



FEDERAL BANK RETIRED OFFICERS' FORUM (FBROF)

Registered under the Travancore-Cochin Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Registration Act 1955 (1) No. ER. 702/2009

(An Organizational Wing of Federal Bank Officers' Association)

(Affiliated to All India Bank Pensioners and Retirees Confederation - AIBPARC)

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FBROF Initiates New Communication Channel - WhatsApp Communities

To all members,

As of now we have more than 2000 members pan India. As per our organisational setup members are grouped into Zones/Area based on their place of domicile/residence. We have altogether 25 Areas/Zones – 17 in Kerala (under 5 Zones) and 8 outside Kerala (in 5 Zones). Ever since we adopted WhatsApp for official communication, we have formed Area/Zonal WhatsApp Groups.

The instant messaging platform WhatsApp recently released a new feature called **Communities**. The sole idea of rolling out Communities is to bring people, groups with the same interests under one umbrella. To begin with, Communities allow admins to organise multiple groups in one place, eliminating the need to send the same message to every group. In the simplest words, WhatsApp Communities are a collection of Groups where all the groups are connected through an announcement space. When Central Office needs to release a notification or any communication it can be posted in the announcement space (Community Group) which would be sent to all the participating groups. Hitherto, the notifications were being posted in all the 25+ Area/Zone Groups separately. This has been a cumbersome task

Additionally, the official announcement space remains unclogged since participating group members cannot reply to the messages. Meanwhile, if the Area members wish to discuss an issue or plan a meeting/ event, they can do so in their respective area groups, as the conversation won't reflect in the parent group.

While Groups are shown in the Chats section on WhatsApp, Communities have a separate section. On Android, Communities appear in the top bar and on iOS, it appears in the bar at the bottom of the screen. On the flip side, one WhatsApp community group can manage up to 50 groups, however, WhatsApp now allows up to 5,000 members in a community announcement group. Only the Community Admins can send messages to the announcement group. Members would have noticed that we have created a Community titled **FBROF Community** by bringing all our Areas/Zones under this group. It will appear in the members' WhatsApp as an Announcement Group



FBROF Community

Announcement group

1616 participants

Forum's Official Circulars and obituary of member/spouse etc. would continue to be posted in our Area/Zone Groups as hitherto, as well as in Community Group. Other organisational communication, banking related news, developments, and any other matter of relevance/ importance to our fraternity will be released through the FBROF Community.

A few members were seen to have left the Community for want of clarification in this regard. If any of our member is not seen added to the FBROF Community Group they may use the link <https://chat.whatsapp.com/L35LSbE4Ox6B8YqJmne0Ko> to join the Group. Suggestions are welcome as regards to the utility of the new feature.

Invitation for contributions of literary / artistic creations to Issue No. 2 of Fedxbytz

It is a matter of great satisfaction that the inaugural issue of our quarterly newsletter Fedxbytz, released at FBROF's Annual General Meeting on 25 September 2022 has been well-received by our members, in general. The second issue of the newsletter is now planned to be released on 1 January, 2023.

As readers would have noted, it is chiefly the written pieces contributed by members that have helped to make the first issue such a lively and colourful one. We thank all these contributors.

Also, we now invite Members to contribute their own / family members' literary / artistic creations in the form of essays, stories, poems, reminiscences, pictures, photographs, etc., towards the second issue of the newsletter.

Reports of notable achievements, extraordinary performances, creditable acts, etc., of members and / or their family members too may be forwarded for publication.

A few guidelines for our members intending to contribute as above, are noted below.

1. Your contributions for publication may be forwarded by email to fbrofnewsletter@gmail.com , or by post / courier to: FBROF Newsletter, FBOA Centre, FBOA Road, Aluva – 683101, Ernakulam District, Kerala.
2. FBROF being an organisation with national spread, the language of the newsletter – as already communicated - will be English, solely. As such, please forward for publication entries in English only.
3. The proposed size of the newsletter, is 8 pages. Please ensure, hence, to keep your contributions/reports suitably crisp / small / brief.
4. Please provide the Name & PF Number of the Member along with own / family members' contributions, invariably. In the case of the contributions from family members, do mention their name as well as their relationship with the Member.
5. Along with the reports of achievements, please provide related photographs, if any, available.
6. Do ensure that your contributions are received at the FBROF office by **15 December, 2022**.

Further, Members are invited to share with the editorial team their views, ideas and suggestions for enhancing the quality and readability of the newsletter.

AIBPARC News:

- **The 10th Foundation Day of AIBPARC** will be celebrated on 25th November 2022 at the Auditorium of Institution of Engineers India, Khairatabad, Hyderabad. Hon'ble Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, Govt. of India will inaugurate the programme. Since the President and General Secretary of all affiliates are advised to participate, it being a landmark programme our President and Genl. Secretary will be attending.
- **The 4th Triennial General Body Conference of AIBPARC** will be held at JNANA JYOTHI AUDITORIUM, BENGALURU CITY UNIVERSITY, CENTRAL COLLEGE CAMPUS, BENGALURU on 28th & 29th January 2023. We will be sending Delegates to the Conference as per our entitlement. Detailed Circular will follow.

Comradely Yours

K T Thomachan
General Secretary