FDIC News

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Employee Newsletter

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9th Annual Association of FDIC Alumni (AFDICA) Meeting: A Reunion of Insight and Inspiration

By LaJuan Williams-Young, Office of Communications

On October 3, the FDIC hosted the 9th annual meeting of the Association of FDIC Alumni (AFDICA) at Virginia Square. This year's gathering blended professional development and networking opportunities with a celebration of contributions to financial literacy and compelling insights from several notable speakers.

WELCOMING REMARKS AND ECONOMIC INSIGHTS

AFDICA President Philip Masquelette who retired from the Legal Division in Dallas greeted the 88 attendees and encouraged them: "Let's share ideas and collaborate to strengthen our network."

The first keynote address was delivered by Andrew Felton, Director of the Division of Insurance and Research (DIR). Director Felton's insightful QBP-style presentation focused on the current state of the economy and banking industry conditions, a topic of particular interest for those monitoring their retirement accounts. His analysis provided valuable perspectives on economic trends and their implications for personal finances, which resonated strongly with the audience. Director Felton and AFDICA members also engaged in a robust Q&A session, which focused on timely issues such as inflation, interest rates, the housing market, and other economic indicators.

SUPPORTING FINANCIAL LITERACY

Advancing financial literacy is an important part of the AFDICA mission. Two Virginia school teachers attended the meeting to share how AFDICA scholarships have helped them deliver financial education lessons in their schools: Angie Trerotola, an economics and personal finance teacher at Osbourn Park High School in Manassas, a school with over 2,750 students representing 170 ethnic groups; and James Meadows, a business teacher at Gretna High School, a high school with fewer than 500 students in Pittsylvania County. Trerotola and Meadows described how AFDICA scholarships allowed them to attend a *Jump$tart* National Educator Conference, where they connected with other educators who share the goal of advancing financial education. These connections exposed them to new, innovative techniques of teaching financial literacy, which they have incorporated into their existing course materials. Their stories highlighted AFDICA's lasting impact on the next generation of learners. To date, AFDICA has provided $93,250 in charitable donations in support of financial education, including $85,250 for individual college scholarships and teacher scholarships to attend *Jump$tart* conferences.

Former FDIC employees gather at Virginia Square for the 9th Annual AFDICA meeting.

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REMARKS BY ACTING CHAIRMAN TRAVIS HILL

Another highlight of the day was an address by FDIC Acting Chairman Travis Hill, who covered a wide range of issues, including the status of the FDIC's Workforce Optimization Plan, Return to the Office (RTO) initiative, various policy issues, and the status of our culture transformation process. He concluded his remarks by reiterating his commitment to the agency: "I do believe strongly in the mission and function of the agency.

Acting Chairman Hill addresses the AFDICA meeting on October 3.

I worked very closely with many individuals from the staff during COVID and the 2023 bank failures, and so I have a deep appreciation of the dedicated workforce that we have at the FDIC. I also want to say thanks to all of you for your service at the agency and for your continued involvement with the FDIC."

LIFE AFTER FDIC

Panelists share their accomplishments post-FDIC during a moderated discussion.

During the "Life after FDIC" session, panelists Paul Driscoll, formerly with DIR, and Chris Hencke, formerly with the Legal Division, discussed their post-retirement creative endeavors, which stand in stark contrast to their analytical professional careers. Driscoll presented his impressive artwork, and Hencke discussed his work as a full-time playwright. His play, Bloody Murder at the Black Dog Tavern, will be performed by a community theatre company in August 2026 in Soldotna, Alaska.

A GROWING NETWORK

The meeting also marked the election of former employees Louis Cheng, Division of Risk Management Supervision (RMS), Dallas, to the AFDICA board and recognized outgoing members Nancy Appleby, Division of Resolutions and Receiverships (DRR), Dallas; Laura Lapin, RMS, DC; Eric Spitler, Office of Legislative Affairs, DC; and Kathleen Tesi, Division of Administration, Human Resources, DC, for their dedicated service.

As the meeting concluded, Masquelette encouraged attendees to help expand AFDICA's membership, emphasizing the organization's unique value: reconnecting with former colleagues, growing professional networks, and advancing financial literacy training across the country.

The 9th Annual AFDICA meeting was a powerful reminder that while FDIC alumni may move on to new chapters, their shared mission and sense of community remain strong. AFDICA continues to honor that legacy—linking the past, present, and future through service, connection, and learning.

For more information on AFDICA, please visit afdica.com.