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); also IRAs, mutual funds, other life insurance
  

- **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" in AFSA Directory of Retired Members

- **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 printed information for updates on benefits issues
  
  References: GTM/RET Foreign Service Annual Annuitant Newsletter each November, AFSA Directory of Retired Members each January, and https://afsa.org/retirement any time

- **Annuity records**: login to Annuitant Employee Express to view and update annuity records
  
  Reference: resources under "Annuities" on https://afsa.org/retirement

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

- **FEHB health insurance**: review coverage every few years during 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 https://afsa.org/retirement

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

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

- **Social connections**: stay connected, foreign affairs retiree groups are in nearly 20 states
  
  Reference: contact information in 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

October 2022