Message from the CEO

Dear AFSPA Member,

Greetings and Welcome to February 2017! As you know, Open Season ended several months ago but the Foreign Service Benefit Plan (FSBP) continues to receive new enrollees and gain new members. Over 1,500 new people chose to enroll in FSBP this year and we appreciate you trusting us with your health. These new members are seeking what our existing membership has enjoyed for many years – personalized service. The result is more phone calls to us, longer wait times and, in some unfortunate cases, the perception of diminished service. We apologize for any long wait times on the telephone. Your calls are important to us. We are adding more staff to continue offering the unparalleled service that our worldwide membership requires.

IRS Forms 1095-B & 1095-C

On another note, FSBP members will receive the IRS Form 1095-B by March 2, 2017, due to an extension from the original January 31st date granted by the IRS. This form confirms that you had minimal essential coverage while you were enrolled in FSBP in 2016. If you have questions about the IRS Form 1095-B, or about lost or incorrect forms, please contact us at 202-833-4910 or at enrollment@afspa.org. Please do not contact OPM, your employing agency, or your retirement office, about IRS Form 1095-B. It is FSBP’s responsibility to make corrections to and answer questions about IRS Form 1095-B. Please note, the 1095-B form is not needed to file your tax return but it should be kept in your tax file for the year 2016.

In addition, Federal employees will receive the IRS Form 1095-C from your employing agency. It documents your agency offered you health coverage in 2016. If you have questions about the IRS Form 1095-C, or about lost or incorrect forms, you should call your agency using the phone number on Line 10 of the IRS form. Annuitants who were employed any portion of the year will receive an IRS Form 1095-C from their former employer. Otherwise, annuitants should not expect to receive this form. Click here for more information.
Lastly, February is American Heart Month. According to the American Heart Association, cardiovascular disease — including heart disease, stroke, and high blood pressure — is responsible for one out of every three deaths. It is the No. 1 killer of American women and men, and it is a leading cause of serious illness and disability. If you have high blood pressure, I encourage you to take steps to control it. Make sure to complete your routine physical examination, which FSBP covers at 100% when you visit an in-network provider or a provider outside the 50 United States. Monitoring your blood pressure is the best form of prevention.

We hope your family stays safe, warm, and healthy this winter. As always, thank you for your trust and for giving AFSPA the opportunity to serve you.

To Your Health,

Paula S. Jakub, RHU
CEO, AFSPA
Executive Director, Senior Living Foundation