secretarial and administrative personnel. Although you may have physically worked at an FDIC office, if your wages were paid by a contractor who was hired to perform services for the agency and you were never an employee of FDIC, you are not eligible to join AFDICA.

Membership Types and Cost

Alumni Members – those who meet the terms of eligibility will be entitled to make a dues donation of \$50 for a 12-month/annual membership, \$95 for a 24-month membership, \$130 for a 36-month membership or \$500 for lifetime membership to AFDICA. All Alumni Members

in good standing shall have all rights and privileges of Members, including the right to vote at meetings of Members and to be counted for the purpose of determining the presence of a quorum at any such meeting. All Alumni members shall enjoy equal rights and privileges.

Associate Members – Any Alumni Member who resumes working for the FDIC as an employee shall automatically become an Associate Member of the Association with all rights and privileges except the right to vote or to be counted for the purpose of determining the presence of a quorum.

Among other things, AFDICA:

- Provides the opportunity for former FDIC employees to find and re-connect with former colleagues and friends with whom you may have lost contact. We offer social activities, including luncheons, dinners and cocktail hours in a growing variety of cities as well as golf outings, an annual meeting of our members, and other social activities.

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AFDICA Golf Tournament, Dallas Texas, September 2017, from left: Scott Pierson, Cindy Scott, Ken Jarzombek, and Bruce Parker.

AFDICA

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- Provides the opportunity to assist the FDIC in expanding the MoneySmart Financial Literacy Program in cities and states where FDIC Alumni reside. We have over 90 volunteers who have indicated their desire to be involved in providing MoneySmart training in their communities. Our Alumni continue to offer this program to a variety of organizations from prison inmates, to preschoolers, to church sponsored gatherings.
- Supports a variety of charitable causes, ranging from the national coalition of Jump\$tart, where we are funding financial literacy education, to supporting our members directly through matching monetary donations for the many charities our members support at the local level.
- Maintains a list of AFDICA members who express an interest in returning to employment for full or part-time employment should the FDIC seek experienced individuals in the event of a financial crisis or similar emergency situation. A list of members that are interested in re-employment may be shared with the FDIC, in accordance with the MOU.
- Membership dues and donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.
- Members are eligible for membership with the Partnership Federal Credit Union (the FDIC Credit Union) with a special signing bonus.
- AFDICA exists wherever its members reside!

If you are interested in getting more information about AFDICA, you should access its website, which is nicely organized and contains a frequently asked questions page.

As Arleas Kea stated at the inaugural meeting in October 2017, “AFDICA is now a fully operating organization, with



AFDICA dinner in Washington, D.C., May 2018: (clockwise from front left) Frank Francisco, Chris Spoth, Mitchell Glassman, Dennis Olson, Jim Wigand, Claude Rollin, Ashley Doherty, Irene Koerner, Rick Osterman, Sherry Whitaker, Susan Baranowski, David Bilker, and Larry Choate.



AFDICA get-together, Jacksonville, Florida, April 2017.

several committees, a website, and a growing membership.” She continued, “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.”

“It really doesn’t surprise me how quickly our membership has grown in just 17 months,” said Blake Clemens, Vice

President for Fellowship. This organization is designed for former FDIC employees across all grade levels and all divisions who have ever worked for the FDIC or the RTC. “If you’re approaching retirement or are currently retired, visit our website for more information. It’s simple and easy to join, and get reconnected with friends and former colleagues,” Blake added. 🏠