

7 May 2022

Dear Member

### **P60 Campaign**

Firstly, very warm welcome to those new members (more than 700) that have joined the Fellowship directly or indirectly as a result of the P60 campaign.

More than 1 million leaflets inviting NHS retirees (however long they have been retired) to join the NHS Retirement Fellowship were included in the envelopes which contained the P60. The first envelopes were received on 11 April and circulation will continue until mid-May. Although it's early days, the initial response is encouraging.

For those of you that are new, I do hope you will let us know what else you think the Retirement Fellowship can do for members, but also that you catch up with things that have happened in the recent past. For instance, we are currently running a short story competition - we know that every one of our members has many stories and memories of the time they spent working in the health service. Some will be dramatic, some sad whilst others will have a funny or surprising twist in the tale.

There will be three cash prizes; the winning entries will be featured by the NHS Retirement Fellowship and on [www.medicaltales.org](http://www.medicaltales.org). The winner will be awarded their prize at the Annual conference and will be the Fellowship's guest for that weekend.

The competition is only open to members for the best short story based in a health care or social care setting. The maximum length is 1500 words, stories may be fact or fiction, entry is free and multiple entries will be accepted.

The author's name and contact details should not appear on the submission, please include this on an accompanying note. The closing date for entries is 31 May 2022 and should be sent to [info@nhsrf.org.uk](mailto:info@nhsrf.org.uk) or posted to NHSRF, Weymouth Community Hospital, Melcombe Avenue, Weymouth, DT4 7TB.

This competition has received wide publicity but so far we have only had 18 submissions and I am sure there are many more interesting stories that our members can contribute and I look forward to receiving many more entries.

Attached with this letter is a copy of the NHSRF newsletter and included in this edition are details of the judges chosen for this contest.

Also on the front page of the newsletter is information about the launch of the P60 campaign and I take this opportunity of reiterating my thanks to those staff and others that have undertaken an extraordinary amount of work in preparing and delivering this campaign. I know that our branches will give all new members a very warm welcome and I look forward to meeting many of you over the next few months.

Included is The Fellowship Extra, which I hope you will read avidly, and take note of the opportunities for discounts. In particular, I draw attention to the Blue Light Card, with discounts in many shops and restaurants and deals on clothing and holidays. This is our most recent opportunity and many of our members have already made significant savings.

### **National Council**

The National Council, at its meeting on 26 April 2022, also considered whether the Fellowship should continue to engage the firm Mirthy. During the pandemic, the Fellowship had a very satisfactory arrangement with Mirthy who provided two webinars per month exclusively for our members. These were initially provided at no cost, but latterly in the last financial year we agreed a monthly fee of £300 per month. National council was asked whether they thought we should continue with an arrangement with Mirthy which would make available premiership membership (worth £60 per annum) for all members, new and existing until the end of March 2023. This premiership membership (but not exclusive to the NHSRF members) would make available over 100 online events, classes and activities for each month. The offer from Mirthy was that we would have to pay £300 (+ VAT) each month until a further 10,000 new members are recruited at which point the fee would increase to £1,000 (+VAT) per month. The National Council decided that although Mirthy provided a very useful and exclusive opportunity for our members during the pandemic, now that things were back to near normality there was less of a need and took the view that insufficient members would now want to become engaged in such activities.

### **AGM and conference 2022**

I look forward to seeing many of you at the conference and AGM which will be held from Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October to Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October at the 4 star Jury's Inn, Hinckley Island, Leicestershire. In essence the cost is £275 per person and this includes, two night's accommodation, a party night on Saturday, the AGM (on Sunday) with the gala dinner (with wine) on Sunday and dancing to the 60's party band (The Union Gap). These have always been very sociable occasions and I know that many members can't wait for this event.

In addition on Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> October there is an opportunity to visit the Arboretum by coach where the NHS Retirement Fellowship will lay a wreath at the National Nurses Memorial also included is a ride on the land train and a cream tea. This trip is open to any member not just conference delegates. The cost is £27pp with coach and £19pp without.

Full details are with your Branch Secretary and on our website [www.nhsrf.org.uk](http://www.nhsrf.org.uk) or contact IoW Tours or for more information 01983 405116 enquiries@iowtours.com

## The Challenge of Change

The newsletter also describes the outcome of 11 regional roadshows held across England, it also indicates that the outcome of the National Council at its meeting at the end of April would be included in my letter to all members.

At the National Council on 26 April 2022, the Vice Chairman Chris Kitchin (who is also Chairman of the Future Group) made a presentation outlining the recommendations of the Future Group. He explained that the original proposals had been widely trailed both in the November 2021 newsletter and the Regional Roadshows across the country. He emphasised that it was important that the National Council as the principal advisory member group to the Trustees, made recommendations as to the way forward.

The proposed changes were summarised as the need to create a structure, fit for the future that gives members a greater voice and responds to the anticipated increase in membership. That there is a clearer integrated plan for the future linked with the aspirations of the new Members Council and the Trustees Business Plans. At the heart of the proposals is a provision which allows more members, who want to participate more opportunities to take part in the activities in the organisation and influence the work of the Fellowship.

The principal proposal was to develop the structure of the Fellowship in England based on counties. The current regional configuration was based on the 1974 structure of the NHS. It is further proposed that the new regions are formed from groups of counties with each county electing a member representative and those reps to elect one of their number to be the regional member representative.

It was also proposed that postal members that currently have no voice as such in the Fellowship elect two representatives to join with the Regional members representative to form a new Members Council.

It was also proposed that the Members Council (renamed from the existing National Council) will be chaired by one of its own - currently the Chair of the Trustees also chairs the National Council. There will be reciprocal arrangements so that the Chairs of the Members councils and the Board of Trustees will attend each other's meetings with a right to speak but not to vote.

Additionally it was hoped as a way of increasing the visibility of Trustees, members could attend and observe the work of the Board of Trustees which in future will not always meet in London.

The Future Group had put four proposals to the National Council:-

- a) do nothing, maintain status quo
- b) delay for two years
- c) implement the proposed changes subject to ballot and decisions of the Annual General Meeting on 23 October 2022
- d) abolish the current and proposed membership representation and replace with nationwide elections with every member having a vote

After due deliberation, members of the council agreed that there was a need for change and option (a) should not be considered and then after further discussions options (b) and (d) were also rejected.

The meeting unanimously agreed that option (c) should be recommended to the Board.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is on 24 May 2022, and a final decision on the proposed way forward will be made. This will require changes to the constitution and will require a ballot of branches. For the amendments to be approved, a majority of two thirds of the total votes cast is required.

Details about the ballot will be circulated to branches after the Trustees meeting on 24 May.

In June we have the Queen's Jubilee to celebrate and I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Conference in October.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely



John Rostill OBE  
Chief Executive