

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Employee Newsletter

MARCH 2023

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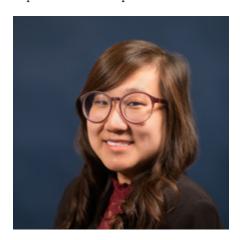
CAN DO Highlights Experiences of People with Disabilities in the Federal Government

By Sonya Weakley Writer, Office of Communications

Four deaf panelists from an organization called Deaf in Government shared their experiences finding, interviewing for and navigating federal jobs at an FDIC virtual event February 23 sponsored by the Corporate Advocacy Network for Disability Opportunities, or CAN DO, an FDIC Employee Resource Group.

Aileen Wu, Visual Information
Specialist in the Office of
Communications, moderated the
event, titled the CAN DO ERG with
Deaf in Government Panel: Recruiting,
Retaining, and Advancing Employees
with Disabilities. CAN DO President Brook
Aiken introduced the panelists and gave
opening and closing remarks.

Panelists were Brianne Burger, Disability Policy Adviser, U.S. Department of Education; Mark McKay, Reasonable Accommodations Program Manager, U.S. Agency for International Development; Brandon Pace, Section 508 Program Manager, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; and Kirsten Poston, Disability Policy Analyst, U.S. Department of Transportation.



Aileen Wu, Moderator Visual Information Specialist Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

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FDIC News Editorial Board: HEADOUARTERS

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Wu asked the panelists what their experience was like interviewing at their federal agencies and whether they had started in the private sector.

Pace, who has been with DHS for 11 years, said he first joined the agency as an intern through the American Association for People with Disabilities. After he went back to college for his senior year, DHS created a position and asked him if he was interested in coming back to the agency full time. So he was hired without an interview.

"I was very humbled by this because I knew it was very rare for something like this to happen," Pace said.

He said he did participate in other interviews and said that having a designated interpreter who knew his content, background, and signing made a big difference "because during the interview your voice has to come through the interpreter to make it sound like you know your stuff and you are confident."



Brianne Burger, Panelist Disability Policy Advisor U.S. Department of Education

Burger said her early interview experiences in the private sector were mixed, with an interpreter provided for some but not others, for which she was expected to provide her own interpreter. But she could recall only one interview with the federal government for which an interpreter was not provided.

Poston said her overall experience in onboarding was positive in that the

employer provided an interpreter and everything she needed.



Mark McKay, Panelist Reasonable Accommodation Program Manager U.S. Agency for International Development

McKay said he started in the private sector after college and an interpreter was provided. For his first federal job, he interviewed with another deaf person, so an interpreter was not needed, but for later job interviews, he had an interpreter.

Wu asked the panelists if they were hired through a government program for people with disabilities.

Poston said she was not but that the she worked as a recruiter for the Workforce Recruitment Program, a federal government program that recruits people with disabilities, and she went to colleges and universities to interview people. "That was a good benefit because they could see a person with disabilities working for the federal government, and being able to engage and participate in interviews gave those students a good experience."

Burger said she received information about job opportunities through a federal government effort to hire more people with disabilities, though it was not a formal recruitment program.

McKay said he did not go through a recruitment program but went through an internship that led to a permanent position.

Wu said she joined FDIC through the WRP. She interned twice and worked with

a deaf recruiter. "The WRP is an amazing program," she said.

She asked the panelists whether they received reasonable accommodations for interpreters once they were hired.

McKay said his first employer was very knowledgeable about reasonable accommodations, so he had one on his first day. In the federal government he has always had interpreters. In recent years, he has received videophones. "Each federal agency is different, but I've have reasonable accommodations since day one."

Pace said he always had interpreters but there was little consistency at first. As he grew in his position, he noticed that sometimes his presentations were less well received than others. He read the transcripts and saw that some interpreters' voicing skills were better than others.

"So looking at a bunch of words that they didn't say in my presentation, especially technical terminology, there was one who did not know how to say SEQUEL (SQL). They accidentally said 'squirrel,' which is not even in the same area."

He said his agency worked with an interpreting agency to obtain high quality interpreters, and his managers started to notice a positive difference in his voice.

He has since obtained a designated interpreter who works with him every day and knows technical and legal terminology. "I think having the same



Kirsten Poston, Panelist Disability Policy Analysit U.S. Department of Transportation

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Brandon Pace, Panelist Section 508 Program Manager U.S. Department of Homeland Security

interpreter as much as possible brings out the full potential for all deaf employees," Pace said.

Burger said that after she joined the federal government, she had to provide her own interpreter. Her job required a lot

of traveling. "I was traveling throughout the U.S. to make sure people had the accommodations they needed, but I didn't have that."

Poston noted that each of the panelists had different experiences throughout their careers in obtaining accommodations and making sure that people understand their needs. "Managers and supervisors should always take the opportunity to ask what exactly does the employee need?" she said. "We can be successful, we can model, we can mentor, we can do many things" with the right accommodations.

Pace said the government has an important role to play in creating a more inclusive workplace for people with disabilities. He said government can set an example by hiring people with disabilities, promoting them to leadership positions and showcasing their contributions to the agency.

He said agencies should provide

training to all employees on disability etiquette, as well as on best practices for assistive technology. "We have to ensure accessibility. This is where Section 508 and other federal laws come in."

Burger and Pace both spoke about the need to provide opportunities for advancement for employees with disabilities to the higher grades such as GS 14 and GS 15, as well as the Senior Executive Service. They said data show very few deaf employees in the higher grades, and none in the SES.

Burger said Deaf in Government has written a position paper calling for hiring more deaf managers and providing more opportunities for advancement. "We need to ensure deaf employees have training opportunities for advancement and development opportunities."

Association of African American Professionals Advocates for African American Employees

By Treisha Thorpe Borris, Ph.D.

The Association of African American Professionals, also known as A3P, is an FDIC-recognized Employee Resource Group (ERG) whose primary mission is to advocate for and support the career growth and development, recruitment, hiring, and advancement of African American employees, including their inclusion in leadership opportunities at the FDIC.

A3P, which was started in 2018, also participates in diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) programming, often in conjunction with the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion, the Chairman's Diversity Advisory Council, and other ERGs, to foster cultural awareness and understanding, building on an annual theme that aligns

with the FDIC's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Strategic Plan. Our theme this year is "Deepening our Commitment to DEIA and Engaging Allies with a Growth Mindset."

ENGAGEMENT AND MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT

This year, we are focusing on engaging and building partnerships with divisions and offices and providing our members with more intimate programming, where they can come together to share and find information. We are emphasizing our quarterly meetings as a place where members and allies can share their thoughts and engage in authentic dialogue.

Each meeting features a presentation, guided dialogue, or panel discusion on something relevant to career development, such as resume writing or interviewing skills. We provide a speaker who will talk about, for example, mentoring, sponsorship, and coaching and the importance of these particularly for African Americans in the workplace. Our corporate-wide programming typically focuses on DEIA education and cultural awareness and observances.

This year, part of our internal strategy is to ensure that we listen more to our members, support and encourage the sharing of resources among our members, and provide a safe space where they feel like they belong, and where

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they can find comradeship and support in others with similar experiences. To really and truly help them embrace their identity and give them a sense belonging within the FDIC.

A3P also provides informal mentoring through our Mentoring Support Group called A3P Connect, and a Leadership Support Group to link members currently in leadership programs with each other and alumni, to provide support and share resources. When the FDIC promotes its formal mentoring and leadership programs, we also promote and encourage participation in these opportunities among our membership.

We have gone a step further to identify our own members who are or have been in FDIC leadership programs to ask if they want to join its leadership support group. On our SharePoint site, we have a page that lists all the members who wanted to be identified as part of a leadership program, either currently participating or as an alumni. Our site also explains how to become a member and how to become active in committees.

The mentorship program has a similar list with a brief mentor bio, allowing members to see who is in the mentoring support group in different divisions, and if members want to speak to any mentor, they can just reach out.

The membership list is open to everyone so members can easily contact each other if they have questions about working in a specific division or for other work-related topics. A3P has about 270 members on our distribution list. Only members on the list can vote in elections or apply for board positions. We have a seven-member board and our members serve two-year terms. Our executive sponsor is Director Anthony Lowe and designated Career Coach is Alan Barry.

DEIA INITIATIVES AND OUTREACH

In 2022, we hosted several major events, under the theme "Lean in to Change" that coincided with the ramping up of FDIC's DEI Strategic Plan.

It was a busy year for us as we welcomed the opportunity to engage and support the different divisions at the divisional, regional, field territory, and office levels. We had numerous meetings, listening sessions, and sit-downs, including with Chairman Gruenberg and the DEI Executive Advisory Council to talk about our ERG's initiatives, the level of support we need to thrive in the workplace, and our willingness to collaborate on DEIA efforts that support our mission for African Americans within the FDIC.

Among the list of our activities was a three-part leadership series for Black History Month that featured panels with FDIC senior leadership, Black leaders, and the National Bankers Association president. I moderated a Juneteenth event featuring a diverse panel of African Americans well known for their DEIA involvement. We also sponsored an event with the Corporate Advocacy Network for Disability Opportunities, or CAN DO-the FDIC ERG representing people with disabilities—on disability and its intersectionality with other minority statuses. These topics are important because being an African American with a disability makes it two times as hard, coupled with the fear and apprehension of self-identifying.

We also collaborated on a project with the Veterans Employee Resource Group, or VERG, to send holiday cards to veterans in hospitals and other veteran centers during the holidays. In addition, we co-hosted a meeting with VERG, featuring a panel of veterans.

As an all-volunteer organization, we are finding the need to scale back on larger events and we are planning on engaging in smaller events such as one done last year with the Division of Resolutions and Receiverships on mental health awareness for the BIPOC—or Black, Indigenous, and People of Color—community. This is a pre-packaged event that can be done for other divisions and offices.

We recently collaborated on an event for Black History Month with the FDIC's Office of the Inspector General, on "Invisible Barriers to African American Employment, Advancement, and Belonging," and our members served as panelists.

As part of our outreach in supporting the FDIC's economic inclusion initiatives,

we created our own Money Smart Financial Education (MSFE) Taskforce, and leveraged the FDIC's MSFE program to deliver presentations to students of majority minority high schools and student groups affiliated with minority serving organizations. To date, more than 500 students and teachers have benefitted from this initiative, thanks to our dedicated A3P member-volunteers on the taskforce. We also conduct pathways internship presentations in a similar capacity, recruit students, and share internship opportunities with high schools and Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

I appreciate all the board members (Ebony Burch, Justin Schofield, Darnell Sutton, and Raquel Jackson Morton), who are like family to me, for their commitment and contributions to A3P. We decided that our main goal this year is to focus on our membership and cater to them a bit more through frequent dialogues. A lot of our members want to talk about how they're feeling and learn strategies or best practices from professionals and each other about how they can better cope and navigate some of the challenges they face in the workplace, and so I feel like this a great avenue for us and an opportunity to engage allies.



Treisha Thorpe Borris

Treisha Thorpe Borris, Ph.D., is the Chair of A3P and is currently serving as a Special Assistant in the Division of Risk Management, Information Technology Supervisory Branch.

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POWW Meets Demand for Women's Support at FDIC

By Sonya Weakley Writer, Office of Communications

Women who are interested in net-working, building leadership skills, balancing work and home life, or developing a wide range of other skills and interests can find information and programs at one of the five chapters of the Partnership of Women in the Workplace (POWW), an FDIC-recognized Employee Resource Group (ERG) that formed in 2015 in the San Francisco region.

On March 28 at 11 a.m. ET, POWW is participating in a Women's History Month cross-agency program featuring panelists from the FDIC (Sandy Macias, Chief, Risk Management Applications Section), National Credit Union Association, NASA, the Federal Reserve, the Department of Education, and the National Weather Service.

At 1 p.m. ET, POWW will participate, along with Networking Inclusion and Advancement for African American-Women: African American Women with a Purpose (NIA Women), another ERG, in a program sponsored by the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion. The theme for both programs is "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories."

Since 2015, POWW has spread across the nation with chapters in San Francisco, Dallas, Kansas City, Chicago, and the Eastern region, which is a combination of New York, Washington, and Atlanta. Today membership stands at nearly 550 across all grades and 16 divisions.

"Clearly, there is a need for us," said Zrinka Dusevic, Complex Financial Institution Specialist in the Division of Complex Institution Supervision and Resolution (CISR) and Chair of POWW's National Advisory Board. She said the group started as a vision of Field Supervisor Andrea Davis, along with Sandy Macias and Senior Examiner Kendra Berch, all from the Division of Risk Management Supervision (RMS). They approached San Francisco RMS Regional Director Kathy Moe.

"I jumped in and we became the first founding board members of POWW," Dusevic said. "We're definitely very proud of the growth and the penetration, and what we take from this is that there is a high demand for women's support at the FDIC and we've worked really hard to meet those needs."

Each chapter has its own Board and set of sponsors—people outside the ERG who provide assistance and feedback—and hosts its own programs, such as book clubs and local charity drives. A National Advisory Board coordinates across all chapters to ensure consistency.

POWW's mission is to:

- Provide an arena for discussion of women's issues in the workplace.
- Encourage professional relationships and mentorship among women across all grade levels and positions.
- Support the recruitment and retention of women at the FDIC.
- Educate members on gender issues, with particular focus on creating allies.
- Serve women in the broader communities through partnerships, events, and donation drives.
- Empower women at every level of the corporation to participate fully, seek career development opportunities, and set high goals while maintaining work-life balance.

"By acting as a resource, POWW is executing on our mission and directly addressing the retention and growth of women at the FDIC," Dusevic said.

POWW serves a resource by helping women expand their knowledge and advance their careers through events like résumé workshops and interview coaching, often partnering with career counselors. The group hosts networking and mentoring events and encourages participation in the FDIC's mentoring program. It also hosts speakers for meetings and discussions on topics such as women as executives, which is held every fourth quarter; communication hurdles between genders; and balancing



Zrinka Dusevic, Chair of the Partnership for Women in the Workplace National Advisory Board

work-life demands. Community events include clothing drives to collect women's professional attire and book drives.

POWW often collaborates with other ERGs, as well as with the Chairman's Diversity Advisory Councils and OMWI.

Anyone, man or woman, can join POWW by contacting Dusevic or any of the local chapter chairs:

- San Francisco Sarah Dreher
- Chicago Stephanie Collins
- Dallas Becky Baker-Bennett
- Kansas City Sheryl Reynolds
- Eastern (DC/NY/Atlanta) –
 Demi Tsipianitis

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News Resources for FDIC Employees

By Richard Huffine Enterprise Information and Records Management

This is the first in a new series of articles that will highlight resources that are available to help you be successful in your work at the FDIC.

Staying current with news resources is essential in today's world. While it is true that you can find a lot of news free on the Internet, it's also true that some of the most trusted sources require a subscription. The FDIC Library has you covered with enterprise subscriptions to some of the most trusted sources of news you can use at work.

FACTIVA

First and probably the most important is Factiva. Factiva is a news aggregator that provides you with access to current news from over 30,000 different news sources, all in one application. While you may not be able to log directly into the New York Times or Washington Post, etc. from their Web sites, you can find all of their content in one place on Factiva.

For the past year, Factiva has been the service behind the Daily News Briefing provided by the Office of Communications (OCOM). The daily roundup of news articles covers FDIC, the banking industry, and general economic news. The Daily News Briefing is available during business days and is emailed by 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time. To subscribe, send an email to communications@fdic. gov. Due to copyright issues, no personal email addresses will be accepted, and you cannot forward the email to third parties.

Each edition of the Daily News Briefing includes the full text of the articles in the email. This allows you to read up on topics of interest without having to connect to the Internet from your work phone if you're reading while on your daily commute.

In addition to the Daily News Briefing, all FDIC staff and onsite contractors can access Factiva directly using single-sign-on authentication (SSO). As long as an FDIC employee or contractor is on the FDIC network, they will be able to access Factiva without a username and password. The Library's Factiva

subscription includes thousands of news sources like newspapers, newswires, consumer magazines, trade magazines, and newsletters. Coverages dates back as far as 30 years for some resources and you can search, create alerts, and access the content via the Factiva Mobile App.

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AMERICAN BANKER

What is American Banker: Employees and contractors, on the FDIC Network, also have open access to the American Banker (no password needed) Access to the American Banker is managed using IP-authentication and does not include access via mobile applications at this time.

S&P CAPITAL IQ

If you are interested in tracking news about corporations and the financial markets, then you can self-register for access to S&P Capital IQ. S&P has incorporated the contents of the former SNL News into their platform. You can browse or search for articles via their platform as well as create alerts to notify you when published articles of interest are published. S&P Global covers all aspects of the capital markets in great detail.

GETTING HELP

If you ever run into a paywall or even if you don't know where to look for articles, you can contact the FDIC Library via email at library@fdic.gov. The staff that



maintain that email box have access to a broad collection of services, and they can usually get you what you need within minutes of your request. The Library email box is monitored daily from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, and library staff are well-versed in what is available from the FDIC Library as well as how to go about requesting access to all of the products and services we have available.



Richard Huffine

Richard Huffine is the Acting Assistant Director for FDIC's Enterprise Information and Records Management Section. EIRM was created in 2022 to bring together the FDIC's information governance functions including records, library, directives, contact center, forms, and distribution capabilities.

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Introducing Leadership Connect

By Joleen Macek CMP Program Manager

Do you aspire to a leadership position at the FDIC? Are you curious about what it is like to serve in a leadership role at the FDIC? Do you wonder about the career paths of FDIC leaders? Have you wanted to connect with an FDIC leader, but were unsure of how to go about it? If so, then you are in luck! The Human Resources Branch's Career Management Program (CMP) has launched a new program, Leadership Connect, which can help you get answers to your most pressing leadership questions and begin building a relationship with one or more FDIC leaders.

The Leadership Connect program originated from conversations between Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) and Chairman Gruenberg about opportunities for employees to connect and build relationships with leaders. As a result of these conversations, Leadership Connect was born.

Chairman Gruenberg announced the official launch of Leadership Connect on March 8. In addition to responding to the suggestions of the ERGs, this program supports the FDIC's "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan" and succession planning efforts by:

- Providing employees an opportunity to learn more about the FDIC and career paths,
- Fostering engagement and development of potential future leaders and managers, and
- Allowing employees to form professional contacts and networks with senior leadership.

Leadership Connect is a structured program designed to connect permanent Corporate Grade (CG) and Corporate Management (CM) employees with the FDIC's executive leaders through informational interviewing and/or job shadowing experiences. To participate, CG and CM employees should submit an application and resume by Wednesday, April 5.

The CMP will review applications and conduct an intake survey to gather additional information from applicants and leader volunteers. The intake process will assist the CMP in further defining applicant goals for the program and determining the leadership competencies that applicants are most interested in observing through Leadership Connect experiences.

During an information session for applicants on April 19, the CMP will share more information about the program, including the matching process and next steps. The CMP will work with all parties to schedule and support the informational interview and/or job shadowing experiences over a nine-month period. To prepare for participation in the program, all applicants will be required to meet with a CMP Career Counselor/Coach prior to any informational interview/job shadowing. And, as this is the first year of the program, participants will be asked to complete a survey after the experience to provide feedback on their experiences.

If the Leadership Connect program sounds like something you would be interested in, we encourage you to apply by the deadline date, April 5. If you would like to learn more about this program, visit the Leadership Connect website.



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Moving On

Name: Barry C. Aldridge

Most recent position: Case Manager Division: Division of Risk Management

Supervision (RMS) **Location:** Dallas, TX

When and where joined the FDIC: I joined the Resolution Trust Corporation in February of 1992 and transitioned to the FDIC in 1995.

Other experience: Chicago Title in Pasadena California.

Career highlights: My time in the Corporation has been filled with many highlights. The first eight years of my career I served as a contracting officer working with private sector firms to support closing activities and dispose of assets obtained from failed insured depository institutions. In 2000 I participated in the cross-over program and transitioned to the Seattle Field Office where I traveled throughout the Pacific Northwest examining banks before relocating to the Dallas region as a Case Manager in 2009. Although I had my share of working with troubled banks in the Dallas region, some of the most exciting projects I was involved in dealt with outreach and training. I was fortunate to work with senior

management in the Dallas region to put together the 2013-2014 Dallas Region Banker Outreach Program and with a team in DC to develop Case Manager and Examiner training programs. The most fun I had while still getting paid was being part of a small team that wrote and taped the appraisal technical assistance video. The script was written with colleagues in the Dallas Regional Office and former Memphis Area Office, but the most exciting and fun part of the project was filming the video in DC. I am also proud of the work I did with various banks during the recession to prevent their insolvency, and when it was inevitable, working with personnel from other divisions to resolve the institutions with minimal impact to the depositors. However, the best part of my FDIC career was meeting my future wife in 1989. At the time she was an accountant with the liquidation division, now called the Division of Resolutions and Receiverships. We married in 2000 and will retire together at the end of this month.

Retirement Date: March 31, 2023 **Plans for retirement:** Staying busy. We plan to travel and do some volunteer work as we enjoy the next adventure together,



Barry C. Aldridge

wherever it may take us.

Comments and thoughts: I will cherish the friendships and experiences I have made over the past 31 years. While we worked hard and took pride in the job, we also had a great deal of the fun at the same time. I recall many nights, whether on the road or on the roof of the DC training center, where we tried to solve the world's problems and while we were never successful, we had a lot of fun trying.

Name: Kathleen Davis Aldridge Most recent position: Senior Financial Management Specialist

Division: Division of Resolutions and Receiverships (DRR)

Location: Dallas, TX

When and where joined the FDIC: I joined the FDIC/RTC after the sunset of the Federal Savings and Loan Corporation (FSLIC) in January, 1990, working in the Gulf Coast Consolidated Office in Houston. TX.

Career highlights: I started my career with the FSLIC in New Orleans in July 1986 after the failure of five Savings and Loans in the area. After a few years with FSLIC, I moved to Dallas as an assistant controller for three receiverships. The experience of working with the receiverships and their multiple subsidiaries formed the backbone of my knowledge of liquidation and receivership accounting. I returned to Dallas a few years later

when the Gulf Coast Consolidated Office merged into Dallas. There, I had the pleasure of serving as oversight manager for the Financial Services Center Contract which at one time had over 500 contractor staff providing accounting and back office operations for the RTC receiverships. This provided me with the opportunity to meet and work with a wide variety of folks throughout the Corporation. I made some great lifelong friends and even met my future husband, Barry Aldridge, who was working in contracting at the time. I left the Corporation in 2000 when my husband was transferred to Seattle to become an examiner with Risk Management and Supervision.

The call for me to return to the FDIC came in January 2009 when I returned to my accounting roots and participated in numerous financial institution closings as a financial manager, pro-forma team leader/pro-forma support. In 2015,



Kathleen Davis Aldridge

I was selected for a mid-career bank examiner position in the Baton Rouge, Louisiana Field Office where I was fortunate to spend time in my hometown

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Moving On, cont.

Davis Aldridge, from page 8

reconnecting with friends and family after many years away. I transferred back to Dallas to finish my mid-career path and received my risk management commission in 2017. After a short time, the call of Resolutions and Receiverships proved too much to resist and I transferred back to the Division of Resolutions and Receiverships to complete my career.

Retirement Date: March 31, 2023
Plans for retirement: Barry and I have purchased a house in western North
Carolina. We will spend the first several months making updates and settling into mountain life. We plan to travel

extensively, starting with the Kentucky Derby in May with some FDIC friends, and hope to have numerous visits from family and friends in the mountains. We would also like to find some opportunities in our new hometown to volunteer. We plan to continue our Mardi Gras traditions with frequent visits to New Orleans to participate in krewe events, and meetups with friends and family in the area. Laissez les bon temps roulez!

Comments and thoughts: I will always cherish the wonderful friendships formed throughout my career. I am especially grateful to the corporation for allowing me to meet my husband and provide us

both with wonderful and fulfilling career opportunities. We have traveled and lived in places I never expected. It has been rewarding to participate in so many failed financial institution closing and help guide the institution staff through their transitions. While I plan to be in the Ready Reserve, and would love the opportunity to work with you all again, I hope I am never called upon!

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