



AFICS – Cyprus NewsLetter

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AFICS-CYPRUS ANNUAL DINNER

EDITORIAL

In this third newsletter, we report briefly on a number of functions, including the first AFICS-Cyprus Annual Dinner which took place on 7 October and the UNFICYP UN Day event on 30 October. Then on 3 November, UNAC and AFICS joined together to enjoy yet another congenial UN Day celebration, and finally, the third AFICS excursion to various sites in and around the Larnaca area took place on 30 November. All these occasions enabled AFICS members with family and friends to socialize and provided an opportunity to get to know each other better.

The Executive Committee of AFICS-Cyprus wishes to encourage all members to partake of the events organised, and in this respect welcomes any comments or suggestions our readers may have.

We are happy to announce that AFICS-Cyprus now has a facebook page! Look us up for information or photos, all of which are available for downloading.

The festive season is now over, and the Executive Committee takes this opportunity to wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous 2015. We hope to see you all at the next General Assembly on 13 March.

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In accordance with a decision taken by the AFICS Assembly at its Second Ordinary Session earlier in 2014, the Executive Committee was assigned the task of organising the Association's Annual Dinner on or around 1 October of each year. FAFICS (the Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants) proposed that all national associations organise events for 1 October, as this date is the United Nations International Day for Older Persons.

Finally, 7 October was chosen as the most suitable date for the occasion, organised by Events Coordinator Fredy Galatopoulou at the popular restaurant "Μαγειρίσσες" ("Lady Cooks") just outside Nicosia.

Approximately 30 AFICS members accompanied by family and friends attended the dinner, which gave those present the opportunity to socialize and spend an enjoyable evening together.



From the left: The Treasurer, Dr. Vonatis, and the President, Mr. Antoniadis with his good friend Mr. Alain Verger

UNFICYP CELEBRATES UN DAY – 24 OCTOBER

As is customary, UNFICYP held its annual UN Day event, this year on 31 October. The venue was the UNPA sports field, and many units of UNFICYP organised stalls to entertain spectators and celebrate the day. The Organising Committee invited AFICS-Cyprus to participate and provided a tent and other logistics support so as to have a dedicated presence on the day.

AFICS' aim was to engage in outreach activities. Documentation available at the stand consisted of a flyer containing the basic aims and purposes of the Association, the composition of the Executive Committee and the membership application form, amongst others. Gert Schmidt, supported by member, Martha J. V. Schmidt, managed the AFICS stand throughout the day and distributed the documentation to interested UN staff members.

Despite some lurking dark clouds, the weather kept dry and mostly sunny, which facilitated the smooth conduct of all the outdoor activities planned, including football, tug-of-war, hammer lifting as well as the marvellous BBQ. As usual, all had a wonderful day.



The Secretary, Mr. Schmidt, ready to welcome customers

UNAC AND AFICS CELEBRATE UN DAY ON 3 NOVEMBER

The United Nations Association of Cyprus (UNAC) held its annual UN Day celebration on 3 November 2014 at the Presidential Palace. For the first time, the invitation to this very convivial occasion was addressed to all AFICS members through the Executive Committee. The AFICS President and Deputy President, together with a number of members, attended the event.

The evening was opened by the President of UNAC and members of the Executive Committee of WFUNA (the World Federation of UN Associations) Dr. Christos Theodoulou, who in his brief address, summarized a few of the world problems which the UN faces and some of the Organisation's achievements.



The CYTA choir

The President of the Republic, Mr. Nicos Anastasiades, then took the floor. In his address, he stressed the importance of the UN for all States, the UN efforts for a solution to the Cyprus problem, the important role of UNFICYP for peace between the two Cypriot communities, and the sacrifice of the 174 UNFICYP members who gave their lives for keeping that peace. After the Presidential address, a cultural programme followed including songs by the CYTA choir.

The evening ended with cocktails which gave the opportunity to all participants to mix.

THIRD AFICS EXCURSION – VISIT TO THE LARNACA DISTRICT

The third AFICS-Cyprus excursion, this time to the Larnaca District, took place on 20 November 2014 organised by Social Events Coordinator Fredy Galatopoulou, together with Rita Severis of the CVAR (The Centre of Visual Arts and Research).

The programme took the group to the Royal Chapel of St. Catherine (Agia Aikaterine) in Pyrga and then to the recently renovated church of Panayia Stazousa, which, according to Enlart (a renowned historian of French and Italian Gothic architecture), was the Monastery of Beaulieu. The group then continued to St. George Arpera to admire the famous fresco of Dragoman Christophakis and his family, the fresco of St. George and the icon of St. Christopher with a dog's head. The last stop was to Kiti Village to see the Church of Angeloktisti and the 6th century mosaics.



Some of the AFICS participants listening intently to Rita's presentation

The group, which travelled during the day in a convoy of eight private vehicles, ended the programme at Militizis Restaurant, located along the newly renovated seafront road at Piale Passia, Larnaca, for a delicious lunch.

It was a highly successful event with 28 participants, mainly AFICS members and their guests, but also the President and members from the French-speaking "Vivre à Chypre" Association. "Vivre à Chypre" and AFICS have now agreed to inform each other of their cultural activities and be invited to participate in selected events.

2014 AFICS MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCES

According to our Treasurer's report, on 31 December 2014, AFICS-Cyprus had 77 fully paid-up members, an increase from the 63 members who had paid their dues in 2013.

With regard to AFICS' financial standing, we started 2014 with a carry-over of €849 from 2013. Additional income, including the interest gained from the 2014 deposits in our bank account, amounted to €6,284, with a total expenditure of €1,758. The 2014 financial year ended with a balance of €5,375.

Detailed tables of income and expenditure, the balance sheet and the cash flow shall be made available to all members in the audited accounts to be presented to the General Assembly next March.