



Fiji Teachers Union

(The Child Our Hope)

NEWSLETTER

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GENUINE COOPERATION NEEDED: LECKIE

The Chief Guest, Bro. Ian Leckie, whilst delivering the keynote address at the 81st AGM said that the key to a successful education programme was genuine cooperation between the unions and governments.

He said that at the "Summit of the Teaching Profession" which was held in New York in April 2011, the Ministers of education and the Union leaders sat side by side and spoke about their education system in a united way.

He said that it was important that the policy makers work with those implementing the policies." It would be a great day if we, the practicing teachers could actually make the policies," he said.

Bro. Leckie said that in-service training and development is a right for every teacher and it is also a responsibility for the state to provide the opportunity and the funding for this to. He said that there was a need to have the best people in teaching and that the most effective education systems in the world recognized the value of the teachers through making the job attractive and rewarding them accordingly. He said that closely aligned to teacher status was how well the teachers were remunerated for the work they do.

Bro. Leckie, in his concluding remarks, said that it was important that governments recognize the unions for the work they do in upholding the status of the teaching profession.

TEACHERS ARE IMPORTANT: NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Bro. Satya Nand Shandil, the National President whilst addressing the members at the 81st Annual Conference said that the teacher remained the most important element in inspiring, motivating and raising the students to greater heights of learning.

He said it was the teacher who inspires, provides opportunities, cultivates wisdom, encourages reflection, arouses curiosity and creates a thirst for learning.

Bro. Shandil said there was no denial that teacher morale in this country has suffered considerably in recent times. Teachers have not received increment since 2006, no cola from 2004, ET positions reduced by 50%, urban schools continue to have large class sizes and multiple classes continue in rural schools.

He said that it was a pity that many teachers missed out in the "Regularization Exercise" because the Education Ministry had missed their names.

CONFERENCE SPORTS

SOCCER

Suva defeated Rewa 1-0 in a thrilling final. Suva had earlier defeated Taveuni 2-0 in the semi-final and Rewa defeated Rakiraki 4-2 in penalty kicks.

Suva tasted victory after a lapse of 20 years.

Defending champions Nadroga was bundled out of the tournament at the quarterfinal stages by Tavua in the penalty shoot out.

NETBALL

Last years runner-up Nadroga did one better by defeating Nasinu in the final.

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Nasinu overcame a spirited Suva team to defeat them by two sets to nil.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Nasinu ladies showed that they could emulate what their counterparts could achieve and defeated a gusty Navua side in the final.

JOURNAL ARTICLES AND PHOTOS

Concerns have been raised by members regarding omission of articles and Branch Executive photos.

While the Publicity Officer apologizes for such omissions, members are requested to note the following:

Articles with proper names, addresses, photos, research evidence and have to be on the theme.

All Branch photos will only be accepted if the full set of Executive photo is given in a template form, as it appears in the Journal.

The quality of the photo will decide its inclusion in the journal.

Let's all make it our business to improve on our part for the editorial team to do the best job and it eliminates the errors and omissions.

IN-HOUSE INSURANCE SCHEME

The AGM approved the motion that a Self Funded Medical Insurance Scheme commenced by FTU.

The AGM further approved that the Scheme be effective from August 1st, 2011. The scheme covers all the members of FTU through increase in levy from \$7.00 to an additional \$13.46 for single members and \$17.31 cents for families.

Members covered by the current Medical Scheme are automatically transferred to the new scheme. Those members who are holding covers from other providers are advised to terminate those covers, as they will now be covered by the union's own Group Scheme.

Letters have been sent to "Single" members to inform the Secretariat of any change in marital status to ensure provision of full cover for the family. Any extra / double deduction will be reimbursed.

Premiums:

Family	Annual \$450	Fortnightly \$17.31
Single	Annual \$350	Fortnightly \$13.46

[full details governing the scheme was given in the April 2011 Newsletter]

DELEGATES MEETING

The AGM approved that the quorum for the Annual General Meeting and the Extra - Ordinary General Meeting shall be 75% of the total Union delegates.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMMENDMENTS

The AGM has approved the amendments in the FTU Constitution.

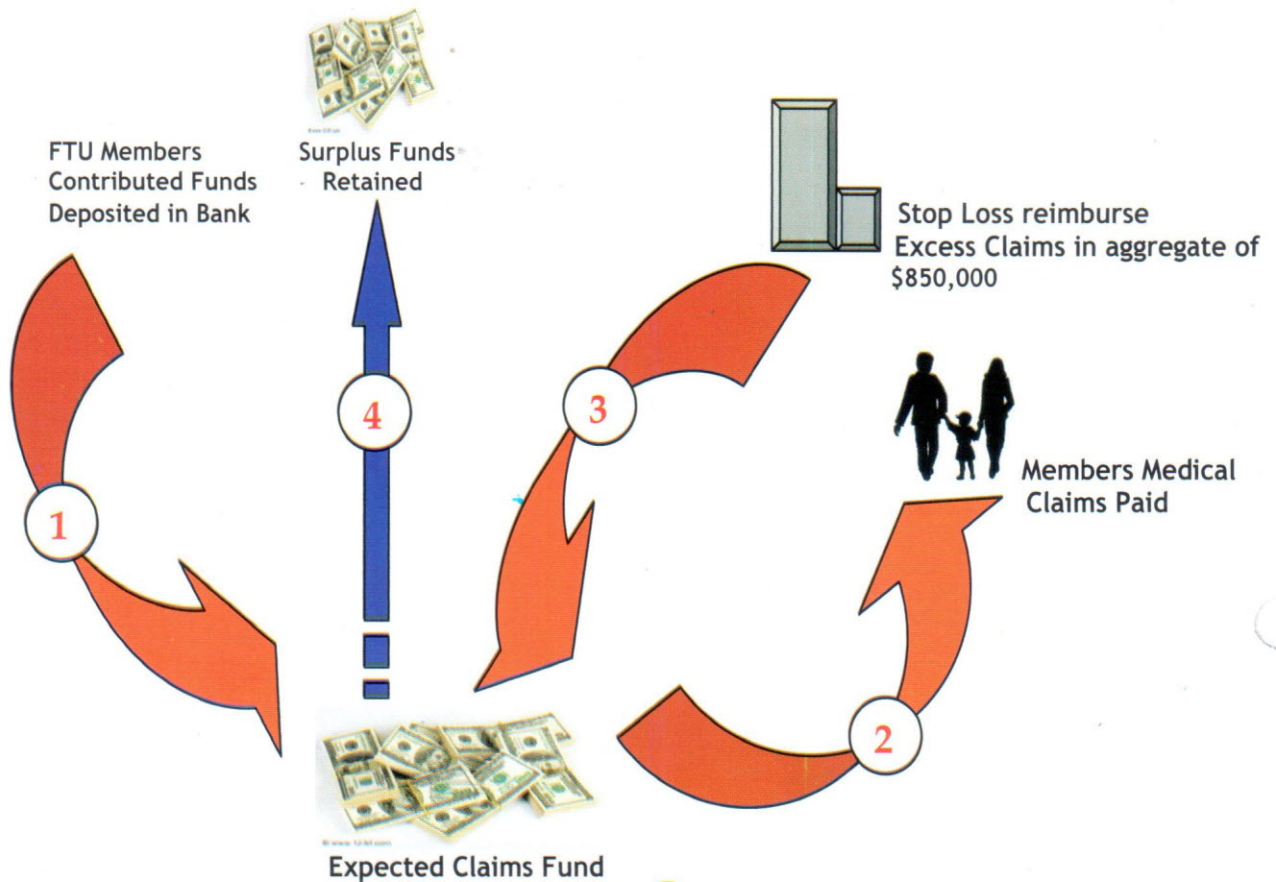
The amended Constitution has been sent to the Registrar for approval and registration.

Copies of the amended Constitution will be sent to the branches thereafter.

2011 AGM In Pictures



How Self Funding Works



- 1** Members deposit the contribution for expected claims.
- 2** IHL authorises FTU to pay medical claims from the account.
- 3** Stop Loss insurance reimburses excess claim.
- 4** At the end of twelve months period, the surplus is carried forward.

Self Funding Medical Programme Costing / Cash Flow Structure

Total Current Membership	Single 901	Families 2,159		
Member Contribution	Single \$350	per annum	\$13.46	per fortnight
	Family \$450	per annum	\$17.31	per fortnight
Total Annual fund			\$ 1,286,900	
Self Retained in Annual Aggregate			\$ 850,000	
Stop Loss Premium			\$ 150,000	
FTU administration Cost \$3,350 per month			\$ 40,200	
IHL administration Cost \$8,500 per month			\$ 102,000	
Balance as surplus for the first twelve months			\$ 144,700	

Some Key Advantages

- i. Cheaper premiums.
- ii. No individual application forms required.
- iii. No disclosures of pre - existing conditions, medical reports, or smoking or drinking habits etc to be declared. In other words all the members of FTU and their families are covered unconditionally.
- iv. Simple claims procedure. No complications in the requirements. If the listed doctor with relevant specialist qualification recommends, the arrangement for treatment done without delay.
- v. No unnecessary hiccups.
- vi. Cover up to age 65 now and could be extended to 70 in future (WE DECIDE).
- vii. It is YOUR SCHEME and the rules are determined by YOUR UNION. You have a say through your Branch, National Executive or the AGM to add / delete, amend the rules.
- viii. Fewer Exclusions compared to other products.
- ix. Surplus funds accumulated over the years will help reduce premium or increase benefits.