



11 August 2017

Dear Member

Last year the membership voted overwhelmingly to continue the NHS Retirement Fellowship which gives an opportunity to become even more successful and provide more benefits for our members. I am grateful to all those members who voted in favour and I hope that over the next few years the Fellowship will become more proactive and vibrant to the benefit of members.

The timing could not be more ideal as 2018 sees the 70th anniversary of the setting up of the service that so many of us gave our careers to. There is no better time for us to raise the profile of our Fellowship as next year is also our 40th anniversary. Discussions are taking place with the NHS for our members to play a part in national and local celebrations.

You will not be surprised to learn that already more than 25 of our members have come forward with details of what they were doing in the NHS on 5th July 1948 but if you were employed in 1948 but have not yet let Central Office know please do so. We are going to recognise and celebrate those members that were in service 70 years ago.

There is no doubt that the NHS itself will want to recognise the number of years our members have dedicated to the service.

We have involved a cross section of members in discussions about the Fellowship's future strategy. At this stage we have concentrated on the impact we want to make in 2018. The strategy that will be launched at the AGM on 25th November 2017 includes the understanding that not only do we need to provide services to attract new members we also need to concentrate on maintaining the interest of our existing members.

For the benefit of our members we have in recent times built a number of relationships and I would particularly draw your attention to the package offered by Fred Olsen and the 3 special reduced price cruises for next year which feature in the newsletter. I hope that the offer will enable a number of members from a number of branches to benefit.

It has been of concern that members appear to have been penalised because of their age when taking up travel insurance. With that in mind I am pleased to announce that we have negotiated a special deal exclusively for Fellowship members and partners which will be launched at the AGM in November.

We have also negotiated a deal with Cottages.com and Hoseasons which will offer 10% discount on UK based holidays and we are currently dealing with a company that specialise in luxury worldwide travel and an introductory offer will be available soon.

What I particularly need from you is for you to tell me what other types of deals you want the Fellowship to negotiate of your behalf.

/PTO

I also want to involve you with a number of other issues:-

There will be 3 competitions judged at this year's AGM firstly we need a new 40th anniversary logo for 2018 so please let me have your ideas and from those submitted a winner will be chosen at the AGM and used for our promotional material in 2018. Also new for this year is a competition for the branch with the best promotional material and thirdly the branch with the best newsletter. If you think your branch has good material and/or newsletter please encourage your branch secretary to submit it to Central Office. All competitions have a closing date of 31st October 2017.

Would you like to be a trustee of the NHS Retirement Fellowship? These positions are open to ALL members details are included in the newsletter. You will see that we are looking for 3 trustees so if you are interested in the role and responsibilities please do not hesitate to ring Central Office to arrange a time for an informal chat.

I want to engage with members more and unfortunately it is simply not possible for me to visit every branch. This is one of the reasons that we are continuing with a series of members meetings. The next one in Liverpool has already been organised for the 20th September 2017 and more than 50 members have already confirmed their attendance. This will be followed by Brighton – December 2017, Harrogate – February 2018, Oxford – April 2018 and London – June 2018. Other meetings will follow to cover the UK so that every member has the opportunity to attend.

I am going to consult with you the members about our website which needs a major overhaul. If you would like to be a member of the working group and attend meetings in London or Leeds please let Central Office know by 30th September 2017.

Finally I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our annual AGM/Conference in November. Already 300 members have signed up and it promises to be a great event organised for the first time not by Central Office but by Isle of Wight Tours.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Rostill', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Rostill OBE
Chief Executive