

MEDI BRIEF

DECEMBER 2019

Year-end message from our chairman

As 2019 passes and a new decade dawns, I look back, as I do every year, over the highs and lows; 2019 is no exception. Once again, legislative uncertainty affected our markets, and this year healthcare has been one of the major points of focus. The negativity around the pending NHI implementation has been all but deafening. However, the Trustees remain cautiously optimistic that a sensible way forward will be found to provide equitable healthcare to all without sacrificing the private sector as we know it, at least for the foreseeable future.

While not as emotionally fiery, the final Health Market Inquiry Report was published, which we anticipate will inform the Medical Schemes Amendment Bill. This piece of legislation will have a far more profound effect on medical schemes, and the Trustees are watching this carefully.

Looking back on the second decade of the 21st century, it has been marked by an economy that has been stubbornly sluggish as it draws to a close. I can report that the Scheme's investment returns have perked up marginally, coming off an exceptionally low base at the close of 2018, to some measure due to our Investment Committee's continued diligence and hard work. There are flickers of hope that the tide may turn in 2020.

The old adage 'what goes up, must come down' does not appear to hold true when speaking about medical costs, however, I am pleased to report that as the year draws to an end, we should squeak home within budget. The ageing trend of our membership appears to be plateauing as new, young members continue to trickle into the Scheme, which is good news as it should help slow the average healthcare-utilisation upward trend.

When determining the annual benefit and contribution increases, the Board of Trustees remains vigilant in trying to achieve a careful balance between our members' financial circumstances and their benefit expectations. Planning for 2020 was a



challenge, but with the help of our administrator and actuaries, we are confident that the Scheme's resources will be adequate to fulfil long-term needs while continuing to provide benefits that are good value for money.

The close of 2019 will also see the end of an era as I express my gratitude to the Trustees who will be leaving the Board following our recent election. In bidding farewell to Campbell McKie Thomson, Gavin Preston, Grant Howell and Philip Laubscher, we are saying goodbye to a total of 39 years of service. I sincerely thank them for their unwavering commitment to the Scheme and its members. We wish them all the very best. I would also like to acknowledge the valuable roles of our outgoing Alternate Trustees, Dr Charles Mbekeni and Lin Sanford, who not only stood in for Trustees when they were not available, but also participated, on a voluntary basis, on Committees and in Scheme meetings on a regular basis.

I congratulate and welcome our new Trustees, Frank Fox, Hugh Thompson and James Liston, who have all served on the Board at different times in different capacities, and Philile Mhlongo, Nare Mamabolo and Ray Moodley. Mary Farrell and Sharon Hosking will be taking up roles as Alternate Trustees.

My best wishes to all our members for a joyous festive season and a positive start to the next decade.

Colleen Elliott
Chairman

Your Board of Trustees and the Anglo Medical Scheme Head Office wish you all a safe and relaxing holiday season and a healthy, happy and prosperous 2020!

Welcome to your new Board of Trustees!

We are pleased to see our members' continuous interest in shaping the Scheme's future by taking part in the democratic process of voting for their member-elected Trustees. Thank you very much to all members who voted and who made themselves available as candidates.

Nomination phase

We noticed an increased number of nominations and candidates from all participating employers, regions and age groups. To the candidates that didn't make it this time: please stay in touch, keep on participating in your Scheme and stand again in the next election!

Voting

We are pleased to report back that the elections went smoothly, and we believe they were free and fair in all respects. We received 196 votes via email, 175 votes via fax, 1 vote via SMS, 40 votes via telephone and 2158 votes via the online election tool.

The new Anglo Medical Scheme Board of Trustees

Our Board consists of six member-elected and six employer-appointed Trustees. We appreciate that our participating employers continue to make their highly skilled employees available to serve on the Board.

Member-elected Trustees

David Abramowitz, Gauteng
Colleen Elliott, Gauteng
Dr Frank Fox, Gauteng
Nicholas Mason-Gordon, Gauteng
Duncan McCallum, Gauteng
Philile Mhlongo, Gauteng

Employer-appointed Trustees

Joe Coetzer, KwaZulu-Natal
James Liston, Gauteng
Nare Mamabolo, Gauteng
Raynagan Moodley, KwaZulu-Natal
Hugh Thompson, Gauteng
Bridget van der Bijl, Gauteng

Alternate Trustees

Mary Farrell, member-elected, Gauteng
Sharon Hosking, member-elected, Western Cape
Ntokozo Ragolane, member-elected, KwaZulu-Natal
Kayroon Ameer, employer-appointed, Gauteng
Tsitsi Matemera, employer-appointed, Gauteng

We will introduce the new Trustees on the Board to you in MediBrief during the course of next year.

Chairman and Vice-Chairman

The newly elected Board re-elected its Chairman, Colleen Elliott, and its Vice-Chairman, Duncan McCallum, on 20 November 2019.

To our newly elected and re-elected Trustees: congratulations – we wish all our new Trustees a successful term as you serve our members and ensure the continuous success of the Scheme.

Fiona Robertson, Principal Officer

Letter of appreciation

Dear team AMS,

We felt that we simply had to commend you and your staff on the excellent treatment we receive at all times when we contact AMS. The staff are extremely helpful and friendly and very knowledgeable when supplying answers to our questions.

Not only are they tolerant to explain procedures to old folk as ourselves, but they are also caring by sending good wishes before an operation.

There is no question that the benefits AMS provides are very good, probably the best on the market. We have the obvious feeling that we are in good hands and have a sense

of security when obtaining treatment or surgery, knowing that AMS is fully behind us.

We fully realize that it is difficult to achieve and maintain the high standards and personal care we receive in this modern and self-centered world and congratulate you on achieving these high levels of professionalism.

We wish you the best of luck in maintaining your high standards.

A big thank you,

Kind regards
Eddie and Sandy Kostlin

Visit www.angloms.co.za to learn more about your Scheme and benefits.

Find all previous MediBrief editions in the Info Centre > Knowledge Library.

Member Queries:

Value Care Plan: 0861 665 665, anglo@primecure.co.za

Standard and Managed Care Plan: 0860 222 633, member@angloms.co.za

Claims: claims@angloms.co.za