Retirement Planning: Checklist for Current Retirees
By John K. Naland

- **Beneficiary designations**: ensure they are up to date: SF-2823 (FEGLI), TSP-3 (TSP), and DS-5002 (unpaid annuity up to time of death)
  

- **Survivor benefits**: ensure that next of kin know to contact HRSC@state.gov to apply for pension and FEHB benefits and for guidance on contacting TSP, FEGLI, and Social Security
  
  *References: GTM/RET Foreign Service Annual Annuitant Newsletter and "Reporting Deaths of Foreign Service Retirees or Survivors" on www.afsa.org/retirement-services*

- **Report changes in marital status promptly**: notify HRSC@state.gov to revise survivor election and FEHB coverage
  
  *Reference: GTM/RET Foreign Service Annual Annuitant Newsletter*

- **Estate planning**: obtain or update will, power of attorney, and medical directive

- **Keep informed**: review the GTM/RET Foreign Service Annual Annuitant Newsletter each November, AFSA Directory of Retired Members each January, and the AFSA website Retirement Services section any time

- **Annuity records**: login to Employee Express to view records and update some elections
  
  *Reference: resources under "Annuities" on www.afsa.org/retirement-services*

- **TSP/IRAs**: maintain a portfolio with long-term average returns that outpace inflation
  
  *Reference: video “Planning for Your Life and Lifestyle” on www.afsa.org/retirement-services*

- **FEHB health insurance**: review coverage each Open Season (Nov-Dec)
  
  *Reference: Consumer Checkbook tool available to AFSA members each November*

- **Medicare Part B**: understand pros and cons of getting it at age 65
  
  *Reference: resources under FEHB and Medicare on www.afsa.org/retirement-services*

- **Long-term care insurance**: consider getting it or be prepared to self-fund if needed
  
  *References: videos by experts on www.afsa.org/retirement-services*

- **Social Security**: understand pros and cons of various starting ages between 62 and 70
  
  *References: www.ssa.gov and video by expert on www.afsa.org/retirement-services*

- **Social connections**: stay connected, foreign affairs retiree groups are in nearly 20 states
  
  *Reference: AFSA Directory of Retired Members*

- **Assistance from AFSA**: for help with benefits problems or questions contact AFSA Counselor for Retirees Dolores Brown at Brown@afsa.org

- **AFSA membership**: maintain membership via annuity deduction by contacting member@afsa.org

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